



The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—August/September 2010

**President**

Larry Crabtree
256-883-8624
larrycrabtree@att.net

Vice-President

Conrad Cook
256-539-2236
ceciv@knology.net

Secretary

Bob Hammond
256-882-2962
RMH12@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

9 August 2010
11:00am Regular Meeting
Huntsville Public Library
Main Meeting Room

13 September 2010
11:00am Regular Meeting
Huntsville Public Library
Main Meeting Room

President's Message

I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the Tennessee Valley Chapter for making Alabama Society President Bruce Pickette and his wife Rita feel so welcome during their visit to our June 14th meeting. He was impressed with the enthusiasm of our chapter and with our success in recruiting new members. Thanks to Bob Adams for donating the book on the history of North Alabama, which was presented to President Pickette and to Vice-President Connie Cook for substituting for me at the July meeting.

We were saddened to learn of the death of one of our members, Alan G. Raffalovich on July 6th. Mr. Raffalovich had been President of the Tennessee Valley Chapter as well as President of the Alabama Society. We will keep his family in our thoughts and prayers.

Our chapter is still growing due to the efforts of our membership committee chaired by our Registrar David Byers as well as to the efforts of other chapter members. Three individuals have had their genealogy approved and eight applications have been sent to national in the last thirty days. Also, congratulations to our secretary Bob Hammond on receiving three more supplementals.

Don't forget our "Get-Together" for Tennessee Valley Chapter SAR members, prospective members, wives, and guests. Beverages and barbeque will be provided. Please bring a side dish or a dessert.

Date: Saturday August 28th
Time: 5:30-7:30 P.M.
Place: Whitesburg Center
7300 Whitesburg Drive
RSVP: Larry and Susan Crabtree
256-883-8624 (Home)
256-426-1922 (Cell)
larrycrabtree@att.net (E-mail)

I hope to see you at our next meeting on August 9th at 11:00 A.M. in the auditorium of the Huntsville-Madison County Library.



Our guest speaker for July was Billy Herrin. Billy gave a talk on the life and architecture of our third President, Thomas Jefferson.



President Larry Crabtree presents State President Bruce Pickette with a proclamation signed by the Mayor of Huntsville, Tommy Battle.

www.SAR1776.com

Secretary's Report - June Meeting

The regular June meeting of the Tennessee Valley Chapter was held June 14, 2010 in the auditorium of the Huntsville-Madison County Library. The meeting was called to order by President Larry Crabtree. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by David Byers. Jim Maples led the Pledge to the SAR and Hoyt Smith gave our invocation. President Crabtree welcomed our guests, who then introduced themselves. Our guests (15) were: Susan Crabtree, Rita Pickette, Linda Maples, William Harlin, Bob Anderson, Leonard Stillson, Jonathan Roberts, Ron Bledsoe, Ed Bledsoe, Laurence Hillis, Abby Alexander, John Blair, Elizabeth Blair, Richard Tingle, and Carl Whelchel. Members attending (16) were: Conrad Cook, Otha Vaughan, Larry Crabtree, Bob Hammond, David Byers, Jim Maples, Hoyt Smith, Bryan House, Bob Adams, Thomas Hutchins, George Royer, Richard Smallwood, John Hall, Hampton Smith, Perry Hubbard, and Bruce Pickette (President ALSSAR).

President Crabtree moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the prior meeting. This motion was seconded by Comp. Cook and carried by membership voice vote.

Announcements – Inasmuch as we were meeting on Flag Day and our special guests were ALSSAR President Bruce Pickette and his wife, President Crabtree presented President Pickette a proclamation from Tommy Battle, as mayor of Huntsville, in recognition of the meaningful contribution of the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Tennessee Valley Chapter in particular, to the cause of patriotism, freedom, education and service to the Huntsville community. The proclamation also recognized the visit of President Pickette. Vice President Cook then presented President Pickette with a copy of *The Huntsville Historical Review* (published by the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society) which gives the history of the early settlement of Madison County before statehood (1808-1819). One of the articles in this copy of the book was autographed by our chapter Registrar, David Byers, who authored it. President Pickette's wife was presented a cook book as a gift, also.

Bob Adams reminded us that the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table was sponsoring a presentation by Ed Bearss, a noted authority on the Civil War, especially battles and battlefields in particular. The meeting will be held July 8 in the UAH Auditorium and all interested in the Civil War were invited to attend. The speech will center on the battle at Vicksburg.

Program – Vice President Cook then introduced our guest, ALSSAR President Bruce Pickette, as our speaker for the day. President Pickette gave us a broad introduction to the various "Programs of the SAR" and activities sponsored at the national and state levels of the SAR which are established to advance the goals of the SAR. He encouraged us, as individuals, and as a chapter, to involve ourselves in as many activities as possible and he acquainted us with the resources available at the state and national levels to SAR members to support our efforts. He also recognized the contributions the Tennessee Valley Chapter has made over the years to the overall SAR efforts in this regard.

New Member Recognition – Two new members were introduced by President Crabtree. They were: John David Hall and Thomas Hampton Smith. With the assistance of Registrar Byers, President Crabtree administered the oath of membership and awarded them their certificates and member rosettes.

Bob Hammond was also presented certificates for three additional ancestor supplements which were recently approved.

Youth Program Quiz – Comp. Cook conducted our monthly "Who Am

I?" quiz in support of fund raising for our youth program efforts. This month Comp. Cook admitted he had selected a more obscure patriot so that it would be more of a challenge to guess his identity. The individual for this month was active in the New York area prior to, and during, the revolutionary period. While he had a significant participation in efforts in that area, our members were unable to identify Marinus Willett. Since this was the second month in a row in which no one could identify the subject of the quiz, Comp. Cook was encouraged by some members to "ease up a bit" for his future selections.

Officer & Committee Reports –

President (Larry Crabtree) – 1) Member contact cards which were picked up at the last meeting, and for which contact had been made, should be turned in with results indicated. Anyone wishing to pick up additional cards was encouraged to do so. 2) Announcement was made that four of our members had passed away over the past three months. These were: Russell J. Alcott, Ernest W. Ritch, Rev. Henry W. Tuttle, and James F. Conner. In keeping with our custom, the Chapter will present gifts of \$50 each to the Heritage Room of the library for purchase of a book on the subject of the American Revolution to recognize the contributions of these men to our SAR chapter over the years. 3) Initial announcement of a chapter social "get together" the end of August was made. More information later. 4) President Crabtree told of some of the activities at the recent state Board of Managers (BOM) meeting in Columbiana and thanked those of our Ladies Auxiliary who supported that meeting. 5) Past President David Billings (who is also the ALSSAR Vice President) and his wife will be attending the 120th Annual SAR Congress, which will convene in Cleveland June 25 – July 1. 6) It was also announced that prospective member, Jorge Aunon, had donated three books on the Revolutionary War to our chapter. These are available to members to check out and review.

Vice President – (Connie Cook) – Our next meeting will be on July 12. Our speaker will be Billy Herrin, who will speak on the colonial architecture of Thomas Jefferson.

Treasurer – (Bob Hammond for Jim Alexander) – Current account balances are as follows: Savings - \$1997.43 and Checking - \$3684.92. Recent income was \$66.00, coming from our youth program contributions and one member dues. Expenses totaled \$346.61 and primarily came from residual costs from our March banquet, our contribution to the Veteran's Park and expenses associated with distributing our recent longevity awards. Year-to-date collection for our youth programs totals \$271.00.

Secretary – (Bob Hammond) – Everyone, particularly new and prospective members, were reminded that minutes of the two previous meetings can be found on the recent chapter Newsletter posted on the chapter's online web site.

Registrar – (David Byers) – Three new member application were recently approved (this number includes the two announced at this meeting). Three more are awaiting approval at National and forty are in the preparation stage, with five about ready to be submitted for approval. Three supplements (those presented to Bob Hammond) were also recently approved.

Newsletter – (Jim Maples) – Everyone should check to verify that their Email addresses are correct to ensure receipt of notices and other distributions.

Adjournment – All business having been completed, the meeting was adjourned by President Crabtree. Richard Smallwood led the recessional.

Secretary's Report - July Meeting

The regular July meeting of the Tennessee Valley Chapter was held July 12, 2010 in the auditorium of the Huntsville-Madison County Library. The meeting was opened by Vice-President Connie Cook. President Larry Crabtree was unable to attend. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by David Byers, the Pledge to the SAR was led by Otha Vaughan, and Vice-President Cook gave the invocation. There were 18 guests in attendance recognized by VP Cook: Susan Crabtree, Billy Herrin, Susanna Leberman, Rancee Pruitt, Phil Graham, Storm Hill, Nancy Rohr, Linda Maples, Pat Cook, Jorge Aunon, Bob Mackintosh, Ed Bledsoe, Henry Oldham, William Harlin, Ron Bledsoe, Tommy Gilliam, Bob Hickman, and Richard Tingle.

Announcements: VP Cook announced that President Crabtree is at home recovering from an infection, Secretary Bob Hammond is at home recovering from a broken knee cap from a fall on the escalator at the Huntsville/Madison County Jetport. Bob Adams is filling in as Secretary.

Program: Local Architect Billy Herrin gave a very interesting talk on Thomas Jefferson's life and his architecture. Jefferson was the 3rd of 10 children. He wrote a set of articles in 1769 that became the basis for our Constitution. He served as Governor of Virginia, Minister to France, Secretary of State, Vice-President, and our 3rd President. He established West Point Military Academy, acquired the Louisiana Purchase, and established the Lewis and Clark expedition. Jefferson used his architectural talents to build and rebuild Monticello and the University of Virginia. Thomas Jefferson died on July 4, 1826, within a few hours of John Adams.

Officer & Committee Reports: After giving the Revolutionary War "Who am I" quiz, VP Cook reported that there will be a get together organized by President Crabtree on August 28th for old, new, and prospective members to get to know each other. Larry and Susan will provide the barbeque, members will be asked to bring a side dish. Invitations will be sent out in August. VP Cook noted that we have some Revolutionary War books donated by Jorge Aunon available for check out. The Chapter received a very nice letter from DAR School thanking us for sponsoring a class. Meeting date reminder cards and a DVD prepared by PG Butler which gives a good overview of the SAR are available for pick on the table at the side of the room.

Secretary: A motion was made, seconded and passed to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

Treasurer: Not present

Registrar: David Byers gave a report on the number of new applications submitted.

Historian: No report

Chaplain: Not present

Committee Reports: Hoyt Smith reminded everyone to fly their flag and dispose of worn out flags properly. There were no other committee reports presented. VP Cook announced that there are several committees with vacancies if anyone is interested in being appointed to a committee.

Old Business: None

New Business: VP Cook announced that President Crabtree has appointed a committee to review our policy for memorials for deceased members. The committee is to report at the September meeting. VP Cook announced that the Birmingham Chapter is having a Colonial Ball and Debutante Presentation in December. VP Cook has more information for those interested.

Adjournment: All business having been completed, the meeting was adjourned by VP Cook. Jim Maples led the recessional and VP Cook gave the benediction.

Upcoming Events

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

28 August 2010 - 5:30 pm "Get-Together" at Whitesburg Center

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

Passing of Compatriot

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Compatriot Alan Raffalovich. Alan was a past Tennessee Valley Chapter President and a past Alabama Society President.. Alan was a veteran of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.



Left to right—Louisiana President Leonard Rohrbough, VPG International District 2010-2011 Bill Allerton, VPG Southern District 2009-2010 Tom Jacks, VPG Southern District 2010-2011 Ray Clapsadle, Tennessee President Rick Hollis and Alabama President Bruce Pickette at the Southern District Breakfast

Our guest speaker at our June meeting was Alabama State President Bruce Pickette. Bruce gave a very informative and interesting talk on the programs of the SAR.



"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast; for I intend to go in harm's way."

John Paul Jones

*Scenes from the National Congress 2010
Cleveland, Ohio*



Photo Courtesy of Aaron Davies



Jim Maples
1501 Elmwood Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35801

TO: