

The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—December 2007



President's Message

The holidays are now upon us, and everyone will be traveling, visiting relatives and friends. I hope each of you has a safe and merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

The Alabama Society Board of Manager's meeting was held at the First Christian Church in Montgomery on Saturday, October 20. The meeting was well attended with 35 members present. The new ALSSAR Ladies Auxiliary met at the same time, and later prepared lunch for both groups. Those of you who didn't attend missed a real treat.

The Tennessee Valley Chapter SAR held its monthly meeting on 19 November at the Holiday Inn in downtown Huntsville. The Tennessee Valley Chapter added to its membership numbers at the meeting by inducting the following new members: Douglas Wheatley, Elmer "Spike" Field, Perry Hubbard, and Charles Dietrich. The new member certificates have been received for Mark Stinnett and Conrad Cook, however they were not able to attend and will receive their certificate at a later meeting. Alabama Society SAR President James Alexander and former state president James Maples were in attendance to present the new members their rosette pins. Our speaker for the meeting was Mark Hobbs who gave a great presentation on West Florida's role in the American Revolution.

Just a reminder that the Alabama Society SAR State Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn in downtown Huntsville on 29 February-1 March 2008.



Photo by Jim Maples

President Brian Alexander inducts new members Elmer "Spike" Field, Perry Hubbard, Doug Wheatley and Charles Dietrich into the SAR



Photo by Jim Maples

Our guest speaker for November was Mark Hubbs. Mark gave a very interesting presentation on the 14th British Colony, West Florida.

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Meeting Schedule

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

10 December 2007
Regular Meeting

14 January 2008
Regular Meeting

Secretary's Report

October

President Brian Alexander opened the meeting. Compatriot Ernie Ritch led the Pledge of Allegiance. Compatriot Chip Manning led the pledge to the SAR. Chaplain Father Les McAbee gave the invocation.

President Alexander recognized the guests in attendance. They were: Master Todd Jenesses, Jr., Mrs. Abby Alexander, Miss Kimberly Alexander, Mr. Brian Hogan, and Mr. Charles Quarles. New member Compatriot Perry Hubbard joined us for the first time as a member of the SAR. Compatriot Father Les McAbee gave the invocation.

Compatriot Ernie Ritch quizzed the compatriots on the colonial period. The quiz brought in a total of \$40 for our youth programs.

Compatriot Richard Smallwood introduced the guest speaker Mr. Brian Hogan. He spoke on the Sons of Union Veterans. His talk included some interesting trivia about Grand Army of the Republic from Madison County.

Treasurer Dr. Dave Billings reported that we have 42 members who have not paid their dues. He also reported that there is a saving account balance of \$1900 and a checking account balance of \$4388 for a total of \$6388. Registrar Dr. Derald Morgan reported that we have 5 new applications in the process of being submitted to national and one application being processed at national. State President Jim Alexander told of an offer of a building for sale to the SAR in the downtown area of Louisville, and the decision of the national trustees to investigate further the suitability of the building to meet the needs of the NSSAR.

Compatriot Richard Smallwood announced that the DAR will have a grave marking at the Harris Hill Cemetery on October 14, 2008. Compatriot Bill Pittman announced that there would be a grave marking for patriot George Taylor next spring. Compatriot Jim Alexander announced that the State convention committee would meet at the Holiday Inn at 11:00 am on October 12, 2008. The meeting will be held in the Sun Room.

ALSSAR President Jim Alexander presented Compatriot Dr. Derald Morgan with the national Robert Burt Award for his work with the Boy Scouts. Compatriot Dr. Morgan is the Tennessee Valley Chapter Committee Chairman and Alabama State Committee Chairman for the Boy Scout Programs.

Compatriot Mark Alexander led the recessional and Chaplain Father Les McAbee gave the benediction.

November

President Brian Alexander opened the meeting. Compatriot Mark Strickland led the Pledge of Allegiance. Compatriot Larry Crabtree led the pledge to the SAR. Compatriot Les McAbee gave the invocation.

President Brian Alexander recognized the guests in attendance. They were: Jim Connor, Lavonne Connor, Sara Hubbard, Steve Peirce, Susan Crabtree, and Abby Alexander.

Other guests included new members: Elmer "Spike" Fields, Perry Hubbard, Charles Dietrich, and Doug Wheatley.

President Brian Alexander inducted and presented membership certificates to the following new members: Elmer Field, Perry Hubbard, Doug Wheatley, and Charles Dietrich. Compatriots Jim Maples, Derald Morgan, and Jim Alexander presented rosettes to the new members and explained the historical significance of the rosettes. The new members shared with the group information on their patriot ancestors.

Vice-President Smallwood recognized Compatriot John Rison Jones for receiving an Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law from the University of the South, Sewanee. Vice-President Richard Smallwood introduced this month's speaker, Mark Hubbs. He spoke to the chapter on the topic "West Florida, the 14th American Colony." President Brian Alexander presented the speaker with a gift of appreciation.

Registrar Derald Morgan stated that three or four applications for membership will be submitted. Chaplain Les McAbee extended condolences from the chapter to Jim Maples upon the recent death of his mother, Vera Hastings Maples. State President Jim Alexander reported on the BOM, which was held October 20th at the First Christian Church in Montgomery. The Ladies Auxiliary provided the lunch for the attendees. He announced that the state convention will be held in Huntsville February 29-March 1. Regarding youth programs, State President Jim Alexander reported that there were no candidates for the chapter oration contest. He announced that the essay contest deadline was December 1. He announced that JROTC medals and certificates would be awarded at 11 high schools. Members volunteered to assist in the presentation of the awards.

Compatriot Jody Creekmore stated that he has not received any applications for the Eagle Scout scholarship. State President Jim Alexander reported on his efforts to obtain candidates for the Outstanding American History Teacher Award. Compatriot Derald Morgan is the state chairman for this contest. All high schools in Madison County have been notified. No schools have submitted candidates.

Compatriot Jim Maples announced the Wreaths for Veterans Program sponsored by the Redstone Arsenal Officer's Wives Garden Club. He mentioned that the program was for laying the wreaths and contributions were requested. Persons interested in participating were encouraged to contact him. (\$75.00 was collected)

Compatriot Derald Morgan reported that the new Veterans Park would honor soldiers from all wars. He stated that names of all Revolutionary War soldiers are needed for this project.

Compatriot Jim Maples reported that he and Skeet Vaughn attended the celebration of the "Last Battle of the Revolutionary War," which was held on Lookout Mountain on September 22nd. He presented the streamer for the chapter's participation in the event.

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November Minutes Continued

State President Jim Alexander announced that a Colonial Christmas Program would be held at Westminster Christian Academy on December 18th.

President Brian Alexander reminded everyone about the state convention, which will be held February 29th - March 1st. Compatriot Derald Morgan encouraged members to sell or purchase ads for the convention program. Compatriot Jim Maples is compiling the convention program and will need ads by February 1st. Compatriot Mark Alexander led the recessional. Compatriot Les McAbee gave the benediction. President Brian Alexander adjourned the meeting.

Upcoming Events

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

14 January 2008 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn

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

21 - 23 February 2008 - Leadership Meeting, Louisville

29 February - 1 March 2008 - ALSSAR State Convention, downtown Holiday Inn, Huntsville

Answers to "Sign Here" from the last Newsletter

Samuel Adams
Benjamin Franklin
Samuel Chase
Edward Rutledge
Thomas Jefferson
John Witherspoon
Roger Sherman

Revolutionary Questions

1. This General's surrender at Yorktown is historically considered the British Army's greatest defeat until Dunkirk in World War II.
2. What strategy did Generals Gage, Clinton, and, later, Arnold favor to win the war?
3. Did Benedict Arnold die in Canada, England, or the West Indies?
4. To what did the "Kingbirds" refer?
5. What were grenadiers?
6. Who were "Shirtmen"?

"It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favors."

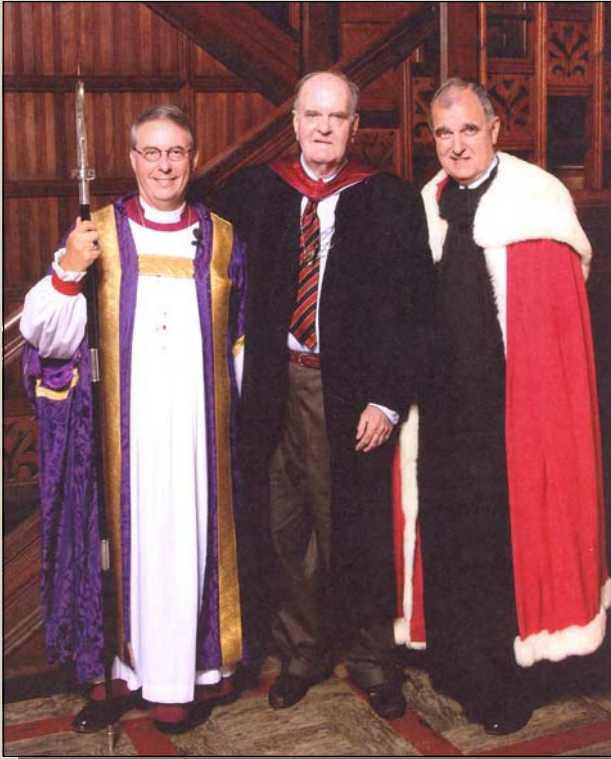
George Washington




Tennessee Valley members, Skeet Vaughan, Jim Maples, David Milam, and Ken Carpenter participated in the Color Guard at the grave marking of Francis Eppes Harris and Efford Bentley. The grave marking was held on October 14th at Harris Hill Farm.



State President Jim Alexander presents Dr. Derald Morgan with a National award for his many years of work with the Boy Scouts



During The University of the South's Founder's Day Convocation on October 9th, Dr. John Rison Jones was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law. Dr. Jones is shown with the Chancellor, the Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley, Jr., and the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Joel L. Cunningham.



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TO: