



The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—December 2011



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Meeting Schedule

12 December 2011

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

9 January 2012

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

13 February 2012

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

President's Message

It's difficult to believe that two thirds of our SAR Chapter year has already slipped by. We have had a banner year in recruiting new members and Registrar, David Byers, tells me that more good news, recruiting wise, is on the horizon. Treasurer Bob Hammond informed me that even though some 10 current members have failed to send in their 2012 dues, it appears that we will begin the new year with 109 active members.

Through the efforts of our Sponsorship / Ad Chairman, Brian House, we have had 4 businesses or Individuals agree to sponsor some of our Youth Programs to the tune of \$2100. This is a wonderful start and will allow us to discontinue our policy of "passing the hat" to boost funding. Thanks to all of you for your efforts in pin pointing people who might be interested in helping us continue these youth endeavors. PLEASE! Don't stop now! If you know of a potential donor, let Brian and his team know.

As part of our SAR celebration of our veterans, Hoyt Smith, George Royer, Jim Maples, Larry Crabtree, Bob Hammond, Otha Vaughn, and I, accompanied by Sue Royer and Linda Maples placed wreaths and held prayer services at the graves of some of our Revolutionary War Veterans buried here in North Alabama. The weather cooperated and the day was beautiful. The beautiful red, white and blue uniforms along with our stars and stripes made for a colorful and inspiring ceremony. I hope that many of you will be able to attend next year.

The Christmas season is in full swing as I pen these thoughts and I am reminded of interesting aspects surrounding this time of the year. As you probably know, the "Twelve Days of Christmas" begins on Christmas day, December 25th, but the ending of the "Twelve Days" is not so definite. The evening of January 5th is always "Twelfth Night" but the "Twelfth Day" of Christmas can be either the day before or the day after "Twelfth Night". This is due to the conflicting interpretations of Eastern and Western religions. This 12 day period is also known as "Christmastide" and was widely celebrated in the American colonies.

Did you know that it is thought that our Colonial ancestors originated the tradition of hanging Christmas wreaths on the doors of their homes? The wreaths were made on Christmas eve of greenery and fruits (when available) and hung on the door to celebrate Christmas day and remained there through Twelfth Night and removed on January 6th or Epiphany Morn. Prior to our break with England we also borrowed a tradition from the "old country". A cake was baked on Twelfth Night to be eaten the next day, Epiphany, and was called "the King's cake". So, now you know the rest of the story!!

Big things seemed to happen around the Christmas season during the Revolutionary War. For example:

1776: Washington ordered the reading of Thomas Paine's "The Crisis" on Christmas eve prior to the battle of Trenton.

1777: Continental Army goes into winter quarters at Valley Forge.

1778: Continental Congress passes first United States budget

1779: Americans abandon "Siege of Savannah, Georgia"

1780: Battle of King's Mountain

1781: Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown.

1782: Americans and British sign preliminary Peace Articles (later sign Treaty of Paris in 1783).

1783: George Washington formally bids farewell to his Officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York City.

Our final meeting of 2011 will be held on December 12th at 11am, and big things will happen there also. I hope you all can attend and bring a guest---wife, girlfriend, children or friend. Have a wonderful Christmas Season!!!

Connie Cook

Upcoming Events

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

9 January 2012 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Huntsville Public Library Auditorium on the first floor.

13 February 2012 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Huntsville Public Library Auditorium on the first floor.

24 - 25 February 2012 - ALSSAR State Convention, Huntsville Marriott

Secretary's Report - October Meeting

The regular business meeting of the Tennessee Valley Chapter was held on October 10, 2011 in the auditorium of the Huntsville-Madison County Library. The meeting was called to order by President Conrad Cook and commenced with the posting of the colors by the chapter Color Guard. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bob Anderson. Otha Vaughan led the Pledge to the SAR and Hoyt Smith gave the invocation, reading a prayer of George Washington. Compatriot Smith then led in a period of remembrance for our recently-departed past Chaplain, Fr. Les McAbee.

President Cook recognized Brian Newton, Treasurer of the new Shoals Chapter, and mentioned that the chapter had received final organizational approval at the meeting of the Board of Managers (BOM) this past weekend. Comp. David Billings then expanded on the Shoals chapter's organizational process and invited everyone to the new chapter's Charter Night Banquet in Florence on Saturday, December 3.

Comp. Cook told some more about the prior BOM and indicated that our chapter was well represented. At the BOM there was spirited discussions on the need for a code of ethics to address member behavior and the need for liability insurance at the state and local levels.

President Cook informed the Chapter that our current Secretary, Darryl Adams, has been diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis. Because it has significantly limited his energy, breathing and overall stamina, it is necessary that he relinquish his duties as Secretary. President Cook indicated that his replacement would be sought. David Byers was awarded a certificate for an approved supplemental patriot ancestor.

Guests were recognized. They were (10): Pat Cook, Martin Towery, Linda Maples, Larry McFall, Neil Boyd, Warren Adams, Doug Baker, Don Dunstone, Carol Cornelius, and Sue Royer. Members present (25) were: Bob Baccus, Otha Vaughan, Hoyt Smith, David Byers, Bob Hammond, Jim Maples, Bill Burleson, Steve McCurry, Richard Blanton, David Billings, Bob Anderson, Douglas Wheatley, Harold Wright, Ron Bledsoe, Spike Field, Charles Cornelius, Dudley Burwell, John Hall, Ted Bledsoe, Ed Bledsoe, Frank Vinz, David Milam, George Royer,

Connie Cook and Brian Newton.

Program – Vice President George Royer introduced our program for the day. Chapter members Jim Maples and John Hall told us about their common ancestor, William Pace, a member of George Washington's Commander-in-Chief's Guard. This was a group of men expressly tasked with the protection of Washington during the course of the Revolution. They told us of the history and experiences of Washington's life guard as well as patriot Pace's life and participation in the guard. The presentation was enhanced by Jim who wore a copy of the uniform specified by Washington for his guard force.

Youth Program Quiz - Comp. Bob Anderson led our monthly Youth Program Quiz, which centered on a "Who Am I" challenge to identify six individuals involved in the Revolution based on a brief biography of each. They were: Benjamin Tallmadge, Casimir Pulaski, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, Mad Anthony Wayne, Patrick Ferguson, and John Sevier.

Officer and Committee Reports-

President (Connie Cook) – We were reminded that there would be a meeting of the ad and sponsorship committee on Thursday, Oct. 13 at the Covenant Presbyterian Church (5:00) to discuss commercial advertisements for the convention booklet and sponsorships for our youth programs competitions.

Registrar (David Byers) – David reported on the number of applications currently in the approval system and also discussed our recent seminar conducted by State Registrar Ron Bearden. The seminar centered on best practices for completing member applications.

Treasurer (Bob Hammond) – Current account balances are: savings - \$2009.93 and checking - \$7419.92. Primary activity involves dues collections totaling \$3750.00 for the month. The dues collection will continue into November, at which time the portions for State and National will be forwarded to them. At present we have approximately 75% of the dues cards sent out renewed. We now have 109 members, with a few in the process of being transferred to the new Shoals chapter. Our Youth Program contributions total \$873.42 for the year.

Vice President (George Royer) – Next month's meeting program will be on music of the Revolution, led by Comp. Bob Baccus.

Veteran's Affairs (Harold Wright) – The Huntsville Veteran's Memorial will be dedicated at 9:30, Friday, November 11, Veterans Day.

Other – President Cook thanked the ladies who had provided the food for our snacks for our meeting. Nancy Billings announced that all member wives who could were encouraged to join our Ladies Auxiliary, who will play a supporting role during our convention next year.

Adjournment – All business having been completed, the Color Guard retired the colors. President Cook led in the recessional and Comp. Hoyt Smith led in our benediction, which included George Washington's prayer at Valley Forge.

Secretary's Report continued from page 2

Secretary's Report - November Meeting

President Conrad Cook called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m. at which time the attendees repeated the Pledge of Allegiance and the SAR Pledge. The invocation was then given by the Chapter Chaplain, Hoyt Smith. The meeting attendance logs indicated 19 SAR members and 22 guests were present. Each quest was introduced either by their host or, in some cases, by themselves. The following new members were introduced and inducted into SAR membership: Richard Markwalter, Roland Markwalter, Charles L. Smith III, and Federal Judge Lynwood Smith. Following the pinning of a SAR rosette on each new member by David Byers, they were given membership certificates and given the opportunity to speak to the audience.

Vice President George Royer introduced program speakers Terry Cornett and SAR member Bob Baccus who were representatives of "The Old Time Brass." Their program was on Revolutionary War military music and signals. Drums, fifes, and bugles were demonstrated although we were told that bugles were not used in the US military until the War of 1812. The program was well received and the speakers were presented Certificates of Appreciation by Compatriot Royer.

Compatriot Kim Keller conducted the oral "Youth Quiz" which was on the Revolution War battles at Saratoga. SAR members that provided the first correct answer to each question were rewarded by being tossed a piece of candy. However it was noted that members were unable to answer some of the questions. The tri-corn hat was then passed among the members for donations to the funding of the various youth programs sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the SAR.

Officer Reports:

President – Connie Cook had numerous announcements and actions as follows:

- On November 26 the Huntsville Times newspaper will have an article on the SAR.
- As many members as possible are encouraged to attend the chartering and banquet of the newly organized Muscle Shoals SAR chapter at 6 p.m. on December 3.
- Likewise, as many members as possible are encouraged to register and attend the annual SAR state meeting in Huntsville on February 24 & 25.
- Donations by members of books on the Revolutionary War, patriotism, and related subjects have reached 26 toward the goal of 100 or more for sales to help fund our youth programs.
- A letter was received from SAR state president David Billings that encouraged the expansion of SAR youth programs.
- It was moved, seconded and unanimously agreed on to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the October meeting.

Vice President – George Royer announced that the December meeting program will be on early settlements in Alabama.

Secretary – No report

Treasurer – Bob Hammond reported that the savings account

totals \$2012.13 and the checking account totals \$9,307.92. He noted that the year's total from donations by members at the monthly meetings for the SAR youth programs stand at \$918.42. Dues for 2012 have been received from 90 members but membership renewal dues have not been received from nine current members. A memorial gift to the Huntsville Library was provided in honor of the recently deceased SAR chapter secretary Darryl Adams.

Registrar – David Byers reported that 16 new member applications are waiting approval.

Newsletter Editor - Jim Maples announced that members are invited to participate in the laying of wreaths on Revolutionary War veteran's tombstones at Maple Hill Cemetery at 1:00 p.m. this Sunday, November 20. He noted that in Madison County there are approximately 35 known burial sites for Revolutionary War veterans although many are remotely located and inaccessible.

At 12:40 p.m. the SAR Recessional was recited, a benediction was given by Chaplin Hoyt Smith, and the meeting was declared adjourned by President Cook.

Treasurer's Report

November, 2011

(data current as of October 18, 2011)

Savings Prior month	\$ 2009.93
Monthly activity	2.20
Current month	\$ 2012.13
Checking Prior month	\$7,419.52
Income:	
Youth programs	81.00
2012 Dues Payments	1,167.00
Youth Sponsorship	1,000.00
TOTAL	\$2,248.00
Expense:	
Officer supplies (Medals)	359.60
TOTAL	\$359.60
Current month	\$ 9,307.92

A) Youth program general contributions this chapter year total \$918.42.

B) A memorial donation was made to the Huntsville-Madison County Library in honor of Darryl Adams.

C) Dues collection for the 2012 chapter year is in process. As of November 7, we have payments from 91 members.

D) Registrations are being received for the 2012 ALSSAR Convention.

"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

Thomas Paine

(The American Crisis, No. 1, 19 December 1776)

Treasurer's Report

December, 2011

(data current as of November 18, 2011)

Savings Prior month	\$ 2012.13
Monthly activity	-
Current month	\$ 2012.13
Checking Prior month	\$9,307.92
Income:	
Youth programs	197.00
2012 Dues Payments	1,156.00
Youth Sponsorship	300.00
Convention Registrations	780.00
TOTAL	\$2,508.00
Expense:	
Memorials (D. Adams)	359.60
TOTAL	\$359.60
Current month	\$11,765.92

- A) Youth program general contributions this chapter year total \$1115.42.
 B) Youth competition sponsorships total \$1300.00.
 C) Dues collection for the 2012 chapter year is probably over. As of December 1, we have renewals for 98 members. I made a second transmittal to the ALSSAR Secretary and I expect it to be my last.
 D) Year end chapter membership currently is expected to be 109, once dues information is processed by National.
 E) Registrations are being received for the 2012 ALSSAR Convention.



State President Dave Billings is shown presenting a membership certificate to his father, Clarence E. Billings, along with the President of the Missouri Society Cliff Olsen on the far left and Jim Purcell, President of the Christopher Casey Chapter in Jefferson City, Missouri.



Compatriot Bob Anderson presented the "Life and Times of General Daniel Morgan" to six classes at Priceville High School on November 9th. Bob demonstrates the knife and tomahawk which were used for hand-to-hand combat



Registrar David Byers and President Connie Cook (back row) are shown with new members (left to right) Richard Markwalter, Roland Markwalter, Charles L. Smith III, and Judge Lynwood Smith.

Membership Dues

If you haven't paid your dues for 2012, it isn't too late. Dues for 2012 are \$63. Make your check out to Tennessee Valley Chapter, SAR and send it to our Treasurer at:

Robert Hammond
 Tennessee Valley Treasurer
 1111 Somerset Circle
 Huntsville, AL 35803



In the photo above, President Connie Cook is shown with the October speakers Compatriots John Hall and Jim Maples. John and Jim share a patriot ancestor, William Pace, who was a member of the Commander-in-Chief's Guard.

Above right are our November speakers, Terry Cornett and Compatriot Bob Baccus. Terry and Bob talked about music in the Revolutionary War with an emphasis on drum music.

At the right Compatriots Jim Maples and Hoyt Smith attach a streamer to our flag which was awarded to our chapter for participation in the 2011 "Gathering at Sycamore Shoals" in Elizabethton, Tennessee.

Below, the Color Guard presents the colors at our November meeting.



*Veterans Day Parade - Huntsville, Alabama
November 11, 2011*





Francis Eppes Harris

Peter Efford Bentley



Fleming Jordan



Henry Harless



John Ward



Albert Russel

On Sunday Afternoon, November 20th, President Connie Cook was joined by Compatriots Hoyt Smith, George Royer, Jim Maples, Bob Hammond, Bob Anderson, and Larry Crabtree for a wreath laying ceremony at the gravesite of six Revolutionary War Soldiers buried in Madison County. A prayer was given at each gravesite by Chaplain Hoyt Smith. The gravesites of other Revolutionary War Soldiers buried in Madison County can be found at our website at www.sar1776.com.

*Veterans Memorial Park Huntsville, Alabama
Dedicated November 11, 2011*



Jim Maples
1501 Elmwood Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35801

TO: