



The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—April/May 2010



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Meeting Schedule

12 April 2010
11:00am Regular Meeting
Huntsville Public Library
Main Meeting Room

10 May 2010
11:00am Regular Meeting
Huntsville Public Library
Main Meeting Room

President's Message

This is my first President's Message, and I would like to thank you for electing me to this position. The Tennessee Valley Chapter has a history of having outstanding members, officers and committee chairmen, as well as having furnished a number of State officers, including several State Presidents. I am proud to be a member of this chapter, and I look forward to serving as your President for the coming year. I know that I speak for all the officers when I say that we will do our best to uphold the outstanding record of the Tennessee Valley Chapter.

I want to thank Dave Billings, Jim and Linda Maples, Jim and Abby Alexander, Hoyt Smith and my wife Susan for making our annual banquet a success. As always, Henry Oldham did a great job of providing the background music. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Congratulations to our past President Dave Billings upon his selection as State Vice-President. I think Dave has done an excellent job as President of the Tennessee Valley Chapter, particularly in his emphasis on increasing chapter membership. I want our chapter to continue this emphasis as well as to focus on increasing meeting attendance. We will be presenting some ideas on how to accomplish this at a later date. At present we have eighty full members, two dual members, and a large number of applications in various stages of approval. We have Membership Certificates on hand to present to seven of our newest members at our April 12th meeting. These members are Charles Edward Laidlaw III, James Robert Peck, James David Peck, Conrad E. Cook V, Conrad E. Cook VI, Thomas Hampton Smith, and David Lance Rhodes.

On a sad note, Compatriot Russell Alcott, a member of our chapter, passed away March 28th. He is the father of Linda Maples, father-in-law of Compatriot Jim Maples, and grandfather of Compatriot Jay Maples. I know you will keep Russell's family in your thoughts and prayers.

For our April meeting, Vice-President Connie Cook has arranged for Raneé Pruitt, Huntsville Public Library archivist, to be our speaker. Her subject will be "Antebellum Life in Huntsville." Remember we have moved our meeting location to the auditorium at the Huntsville Public Library. I look forward to seeing you there on Monday, April 12th at 11 o'clock.



Photo by Jim Maples



Photo by Jim Maples

At our February meeting Compatriot Hoyt Smith gave a talk on medals and awards given by the SAR.

Shown above are the winners of our Essay contest. From the left, Mr. Will Richardson (3rd place), Ms. Maria O'Keefe (1st place) and Ms. Courtney Cooper (2nd place). Ms. O'Keefe was also the 1st place winner in the state contest.

Secretary's Report - February Meeting

Vice President Crabtree opened the meeting. Compatriot Creekmore led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance; and Compatriot Byers led the pledge to the SAR. Compatriot Rev. Les McAbee gave the invocation. Compatriot Alexander recognized the guests in attendance: Mrs. Susan Crabtree, Ms. Maria O'Keefe and parents, Ms. Courtney Cooper, Mr. Will Richardson and parents, Mrs. Jeff Murphy, and Mrs. Carrie Myers. Members Present: 12: L. Crabtree, C. Cook, D. Adams, D. Byers, B. Hammond, O. Vaughn, L. McAbee, K. Carpenter, D. Wheatley, J. Alexander, J. Creekmore, H. Smith, Prospective Members: J. Hall, R. Anderson

Motions and Resolutions: The chapter officer Nominating Committee (J. Alexander, J. Maples, D. Byers) presented their slate of nominees for the chapters officers for the ensuing year. The nominees were as follows: President, Larry Crabtree, V. Pres., Conrad Cook, Sec., Bob Hammond, Tres., Jim Alexander, Registrar, David Byers, Hist., Bob Adams, Chaplain, Rev. Les McAbee. The nominees were unanimously elected as slated.

Announcements: V.P. Crabtree noted the improving medical condition of Pres. Billings. "Get Well" cards were signed by the members present for Pres. Billings, and Compatriot Ernie Ritch. The installation of officers at the Valley Hill Country Club will be held on 27 March. This installation will serve as the chapter meeting for that month.

The chapter will conduct its monthly meetings at the H'ville Mad. Co. Public Library beginning in April. The ALSAR convention will be held 26 & 27 Feb at the Hilton B'ham Perimeter Park.

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer: Past Pres. Alexander, Checking Acct: \$4622.77, Sav Acct: \$1994.97

Secretary: Compatriot Carpenter, Jan. minutes are found in the chapter newsletter

Registrar: Registrar Compatriot Byers, 3 applications approved by the NSSAR, 9 applications at NSSAR for review, 1 application at the ALSAR for review, 27 applications in process

Historian: No Report

Flag Comm: Hoyt Smith, noted flag awards were presented to the Athens Amer. Legion, and to Compatriot Rev. Tuttle

Color Guard: Compatriot Carpenter announced he would serve on the state color guard at the ALSAR annual meeting

Eagle Scout Committee: Compatriot Col. Jody Creekmore read a letter of thanks from Eagle Scout Scholarship applicant Mr. Chas. Clark Jr.

Veterans Comm: Harold Wright: Response to St. Vet. Comm Chm. (Added by Pres. Billings) Brief overview of efforts to support Veterans in the Tenn. Valley.

1. Member of North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal org. Coalition which supports the following:

a. Veterans Day Parade in Huntsville, AL

b. Honor Flight that carries WW II Veterans to Washington, DC to visit WW II Memorial.

c. Meet and Great Service members returning from Iraq and Afgan. at Huntsville Jetport.

d. Operation Christmas Bear the provides Christmas celebration for families, especially children, of deployed Service members.

Internet web site www.navfoc.org

2. Volunteered to assist Missing in America Project (MAIP) to locate and Inter remains of unclaimed American Veterans in funeral homes, etc. Note: awaiting more direction from the MAIP hq. to begin searches.

Internet web site www.maip.us

Comp Cook announced the annual goal of the youth program was \$1,500. His "Who Am I?" youth program quiz identified patriot James Armistead LaFayette.

Program: The chapter youth essay contest winners and their teachers were introduced and presented with award certificates and checks in the amounts of \$75.00, \$150.00, and \$250.00 for the third, second, and first place winners. The winners were as follows: Mr. Will Richardson (3rd place), Ms. Courtney Cooper (DAR School, 2nd place), and Ms. Maria O'Keefe (Randolph High, 1st place)

Ms. O'Keefe read her essay "Principles of A Nation" regarding the "Federalist Papers" of patriots Madison, Hamilton, and Jay. She emphasized the contribution of these essays in defining, and defending the adoption, of the U.S. Constitution.

Compatriot Hoyt Smith presented a "Primer" on the medals and decorations of SAR members. He encouraged the membership to serve the SAR in manners that these medals represent.

Recessional, Benediction, and Adjournment: The recessional was led by D. Adams. Chaplain Rev. McAbee gave the benediction. V. Pres. Crabtree adjourned the meeting.

Secretary's Report - March Meeting

The March meeting was the Annual Chapter Banquet held at the Valley Hill Country Club on March 27, 2010. Over 40 compatriots and guests were in attendance. President David Billings directed the events of the evening and welcomed the guests.

Larry Crabtree then introduced our guest speaker, Dr. John Kvach of the history department of the University of Alabama - Huntsville. Dr. Kvach gave a very interesting presentation on how, even though the details of the American Revolution are woefully unknown to the majority of Americans today, the desires for personal freedom and the equality of men, that drove the colonies to war and created a new nation, have been continued throughout the nation's history and are just as relevant in the goals and aspirations of our country today as they were over 235 years ago.

Hoyt Smith, past president of the ALSSAR, then announced a number of longevity awards, covering chapter memberships of from 15 to 40 years, to be presented to a number of chapter compatriots. A Bronze Good Citizenship Award was

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also announced.

Afterwards, Dr. Billings installed new officers for the Tennessee Valley SAR Chapter for the coming year. These were:

- President: Larry Crabtree
- Vice President: Conrad Cook
- Secretary: Robert Hammond
- Treasurer: James Alexander
- Registrar: David Byers
- Chaplain: Fr. Les McAbee
- Historian: Robert Adams

The newly-installed President, Larry Crabtree, then closed the events of the evening with his thoughts for the goals and objectives he envisions for the chapter for the coming year. These centered on continuing to strive to increase chapter membership as well as to reactivate members who have become inactive. Music for the evening was provided by Henry Oldham and the Ladies Auxiliary provided the table decorations.



State President Bruce Pickette and State Vice-President Dave Billings are shown with DAR President General Linda Gist Calvin at the Alabama DAR State Convention

Passing of a Compatriot

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Compatriot Russell Alcott. Russ was a World War II veteran who served as a bombardier on a B-24. He was shot down on his 23rd mission and was a German POW at Stalag Luft 1 for 13 months. After the war he attended the University of Colorado where he graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He went to work for the Army in 1954 and transferred to NASA Marshall Space Flight Center when it was formed, retiring in 1977. Russ was the father-in-law of your editor for almost 43 years and the grandfather of Compatriot Jay Maples.

Upcoming Events

12 April 2010 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Huntsville Public Library Auditorium on the first floor - **NEW LOCATION!**

10 May 2010 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Huntsville Public Library Auditorium on the first floor.

14 June 2010 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Huntsville Public Library Auditorium on the first floor.



**State Convention Photos Beginning at the top
Installation of State Officers—Dave Billings 2nd from left
Jody Creekmore receives a Certificate of Appreciation from
State President John Killian
State President John Killian congratulates State Essay Contest winner
Maria O'Keefe as Dave Billings looks on**

Tennessee Valley Chapter Banquet—2010



Photo by Jim Maples

Our guest speaker, Dr. John Kvach, gave a very interesting and informative presentation on the Revolutionary War and its relevance to the goals and aspirations of our country today



Photos by Jim Maples



Photos by Jim Maples

State Vice-President Dave Billings installs our Chapter Officers for 2010—2011.
State Vice-President Dave Billings places the neck ribbon on newly installed Chapter President Larry Crabtree.



Jim Maples
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TO: