

The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—February/March 2009



President

Richard Smallwood
256-536-0491
smally@knology.net

Vice-President

Dave Billings
256-883-6229
billind@uah.edu

Secretary

Ken Carpenter
256-851-9243
KDandMBama@aol.com

Treasurer

Jim Alexander
256-837-7418
jgalexander@knology.net

Registrar

Derald Morgan
256-464-7860
deraldm@knology.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

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

9 February 2009
11:00am Regular Meeting
Downtown Holiday Inn

21 March 2009
6:30pm Annual Banquet
Valley Hill Country Club



Sgt. Mark Shahan (center) was the recipient of the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal at our December meeting. Also shown are Police Chief Henry Reyes and Captain Rodney Baker.



Compatriot Jim Alexander presented the SAR Hero Medal and certificate to Mr. Wesley Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell located and saved the life of his neighbor, Mr. Oscar Ezell.



Our speakers for our December meeting were Richard White (shown above) of the Huntsville/Madison County Library Heritage Room and Rhonda Larkin (above left) of the Madison County Records Room located in the Huntsville/Madison County Library. Their program covered records available at the Library for use by researchers.



Vice-President Dave Billings gave a very interesting program at our January meeting on the financial crisis of 1773 and its relationship to the Revolutionary War.

Secretary's Report - December Meeting

Opening: President Richard Smallwood opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Compatriot David Milam led the membership in the pledge to the SAR. Compatriot Rev. Les McAbee gave the invocation. President Smallwood recognized the guests in attendance: Mrs. Linda Maples, Mrs. Abby Alexander, Mr. Wesley Mitchell (Heroism Award recipient), Mrs. Wesley Mitchell, Ms. Dana Bjoerling, Mrs. Betty Vaughn (CAR Award recipient), and Huntsville Police Dept officers: Sgt. Mark Shahan (Police Award recipient), Chief Henry J. Reyes, Capt. Rodney Baker, Lt. Mark McMurray. Prospective member Robert Hammand was welcomed. Eighteen members were in attendance.

Motions and Resolutions: Compatriot Past President Jim Alexander made a motion that the chapter support Compatriot David Simpson for Secretary-General at the SAR National Convention. The motion was seconded by Compatriot Jim Maples, and carried by the membership.

Officer and Committee Reports:

Secretary: Minutes of the Nov. meeting were posted in the chapter newsletter

Registrar: Registrar Compatriot Morgan reported the applications of Mr. Bob Hammond, and the three sons of Compatriot David Byers have been submitted.

Award Presentations: Compatriot Jim Alexander presented the SAR Hero medal and certificate to Mr. Wesley Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell located and saved the life of his neighbor, Mr. Oscar Ezell.

Compatriot David Milam presented the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation medal and certificate to Huntsville Police Sgt. Mark Shahan.

President Smallwood presented the CAR Bronze medal and certificate to Mrs. Betty Vaughan. Mrs. Carroll Strickland will be presented the CAR Bronze medal at the upcoming CAR meeting.

Program: Pres. Smallwood introduced speakers, Mr. Richard White of the Huntsville-Madison Co. Library, and Mrs. Rhonda Larkin of the Madison Co. Probate Office Records Room. Mr. White and Mrs. Larkin discussed the availability of the genealogy and historical records available at the library. In addition to the thousands of records and manuscripts, computers are available for such research

Recessional, Benediction, and Adjournment

Compatriot Mark Alexander led the recessional. Chaplain Rev. McAbee gave the benediction. President Smallwood adjourned the meeting.

Minute notes were taken through the courtesy of Historian Adams; and transcribed by the secretary, with additional notes from the Preident Smallwood.

Secretary's Report - January Meeting

Opening: President Richard Smallwood opened the meeting. Compatriot Crabtree led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance and the pledge to the SAR. Compatriot Rev. Les McAbee gave the invocation. President Smallwood recognized the guests in attendance: Mrs. Andie McAbee, Mrs. Nancy Billings, Mrs. Abby Alexander, Mrs. Carroll Strickland (representing CAR), Ms. Kim Alexander, and Mr. Robert Hammond. Fifteen members were in attendance.

Motions and Resolutions: None

Announcements: Children of the American Revolution representative, Mrs. Carroll Strickland announced this year's CAR theme: ensuring American patriotism; focusing on Patrick Henry. The CAR chapter has provided videos concerning Patrick Henry to local schools.

President Smallwood asked comp. J. Alexander to contact Brian Alexander to secure booking of Valley Hills Country Club for the Annual Chapter Banquet. Pres. Smallwood announced the distribution of certificates to WWII and Korean War compatriot veterans be placed "on hold" until all such veteran members have been identified.

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer: Past President Alexander reported the following banking balances: Checking Account: \$5566.44,
Savings Account: \$1973.47

Secretary: Compatriot Carpenter reported minutes of the Dec. 08 meeting have been posted in the chapter newsletter; the Alabama Senate resolution recognizing the fiftieth anniversary of the chapter have in placed in the chapter archives (H'ville Public Library).

Registrar: Registrar Compatriot Morgan reported four applications have been sent to the National Society (R. Hammonds, three members of the Byers family)

Historian: Historian Compatriot Bob Adams: No report

Eagle Scout Committee: Compatriot Col. Jody Creekmore: No report

Essay Committee: Compatriot Jim Alexander reported 38 essays from two schools have been submitted for competition. The

Secretary's Report continued on page 3

Upcoming Events

9 February 2009 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn

27—28 February 2009 - ALSSAR State Convention, Mobile

6—7 March - Leadership Meeting, Louisville

21 March 2009 - 6:30pm, Annual Banquet, Valley Hill Country Club



President Smallwood presents the C.A.R. Bronze Medal to Betty Vaughan at the December meeting.

Tennessee Valley Annual Banquet

The Tennessee Valley Chapter Annual Banquet will be held this year on Saturday March 21st at Valley Hill Country Club. This is the same location that we have held our banquet for the past several years. Our guest speaker will be Rev. John Killian. John will be our new State President at the time of the banquet. Details to follow. Mark your calendars now!

SAR Dues

If you haven't paid your dues for 2009 send your check for \$52.00 made out to Tennessee Valley Chapter, SAR to:

Jim Alexander
271 Rainbow Dr.
Madison, AL 35758

WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU AS A MEMBER!!

Minutes of January Meeting Continued from page 2

leading competitors will be present their essays for the February chapter program.

Nominating Committee: Compatriots Maples, Morgan, and Crabtree will serve as a nominating committee to put forward candidates for the 2009 chapter offices. Officers will be voted upon at the February meeting. Installation will take place at the chapter banquet in March.

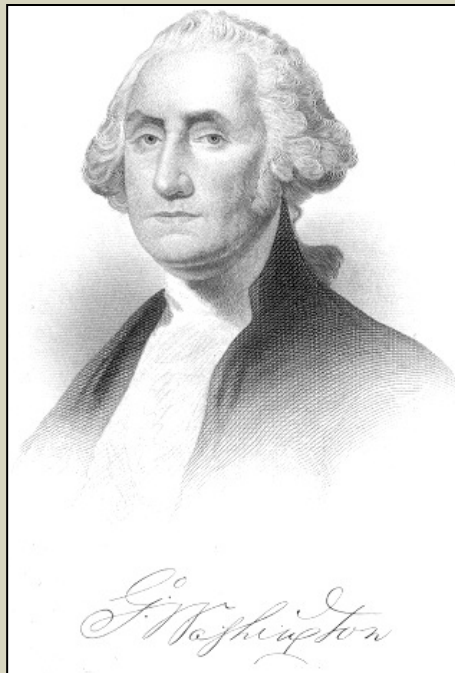
Program: Chapter Vice President, Dr. David Billings (Univ. of Alabama, Huntsville Professor of Business, emeritus) discussed the effect of the financial crisis of 1773 on the evolution of the American Revolution. Dr. Billings explained the cause and effect of this crisis in relationship to the British victory in the French and Indian War, and the following financial problems related to the war including the failure of London banks, bankruptcies and credit problems in the empire, and devaluation of property in the American colonies. These financial problems led to enforcement of the Navigation Acts, creation of the Currency Act which forbade paper currency in the colonies, and government support of the East India Company and the consequent Tea Act. All of which prompted protests in America. His noting the similarities of the actions of 18th century British government and the current U.S. government were of particular interest.

Recessional, Benediction, and Adjournment

Compatriot Mark Alexander led the recessional. Chaplain Rev. McAbee gave the benediction. President Smallwood adjourned the meeting.



President Smallwood presents the C.A.R. Bronze Medal to Carroll Strickland



George Washington
1732—1799

“First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen, he was second to none in humble and enduring scenes of private life. Pious, just, humane, temperate, and sincere; dignified, and commanding; his example was as edifying to all around him as were the effects of that example lasting.... Correct throughout, vice shuddered in his presence and virtue always felt his fostering hand. The purity of his private character gave effulgence to his public virtues.”

Part of the official eulogy of Washington, written by John Marshall and delivered by Richard Henry Lee.

Don't forget to celebrate George Washington's birthday on February 22nd!



Jim Maples
1501 Elmwood Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35801

TO: