

The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—June/July 2008



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Meeting Schedule

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

9 June 2008

Regular Meeting

Rhonda Larkin, Director
Madison County Records Rm

14 July 2008

Regular Meeting

Jim Flinn

“How BRAC is Impacting Red-
stone and the Tennessee Valley”

President's Message

Compatriots,

This being my second President's message, it is my sad duty to inform you of the death of one of the remaining founding members of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the ALSSAR. On Saturday, 24 May 2008, Compatriot Henry Vogel Bragg, National # 81841, State #441, passed away at age 84. He served in the U. S. Navy in World War II, participating in the campaigns of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Throughout his life he served in many civic capacities to the benefit of the citizens of Huntsville. His detailed obituary appears in the Huntsville Times.

On happier notes:

Our Chapter Chaplain Fr. Les McAbee was wedded on 17 May 2008, at his church, St. Charles Anglican Church, in Huntsville, AL. Compatriot Jody Creekmore has agreed to continue to Chair the Chapter's Eagle Scout Program Committee. Compatriot Ken Carpenter was voted in as Chapter Secretary during the May 2008 Chapter meeting. The Secretary's position became vacant when Compatriot Chip Manning accepted an employment opportunity in Nashville. Compatriot Carpenter is a long-time member of the Tennessee Valley Chapter and also serves as the Color Guard Commander.

On 4 May 2008, the Chapter's Color Guard participated in the dedication of a memorial tombstone for Revolutionary War Soldier George Taylor as part of the closing ceremonies of the Cemetery Stroll at Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville. Members of the Color Guard were Compatriots Ken Carpenter, Hoyt Smith and Chip Manning. Compatriot Bill Pittman (a relative of the honoree), Chapter Chaplain Fr. Les McAbee and I also participated. Also present and participating were Ms. Connie Ansley, a member of the Twickenham Town Chapter DAR; several members of the John Hunt Chapter C.A.R.; Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer; Raneé Pruitt, Associate Member of the Huntsville Pilgrimage Association and member of the Hunt's Spring Chapter DAR; and over 100 members of the public.

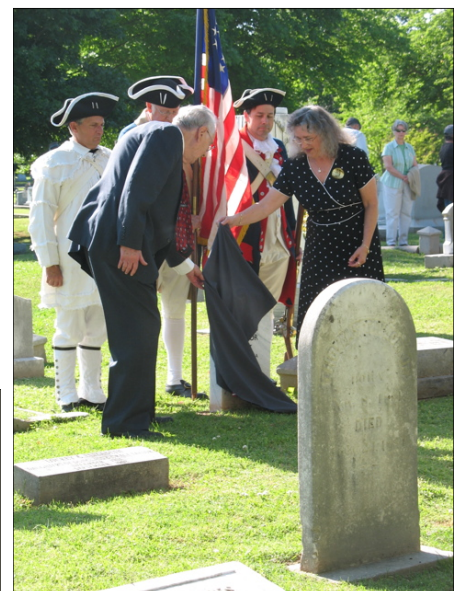
On 17 May 2008, two past State Presidents, Jim Maples and Jim Alexander, and the Chapter Historian, Bob Adams, attended the ALSSAR Board of Managers meeting in Columbiana. There will be a short report concerning this BOM meeting on 9 June 2008.

Compatriots, please remember to check and, if necessary, update your telephone number, address, email address, and number and names of approved supplemental ancestors for the Chapter's yearbook. Also, please let us know if you are a veteran of World War II or the Korean War. You can look at the older yearbook at the 9 June 2008 Chapter meeting or contact Compatriot Jim Maples, Ken Carpenter, or me.

Lastly, we are still in the preliminary stage of planning for a 50th year Celebration of the Chapter. We will keep you informed.

I hope to see you at the Chapter Meeting on the 9th!

Compatriot Bill Pittman and Ann Blumquist, a descendant, unveil the marker for Revolutionary Patriot George Taylor as the Color Guard (Ken Carpenter, Hoyt Smith, and Chip Manning) looks on.



Secretary's Report

April Meeting

President Richard Smallwood opened the meeting, which is the Chapter's first meeting of its 50th year anniversary. Compatriot Derald Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance. Compatriot William Pittman led the pledge to the SAR. Compatriot Hoyt Smith gave the invocation.

President Smallwood recognized the guests in attendance. They were: New member Compatriot James Connor joined us for the first time as a member of the SAR. Also in attendance were Linda Maples and Abigail Alexander.

Compatriot Jim Maples asked everyone to update their membership information on several spreadsheets that were passed around during the meeting in order to publish a new Yearbook.

Compatriot Richard Smallwood introduced our guest speaker Mr. Robert Scott, Director of the Genealogical Department at Wallace State College. He spoke on the topic of Community on the Southern Frontier during the American Revolution. His talk included some insightful and interesting perspectives on the American Revolution drawing analogies to the Vietnam War and the current Iraqi War and how all countries have historically resisted any form of foreign occupation. Mr. Scott concluded with a "ghost of George Washington" theme referencing General Washington's efforts in ending the American Revolution with a civilian government.

Mr. Smallwood then reviewed the current committee chairs and assignments.

Program Committee - Dr. David Billings
 Membership Committee – Dr. J. Derald Morgan
 Historical Committee – Bob Adams
 Veterans Affairs Committee – TBA
 Color Guard Committee – Ken Carpenter
 Eagle Scout Committee – TBA
 Flag Committee - TBA
 Webmaster/Yearbook Committee – Jim Maples
 Essay and Oration Committee – TBA

Committee Reports.

Compatriot Adams, Historian, indicated that Compatriot John Rison Jones had developed and is looking to publish a History of the Chapter tying into our 50th Anniversary of the Chapter.

Compatriot Morgan, Registrar, advised that one new member application had been forwarded to the State. There were no other reports from Committees or Officers.

Compatriot Morgan reported the SAR is seeking to recognize a High School History Teacher and encouraged members to share any potential candidates with him.

President Smallwood discussed the desire to award Certificates this year to members who have been in the SAR for 15 years or longer. Additionally, there is a desire to recognize members who have served in previous wars.

On May 4th a ceremony will be held at approximately 4

pm to recognize Compatriot Pittman's collateral ancestor George Taylor who settled in this area around 1810. He fought under the command of Lighthouse Harry Lee. Compatriot Pittman also advised that he has reviewed a book of historical significance.

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

Secretary's Report

May Meeting

President Richard Smallwood opened the meeting. Compatriot Larry Crabtree led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. Compatriot Bill Pittman lead the pledge to the SAR. Compatriot Rev. Les McAbee gave the invocation.

Due to a late start, President Smallwood suspended the meeting for members to get lunch. After lunch, the Chapter recognized the guests in attendance, viz.: Mrs. Linda Maples, Mrs. Lavonne Conner, Mrs. Lois Alcott, Mrs. Abbey Alexander, Mr. Daniel Ryan, Mr. Larry Stoltz.

Program

Due to the absence of the Chapter's Vice President, C. David Billings, President Smallwood introduced the speaker, Mr. Joe Fitzgerald, President of Tennessee Valley Honor Flight. Joe presented a slide lecture explaining this historic and patriotic program. The TVHF escorts (by charter flight) World War Two veterans to the WWII memorial in Washington, D.C., and Arlington National Cemetery. The first flight of 14 veterans was on 4 Apr. 07. On 19 Apr. 08, 123 veterans made the flight. The program's goal is to enable all WWII veterans to participate. Mr. Fitzgerald noted that of the 16 million WWII veterans, 3.5 million are still with us. However, approximately 1,200 to 1,500 WWII heroes pass away daily. The next scheduled flights are 31 May and 13 Sept. 08. The expensed of each flight is \$100,000.

Motions and Resolutions

The next item on the agenda was to fill the vacancy of the office of the Chapter's Secretary. President Smallwood stated that the elected secretary, Compatriot Chip Manning, had accepted employment in Nashville TN, so the position has become vacant. President Smallwood explained that in such cases, the Chapter's By-laws state that the Chapter's President can convene the Board of Officers to name a replacement for an officer who cannot fulfill his term of his office. President Smallwood stated that the Board of Officers consists of the Chapter's President, Vice President, Secretary (position now vacant), Treasurer, Registrar, Historian, Chaplain, and the Chapter's Immediate Past President. President Smallwood stated that the former Secretary Chip Manning had recommended Compatriot Ken Carpenter and that Compatriot Carpenter was willing to serve and that the Board of Officers had been notified of Compatriot Carpenter's willingness to serve and the Officers had either agreed with the selection of Compatriot

Secretary's Report continued on page 3

Upcoming Events

- 19 June 2008 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn
- 5 –9 July 2008 - National Congress, Sacramento, California
- 14 July 2008 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn
- 11 August 2008 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn
- 8 September 2008 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn

Revolutionary Answers

1. What was the last major battle fought in the South? Hint: MG Nathanael Greene vs British LtCol Alexander Stewart.
Eutaw Springs
2. What was the name of the largest engagement of the Revolutionary War? Hint: Took place in Virginia.
Battle of the Hook
3. Who was the leader of the Crown forces in this engagement?
Banestre Tarleton
4. Which city did General Washington try to procure as the new nation's 14th colony? Hint: Washington's two flanks of troops were led by Colonel Arnold and General Richard Montgomery.
Quebec
5. Who was the German hero of the Battle of Camden? Hint: Alabama has a county named for him.
Baron de Kalb

Treasurer's Report
As of May 18

Savings Account:.....\$1,960.76
 Checking Account:\$6,308.38



Our speaker for May was Joe Fitzgerald, President of Tennessee Valley Honor Flight.

Minutes of May Meeting Continued from page 2

Carpenter or had not commented. So President Smallwood, to ensure that all aspects of Roberts Rule of Order were addressed, asked three times for other nominations from the floor; there being no other nominations, Compatriot Carpenter was elected Chapter Secretary by the membership in attendance.

Announcements

The Alabama Society SAR Board of Managers meeting will be held on Saturday, 17 May. The T.V. chapter will be represented by Compatriot Historian Bob Adams. President Smallwood also announced that Past ALSSAR Presidents Jim Alexander and Jim Maples would also be in attendance.

Chaplain Rev. McAbee will be married at his parish, St. Charles Anglican Church, Huntsville, Alabama, on Saturday, 17 May 2008, at 2 PM.

Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer: Past President Compatriot James Alexander noted as part of the Chapter's treasurer's report that the IRS 501 (c)3 form had been filed and accepted.

Registrar: Registrar Compatriot Derald Morgan reported the initial SAR application of Mr. David Byers has been submitted. Supplemental applications for Compatriots Richard Smallwood and Les McAbee have been approved.

Historian: Historian Compatriot Bob Adams will meet with Secretary Compatriot Carpenter regarding the preservation of the Chapter's minutes.

Eagle Scout Committee: Compatriot Col. Jody Creekmore will chair the Eagle Scout Award Committee

Events

Patriot Grave Dedication: Pres. Smallwood and the Chapter's Honor Guard (Comps. Ken Carpenter, Hoyt Smith, Chip Manning) conducted the Memorial Dedication Ceremony of Patriot Pvt. George Taylor, Virginia Militia, at Maple Hill Cemetery (Huntsville, Alabama) on Sunday, 4 May. Patriot Taylor is a patriot collateral ancestor of ALSSAR Past Pres. Bill Pittman. The ceremony was in conjunction with the annual Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll. Approximately one hundred persons were in attendance at the Memorial Service.

Recessional, Benediction, and Adjournment

Past President Jim Alexander led the recessional. Chaplain Rev. McAbee gave the benediction. Pres. Smallwood adjourned the meeting.

Honor Flight—April 19, 2008

I had the honor of serving as a Guardian on the April 19th Honor Flight. Below left I'm shown with my WWII veteran, Garth Milburn. The picture at the right shows Compatriot Russ Alcott with his Guardian, Theresa O'Brien. Also in the picture is Russ's younger brother, Jim, and his wife Gail.



Jim Maples



Jim Maples
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TO: