



The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—April/May 2009



President's Message

The Tennessee Valley Chapter, in its Constitution, has declared 10 objectives. They are highlighted in another article in this newsletter. I invite you to review them and to think about how we achieve those objectives through our projects and activities. Our first objective is, "to perpetuate the memory of the men and women, who by their services or sacrifices during the War of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people;" Our second objective is, "to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants."

During this year we will focus on achieving these two objectives. How? In three ways: First, we will find the descendants of these patriotic revolutionaries who are not members of the SAR and identify them as prospective members. Second, we will invite these prospective member to our Chapter meetings. Third, we will coach them to document their eligibility for membership.

So, I challenge each of us to identify at least one prospective member to the Chapter Registrar, David Byers, 256-539-3175, byersmd@bellsouth.net, before the December 8, 2009 meeting. We have 73 full members. Let us set the goal to have 100 full and prospective members by the March 2010 meeting.

See you at the next Chapter meeting, Monday, April 13, at 11 AM at the Holiday Inn in downtown Huntsville. Vice-President Larry Crabtree has arranged for an interesting program: "The Role of Music in the Revolution," by Bob Baccus of Olde Towne Brass [<http://www.otbrass.com>].



Photo by Jim Maples

Our Essay contestants are shown above with Committee Chair Jim Alexander on the left, Mrs. Jeff Murphy from Randolph, our winner David Richardson, Mrs. Carrie Myers from KDS DAR School, Lindsey Bearden (3rd Place), Sam Winkler and Taylor Lioce (tied for 2nd Place).



Photo by Jim Maples

Our Orations contestants are shown above with Committee Chair Jim Alexander on the left, Kerry Rice (2nd Place, Mrs. Carrie Myers from KDS DAR School, Hunter Edmonds, (3rd Place), and our winner, Ashton Manning.

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Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at 11:00 am at the downtown Holiday Inn unless otherwise noted.

13 April 2009

11:00am Regular Meeting
Downtown Holiday Inn

11 May 2009

11:00am Regular Meeting
Downtown Holiday Inn

8 June 2009

11:00am Regular Meeting
Downtown Holiday Inn

Secretary's Report - February Meeting

Opening: President Richard Smallwood opened the meeting, leading the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. Compatriot Carpenter led the pledge to the SAR. Compatriot Hoyt Smith gave the invocation. President Smallwood recognized the following guests in attendance; Mrs. Abby Alexander, Ms. Kim Alexander, Mrs. Linda Maples, Mr. Robert Hammond, Mrs. Yvonne Conner, Ms. Cheryl Bearden, Ms. Lindsey Bearden, Ms. Ashton Manning, Ms. Valerie Winkler, Mr. Sam Winkler, Mr. Kerry Rice, Mr. Hunter Edmonds, Mr. Harry Lioce, Ms. Taylor Lioce, Ms. Claudia Lioce, and Ms. Jeff Murphy. Nineteen members attended the meeting.

Motions and Resolutions: A motion was made and carried to accept the slate of officers for the Tennessee Valley Chapter, SAR for the year 2009 as per the recommendation of the nominating committee of Compatriots Derald Morgan, Jim Maples, and Larry Crabtree.

The officers nominated and elected by the unanimous vote of the membership present were as follows:

President: Dr. David Billings
 Vice President: Larry Crabtree
 Secretary: Ken Carpenter
 Treasurer: James Alexander
 Registrar: David Byers
 Chaplain: Rev. Les McAbee
 Historian: Bob Adams
 Appointed position: Webmaster, Jim Maples

Announcements: The chapter banquet and officer installation ceremony will be held on 21 March, at the Valley Hill Country Club, Huntsville. This banquet will serve as the chapter meeting for March.

The ALSSAR annual convention will be held on February 28, at the Admiral Semmes Hotel in Mobile.

Mrs. Abby Alexander reported on the fund raising activities of the Ladies Auxiliary. Mrs. Conner is a new member.

Officer and Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Compatriot Jim Alexander gave the report.
 Secretary: Compatriot Carpenter reported minutes of the Dec. 08 meeting have been posted in the chapter newsletter; the Alabama Senate resolution recognizing the fiftieth anniversary of the chapter has been placed in the chapter archives at the Huntsville Public Library.

Registrar: Registrar-elect Byers' three sons' and Mr. Robert Hammond's applications are pending.

Historian Compatriot Bob Adams: No report

Eagle Scout Committee: Compatriot Jody Creekmore: No report
 Essay Committee: Compatriot Jim Alexander introduced the recipients of the essay contest awards.

Program:

Chapter Essay Contest:

Compatriot Jim Alexander presented a certificate and monetary award to the recipients of the Chapter Essay Contest.

Their essays were among the thirty-eight student essays reviewed by the Chapter Contest Committee. The recipients were:

First Place: Daniel Richardson

Second Place: Taylor Lioce and Sam Winkler

Third Place: Lindsey Bearden

Teachers, Ms. Jeff Murphy of Randolph School and Ms. Carrie Myers of the DAR School were recognized for their valuable contribution in preparing their students for this competition.

Oration Contest:

Students presented their orations before the membership. Contest Judges were Compatriots Jody Creekmore, Mark Alexander, and Derald Morgan. Hoyt Smith was timekeeper. The award recipients were:

First Place: Ashton Manning who spoke on the role of women in the American Revolution.

Second Place: Kerry Rice speaking on the effect of checks and balances as provided for in the U. S. Constitution.

Third Place: Hunter Edmonds who presented the contributions of leading African-Americans during the American Revolution.

Recessional, Benediction, and Adjournment: Compatriot Crabtree led the recessional. Compatriot Hoyt Smith gave the benediction. President Smallwood adjourned the meeting.

Secretary's Report - March Meeting

Opening: The March meeting was our Annual Chapter Banquet held at Valley Hill Country Club. President Richard Smallwood opened the meeting by welcoming our distinguished guests. Compatriot Larry Crabtree led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance and the pledge to the SAR. Compatriot Rev. Les McAbee gave the invocation. President Smallwood recognized special guests in attendance.

Program: After dinner, Alabama Society President, Rev. Dr. John H. Killian, recognized the contributions of the Tennessee Valley Chapter toward the advancement of the ideals of the SAR in Alabama; citing in particular the chapter's participation in the Eagle Scout and Essay programs. He noted that a major objective of the SAR is the advancement of the principles of our founding fathers through study of genealogy, thereby linking their standards to our own.

Following this introduction, President Killian presented a fascinating history of the Scotch-Irish "Over The Mountain Men" of the American Revolution: the 1770 Regulator Movement, their valor at King's Mountain, and the independent settlement at Watauga in modern-day East Tennessee.

Presentation of Awards:

Past ALSSAR Presidents, Compatriots Jim Alexander and Hoyt Smith presented the following awards:

LTC Charles Walker: SAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal for his leadership of the Sparkman High School JROTC program.

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Upcoming Events

13 April 2009 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn - Speaker, Bob Baccus

11 May 2009 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn - Speaker, Dave Christensen

8 June 2009 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn—Speaker, Caroll Strickland, John Hunt Society, C.A.R.

April Meeting

Our program for the April meeting will be a presentation by Bob Baccus of the Old Towne Brass. Bob will tell us about music during the Revolutionary War. Bring a guest and don't miss this informative presentation!

Significant Events of the American Revolution

March 23, 1775: Patrick Henry addressed the Virginia convention and gave his famous "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech.

April 13: Thomas Jefferson's Birthday.

April 18, 1775: Paul Revere and William Dawes rode to alert Patriots that the British were on their way to Concord to destroy arms.

April 19, 1775: Battles of Lexington and Concord.

May 2, 1776: France and Spain each agreed to provide arms

May 9, 1781: The Battle of Pensacola, that began March 9, ended.

May 12, 1780: Charleston, SC fell to the British.



Photo by Jim Maples

Hoyt Smith pins the Silver Good Citizenship Medal on the lapel of LTC Charles Walker.

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Mrs. Abby Alexander: Daughters of Liberty Medal for her leadership and service with the Ladies Auxiliary.

Mrs. Susan Crabtree: Bronze Good Citizenship Medal for her support of the SAR.

Compatriot Derald Morgan: Bronze Good Citizenship Medal for outstanding support to the SAR.

Compatriot Smallwood: Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding support to the SAR.

Installation of Tennessee Valley SAR Chapter officers for 2009.:

Alabama Society President, Rev. Dr. John H. Killian, installed the following chapter officers for 2009:

President: Dr. Clarence David Billings

Vice President: William Larry Crabtree

Secretary: Kenneth A. Carpenter

Treasurer: James G. Alexander

Registrar: David Byers

Chaplain: Fr. Les McAbee

Historian: Robert E. Adams

Music throughout the ceremony was provided by Mr. Henry Oldham. The Ladies Auxiliary supplied the patriotic table decorations.

Address by the newly installed Chapter President:

President Billings recognized his chapter officers, and made special recognition of Mrs. Raneer' Pruitt for her contributions in the chapter's fiftieth anniversary celebration. He presented his chapter goals and objectives for his term in office; recognize ten Revolutionary War veterans and to find "lost descendants" as prospective chapter members.

Recessional, Benediction, and Adjournment: Compatriot Crabtree led the recessional, and Chaplain Rev. McAbee gave the benediction. President Billings adjourned the meeting.

ALSSAR President, Rev. John Killian, was the guest speaker at our Annual Banquet. Rev. Killian's talk was on the Scots-Irish and in particular the Watauga settlement in East Tennessee.



Photo by Jim Maples

Chapter Banquet 2009



Photo by Jim Maples

ALSSAR State President, Rev John Killian, installs our newly elected Chapter Officers.



Photos by Jim Maples

Compatriot Richard Smallwood places the President's neck ribbon on our new Chapter President, Dave Billings.



Jim Maples
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TO: