



The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—June/July 2009



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Meeting Schedule

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

8 June 2009

11:00am Regular Meeting
Downtown Holiday Inn

13 July 2009

11:00am Regular Meeting
Downtown Holiday Inn

10 August 2009

11:00am Regular Meeting
Downtown Holiday Inn

President's Message

We have 73 full members and 15 prospective members we are helping to complete their applications for a total of 88. We have the goal to have 100 full and prospective members by the March 2010 meeting. With more members we can have a more robust effort to advance our Chapter's 10 objectives.

As a member of the **Tennessee Valley Chapter** you have a connectional relationship with the descendants of patriots in other SAR chapters. Members of this Chapter have advanced the patriotic, historical and educational objectives of the Sons of the American Revolution for more than 50 years.

Our current 73 members continue to advance those objectives with our Chapter's many and varied programs and by working with compatriots in the Alabama Society as well as the National Society. One of our programs recognizes leadership through the SAR ROTC and JROTC Awards. We present this award upon the recommendation of a cadet's commanding officer with respect to leadership qualities. By recognizing leaders in ROTC/JROTC programs we continue the legacy of our patriot ancestors.

Support of Youth Activities is an investment in our nation's future. Our Chapter raises funds to pay for the Chapter's youth awards and the expenses of sending the finalists to the State Society competition through our monthly **History Quiz to Support Youth Activities**. Our Youth Activities include the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest, the George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest, the Eagle Scout Recognition and Essay Contest, and the ROTC/JROTC leadership awards. I encourage you to enthusiastically participate in the History Quiz at each of our meetings.

Doing so not only raises funds to support our youth activities, but also advances our Chapter's first objective: "to perpetuate the memory of the men and women, who by their services or sacrifices during the War of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people."

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Above, Vice-President Larry Crabtree presents our May speaker, Dave Christensen, with a Certificate of Appreciation. Dave gave us a historical overview of Huntsville's role in America's early rocket program

Our speaker for April was Bob Baccus. Bob talked about music in the Revolutionary War era. Bob is a member of the *Olde Towne Brass*, a local band, that plays mainly Civil War era music using antique musical instruments.



Secretary's Report - April Meeting

Opening: President Dr. David Billings opened the meeting. Past Pres. Comp. Smallwood led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance and the pledge to the SAR. Compatriot Rev. Les McAbee gave the invocation. President Billings recognized the guests in attendance: Mrs. Linda Maples, Mrs. Susan Crabtree, Mrs. Abby Alexander, and Mrs. Lavonne Conner. Prospective members, Mr. John Shaver, Mr. Martin Towery, and Mr. Bob Baccus were recognized. Members in Attendance: 17 Members

Motions and Resolutions: Comp. Larry Crabtree was elected to represent the chapter at the ALSSAR Board of Managers meeting to be held at the American Village.

Announcements: President Billings called for a volunteer to lead the Youth Program, and to chair the chapter's Youth Program quiz. He reported a DAR genealogy workshop to be held at the Huntsville-Madison Co. Library at a date to be announced. In addition, he provided copies of the Article II of Tennessee Valley Chapter's Constitution regarding chapter objectives in reference to his goals as chapter president. Sec. Carpenter asked for a compatriot to present, in his stead, the SAR JROTC Medal at Lee High School on April 27th.

Officer and Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Past Pres. Alexander reported the following banking balances: Checking Account: \$3,512.98

Savings Account: \$1,928.19

He noted the chapter membership of 73 members, and reported the ASSAR dues to increase to \$15.00 per year.

Secretary: Comp. Carpenter reported that the minutes of the March 2009 meeting have been posted in the chapter newsletter, and read a synopsis of the annual banquet meeting including the installation of chapter officers for 2009, and SAR award recipients.

Registrar: Registrar Comp. David Byers recognized three prospective members in attendance: Mr. John Shaver, Mr. Bob Baccus, and Mr. Martin Towery. He proposed follow-up contact of prospective members.

Historian: Historian Comp. Bob Adams: No report

Eagle Scout Committee: Comp. Col. Jody Creekmore informed the chapter that nine applications for the Eagle Scout Award has been sent to nine prospective applicants.

Essay Committee: Comp J. Alexander reported that chapter Essay Contest contestant, D. Richardson, placed third in the ALSSAR competition.

Meeting Activities: President Billings lead the Youth Quiz taken from the NSSAR magazine, following a \$5.00 contribution to the Youth Program by several members present.

Awards and Presentations: President Billings presented the NSSAR memberships certificate and SAR rosette to Comp. Robert Hammond. Comp. Hammond noted his early Madison County ancestry, and his appreciation to the chapter for the marking of one of his Revolutionary War ancestors.

Comp. J. Alexander presented the SAR Color Guard Medal to Comp. O. "Skeet" Vaughn from the ALSSAR for three years of color guard service to the state society.

Awards Chairman, Comp H. Smith presented the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal to Comp. Historian Bob Adams for his public relations service to the chapter.

Program: Chapter Vice President, Larry Crabtree introduced Mr. Bob Baccus who presented a fascinating program on American martial music of the American Revolution and of Nineteenth Century. Mr. Baccus, currently a manager with Jacobs Technology, previously directed the Lee High School band for several years, which during his leadership, participated the inaugural parade of President Carter, and preformed for nine NFL games. He is the director and co-founder of Olde Towne Brass which performs Nineteenth Century music throughout the country using period instruments.

Mr. Baccus demonstrated the fife and brass instruments of the Nineteenth Century, and noted that music composition of the Revolutionary-era centered on the fiddle and fife. He explained the Americanization of British tunes which became our most popular patriotic American pieces. Mr. Baccus noted a family kinship with Francis Scott Key. The question and answer session revealed that Confederate musicians earned \$12.00 per month, two dollars more than an infantryman. Information concerning Olde Towne Brass can be found at the following website: www.OTBrass.com

Vice President Crabtree announced that the program guest for the May meeting will be Mr. Dave Christensen, who will present a review of the aerospace program in Huntsville.

Recessional, Benediction, and Adjournment: Past President, Comp. Smallwood led the recessional

Secretary's Report - May Meeting

Opening: Vice President Larry Crabtree opened the meeting. Comp. Fields led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Comp. Jim Maples led the pledge to the SAR. Comp. Rev. Les McAbee gave the invocation. Comp. Crabtree recognized our guest, Mrs. Linda Maples. Members in Attendance: 16 Members

Motions and Resolutions: None

Announcements: The chapter color guard will attend the grave dedication of Revolutionary War veteran John Whitaker of North Carolina. The Madison County ceremony will be conducted by the Gunter Mountain Chapter, DAR on 27 June at 10:00am at the Whitaker Cemetery near New Hope.

Five chapter members attended the DAR application program held at the Huntsville/Madison County Library on 24 April.

The chapter was represented at the ALSSAR Board of Managers Meeting by Jim Maples, Jim Alexander, Larry Crabtree, and Hoyt Smith. ASSAR delegates to the NSSAR convention in Atlanta will be determined at this BOM meeting.

Secretary's Report continued on page 3

Upcoming Events

8 June 2009 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn - Speaker, Carroll Strickland and George Wheatley, John Hunt Society, C.A.R.

4 - 8 July 2009 - SAR National Congress, Atlanta, Georgia

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Another youth program in which SAR members may participate is the **Children of the American Revolution**. This organization is the nation's oldest and largest patriotic organization for individuals under the age of 21. To be a member the individual must be a lineal descendant of "...someone who served in the Continental Army or gave material aid to the cause of Freedom in the American Revolution." Alabama has 14 Societies including the John Hunt Chapter in Huntsville. Male CAR members are eligible for Junior Membership in the SAR. Our Chapter could have a Committee and Chair to support and encourage this youth organization.

See you at the **next Chapter meeting, Monday, June 8**, at 11 AM at the Holiday Inn in downtown Huntsville. Vice President Larry Crabtree has arranged a treat for us. "**Patrick Henry and the Second Amendment**" will be presented by the John Hunt Society of the Children of the American Revolution with the leadership of Carroll Strickland and George Wheatley. To learn more about The National Society of the Children of the American Revolution [NSCAR], go to <http://www.nscar.org>.

Significant Events of the American Revolution

29 June 1767: The Townshend Revenue Act received the royal assent. The American colonists objected to the Stamp Act, a direct tax, and it was repealed in 1766. Charles Townshend, Chancellor of the Exchequer, thought the colonists would accept an indirect tax, such as a tax on imports. Duties were placed on items not produced in the colonies and which could only be imported from Great Britain: paper, paint, glass, and tea.

15 June 1775: George Washington named Commander in Chief.

17 June 1775: Battle of Bunker Hill [fought on Breed's Hill].

7 June 1776: Richard Henry Lee proposes independence.

28 June 1776: British Commodore Sir Peter Parker and nine warships attacked the incomplete Palmetto-log fort on Sullivan's Island, SC. After a nine hour battle the British withdrew and Charleston was saved from British occupation until 1780. The fort was named in honor of its commander, Colonel William Moultrie.

14 June 1777: Flag Day. The Second Continental Congress passed the Flag Resolution which describes the flag of the United States.

4 July 1776: Declaration of Independence adopted.

5 July 1777: Major General Arthur St Clair surrendered Ft Mifflin with approximately 3,000 U.S. soldiers to British Major General John Burgoyne commanding 7,213 regular British, Hessian and Brunswick soldiers and a large contingent of Native Americans and about 150 Canadians.

Minutes of May Meeting Continued from page 2

Officer and Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Past Pres. Jim Alexander

Secretary: Comp. Carpenter reported that the minutes of the April 2009 meeting have been posted in the chapter newsletter.

Registrar: Registrar Comp. David Byers reported that nine applications were pending.

Historian: Historian Comp. Bob Adams: No report

Eagle Scout Committee: Comp. Col. Jody Creekmore

Essay Committee: Comp J. Alexander

Meeting Activities: Comp. Conrad Cook led the Youth Quiz, following a \$5.00 contribution to the Youth Program by several members present. His modification of the usual quiz format was that of "Of whom am I speaking", the answer being LaFayette.

Awards and Presentations: Vice President Crabtree inducted Comp. Marc Byers into the SAR and presented him with the NSSAR membership certificate and rosette. Membership certificates and rosettes will be forwarded to Compatriot David Byers of Ashville, NC, and to Compatriot Clinton Byers of Birmingham.

Program: Chapter Vice President Larry Crabtree introduced Mr. Dave Christensen who presented a most informative historic overview of Huntsville's critical role in America's rocket and aerospace programs coinciding with his fifty-one year career in these programs. Mr. Christensen discussed the development of American rocketry including the early years at Ft. Bliss, the Corporal and Redstone rockets, the contributions of the Von Braun rocket team, and the Huntsville factor of the Saturn program. He is a potential Tennessee Valley SAR Chapter member.

Recessional, Benediction, and Adjournment: Vice President Crabtree led the recessional adjourning the meeting.



Passing of Tennessee Valley Member

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Tennessee Valley member, James W. Bragg, Jr. Jim was the last surviving charter member of the Tennessee Valley Chapter. Jim was honored with a 50 year certificate last year at the time of our 50th Anniversary celebration. The picture above was taken last fall when President Richard Smallwood presented the 50 year certificate.

Welcome New Members!



President Dave Billings presents a new member certificate to Bob Hammond at our April meeting



Vice-President Larry Crabtree presents a new member certificate to Marc Byers at the May meeting

Potential new members that our Registrar, David Byers, is working with: Lewis Covan, Martin Towery, James Hood, Bob Baccus, John Shaver, Wayland Krugh, Jorge Aunon, Bob Hickman, David Christensen, Warren Adams, Calvin Behr, Jr., Kim Keller, Scott Sanders, Jack Amos, and Jeff Seward.



Jim Maples
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TO: