



The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—April/May 2011



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Meeting Schedule

11 April 2011
11:00am Regular Meeting
Huntsville Public Library
Main Meeting Room

9 May 2011
11:00am Regular Meeting
Huntsville Public Library
Main Meeting Room

13 June 2011
11:00am Regular Meeting
Huntsville Public Library
Main Meeting Room

President's Message

Well, here we go. Another new SAR year. What a super 2010-2011 President Larry Crabtree led us through. Each meeting this past year went smoothly, was fun, and professionally handled by Larry and his wonderful group of SAR Auxiliary ladies, wife Susan, Linda Maples, Abby Alexander, and many others.

Our Registrar, David Byers, provided the impetus in recruiting new members so that our Tennessee Valley Chapter was recognized by the Alabama State Society of the SAR for having the greatest percent of supplemental memberships. Great job fellows! As usual, our officers and committee chairmen did a superb job in their areas of responsibility for our chapter. A special thanks goes out to Darryl Adams in his guidance of one of our youth programs, the Knight Essay Contest, which produced a local and state winner in the person of Megan Roman. Congratulations Megan!

Our Chapter's youth programs are so vital in fostering student interest in history and in particular the American Revolution. Our wonderful school teachers, due to time constraints, need our assistance in painting a valid historic picture concerning the legacy left to us by our forefathers. Our members continued financial support of these programs, as well as your personal involvement, is imperative if we are to be able to continue all of our varied youth activities. Past Presidents David Billings and Larry Crabtree have set a wonderful precedent in growing these youth programs. Now it is up to us to continue moving these programs forward.

Meeting in the Library and just having a light lunch has been a great success as we have plenty of space and comfortable seating. I believe this change has led to the sizable numbers of guests that we have had at each meeting. My hope for the coming year is that we can entice more compatriots to attend each meeting. Last year's Secretary, Bob Hammond, informed me that on average we had some 17 compatriots attend each meeting. From a total chapter membership of some 90 individuals, 17 in attendance is rather small. I hope that this year each of us will visit, call, or somehow encourage one or more compatriots who ordinarily do not attend meetings, to begin coming again. This year's Vice-President and Program Chairman, George Royer, is planning a great year of programs beginning on April 11th with Compatriot David Byers presentation on John Hunt, settler, squatter, founder of Twickenham, i.e. Huntsville. Usually great programs translate into greater member/visitor participation. Please attend on Monday the 11th, bring a friend, come early, enjoy a snack and some good conversation.

From left to right - President Larry Crabtree with new members, Jerry Whelchel, Carl Whelchel, and Jorge Aunon, along with Chapter Registrar, David Byers. Welcome new members!



Secretary's Report - February Meeting

The Tennessee Valley Chapter – SAR held its last regular business meeting of the 2010/11 chapter year on February 14, 2011 in the auditorium of the Huntsville-Madison County Library. President Larry Crabtree called the meeting to order. Thomas Hutchens led in the Pledge of Allegiance and Otha Vaughan led in the Pledge to the SAR. Hoyt Smith gave our invocation.

President Crabtree welcomed the large number of persons in attendance and indicated we had two groups of special guests. One was from the Madison County Sheriff's Department supporting the deputy who would be receiving an award later in the program. The other was a group of students, parents and teachers involved in our Knight Essay Contest. This would also be addressed later. Guests present (33) were: Ray Lewis, Jemalee Adams, Susan Crabtree, Brian Chaffin, Samuel L. Spry Jr., Chris Martin, Drew L. Spry, Linda Maples, Susan Gresham, Keli Searce, Donny Shaw, Alexander Black, Russ Theisen, Morris Bell, Charles Berry, Randal Jennings, Michael Ryder, Kim Keller, Tom Pruitt, Sue Royer, Abby Alexander, Elizabeth Pirani, Suze Myers, Jeff Murphy, Jenna Pirani, Wendy Yang, Hal Fulmer, Richard Tingle, Frank Vinz, Megan Roman, Patricia Roman, Abigale Martin, and J. David Dunham. Members present (17) were: Larry Crabtree, Otha Vaughan, Bob Hammond, David Byers, Darryl Adams, Carl Whelchel, Jerry Whelchel, Bob Anderson, Ed Bledsoe, Thomas Hutchens, George Royer, Hoyt Smith, Ron Bledsoe, Brian House, Jorge Aunon, Richard Smallwood, and Jim Maples.

A motion was made by Bob Hammond and seconded by Richard Smallwood to dispense with the reading of the prior meeting minutes. The motion carried by voice vote.

Program –President Crabtree began our program for the day, which basically consisted of ceremonies involving various SAR awards given by the Chapter to individuals being honored in areas of civic and patriotic service. 1) Darryl Adams, as chairman of the Chapter's Knight Essay Committee, presented the three winners in this year's competition, which features subjects from various areas of Revolutionary War interests. There were 41 essay submittals by students from five public and private high schools in the Tennessee Valley area. The winner this year was Megan Roman of Bob Jones High School. First and second runners-up were Elizabeth Pirani and Susannah Myers, respectively, both of Randolph High School. Miss Roman then presented her delightful winning essay on "America's Renaissance Man". She told about Benjamin Franklin and his wide variety of skills and interests, particularly as they related to his service in both the colonies and in France. He was highly instrumental in our move toward independence and in our gaining France's support for our war effort. Miss Roman's essay was previously submitted to the Alabama Society – SAR state-wide competition, where it also won first place. It will now represent Alabama in the NSSAR nationwide essay competition. Each of these ladies was awarded

certificates and appropriate monetary prizes. 2) Hoyt Smith, chairman of our Awards Committee, then introduced Deputy Chris Martin of the Madison County Sheriff's Department. Chris had previously been designated as the Madison County Deputy of the Year and was being honored by our chapter with the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal. Numerous of his colleagues were present to honor him and a description of his exemplary service, prepared by the Sheriff's Department, was read. It included his outstanding service rendered in the aftermath of the UAH shooting. 3) Hoyt Smith then presented a Flag Certificate to Hal Fulmer, the Executive Director of Brookdale Place – Huntsville, a senior living facility in the Jones Farm area. The residence center was recognized for a continuing program for displaying and maintaining a lighted American flag and pole at their facility.

Induction of New Members- President Crabtree presented three new chapter members: Jorge Ignacio Esteban Aunon de Calvo, Carl Jerry Whelchel, and Jerry Russel Whelchel. President Crabtree administered the oath of membership and Chapter Registrar David Byers awarded rosettes to these new compatriots.

Additionally, President Crabtree presented George Royer with his first supplemental ancestor approval and Bob Hammond with three additional supplemental approvals.

Youth Program Quiz-

In the absence of Connie Cook, who usually conducts our youth quiz, Comp. Bob Anderson led the group in our monthly historical challenge. The subject for the day was "The French and Indian War". A spirited discussion ensued in response to a number of mostly challenging questions testing our knowledge of issues and events involved in this conflict. After a good start, the questions became more difficult, with Bob giving the group an overall grade of C minus. However, the quiz was enjoyed by all.

Officer and Committee Reports-

President (Larry Crabtree) - 1) The annual Tennessee Valley Chapter banquet will be held on Saturday, March 19th at the Valley Hill Country Club. Events begin at 6:30pm. Reservation forms were available at the meeting and on-line at the chapter's web site. 2) The state convention of the ALSSAR will be held in Montgomery on February 25 & 26. Registration forms were available at the meeting for those desiring them. 3) It was announced that former member Lawrence Moore, a descendant of Ethan Allen, had passed away. 4) Abby Alexander, State Ladies Auxiliary President, announced that the ladies were, again this year, preparing a gift basket to be auctioned at the state convention. She solicited donations of items or money to buy items for inclusion in the basket. 5) A letter was read from the manager of the Heritage Room of the Huntsville-Madison County Library. She identified the books which had been purchased with our memorial gifts made honoring our members: John Frederick Charles, Escoc Henley, and Alan Raffolovich, at the time of their passing. 6) President Crabtree acknowledged Bob Adams, Linda

Maples, David Byers, Sue Royer and Susan Crabtree for providing the refreshments for the day.

Secretary (Bob Hammond) - In our December, 2010 meeting, the chapter had voted to make a \$500.00 donation to the NSSAR program to establish the Center for Advancement of American Heritage. At our current meeting, a letter was read from the Executive Director, NSSAR, on behalf of the SAR Foundation, acknowledging our gift and thanking us for making it.

Registrar (David Byers) - At present, we have 10 new member applications at National in the approval system. In addition, we have 6 at state working their way to national.

New Business-

President Crabtree presented two items of new business to come before the chapter. 1) Our chapter has been asked to co-sponsor (along with the Little River Chapter) a new SAR chapter being formed in the Quad-cities area which will be called the Shoals Area Chapter. They have held organizational meetings and appear to have a healthy potential membership. Our initial involvement would be to make a \$100.00 gift available to them to help in their organizational expenses (e.g.: acid free paper, rosettes, certificates, etc.). If additional funds are requested for the Shoals Area Chapter, this would be brought before the Tennessee Valley Chapter for approval. A motion was made by Jim Maples and seconded by George Royer to co-sponsor the Shoals Area Chapter and to make \$100.00 available for this purpose. The motion carried by voice vote. 2) President Crabtree then introduced David Byers speaking for the chapter's Officer Nominating Committee. He presented the slate of nominees proposed as officers for the 2011/12 chapter year. President Crabtree then solicited nominations from the floor, as required. There being no additional nominees, Richard Smallwood moved that we accept the slate as proposed. This motion was seconded by many and carried by voice vote. The new officers elected to lead the chapter in the coming year are:

President – Conrad Cook

Vice President – George Royer

Secretary – Darryl Adams

Treasurer – Bob Hammond

Registrar – David Byers

Historian – Bob Adams

Chaplain – Hoyt Smith

Past President – Larry Crabtree

Adjournment-

All business having been completed, a motion of adjournment was made by Bob Anderson and seconded by Richard Smallwood. Jim Maples then led us in our recessional and Hoyt Smith closed the meeting with our benediction.

"No taxes can be devised which are not more or less inconvenient and unpleasant."

George Washington

Upcoming Events

11 April 2011 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Huntsville Public Library Auditorium on the first floor.

9 May 2011 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Huntsville Public Library Auditorium on the first floor.

14 May 2011 - Board of Managers Meeting, Columbiana, AL

13 June 2011 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Huntsville Public Library Auditorium on the first floor.

9 July –13 July 2011 - National Congress, Winston-Salem, NC

Revolutionary Answers (To Questions in Feb/Mar Issue)

1. After what British victory in North Carolina did a member of the British Parliament say, "Another such victory will ruin the British army"? *Battle of Guilford Courthouse*

2. What future president of the United States was captured in a fight at Waxhaws, South Carolina, in April 1781? *Andrew Jackson*

3. An American General used a double envelopment to win a complete victory over the British in what has since been described as "one of the most brilliant tactical operations ever fought on American soil". Name the General and the battle. *General Daniel Morgan, Battle of Cowpens*

4. At what battle did more men die from the heat than from being shot? George Washington's white horse also died there because of the heat. *Battle of Monmouth Courthouse*

5. At what battle might history have been changed if British Major Patrick Ferguson had taken advantage of the opportunity to shoot George Washington in the back? *Battle of Brandywine Creek*

A Soldier's Hike for Heroes

Iraq War Veteran Troy Yocum is hiking 7,000 miles across America, banging his drum and sounding the call for \$5 million to help military families in need. With his wife Mareike and Emmie the SuperDog by his side, they took their first step of his 16-month quest on April 17, 2010. Now they have completed the western leg of the journey, all the way from Kentucky to California and have walked back east to Texas. Funds raised are handled through The Wish Upon a Hero Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charity that is supporting Troy and his hike across America. Together we will help raise awareness and money for military families. To receive help from our efforts, post your wish up on wishuponahero.com.

This young soldier is from Louisville, KY. He started his journey almost a year ago and will be back in Louisville in September.

For more information go to the website at:
www.drumhike.com



February 2011 Meeting

Top Left - Hoyt Smith presents the Outstanding Law Enforcement award to Deputy Chris Martin of the Madison County Sheriff's Department

Top Right - President Larry Crabtree with Compatriots George Royer and Bob Hammond with their latest approved Supplemental Applications.

Bottom Left - Essay Committee Chair Darryl Adams with Chapter Essay Contest winner Megan Roman. Megan went on to win first place in our state competition.

Bottom Right - Flag Chairman Hoyt Smith presents a Flag Certificate to Hal Fulmer, the Executive Director of Brookdale Place

*Tennessee Valley Chapter Banquet 2011
Valley Hill Country Club*



Top three pictures left to right - Guests enjoy good fellowship; new Chapter President Conrad Cook gives the closing remarks; President Larry Crabtree presents new member certificate to Kim Keller.
Middle three pictures left to right - Connie Cook presents a Certificate of Appreciation to our guest speaker, Jacque Reeves; President Larry Crabtree presents a new member certificate to Frank Vinz; Hoyt Smith presents a 30-year pin and certificate to Bill Pittman.
Bottom two pictures from left to right - Guest speaker Jacque Reeves gave a presentation on Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr; Guest look on as Jacque gives her presentation.

General Daniel Morgan



Compatriot Bob Anderson and his wife Kay recently did a program at Lacy Springs School on "The Life and Times of General Daniel Morgan". Over 120 kids attended their presentation. Shown above are Bob and Kay with the 5th grade history class.



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TO: