



The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—February/March 2011



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

14 February 2011
11:00am Regular Meeting
Huntsville Public Library
Main Meeting Room

19 March 2011 (Saturday)
Annual Chapter Banquet
6:30pm Valley Hill Country Club

11 April 2011
11:00am Regular Meeting
Huntsville Public Library
Main Meeting Room

President's Message

The February 14th meeting is the last regular meeting of this year on the Tennessee Valley Chapter calendar. Instead of a meeting in March, we will have our annual banquet on March 19th at the Valley Hill County Club, at which time the officers for the 2011-2012 year will be installed.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your Chapter President. It has been a privilege to work with the members of the Tennessee Valley Chapter. I would like to thank the officers and committee chairmen with whom I have served as well as the Ladies Auxiliary and all others who have contributed to the success of the chapter this year.

The nominating committee responsible for selection of officer nominees for the 2011-2012 year has done a great job. In accordance with the chapter by-laws, the recommended slate of officers will be presented to the membership and voted on during the February meeting.

Unfortunately, our January meeting had to be cancelled due to the inclement weather, but in our February meeting we will try to make up for what we missed. The George S. and Stella Knight Essay contest will be featured on the program. Forty-one essays were judged and the first, second, and third place winners were selected. These winners, along with their parents and teachers, have been invited to the meeting. Awards will be presented and the first place winner will read her essay which has been entered in the state essay contest.

Also planned for the February meeting is the induction of the following new members into the Tennessee Valley Chapter: Jorge Aunon, Carl Jerry Whelchel, and Jerry Russel Whelchel. Supplementals will be presented to Bob Hammond and George Royer. In addition, medals will be given to an outstanding fireman and policeman in the Huntsville area. Congratulations to former Tennessee Valley Chapter President and present Alabama Society Executive Vice-President David Billings who has been nominated Alabama Society President. The election and installation of officers will occur at the ALSSAR Annual Meeting and Convention in Montgomery February 25th and 26th. Don't forget to pay your dues to our Treasurer Jim Alexander if you haven't yet. I hope to see you at our next meeting February 14th at 11:00 A.M. at the Huntsville- Madison County Library auditorium and at our annual banquet on March 19th.



Compatriot Bob Anderson was our speaker at the December meeting. Bob gave us a very interesting presentation on Daniel Morgan and the Battle of Cowpens. Bob now has a uniform made by his wife and is giving presentations to Morgan County schools in the persona of General Daniel Morgan.

Secretary's Report - December Meeting

The regular business meeting of the Tennessee Valley Chapter was held on December 13, 2010 in the auditorium of the Huntsville-Madison County Library. President Larry Crabtree called the meeting to order. Mark Strickland led the Pledge of Allegiance and Rusty Troth led the Pledge to the SAR. Hoyt Smith gave our invocation.

President Crabtree welcomed our many guests who then introduced themselves. They were (19): Susan Crabtree, Kay Anderson, Nancy Billings, Alexander and Marve Black, Storm Hill, Carroll Strickland, Esther Davis, Linda Maples, Adalene Bledsoe, Jessie Bledsoe, Neil Boyd, Linda Baccus, Jorge Aunon, Sue Royer, J. David Dunham, Charles Cornelius, Lawrence Hillis and Richard Tingle. Our members present (21) were: Larry Crabtree, Bob Anderson, Carl Whelchel, Otha Vaughan, Spike Field, Bob Hammond, Hoyt Smith, David Byers, Mark Strickland, Jim Maples, Ted Bledsoe, Phil Graham, Ed Bledsoe, Rusty Troth, Darryl Adams, George Royer, Conrad Cook, Jody Creekmore, Bob Baccus, Ron Bledsoe and David Billings.

A motion was made by Hoyt Smith, and seconded by many, to dispense with the reading of the previous meeting's minutes. The motion carried by voice vote.

New Member Recognition-

President Crabtree then proceeded with the presentation of five new chapter members. New member John Shelton Hyatt couldn't be present but was represented by his grandmother, Esther B. Davis, who received his new member package for him. Following this, new members William Robert Baccus, Edwin Ruthven Bledsoe, Ronald Bryant Bledsoe and Theodore Thomas Bledsoe were administered the oath of membership by President Crabtree and given their member rosettes by Registrar David Byers.

Program-

Vice President Cook then introduced our speaker for the day. He was our fellow-member, Comp. Bob Anderson, who gave us a thoroughly interesting presentation on General Daniel Morgan and his leadership in the Battle of Cowpens. Prior to his presentation, however, at Comp. Cook's request, Comp. Anderson gave us a brief description of his patriotic ancestor, John Holder, and told us of his involvement with Daniel Boone in the formation of Boonesboro in what became Kentucky. Holder was also with Daniel Boone in the recovery of Jemima Boone and two other girls taken by Indians.

The program was in two parts: The first was a depiction of the life of Daniel Morgan from his early years as a poor uneducated youth, through his involvement in the Virginia militia which led to his participation in the French and Indian War and early service in the Revolution. His support of Gen. Washington led to the recognition of his military and leadership skills and his ensuing advancement in the war effort, culminating in his leadership at the Battle of Cowpens. After his military service he was financially and politically very successful prior to his death. His was a true "rags to riches" accomplishment. The second part of the program described the conduct of the Battle of Cowpens, itself. We were

told how Morgan had positioned his forces in anticipation of an attack by British Col. Banastre Tarleton, who had been pursuing Gen. Morgan across South Carolina. Various earlier battles leading up to Cowpens were discussed as well as the leaders on both sides and how their actions led to the total defeat of the British at Cowpens. We were told how the victory at Cowpens, along with that at King's Mountain, had turned the tide of the war in the South and led to the British defeat at the Battle of Yorktown.

Announcements-

The chapter has approximately 150 Christmas cards to distribute to residents at the Tut Fann Veterans Home after our meeting. Anyone who could participate would be welcome.

Recognition was made for Linda Maples, Susan Crabtree, Sue Royer, David Byers and Bob Adams who provided refreshments for our meeting.

Youth Program Quiz-

Vice President Cook led the group in a ten question oral quiz centering on issues generally from the early part of the Revolution. In spite of tricks he had included in some of the questions, the group did pretty well in answering them.

Officer and Committee Reports-

President (Larry Crabtree) – 1) The 230th anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens will be celebrated on January 15, 2011 in the Spartanburg, South Carolina area. An announcement inviting all SAR, DAR, CAR and other patriotic organizations to participate was distributed. 2) The NSSAR is promoting a program to recognize the service of members who were in World War II. The Tennessee Valley Chapter has identified seven members who were in this conflict. They are: Gilbert Chris Gender, Dewey Lusk, Thomas Moring, Layton Thorne, Ray Van Orden, Bill Pittman and Spike Field.

Vice President/Program (Connie Cook) – The January, 2011 program will primarily focus on honoring our community's local heroes (eg: police, fire, EMS, etc.)

Secretary (Bob Hammond) - Everyone was reminded that minutes of every meeting are contained in our chapter newsletters for their review.

Registrar/Membership (David Byers) – In addition to the five new members previously announced, we have two additional approved member applications whose paperwork hasn't come down from National yet. They are: Carl Jerry Whelchel and his son Jerry Russel Whelchel. They will likely be welcomed at our January meeting. Also, Harold Wright has an approved supplement that will be awarded at a later meeting. In addition, we have five other new member applications at National awaiting approval and seven others at state heading to National.

Eagle Scout (Jody Creekmore) – Our chapter had one application for our King Eagle Scout Scholarship Program competition. The candidate is Charles B. Clark Jr. of Florence. He was also our candidate last year and, while he didn't win, he compared well. It was recommended that we sponsor him again this year. David

Byers moved that we again sponsor this young man and Jim Maples seconded the motion. It carried by voice vote.

Knight Essay Contest (Darryl Adams) – There have been forty-one entries in our Knight Essay Competition from five area high schools. These will be reviewed by January 1, 2011 with the first, second and third place winners being introduced at a later meeting.

Past President (David Billings) – David is also State Vice-President of ALSSAR with the responsibility to oversee the state's participation in the NSSAR program to establish the Center for Advancement of American Heritage. He told us of the participation of various state societies and local chapters around the country and encouraged our participation as individuals and as a chapter in this fund-raising effort. He then made a motion that the Tennessee Valley Chapter make a \$500.00 chapter donation to this effort. The motion was seconded by Jim Maples and carried by voice vote.

Adjournment-

All business having been completed, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Phil Graham led in our recessional and Hoyt Smith offered the benediction.

Secretary's Report - January Meeting

The January meeting was canceled due to the third largest snow in Huntsville's history.



The Tennessee Valley Chapter provided over 150 signed Christmas Cards for the veterans living at the Tut Fann Veteran's Home in Huntsville. Tennessee Valley members signed and wrote sentiments in the cards at the Chapter meetings in October and November. Chapter President Larry Crabtree presents the cards to World War II veteran James Glisson. Also shown from left to right are past State President Jim Maples, Linda Bates and Schevonna Anderson. Mr. Glisson was a 40mm gunner on the USS Hornet during World War II and was involved in 52 battles.

Upcoming Events

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

25-26 February 2011 - Alabama Society State Convention, Montgomery, AL

10 -12 March 2011 - NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY

19 March 2011 - Chapter Banquet, Valley Hill Country Club, 6:30pm

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

Chapter Banquet

Our annual chapter banquet will be held on Saturday, March 19th, 6:30pm at Valley Hill Country Club. A registration form will be available at the next meeting and is available at our website at www.SAR1776.com. This serves as our March meeting.

Revolutionary Questions

1. After what British victory in North Carolina did a member of the British Parliament say, "Another such victory will ruin the British army"?
2. What future president of the United States was captured in a fight at Waxhaws, South Carolina, in April 1781?
3. An American General used a double envelopment to win a complete victory over the British in what has since been described as "one of the most brilliant tactical operations ever fought on American soil". Name the General and the battle.
4. At what battle did more men die from the heat than from being shot? George Washington's white horse also died there because of the heat.
5. At what battle might history have been changed if British Major Patrick Ferguson had taken advantage of the opportunity to shoot George Washington in the back?

"Laws that forbid the carrying of arms... disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man."

Cesare Beccaria, On Crimes and Punishment, quoted by Thomas Jefferson in Commonplace Book

"To form a new Government, requires infinite care, and unbounded attention; for if the foundation is badly laid the superstructure must be bad."

George Washington, letter to John Augustine Washington, 1776

Tennessee Valley Chapter New Members



President Crabtree is shown above with new members Ed Bledsoe, Ron Bledsoe, Bob Baccus, and Ted Bledsoe. At right, President Crabtree presents a new member certificate for John Shelton Hyatt to John's grandmother, Esther B. Davis.



Jim Maples
1501 Elmwood Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35801

TO: