

# The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society  
Sons of the American Revolution—February/March 2007

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**Meeting Schedule**

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

12 February 2007  
Regular Meeting  
11:00 am Holiday Inn

3 March 2007 (Saturday)  
Annual Banquet  
Valley Hills Country Club

**Chapter web site**  
[www.SAR1776.com](http://www.SAR1776.com)

**State web site**  
[www.alssar.org](http://www.alssar.org)

**President's Message**

I want to make you aware of several events that I hope all of you will participate in over the next couple of months.

First, plan to attend the meeting next month to support the youth who will be participating in our program. Also, our nominating committee will be presenting a slate of officers for your consideration at the next meeting.

Second, I hope you will consider attending the state convention next month in Montgomery.

Third, plan on attending the Chapter's Annual Banquet, and bring your wife and your family to this event where the new officers will be installed. This banquet will be held March 3rd at the Valley Hill Country Club.

Fourth, attend one or both of the upcoming grave markings that are being planned. We have one in planning in Tennessee spear-headed by Dr. John Rison Jones, and another being planned to mark the grave of Llewellyn Jones who is buried on the UAH campus. His grave is already marked by the DAR but a special event is in planning by the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge to mark this grave as he was at Valley Forge with General Washington. This latter event is being planned for May 12<sup>th</sup> and a reception will be held in the historic Union Grove Chapel on the UAH campus.

Last, and importantly, if for some reason you failed to pay your dues please make an effort to get a check to Ernie Ritch so we can get you reinstated with the State and National Society.



Photo by Jim Maples

President Morgan presents a Liberty Bell to our January speaker, Brenda Webb. Brenda is the Director of City Cemeteries for Huntsville. She gave a very interesting presentation on Huntsville's historic cemeteries .



Photo by Jim Maples

Our December speaker, Nancy Rohr, is presented a Liberty Bell by President Morgan. Nancy gave a very interesting talk on the occupation of Huntsville by Union soldiers during the Civil War.

*Secretary's Report***December**

President Derald Morgan opened the meeting. Compatriot Brian Alexander led the Pledge of Allegiance. All joined in the pledge to the SAR. Father McAbee gave the invocation.

President Morgan recognized the guests in attendance. They were Mrs. Linda Maples, Mrs. Abby Alexander, Ms. Kimberly Alexander, Compatriots Richard Smallwood and Father Les McAbee, Mr. Mrs. and Russ Jenness, Mrs. Nancy Rohr, Mrs. Susan Crabtree, Mr. John Blair, and Mrs. Gay Ritch. President Morgan presented a supplemental certificate to Compatriot Tod Jenness on his patriot ancestor Jacob Motes of the Pennsylvania militia. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Russ Jenness, participated in the presentation. Compatriot Ernie Ritch held the colonial period quiz. Twenty-five dollars was collected for the youth programs.

Vice-President Brian Alexander introduced our speaker, Mrs. Nancy Rohr. Mrs. Rohr spoke on the events in Huntsville during the Civil War. Her material source was the diary of Mrs. Mary Jane Chadick, who entered the events as they happened each day. Mrs. Chadick's husband was a colonel in the Alabama militia. Mrs. Rohr stated that during the war, Huntsville had 4,000 residents – 2,000 white and 2,000 black. She said that during the period of the war approximately 400,000 troops passed through Huntsville, and most were thieves and plunderers.

Compatriot Jim Alexander stated that there were 19 candidates to enter the essay contest. Candidates were from Huntsville High School, Randolph School and Bob Jones High School. The essays were given to Compatriot Dr. David Billings to have them scored by UAH professors. Compatriot Alexander stated that the winner would be recognized at the February meeting.

The chapter voted to put a chapter ad in the ALSSAR 2007 state convention ad booklet. Compatriot Harold Wright said the dues to the Veteran's Coalition are now due. The chapter voted to pay the \$50.00 dues. Compatriot Jim Alexander made a motion that the chapter become a member of the national SAR's 'Friends of the Library.' The vote was unanimous to pay the \$25.00 to become a member. Treasurer Ernie Ritch will disperse the checks for the Veteran's Coalition dues and 'Friends of the Library' membership. Compatriot Ernie Ritch led the recessional, and Compatriot Les McAbee gave the benediction. President Morgan adjourned the meeting.

**January**

President Derald Morgan opened the meeting. All attendees joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Compatriot Bill Pittman led the pledge to the SAR. Chaplain Hoyt Smith gave the invocation.

President Morgan recognized the guest in attendance. They were Mrs. Abby Alexander, Ms. Kimberly Alexander, Mrs.

Susan Crabtree, Mr. and Mrs. Russ Jenness, Ms. Brenda Webb, Mr. John Blair. President Morgan presented his fourth supplemental certificate to Compatriot Tod Jenness. Compatriot Ernie Ritch held the colonial period quiz.

Vice-President Brian Alexander introduced our speaker; Ms. Brenda Webb, Director of the Huntsville City Cemeteries. Ms. Webb, a native of Jackson Co., Alabama, spoke on nine historical cemeteries in and around Huntsville. She explained the duties of her staff, and told of the rehabilitation effort ongoing at the Huntsville cemeteries. She explained the Historical Site Tree Program. This is a program whereby a person or organization can give \$85 and have a seedling tree, taken from an American historical tree, transplanted in a local Huntsville cemetery. She stated that she is a member of the Alabama Historical Cemetery Study Commission. At the end of her talk she entertained questions from the audience.

Chapter officers and committee Chairmen gave their reports. Compatriot Jim Alexander stated that the essay winners of the essay contest would be recognized at the February meeting. Compatriot John Rison Jones stated he and his cousin have made arrangements for a marker for the grave of one of his patriot ancestors, Josiah Brandon, buried near Lynchburg, Tennessee.

President Morgan reminded everyone about the state convention in Montgomery the 16th-17<sup>th</sup> of next month. He also told about the Boy Scout cultural event at Alabama A&M on the 17th of February. He will operate a Sons of the American Revolution information booth during the event. He also assigned a nominating committee for chapter officers for the coming year. The committee consists of Compatriots Jim Maples, Jim Alexander and Ernie Ritch. Jim Maples was designated the committee chairman. Compatriot Jim Maples led the recessional, and Compatriot Hoyt Smith gave the benediction. President Morgan adjourned the meeting.

*Revolutionary Answers*

1. During the Revolutionary War what was usually painted yellow with black mouldings or narrow stripes, or black with very narrow bands of red, white, and yellow?

American ships

2. How did the Americans prevent the passage of British ships up the Hudson River?

A 500 yard-long chain was placed across the river.

3. What fort was built to protect the device in question 2. and who built the fort?

Fort West Point; Thaddeus Kosciusko

4. In 1778 during the midst of which battle did General Washington relieve General Charles Lee of his command and why?

Battle of Monmouth Courthouse for his reluctance to attack the rear of the British line.

5. What future state, in particular, was known as the "dark and bloody ground" during the war?

Kentucky

### *Upcoming Events*

**12 February** - 11:00 am, Regular Meeting, Holiday Inn downtown.

**16 - 17 February** - Alabama Society Annual Convention, Montgomery

**23 - 24 February** - Trustee's Meeting, Louisville, KY

**3 March** - 6:30 pm Chapter's Annual Banquet, Valley Hills Country Club

**9 April** - 11:00 am, Regular Meeting, Holiday Inn downtown.

### *Chapter Banquet*

Our Chapter Banquet will be held this year at the Valley Hill Country Club located at 8300 Valley Hill Dr. in Huntsville. We have held our banquet at Valley Hill for the past several years as it is a great setting with excellent food at a reasonable cost. The date will be Saturday, March 3rd at 6:30 pm. Our new State President Jim Alexander will install the chapter's new officers. I have placed a registration form on our website.

### *ALSSAR Annual Convention*

The Alabama Society will hold its Annual Convention on February 16-17, 2007 at the Drury Inn & Suites in Montgomery. A reception will be held on Friday evening. A George Washington Breakfast will be held on Saturday morning followed by the Annual Meeting of the Society. The grand finale will be the Banquet which will be held at the Maxwell AFB Officer's Club.

### *Sons of the American Revolution Visit Elementary School*

Mrs. Yeargin, Mrs. Bolger and the fifth graders at Westminster Christian Academy had some special guests Friday, December 19, 2006, during their Colonial Christmas celebration when Compatriots Ken Carpenter and Jim Alexander of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution visited the event.

Colonial Christmas is an annual event for the fifth graders of the Westminster Christian Academy's three Campuses. The students exchange gifts, sing carols, participate in colonial times occupational crafts, and watch presentation teams including one from the Tennessee Valley Chapter.

Approximately forty students were present as the team gave their program. Compatriot Carpenter told the students about the uniforms of the colonial soldiers. Compatriot Alexander spoke about colonial era and Revolutionary War medical techniques. The team ate a colonial-era lunch with the students, and Mrs. Yeargin presented the team with a gift of appreciation.

### *Compatriot Jody Creekmore*

Tennessee Valley member LTC Jody Creekmore is currently serving a tour in Iraq at Forward Operating Base Normandy which is located about 16 kilometers from the border with Iran. Jody was recently home on mid-tour leave and was able to attend his son Joseph's Eagle Scout ceremony. Jody pinned on his son's Eagle Scout Medal exactly 28 years to the day from when he had received his own Eagle badge. The article appeared on the front page of the *Huntsville Times* on January 17, 2007. Since AL.com only keeps articles online for 14 days I have scanned the article and put it on the website. I will also try to obtain a picture from the *Huntsville Times* and put it in the next newsletter. We look forward to having Jody back safe from Iraq and attending our meetings and telling us about his experiences.

### *Revolutionary Questions*

1. George Washington was the first president of "this society" made up of American and French veteran officers of the Revolution.
2. This "badge", designed in 1782 and created in 1783, was awarded in 1783 to three non-commissioned officers in recognition of their meritorious action, unusual gallantry, extraordinary fidelity, and essential service. This honor badge is now known as the "Purple Heart."
3. Which President of the U.S. re-appointed George Washington as Commander-in-Chief in 1798?
4. Which President began the observation of our November holiday by proclaiming a "day of Thanksgiving?"



While students look on, Compatriot Ken Carpenter demonstrates the operation of the musket at the Colonial Christmas celebration held at Westminster Christian Academy.

Compatriots,

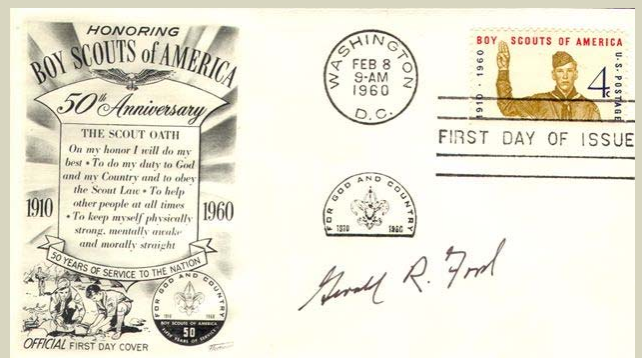
The NSSAR Eagle Scout Committee has approved our sponsorship for a fund raising program for a memorial in memory of President Gerald Ford, a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and an Eagle Scout.

In a recent SAR-Talk e-mail to you Compatriot William (Bill) Allerton suggested that contributions to the Eagle Scout Scholarship Fund be made in President Gerald Ford's name. After consulting with Bill and the Eagle Scout Committee Members we have decided that the best way to honor this U. S. President, SAR Compatriot, and Eagle Scout is for us to sponsor an effort to raise money to name a part of the Center for Advancing American Heritage (CAAH) in his name.

Anyone wishing to honor President Ford's memory and at the same time support the new Center in this way may send contributions to Eagle Scout Committee Chairman Charlie Newcomer, 1601 Spartan Lane, Athens, GA 30606. Checks should be made payable to the NSSAR Eagle Scout Fund with notation as *Memorial - President Ford*. . . If you prefer, contributions may be sent instead directly to SAR headquarters, using the envelope provided in President General Nathan White's recent letter. In this case, the check should be made payable to the Center for Advancing America's Heritage (CAAH), still with the *Memorial - President Ford* notation. Medals will be awarded for donations of \$500 or more in both cases. Notification to the Ford family of your memorial gift will be made promptly.

Patriotically,

Charlie A. Newcomer, Chairman  
NSSAR Eagle Scout Committee  
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Georgia Society SAR  
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TO:

