



# The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society  
Sons of the American Revolution—June/July 2010



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### Meeting Schedule

14 June 2010  
11:00am Regular Meeting  
Huntsville Public Library  
Main Meeting Room

12 July 2010  
11:00am Regular Meeting  
Huntsville Public Library  
Main Meeting Room

### President's Message

The Tennessee Valley Chapter continues to grow in numbers as well as enthusiasm. Our new meeting place, the Huntsville Madison County Public Library Auditorium, offers more room for growth. Connie Cook has done a great job in coordinating the chapter programs and conducting the "Revolutionary War Quiz." The membership committee composed of Chairman David Byers, Connie Cook and Bob Hammond has been working hard helping prospective members with their applications. The Ladies Auxiliary members deserve special thanks for their support of the chapter in providing refreshments for chapter meetings.

We are pleased to welcome our most recent new members, George Royer, Zachary House, Brian House and John David Hall. We look forward to working with them in the chapter. Our Chapter Secretary, Bob Hammond, has had three Supplementals approved this year and has a number of other Supplemental applications which will probably be approved later this year. We have several membership applications in various stages of approval and a long list of prospective members.

While it is important to have new members, we should not forget our other members. We should make a special effort to keep in touch with those who find it difficult or impossible to attend meetings due to health problems or for other reasons.

On a sad note, while we are gaining new members, we have recently lost three members. Those members who have passed away are Rev. William Henry Tuttle, Ernie Rich and Jim Conner. All were loyal contributing members of the Tennessee Valley Chapter and will be greatly missed, and I know you will keep their families in your prayers. The next meeting of the Tennessee Valley Chapter will be June 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at the auditorium of the Huntsville Madison County Library. Our speaker will be Bruce Pickette, President of the Alabama Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. This will be an opportunity to meet our new State President. I hope to see you there.



Above, Flag Chairman, Hoyt Smith, presents a Flag Certificate to Compatriot Thomas Hutchens representing the Huntsville Public Library. Top right, our April speakers Ranee Pruitt and Susanna Leberman. At the right is our May speaker, Dr. Sean Busick.

### *Secretary's Report - April Meeting*

The regular April meeting of the Tennessee Valley Chapter was held April 12, 2010 in the auditorium of the Huntsville-Madison County Library. This was the first meeting to be held in this new venue and the first to be a non-lunch gathering.

The meeting was called to order by our new president, Larry Crabtree, who welcomed everyone and introduced the guests present. Our guests (11) were: Susan Crabtree, Robert Anderson, Linda Maples, LaVonne Conner, Renee' Pruitt, Susan Leberman, Ron Bledsoe, Abby Alexander, Jorge Aunon, George Royer, and David Dixon. Members attending (17) were: Larry Crabtree, Bob Hammond, Otha Vaughan, Jim Alexander, Hoyt Smith, Connie Cook, Jim Maples, Jim Conner, Richard Blanton, Thomas Hutchens, Richard Smallwood, Les McAbee, David Byers, Spike Field, Mark Strickland, James David Peck, and Henry Oldham (associate member).

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jim Conner. Connie Cook led the Pledge to the SAR and Fr. McAbee gave our invocation.

**Announcements** - It was announced that our chapter was invited to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> annual memorial service for the Galvez Monument later this month. The chapter was also given a certificate of appreciation from the Alabama National Cemetery support group in response to our chapter's donation. Members were invited to participate in a flag placing ceremony on Memorial Day.

**Program** - Our speakers for the day were introduced by Vice President Cook. The program was presented by Susanna Leberman, assisted by Renee' Pruitt, both archivists for the Huntsville-Madison County Library. They spoke on "Living Life in Antebellum Huntsville: 1830 - 1860". The extremely interesting presentation focused on prominent Huntsville families and individuals present during the period; and workings of the city, including issues involving education, public square businesses, the court house and Big Spring, the Masonic Lodge, local militia and noteworthy events of the time. Numerous pictures were used to highlight the presentation.

#### **Officer & Committee Reports -**

**Vice President** - Connie Cook shared some rewarding experiences being realized by members presenting awards at various high schools and encouraged others to volunteer for this service in the future.

**Treasurer** - Jim Alexander announced our savings account balance stood at \$1994.17 and our checking at \$5073.27. We currently have 81 members and have recently lost 3 long-term members.

**Secretary** - Bob Hammond reminded everyone of our new practice of signing in as we arrive to facilitate taking of our roll.

**Registrar** - David Byers announced the large number of new member applications currently in preparation and approval.

**Chaplain** - Fr. McAbee indicated that the father of Linda Maples had passed away and that a condolence card was sent from the chapter.

**Flag Committee** - Hoyt Smith told that one flag certificate was given out recently and encouraged members to submit candidates for future awards who exhibit good practices for presentation and use of the American flag.

**Color Guard** - On April 11, 2010, there was a color guard participation at a D.A.R member grave marking. Color guard participants were Otha Vaughan, Jim Alexander and Jim Maples.

**Program** - Connie Cook told us that future program plans were being developed but these were not sufficiently committed to be announced at this time. The next meeting date will be May 10.

**Awards** - Hoyt Smith encouraged members to do things that could be recognized through future award presentations.

**Veteran Affairs** - A motion was made and approved to donate \$100 to the Huntsville Memorial Park for the veteran's park ground breaking ceremony.

**Student Essay & Oration** - Jim Alexander indicated that we had had many candidates in the recent essay competition and that our winning candidate also won the state competition in February. The essay will now compete in the national judging.

**Other Meeting Activities** - Youth Program Quiz - Compatriot Cook presented the life story of a notable revolutionary period individual and challenged us to identify him. Many knew him to be Thomas Paine, the author of "Common Sense" and other pre-war publications.

**Awards & Presentations** - Seven new member application approvals were announced. These were: Charles Edward Laidlaw III, James Robert Peck, James David Peck, Conrad E. Cook V, Conrad E. Cook VI, Thomas Hampton Smith, and David Lance Rhodes. James David Peck was inducted into the Tennessee Valley Chapter at the meeting. Connie Cook received the membership certificates for his son and grandson. The others will be given to the recipients as possible.

After all activities were completed, President Crabtree adjourned the meeting. The recess was led by Compatriot Vaughan.

### *Secretary's Report - May Meeting*

The regular May meeting of the Tennessee Valley Chapter was held May 10, 2010 in the auditorium of the Huntsville-Madison County Library. The meeting was called to order by President Larry Crabtree. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Thomas Hutchins. Fr. Les McAbee led the Pledge to the SAR and also gave our invocation.

President Crabtree welcomed everyone and acknowledged our many guests present. Our guests (18) were: Susan Crabtree, Bob Anderson, Carl Whelchel, Edwin Bledsoe, Linda Maples, Sean Busick, Phil Graham, Norine Lee, Hugh Brady, Bob Hickman, Ron Bledsoe, Sue Royer, Richard Tingle, Lawrence Hillis, Jorge Aunon, Abby Alexander, James Williams and Christine Smith. Members attending (22) were: Larry Crabtree, Bob Hammond, Otha Vaughan, Jim Alexander, Ken Carpenter, David Byers, Les McAbee, Thomas Hutchins, Hoyt Smith, Zachary House, Brian House, Bob Adams, Dave Billings, Darryl Adams, Richard Blanton, Lance Rhodes, Richard Smallwood, Spike Field, Mark Alexander, Rusty Troth, Mark Strickland and George Royer. President Crabtree moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the prior meeting since they were to be published in the next newsletter. The motion was seconded and carried by member vote.

**Announcements** - President Crabtree showed a certificate of appreciation which was mentioned at last month's meeting and which was given to the chapter by the support group of the Alabama National Cemetery in recognition of our monetary donation. The certificate was then transferred to Bob Adams, chapter historian, for inclusion in our chapter historical records. President Crabtree also announced that at our next meeting, on June 14, 2010, we will have as our guest speaker Bruce Pickette, President of the Alabama Society of the SAR. Our July meeting speaker will be Billy Herrin, who will talk on the colonial architecture of Thomas Jefferson.

**Program** - David Byers introduced our guest speaker for the day. He was Dr. Sean Busick, Associate Professor of History at Athens State University. His subject was "Religion During the Colonial Period". This interesting message focused on two religious periods referred to as the "Great Awakenings". The first occurred generally over the period 1730-1760 and the second 1790-1840. He told of various ministers and denominations active during these periods and how religious thought and conversation during the first "Great Awakening" influenced feelings

### Secretary's Report Continued from page 2

leading into the American Revolution and, in turn, how effects of the Revolution influenced religion in America during the second "Great Awakening".

#### Officer & Committee Reports-

President (Larry Crabtree) – 1) The SAR State Board of Managers (BOM) meeting will be on May 22 at Columbiana, Alabama. 2) Members were encouraged to take cards prepared for various other members who have been inactive of late and contact them to get an "update" on each and encourage their future participation.

Treasurer (Jim Alexander) – Current account balances are as follows: Savings - \$1997.43 and Checking - \$3965.53. As of the end of April the annual donations to our Youth Programs through our Youth Program Quiz, etc. was \$220.00.

Secretary (Bob Hammond) – 1) Contact info. for all current officers has been sent to the state secretary of the ALSSAR. 2) All awards that couldn't be given out at the banquet in March have been mailed to the various recipients.

Registrar (David Byers) – Currently there are 38 men that have applications in the preparation/approval system, with 3 now at national for final review and approval.

Chaplain (Fr. Les McAbee)- We have a few members who are currently home-bound who would benefit from a visit by one or more of us.

Past President (Dave Billings) – The next (120<sup>th</sup>) annual national congress of the NSSAR will be meeting June 25 – July 1, 2010 in Cleveland, Ohio. Delegates from the Alabama society are being requested.

Awards (Hoyt Smith) - 1) A flag certificate was presented to the Huntsville-Madison County Library in recognition of their use and display of the American flag. 2) We were also told that meritorious service awards were to be presented at our June meeting.

Youth Program Quiz (Darryl Adams) - Our "Who Am I" youth quiz centered on an individual who was a very influential minister in pre-Revolutionary America. He was a friend to many of our Founding Fathers and well respected in many areas of the colonies. No one could identify the Rev. Samuel Cooper.

Communication (Jim Maples) - All members, new and previous, who haven't received their name tags should let Jim know so one can be made,

Color Guard (Ken Carpenter) - 1) One of our prospective new members, Bob Anderson, has expressed a desire to be on the color guard. Bob's application is presently at national and should be approved shortly. 2) Ken told us that he had participated in the recent Gurley Cemetery Walk in the Gurley community.

Awards & Presentations – New member certificates and rosettes were presented to four new members in attendance and they were then inducted into the chapter by Compatriots Crabtree, Billings and Byers. These were: Zachary House, Brian House, David Rhodes, and George Royer. Two other new members were announced who weren't present. These were: Charles Laidlaw and Hampton Smith. They will be inducted later. Bob Hammond also received certificates for three supplementary ancestor application approvals.

New Business – Comp. Jim Alexander made a motion that the chapter donate a gift of \$100 to the class of Carrie Ann Myers, a teacher at the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School. This donation was proposed in response to her continued support of our chapter's various youth program activities. The motion was seconded by Les McAbee and approved by chapter membership vote.

Adjournment – All business having been completed, the meeting was adjourned by President Crabtree. Mark Alexander led our recessional and Fr. McAbee pronounced our benediction.

### *Upcoming Events*

**14 June 2010** - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Huntsville Public Library Auditorium on the first floor

**26 June 2010 - 30 June 2010** - National Congress, Cleveland, OH

**12 July 2010** - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Huntsville Public Library Auditorium on the first floor.

### *Passing of Compatriots*

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Compatriots Rev. Henry (Hank) Tuttle, Ernest (Ernie) Ritch, and James (Jim) Connor. Rev. Tuttle was a past Tennessee Valley Chapter President, Alabama State President, and National Chaplain General. Ernie was a past Tennessee Valley Chapter President. Jim had just joined within the past couple of years, and he and his wife, LaVonne, were very faithful attendees to our meetings. All of these gentlemen will be greatly missed.

### *Oldest WWII Medal of Honor recipient dies at 100*

Retired Navy Lt. John Finn, the first American to receive the nation's highest military award for defending sailors under a torrent of gunfire during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, died Thursday at a nursing home for veterans in Chula Vista, Calif., outside San Diego. He was 100. Finn was the oldest of 97 Medal of Honor recipients from World War II who are still living.

Despite head wounds and other injuries, Finn, the chief of ordnance for an air squadron, continuously fired a .50-caliber machine gun from an exposed position as bullets and bombs pounded the Naval Air Station at Kaneohe Bay in Oahu. He then supervised the re-arming of returning American planes. Finn, who enlisted in the Navy just before his 17th birthday, received the Medal of Honor on Sept. 15, 1942.

### *Flag Day, June 14th*

On June 14th, 1885, Bernard J. Cigrand, a 19 year old teacher at Stony Hill School, placed a 10 inch, 38- star flag in a bottle on his desk then assigned essays on the flag and its significance. This observance, commemorated Congress's adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777. This observance was also the beginning of Cigrand's long years of fervent and devoted effort to bring about national recognition and observance of Flag Day. The crowning achievement of his life came at age fifty when President Wilson, on May 30, 1916, issued a proclamation calling for a nation-wide observance of Flag Day. In 1949, President Truman signed an Act Of Congress designating the 14th day of June every year as National Flag Day. On June 14th, 2004, the 108th U.S. Congress voted unanimously on H.R. 662 that Flag Day originated in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin.

"Our obligations to our country never cease but with our lives."

*John Adams*

*Welcome New Members!*



From the top left clockwise, State Vice-President Dave Billings presents new member certificates to George Royer, Brian House, David Rhodes, and Zachary House. Vice-President Conrad Cook IV accepts new member certificates on behalf of his son, Conrad Cook V, and grandson, Conrad Cook VI from President Larry Crabtree. Registrar David Byers pins a new member rosette on Jim Peck.



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TO: