



The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—December 2008



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Meeting Schedule

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

8 December 2008

11:00am Regular Meeting
Downtown Holiday Inn

12 January 2009

11:00am Regular Meeting
Downtown Holiday Inn

9 February 2009

11:00am Regular Meeting
Downtown Holiday Inn

Christmas at Valley Forge

The encampment at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania would begin on December 19, 1777. The Pennsylvania Campaign of 1777 was over. Behind the army lay the recent defeats at Brandywine, Paoli, and Germantown. A letter from General Washington to the President of Congress on December 23, 1777, reads in part, "Sir, Full as I was in my representation of the matters in the commissary's department yesterday, fresh and more powerful reasons oblige me to add, that I am now convinced beyond a doubt, that, unless some great and capital change suddenly takes in that line, this army must inevitably be reduced to one or other of these three things; starve, dissolve, or disperse in order to obtain subsistence in the best manner they can. Rest assured, Sir, this is not an exaggerated picture, and that I have abundant reason to suppose what I say.....Since the month of July we have had no assistance from the quartermaster-general, and to want of assistance from this department the commissary-general charges great part of his deficiency.....as a proof of little benefit received from a clothier-general, and as a further proof of the inability of an army, under the circumstances of this, to perform the common duties of soldiers, (besides a number of men confined to hospitals for want of shoes, and others in farmers' houses on the same account,) we have by a field-return this day made, no less than two thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight men now in camp unfit for duty, because they are barefoot and otherwise naked."



President Smallwood presided at the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the chartering of the Tennessee Valley Chapter. Below are members of the Alabama Ladies Auxiliary in attendance at the celebration.



At our November meeting, Mr. Rick Storey, Historian of Helion Masonic Lodge #1 of Huntsville, presented an overview of the ancient and modern history of the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons.



Secretary's Report - October Meeting

Opening: President Richard Smallwood opened the chapter's fiftieth anniversary celebration meeting held at the Huntsville-Madison Co. Library. The chapter color guard (K. Carpenter, H. Smith, J. Maples) presented the colors. Historian Bob Adams led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance and the pledge to the SAR. Chaplin Rev. Les McAbee gave the invocation.

Members Present: R. Smallwood, J. Alexander, J. Maples, H. Smith, K. Carpenter, T. Hutchens, L. McAbee, B. Adams, J. F. Charles, L. Taylor, B. Pittman, R. Blanton Jr., D. Milan, S. Field, J. Conner, M. Alexander, T. Jenness.

Guests: Mrs. Linda Maples, Mrs. Rane'e. Pruitt, Mrs. Abby Alexander, Mrs. Genie Adams, Mrs. Andie McAbee, Mrs. Irene Charles, Mrs. Stephanie Wingard, Mrs. Linda Mignes, Mrs. Mary Lou Wheatley, Mrs. Naomi Turner, Ms. Kimberly Alexander, Mrs. Carroll Strickland, Mrs. Ann Bandgren, Mrs. Jacque Hill, Mrs. Cherry Turner, Mrs. Rhonda Larkin, Mrs. Vi Van Orden, Mrs. Chris Smith, Fraser Sparkman, Howell Sims, Robt. Howard, S. Hill, Mrs. Davie Williams,

Ray Van Orden

Members of the Fiftieth Anniversary Committee: Jim and Linda Maples, Jim and Abby Alexander, Mrs. Rane'e Pruitt, Bob Adams, Hoyt Smith, Richard and Glenda Smallwood

Hostesses of the Anniversary Celebration: Mrs. Abby Alexander (Vice-President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Mrs. Linda Maples (Secretary, Ladies Auxiliary) and others.

Motions and Resolutions: Treasurer Jim Alexander read Alabama State Senate Interim Resolution No. 08-312 by Sen. Dixon (18 Sept., 2008). This Senate resolution cited the fiftieth anniversary of the Tennessee Valley Chapter SAR in recognition of the chapter's contribution to patriotic education, and a variety of public service projects.

Announcements: Pres. Smallwood acknowledged past chapter presidents, and past state SAR presidents. Comp. John Charles displayed the medals and awards of his father Maj. James Charles, past National Vice-President General.

Compatriot James W. Bragg Jr. was presented the fifty year SAR membership pin at his home, following the celebration. Compatriot Richard Blanton Jr. was presented his SAR membership certificate by Pres. Smallwood.

Program: Chapter historian Bob Adams presented a brief history of the Tennessee Valley Chapter. An eleven page booklet entitled *Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society Sons of the American Revolution, Celebrating 50 Years of Service* was available for all present. This booklet was prepared by the anniversary committee and the Huntsville/Madison Co. Public Library. It contained the following: anniversary program, an address by chapter president Smallwood, congratulatory letters from President General D. Appleby, and ALSSAR President J. Wardlaw, a history of the chapter (chartered in 1958), notes regarding the antecedent Mooresville Chapter, lists of chapter presidents and state officers from the chapter, and notes on the history of the ALSAR by Comp. Bill Pittman.

Following the program, members and guests enjoyed each other's company, as well as the finger foods prepared and served by the hostesses of the anniversary committee.

Secretary's Report - November Meeting

Opening: President Richard Smallwood opened the meeting and led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. Comp. Jim Alexander led the pledge to the SAR. Compatriot Rev. Les McAbee gave the invocation. President Smallwood recognized the guests in attendance:

Guests in Attendance: Mrs. Abby Alexander, Ms. Karen Wheatley, Mrs. Candice Krugh (Regent, Twickenham Town Ch. DAR), Mrs. Yvonne Connor, Mr. Robt. Hammond, Mr. William Johnson, Mr. Waymon Krugh

Motions and Resolutions: Comp. J. Alexander presented a motion that the chapter donate \$25.00 to the NSSAR Library Fund. The chapter passed the motion.

Announcements: Pres. Smallwood lamented the passing of compatriot John Rison Jones. Comp. Alexander announced the NSSAR is seeking contributions for the National Society library and building funds via the state societies. The Missouri Society has announced the availability of brass ancestor name badges and bars as a fund raising project. The speaker for the December chapter meeting will be Ms. Rhonda Larkin of the Madison County Probate Office located in the public library.

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer: Past Pres. Alexander reported the following balances:

Savings Account: \$1,973.47

Checking Account: \$6,864.75 (including paid dues of \$2,315.00)

He noted that 22 members have yet to submit chapter dues for 2009. The chapter membership report will be forwarded to the Alabama Society on 15 Nov.

Secretary: Chapter Secretary, K. Carpenter was given position of the Alabama State Senate resolution recognizing the fiftieth anniversary of the Tennessee Valley Chapter. Sec. Carpenter will file the resolution in the chapter archives held in the public library.

Awards Committee: Comp. H. Smith announced a chapter gift of a selected book to be given to the Huntsville-Madison Co. Library in memory of compatriot Dr. John Rison Jones.

Orations Contest: Comp. J. Alexander noted that as yet there were no candidates for the Orations Contest, but had received an inquiry from the DAR School.

Ladies Auxiliary: Mrs. Abby Alexander reported on the work of the chapter ladies auxiliary at the ASSAR Board of Managers Meeting in Montgomery (Oct, 2008). The fund raising luncheon provided by the ladies, including Mrs. Linda Maples, in addition to the state and national societies gift basket program, allowed the auxiliary to donate \$1,000 to the ASSAR and \$600 to the NSSAR youth programs. Auxiliary membership renewal of \$5.00 is due. The auxiliary meets three times per year.

Registrar: Registrar Comp. Morgan reported on the pending applications of visitors Robt. Hammond and William Johnson, and that of David Byers.

Historian: Historian Comp. Bob Adams: No Report

Eagle Scout Committee: Comp. Col. Jody Creekmore: No Report

Events: The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Tennessee Valley Chapter, held at the Huntsville-Madison Co. Library in October was reviewed, noting the attendance of 45 members and guests. Copies of the chapter history were provided. See October chapter minutes for anniversary details.

Secretary's Report continued on page 3

Upcoming Events

8 December 2008 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn

12 January 2009 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn

27—28 February 2009 - ALSSAR State Convention, Mobile

Passing of a Compatriot

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Compatriot John Rison Jones, Jr. Dr. Jones was a long time member of the Tennessee Valley Chapter and served many years as our Historian. Dr. Jones was a native of Huntsville who descended from Huntsville's earliest settlers. Dr. Jones was a World War II veteran, serving with the 104th Infantry Division in the European theater. Dr. Jones rarely missed a meeting and will be missed by all.



President Smallwood presents a 50-Year Certificate and pin to Compatriot Jim Bragg. Jim was a charter member of the Tennessee Valley Chapter when it was formed in 1958.

Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution

The latest edition of the *Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution* is now online at www.southerncampaign.org. This is the second issue for 2008 and is excellent as usual. All issues are online and are free for downloading. This issue also announces a new organization called The American Revolution Association. This organization will publish a magazine five times per year starting in January 2009. There is a membership form on page 26 of the Southern Campaigns. The cost is \$36/year. You can also join by email and you will be billed with the first issue.

Compatriots Hoyt Smith, Jim Maples, and Ken Carpenter participated in the 200th anniversary of Madison County. The event was held at the Von Braun Center and featured a visit by President-Elect James Madison and his wife Dolly.

Minutes of November Meeting Continued from page 2

Program: Comp. Jim Alexander introduced Mr. Rick Storey, Historian of Helion Masonic Lodge #1 of Huntsville. Mr. Storey presented an overview of the ancient and modern history of the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons. Mr. Storey concluded with an overview of the history of Helion Lodge (established 1811) and the contributions of notable members of Helion Lodge to the development of Huntsville, Madison County, the Mississippi Territory, and the state of Alabama.

Recessional, Benediction, and Adjournment Comp. Hoyt Smith led the recessional. Chaplain Rev. McAbee gave the benediction. Pres. Smallwood adjourned the meeting.



Compatriot Richard Blanton receives his membership certificate from President Smallwood at the 50th Anniversary Celebration



Rededication Ceremony for Real Daughter



Tennessee Valley member Compatriot Mark Stinnett gave the biography of John Faver. John Faver was Mark's 4th great-grand father and Mary Melissa was his 3rd great-grandmother

The John Wade Keyes Chapter, NSDAR held a rededication ceremony for Real Daughter Mary Melissa Faver Reid Christopher. Mary Melissa's father was Revolutionary War soldier John Faver.

A Real Daughter was a member of the DAR whose father was in the Revolutionary War. There were only 11 Real Daughters in Alabama and only 770 nationally.



Otha "Skeet" Vaughan and Jim Maples served as the Color Guard for the rededication ceremony



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TO: