

The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—August/September 2009



President's Message

NEW MEETING LOCATION. Beginning with our August 10 meeting, we will meet at a new location, Ryans Family Steak House at 1808 University Drive. It is located east of the Parkway on the same side as Red Lobster and directly across from Richard's Lighting. I am looking forward to seeing you at our new meeting location on August 10.

The 119th CONGRESS OF THE SAR met in Atlanta Georgia July 4 – 8. The Tennessee Valley Chapter was represented by Jim Alexander, Jim Maples and me. National committees met and planned programs, national officers were elected, and the finals for the National oration contest were conducted. Approximately 500 delegates represented The National Society's 26,000 members in over 500 chapters in the USA and other countries. You can read more about the Congress in the next issue of *The SAR Magazine*.

NEW MEMBER. We have received the Membership Certificate for William Lawrence Johnson. Please welcome him into the Chapter. We have 74 full members. We have one initial application submitted for approval and 14 more working on their initial applications. We have 89 full and prospective members. Our goal is 100.

SAR PICNIC. Nancy and I will host a picnic for SAR members and their wives on Saturday, August 29, 5:30 – 7:30 PM, at our home, 706 Corlett Drive Southeast. We will furnish the meat and beverages. Please bring a dish and lawn chairs. Let us know you are coming by sending an email to

NNCYBLLNGS@AOL.COM or calling 883-6229. Our home is between Baylor and Jones Valley Drive off Four Mile Post. Come and enjoy the time with one another; rain or shine.

DAR INVITATION. A prospective SAR member, Dr. Jorge Aunon, has been approved by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution to receive the DAR Americanism Medal. The presentation will be at the September 8th Twickenham Towne Chapter meeting at the Library in the meeting room on the

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George and Steven Wheatley of the John Hunt Society, C.A.R. are shown with Carroll Stickland and President Dave Billings. George and Steven gave the June Program.

Vice-President Larry Crabtree presents Certificate of Appreciation to local attorney Joe Berry. Mr. Berry was our speaker at the July meeting. His topic was "1776".



President

Dave Billings
256-883-6229
billind@uah.edu

Vice-President

Larry Crabtree
256-883-8624
larry.crabtree@worldnet.att.net

Secretary

Ken Carpenter
256-851-9243
KDandMBama@aol.com

Treasurer

Jim Alexander
256-837-7418
jgalexander@knology.net

Registrar

David Byers
256-539-3175
byersmd@bellsouth.net

Chaplain

Fr. Les McAbee
256-426-2799
padreles@yahoo.com

Historian

Bob Adams
256-539-4049
edarea@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Editor

Jim Maples
256-534-2315
SAR1776@knology.net

Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at 11:00 am at the Ryan's on University Dr. unless otherwise noted

10 August 2009
11:00am Regular Meeting
Ryan's

14 September 2009
11:00am Regular Meeting
Ryan's

12 October 2009
11:00am Regular Meeting
Ryan's

Secretary's Report - June Meeting

Opening: President Billings opened the meeting. Comp. Bob Hammond led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Comp. Bob Adams led the pledge to the SAR. ALSAR Chaplin, Jim Alexander gave the invocation. Vice-President Crabtree recognized our guests: George, Steve, Mrs. Karen, and Mrs. Mary Lou Wheatly, Mrs. Carroll Strickland, Mrs. Nancy Billings, Mrs. Abby Alexander, Mrs. Susan Crabtree, and Mr. Jorge Aunon.

Members in Attendance: 17 Members (J Maples, L Crabtree, J Alexander, H. Oldham, O Vaughn, J Creekmore, B Adams, P Hubbard, D Byers, B Hammond, C Cook, R Smallwood, R Blanton, K Carpenter, D. Billings, D Wheatly, M Strickland)

Motions and Resolutions: Past Pres Jim Alexander motioned to make a chapter donation of \$200.00 to the John Hunt Chapter of the CAR; motion passed; check presented to Mrs. Carroll Strickland, Senior Pres. of the John Hunt Chapter.

Announcements: The chapter color guard will attend the grave dedication of Revolutionary War veteran, John Whitaker of North Carolina. The Madison County ceremony will be conducted by the Gunter Mountain Chapter, DAR on 27 June.

President Billings introduced prospective member, Mr. Jorge Aunon (descendant of veteran of Spanish victory over British at Pensacola). President Billings announced the gift of a genealogical history of the Stone family, including ancestors buried in Madison and Lauderdale counties, presented by the author. Historian Adams will present this work to the Huntsville-Madison County Library on behalf of the chapter; and will send a note of appreciation to the author.

Treasurer Alexander mentioned that the chapter had collected member donations of \$315.00 for the SAR Youth Program.

Comp. O. "Skeet" Vaughn represented the chapter color guard at the celebration of the Battle of Pensacola, Florida recently.

Vice-President Crabtree announced the speaker for the 13 July meeting will be Mr. Joe Berry, who will present a program entitled "1776".

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer: Past President Jim Alexander: Checking acct. \$4020.59, Savings acct. \$1979.19

Secretary: Compatriot Carpenter read highlights of the chapter meeting minutes of 11 May, announcing that minutes were published in the chapter newsletter. He announced the necessity that e-mail addresses of all officers and committee chairman be submitted to the secretary for their review of meeting minutes draft additions and corrections.

Registrar: Compatriot David Byers reported that fifteen applications were underway.

Historian: Compatriot Bob Adams: No report

Eagle Scout Committee: Compatriot COL Jody Creekmore announced the state society sent 75 program letters to recent Eagle Scouts, including 19 letters to Tennessee Valley Eagle Scouts. Selections will be conducted in October.

Student Essay and Oration Committee: Compatriot Jim Alexander announced competitions will be held this fall.

Color Guard: Compatriot Carpenter announced the grave dedication to be held on 27 June as noted in announcements. Compatriot O. "Skeet" Vaughn represented the chapter color guard at the celebration of the Spanish victory over the British at Pensacola, Fla. Recently.

JROTC/ROTC Awards: Chairman Jim Alexander noted that the chapter presented 17 SAR JROTC and ROTC to valley high schools

and universities. He recognized the award presenters present at this meeting.

National Trustee Report: National Trustee Jim Alexander reviewed the NSSAR Trustee meeting held at Society Headquarters in Louisville, highlighting the increase of national membership dues and fees, to be voted on at the National Society convention in Marietta, Ga., 3-8 July.

Meeting Activities

Compatriot Conrad Cook led the Youth Quiz, following contributions to the Youth Program by several members present. Questions regarding the SAR Youth Program were taken from the NSSAR magazine.

President Billings addressed the chapter objectives numbers 1 (inspire the community of the principles of our forefathers, and 3 (Perpetuation the memory of patriot ancestors)

Awards and Presentations: See Program

Program: Vice-President Crabtree introduced CAR Society, John Hunt Chapter Compatriots George and Steven Wheatly (sons of Comp. Douglas Wheatly) who presented the program "Patrick Henry and the Second Amendment. George is a rising senior at Buckhorn High School. Steven is a senior at Auburn University. Both gentlemen participated in the Patrick Henry Summer Program; contributed to the "Liberty or Death" DVD production; and in the Huntsville Botanical Gardens production.

George recited highlights of Patriot Henry's "Liberty or Death" speech of the Virginia Convention, and noted the necessity of state militias in contrast to a national standing army.

Steven related the convention's resolutions number two and three regarding the creation of the state militia and the creation of a committee for defense, to the establishment of the Second Amendment of our U.S. Constitution.

President Billings presented these outstanding young men, and Society Senior President, Mrs. Carroll Strickland with chapter certificates of appreciation.

Recessional, Benediction, and Adjournment

President Billings led the recessional and adjourned the meeting following the benediction led by Comp. J. Alexander.

Secretary's Report - July Meeting

Opening: Vice-President Crabtree opened the meeting. Comp. Darryl Adams led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance; and Comp. Hoyt Smith led the pledge to the SAR. Comp. Rev. McAbee gave the invocation. The following guests were recognized Mrs. Linda Maples, Mrs. Abby Alexander, Mrs. Susan Crabtree, Ms. Kim Alexander, Mrs. Lavonne Conner, and prospective members Mr. Martin Towery and Mr. Scott Sanders.

Members in Attendance: 18 Members (J. Maples, L. Crabtree, J. Alexander, H. Smith, P. Hubbard, O Vaughn, L. McAbee, J. Conner, B. Adams, D. Byers, B. Hammond, C. Cook, R. Smallwood, K. Carpenter, S. Field, D. Adams, S. Pearce, H. Wright)

Motions and Resolutions:

Discussion regarding moving the chapter meeting place considered remaining at the Holiday Inn (at \$12.50 for served rather than buffet lunch); Valley Hill County Club (closed on Mondays); and Ryan's Restaurant (1808 Univ. Dr). A motion made by B. Adams to relocate to Ryan's Restaurant was approved by the membership present. The August meeting will be held at the new site.

Announcements Sec. Carpenter noted the remembrance of Bastille Day on the 14th of July.

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Upcoming Events

10 August 2009 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Ryan's on University Dr.

14 September 2009 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Ryan's on University Dr.

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ground floor. We are invited to attend. Come at 9:30 AM to socialize with Jorge and the Chapter members. The meeting begins at 10 AM. Dr. Aunon has agreed to tell of his coming to the United States from Cuba as a teenager, his difficulties and his triumphs. Jorge's story is truly one that illustrates the American Dream.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS. Vice President Larry Crabtree has great programs lined up for us. On August 10 he has arranged for Dr. Waymon Burke, Professor of Social Science, to talk with us about "How Alabama Came To Be What It Is." Our very own Chaplain, Father Les McAbee, will discuss the "Influence of Christianity on Our Country's Founding" at our September 14 meeting. At a future meeting, our prospective member, Dr. Jorge Aunon, will tell us about the American Revolution along the Gulf Coast in his presentation entitled, "Yo Solo, the Capture of Pensacola by Bernardo de Galvez in 1781." I am looking forward to seeing you at our August 10 meeting at Ryan's.

Missing in America Project

At our July meeting our Veteran's coordinator, Harold Wright, gave information on a program entitled, "Missing in America Project." The purpose of this program is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations in order to provide honor and respect to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes.

If you are interested in getting involved with this program, contact Harold at hwright@knology.net.

Thomas Paine, Rights of Man, 1791

"If, from the more wretched parts of the old world, we look at those which are in an advanced stage of improvement, we still find the greedy hand of government thrusting itself into every corner and crevice of industry, and grasping the spoil of the multitude. Invention is continually exercised, to furnish new pretenses for revenues and taxation. It watches prosperity as its prey and permits none to escape without tribute."

Thomas Paine, Common Sense, 1776

"The Sun never shined on a cause of greater worth."

Minutes of May Meeting Continued from page 2

Vice-President Crabtree announced the speaker for the 10 Aug. meeting will be Dr. Waymon Burke of Calhoun College. Dr. Burke is a well-known political analyst for a local television station. The title of his presentation is "How Alabama Became What it Is".

Past President Jim Alexander announced a national society dues increase of \$15.00. TVCh. Annual membership dues will be \$60.00 beginning in 2010.

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer: Past President Jim Alexander: Checking acct. \$3626.61, Savings acct. \$1984.07. He announced a national society dues increase of \$15.00. TVC Annual membership dues will be \$60.00 beginning in 2010.

Secretary: The reading of the minutes for the July chapter meeting were dispensed by vote. Chapter meeting minutes are posted in the chapter newsletter.

Registrar: Compatriot David Byers reported that twenty applications in development.

Historian: Compatriot Bob Adams reported the presentation of a chapter donated book to the Huntsville/Madison County Library.

Color Guard: The chapter color guard presented the colors at the grave dedication of Revolutionary War veteran, John Whitaker of North Carolina. The Madison County ceremony was conducted by the Gunter Mountain Chapter, DAR on 27 June, 2009. Guard members were comps. H. Smith, O. Vaughn, J. Maples, and K. Carpenter. Mrs. Linda Maples served as photographer.

Flag Committee: Hoyt Smith reported his attendance as a color guard member at the Flag Day ceremony hosted by the Athens University Alumni Association and at a flag burning ceremony conducted by the American Legion afterward.

Veteran's Affairs: Chairman Harold Wright reported on the function of the Veteran's Coalition twenty-four organizations of which our chapter is a part. He explained the purpose of the coalition, emphasizing the "Missing in America Project".

Meeting Activities: Comp. Conrad Cook led the Youth Program Quiz, following contributions to the Youth Program by several members present. The subject of the quiz was John Hanson, first national President under the Articles of Confederation.

Program: Vice-President Crabtree introduced Mr. Joe Berry, a retired local attorney. The subject of his presentation, entitled "1776", was the effect of the critical events of that year on the outcome of the American Revolution. These highlighted events included the Washington's siege of Boston; the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Washington's defeat and escape from Long Island, and his victory at Trenton. V.P. Crabtree presented Mr. Berry with the chapter certificate of appreciation.

Recessional, Benediction, and Adjournment: B. Adams led the recessional; Rev McAbee gave the benediction; and VP. Crabtree adjourned the meeting.

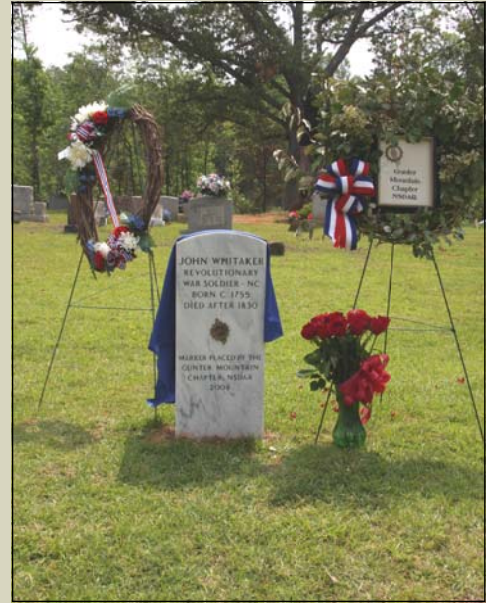
NOTICE: OUR MEETING PLACE IS CHANGING!

Beginning with the August 10th Meeting we will meet at Ryan's on University just east of the Parkway and across from Richard's Lighting

John Whitaker—Revolutionary War Soldier



Tennessee Valley Color Guard Members Ken Carpenter, Hoyt Smith, Jim Maples, and Skeet Vaughan participated in the Gunter Mountain, DAR grave marking ceremony for Revolutionary War Soldier John Whitaker. The ceremony was held on June 27th at the Whitaker Cemetery in Madison County.



Jim Maples
1501 Elmwood Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35801

TO: