



The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—February/March 2010

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Meeting Schedule

8 February 2010
11:00am Regular Meeting
Ryan's

27 March 2010
Chapter Banquet
Valley Hill Country Club

12 April 2010
11:00am Regular Meeting
Huntsville Public Library
Main Meeting Room

President's Message

Best wishes for the new calendar year 2010 to bring you health, prosperity and happiness. The new calendar year announces the ending of one SAR year, 2009-10, and the beginning of another. Thank you for the honor of serving this year as your Chapter President. At our Annual Meeting in March we will install the officers for next year, 2010-11.

At our January 11 meeting, prospective member, Dr. Jorge Aunon, told us about the American Revolution along the Gulf Coast. His presentation was entitled, "Yo Solo, the Capture of Pensacola by Bernardo de Galvez in 1781." One of Jorge's ancestors, Sebastian Calvo de la Puerta of Havana, Cuba, participated in Spanish Louisiana's Governor General Galvez's campaign against the British at Ft. St. George in Pensacola. Sebastian became Governor of Spanish Louisiana. The Alabama Society's chapter at Daphne is named in honor of General Galvez. If you didn't learn about the American Revolution along the Gulf Coast, be sure and talk with Jorge. He is a wealth of information.

The George S. and Stella Knight Essay Contest will be the program at our February 8 meeting. Committee Chair James G. Alexander reported the Committee has sent information packages on the competition to 27 Schools in Huntsville, Madison County and the surrounding region. The Committee has reviewed the submissions and selected the finalists for first, second and third place. The finalists will be invited to the February 8 meeting and the first place winner will read her or his essay. The winning essay will be entered into the State Essay Contest. This contest was originally established in honor of President Calvin Coolidge, who won a local SAR essay contest while a student at Amherst. The program is designed to give junior and senior students an opportunity to explore events that shaped American history. The contest is conducted at the chapter, state society and national society levels. Students must submit an original essay with the topic based on original research that deals with an event, person, philosophy or ideal associated with the American Revolution, Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the U. S. Constitution.



Above, Huntsville Police Chief Henry Reyes added his congratulations to our recipient of the Law Enforcement Award, Bradley Snipes. On the right, Huntsville Fire Chief Mike Sublett presents the Fire Safety Award to George Daigle



Secretary's Report - December Meeting

Opening: President Billings opened the meeting. Compatriot Bob Hammond led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Compatriot S. Vaughn the pledge to the SAR. Compatriot Bob Adams gave the invocation. The following guests were recognized: Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Snipes (ARNG), Mr. and Mrs. Richard Daigle, George Daigle and Michael Sublett (Huntsville Fire & Rescue), Kirk Gives, Deputy Chief Mark Hudson, Deputy Chief Lewis Morris (HPD), Huntsville Police Chief Henry Reyes, Bradley Snipes, and Shane Turley of HPD, and Howard W. McFarlen (Huntsville Fire Dept.), and prospective member Dr. Jorge Aunon.

Members in Attendance: 16 Members (D. Billings, L. Crabtree, J. Maples, J. Alexander, S. Field, D. Adams, B. Hammond, O. Vaughn, C. Cook, B. Adams, D. Byers, R. Troth, R. Blanton Jr., J. Creekmore, H. Oldham, H. Smith)

Announcements: President Billings announced openings for chapter officer recommendations for the coming year.

Officer and Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Jim Alexander Report as of 18 Dec:

Checking acct. \$4618.77	Savings acct.
\$1993.30	Youth Fund \$994.34

(included in checking above)

Secretary: Sec. Carpenter notes his appreciation of Compatriot B. Adams for taking meeting notes in his work related absence.

Registrar: Registrar Compatriot David Byers reported eleven membership, and four supplemental applications have been sent to the National Headquarters.

Historian: None

Eagle Scout Committee, Student Essay and Oration Committee: Comp Creekmore noted Chas Clark as a essay contest applicant. Compatriot J. Alexander reported the last oration candidate will present again his oration in January.

Flag Committee: A Flag Certificate was awarded to Compatriot Rev. Tuttle

Meeting Activities

Compatriot Conrad Cook led the Youth Program Quiz concerning the Battle of Trenton, as well as other Christmas time events of the American Revolution.

Awards and Presentations:

Comps. Bob Adams and David Byers received supplemental memberships.

Program: Compatriot Hoyt Smith presented the Law Enforcement Award to Huntsville Police Officer Brad Snipes. Compatriot J. Alexander presented the Firefighter Award to Fireman George Daigle. Chiefs of both the Huntsville Police Dept. and Huntsville Fire Dept. expressed their appreciation for such recognition by the Tenn. Valley Chapter SAR. A number of police and firefighter guests were in attendance.

Recessional, Benediction, and Adjournment: Compatriot D. Adams led the recessional. President Billings gave the benediction, and adjourned the meeting.

Secretary's Report - January Meeting

Opening: President Billings opened the meeting. Compatriot Scott Sanders led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance and Compatriot Spike Fields led the pledge to the SAR. Compatriot Rev. Les McAbee gave the invocation. President Billings recognized the guests in attendance: Mrs. A. Alexander, Mrs. S. Crabtree, Mrs. A. Sanders and daughter Miss Anna Sanders. Prospective members in attendance were: Dr. J Aunon, J. Hall, and M. Towery.

Members Present: 18: D. Billings, L. Crabtree, B. Hammond, C. Cook, L. McAbee, O. Vaughn, D. Byers, B. Adams, J. Alexander, D. Adams, W. Johnson, J. Maples, M. Strickland, H. Smith, S. Field, K. Carpenter, S. Sanders, , F. Holland

Motions and Resolutions: Compatriot Jim Alexander reported on the possibility of the chapter meeting place moving to Valley Hill Country Club. A discussion followed relative to such a change and the question of continuing a luncheon meeting.

A meeting of the chapter officers was held following the close of the meeting regarding the proposed slate of officers for 2010. The Nominating Committee will report at the February 8th meeting, at which time will be held officer elections. Officer installation will be held on 27 March at the Valley Hill Country Club.

Announcements: President Billings recognized new members in attendance: Compatriots Bob Hammond, William Johnson, and D.S. Sanders.

Prayers were asked for Compatriot Ernie Ritch who is hospitalized in the VA hospital. President Billings announced the ALSSAR Annual Meeting will be held on 26-27 Feb. at the Hilton Birmingham Perimeter Park. Events include the Friday evening reception, Saturday morning oration contest, and Saturday evening banquet.

Mrs. Abby Alexander gave a report of the SAR Ladies Auxiliary fund raising program and their contributions to the ALSAR Board of Managers meetings. To date they have contributed \$1000.00 to the Youth Fund. Members were asked to contribute to the Chapter's basket for the silent auction at the ALSAR February meeting.

Compatriot Fred Holland is back over the radio waves on 1450 AM. President Billings reported chapter membership is currently 69 members.

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer: Past President Alexander: Savings Acct: \$1993.30
Checking Acct: \$4618.77

Secretary: Compatriot Carpenter: The Dec. 2009 meeting minutes will be published in the up-coming newsletter.

Registrar: Registrar Compatriot Byers: 12 applications are under review by the NSSAR; 29 applications are in progress

Historian: Historian Compatriot Bob Adams

ROTC: Compatriot J. Alexander: 17 JROTC medals are on order

Minutes of January Meeting Continued from page 2

Events: Compatriot C. Cook led the Youth Program fundraising quiz identifying Col Prescott of Bunker Hill fame.

Program: VP. Crabtree introduced prospective member, Dr. Jorge Aunon, past Dean of the UAH College of Engineering. Dr. Aunon presented a fascinating account of his Revolutionary War Patriot ancestor, Captian Sebastian Calvo de la Puerta of Havana, Cuba. Captain Calvo de la Puerta participated in Spanish Louisiana's Gov. Gen. Galvez's 1781, 61 day siege campaign against the British at Ft. St. George, Pensacola. Patriot Calvo de la Puerta participated in the negotiations for the transfer of Louisiana from Spain back to Napoleon's France and then to the United States in 1803. He died in Paris in 1820, holding the rank of Field Marshall.

Vice President Crabtree announced the program for the February meeting will be the Essay Contest.

Recessional, Benediction, and Adjournment: Compatriot Mark Strickland led the recessional. Chaplain Rev. McAbee gave the benediction. President Billings adjourned the meeting.



Dr. Jorge Aunon gave a very interesting presentation on the Battle of Pensacola. Jorge's ancestor was a member of General Galvez's forces which captured Pensacola from the British. Jorge's application is currently at National for approval.

"It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice, if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood; if they be repealed or revised before they are promulgated, or undergo such incessant changes that no man who knows what the law is today can guess what it will be to-morrow."

Federalist No. 62

"The principle of spending money to be paid by posterity, under the name of funding, is but swindling futurity on a large scale." --

Thomas Jefferson

Upcoming Events

8 February 2010 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Ryan's on University Dr.

26 - 27 February 2010 - ALSSAR State Convention, Birmingham

4 - 6 March 2010—Spring Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY

27 March 2010 - Tennessee Valley Chapter Banquet, Valley Hill Country Club

12 April 2010 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Huntsville Public Library Auditorium on the first floor - **NEW LOCATION!**

March 27 Annual Meeting and Banquet.

The Chapter's Annual Meeting and Banquet will be held Saturday, March 27th beginning at 6 PM, at the Valley Hill Country Club off Willowbrook Drive, Huntsville, AL. The evening will include annual awards presented to compatriots as well as the induction of the 2010-11 officers. Our guest speaker will be the 2008 Alabama History Teacher of the Year, Diane Blocker. There is a registration form at our website, www.sar1776.com.

New Meeting Location

Starting with our April meeting we will be in a new location. We will be meeting at the Huntsville Public Library Auditorium on the first floor of the main library near downtown Huntsville. Our meeting time will not change. We will continue to meet at 11:00 am on the second Monday of the month except for March when we normally have our Annual Banquet. The main difference is that we will no longer have lunch as part of our meeting. The library only requires a \$50 deposit which we get back if we decide to change locations again.

Revolutionary Questions

1. I was the author of "Seven Resolutions" in response to the Stamp Act, a lawyer, revolutionary leader, member of the Continental Congress, and a Governor of Virginia. I spoke these famous words at the First Continental Congress, "The distinctions between Virginians, Pennsylvanians, New Yorkers, and New Englanders, are no more. I am not a Virginian but an American."

2. I was a member of a famous Virginia family, a revolutionary, and the first congressman to introduce a resolution in Congress for a declaration of independence.

3. I was an Irish-American soldier who was one of the Commander-in-Chief's guards and was tried as a conspirator in a plot to deliver George Washington to the British. As a result I was the first American soldier to be executed by an American military court.

4 I was a patriot and revolutionary from Massachusetts who defended five British soldiers after the "Boston Massacre". I was a member of the First and Second Continental Congresses and would become our nation's first Vice-President..

Wreaths for Veterans - 2009



Compatriot Jim Maples places a wreath at the grave of Ezekiel Craft. At the Moon Cemetery on Cave Springs Road



At Maple Hill Cemetery Compatriot Russell Alcott places a wreath in memory of all Prisoners of War. Russ was a German POW for 13 months in Stalag Luft 1, at Barth, Germany



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TO: