



The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—June/July 2011



President

Conrad Cook
256-539-2236
ceciv@knology.net

Vice-President

George Royer
256-539-4287
gwr@LanierFord.com

Secretary

Darryl Adams
256-882-2282
dadams@hiwaay.net

Treasurer

Bob Hammond
256-882-2962
RMH12@aol.com

Registrar

David Byers
256-539-3175
byersmdjr@gmail.com

Chaplain

Hoyt Smith
256-420-3985
hosar@aol.com

Historian

Bob Adams
256-539-4049
cdarea@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Editor

Jim Maples
256-534-2315
SAR1776@knology.net

Meeting Schedule

13 June 2011

11:00am Regular Meeting
Huntsville Public Library
Main Meeting Room

July 2011

No Meeting

8 August 2011

11:00am Regular Meeting
Huntsville Public Library
Main Meeting Room

President's Message

May has come and gone, also, Memorial Day, which afforded us the opportunity to celebrate and honor our nation's Patriots. Too often we forget the true meaning behind our Holidays and celebrate them as just an extra day off. Memorial Day is a wonderful time to remember our original Patriots, those that fought or served our fledgling country at its inception. Hoyt Smith had a great way of not only remembering but causing other people to remember also. He was invited by his church to present a short program on our Revolutionary War Patriots during their regular worship service. Hoyt did it up right! He dressed in his Revolutionary War uniform, took on the identity of Pvt. John Watkins, his relative, who fought during the Revolution, and told his story, lest he not be forgotten. Pvt. Watkins served in the Continental Line in North Carolina. At his discharge he headed home only to be impressed back into service with the Georgia Militia. When Pvt. Watkins showed the Militia Officer his discharge papers, the officer tore them up, and Watkins served 8 months with them. After the Militia unit disbanded, Watkins returned to South Carolina and once again served in the Continental Line. So he served in three different States. Watkins lived to 105 and was denied a pension each time he applied. Hoyt stated that his relative "never got the recognition or respect that he deserved during his lifetime", so Hoyt proudly insured that a church full of people heard of his sacrifices. What a great tribute, Hoyt. Maybe those of us in SAR can take a page from Hoyt's book and do something similar during other times of remembrance, say, on the Fourth of July or Thanksgiving. Tell the story of our brave ancestors and at the same time give a plug for joining the Tennessee Valley Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution.

How often have you heard it said that Alabama, since it didn't exist as a state during the Revolution, has no Revolutionary War history. This is not quite true. Even though we were technically part of Georgia, or if you prefer, the Mississippi Territory, the area which would become Alabama had many Revolutionary War refugees-----mainly Loyalists. Just north of the Ellicott line which separated the United States from Spanish Florida was an area that was a favorite retreat for Loyalists who refused to fight against their adopted country or Britain. They were not welcomed into Florida since Spain was allied with the Patriots. These folks preferred to sit on the sidelines and wait out the conflict. There were sizable settlements along the Alabama River and the Tombigbee (old spelling) that still exist today under more modern names. Many of these people remained in Alabama long after we became a State and some of their ancestors still remain.

Also, some Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians from this area joined with the Patriots and Spanish to contest for Independence. This was partially because the Indians preferred trading with the French still lodged in New Orleans and Louisiana rather than the British. I must say at this point, they weren't too crazy about the Americans, but viewed us as the lesser of two evils. If you are interested in learning more about our area, you can pick up the book titled "The Tensaw Country North of the Ellicott Line" by Charles Bryant.

I hope all of you were in attendance at our last meeting when George Royer planned a great "Show and Tell". A number of us came dressed in period costume with all the accoutrements. Each person explained the nuances of his uniform, what type individual wore it and also spoke of the weapons carried. It was a fun time. Again, we thank all the Ladies who pitched in to insure we did not starve during the meeting. The food they provided was wonderful, as usual.

Our next meeting is on June 13th when Larry Cornwell and his wife, Leanne, will drive up from Montgomery to present a program portraying General and Mrs. Richard Montgomery. It should be a great program, and one you don't want to miss.

Connie Cook

Upcoming Events

13 June 2011 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Huntsville Public Library Auditorium on the first floor.

9 July –13 July 2011 - National Congress, Winston-Salem, NC (Note: we will not have a chapter meeting in July)

8 August 2011 - 11:00 am, regular meeting, Huntsville Public Library Auditorium on the first floor.

August 2011 - date to be announced, Chapter picnic

Secretary's Report - April Meeting

Call to Order – President Conrad Cook called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and the SAR Pledge. Compatriot Hoyt Smith provided the invocation. According to the sign in records there were 22 SAR members present and 18 non-members present. New members, Kim Keller and Frank Vinz were introduced. They had been admitted to membership at the annual banquet held in March. Three additional members are to be reinstated at a later date. The guests were then introduced and acknowledged.

President Cook then introduced Program Chairman George Royer who described some upcoming programs and then told about the program for today – “All about John Hunt” to be presented by David Byers.

The Program - David Byers presented a fifteen-minute program on the life of John Hunt, mostly from the perspective of his North Carolina and Tennessee legacy before he came to Madison County in 1805. David's fascinating program included information that likely is not widely known about the namesake of Huntsville. He agreed to provide the secretary with a draft of the information for our permanent record. Following the presentation Compatriot Royer presented David Byers with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Vice-President George Royer then told of the upcoming program in May where several members will wear their uniforms and will explain them. We have gotten permission from the Library to bring in some of the weapons for display and discussion as well.

President Cook heard a motion to dispense with the reading of the February Minutes. The motion was seconded and passed. While the tricorn hat was passed to support the Youth Programs, Connie Cook provided a quiz with questions ranging from who to what, and in what order were certain battles of the Revolution fought. The Chapter holds the monies collected to support youth programs such as the essay contest and the oration contest held each year.

Officer and Committee Reports –

President – Connie welcomed all in attendance and noted that for the business portion of the meeting, that people that wanted to or needed to leave could do so. The Banquet in March was enjoyed and the 2011 Officers were sworn in. At the banquet two

members were brought in to the club, Frank Vinz and Kim Keller. He noted that Jim Maples has updated our web site. Compatriot Philip Graham will take over the oration contest, and Kim Keller will oversee the youth program. He also noted that the Alabama web site is not yet updated. He noted that Information is available on the back table for upcoming events and chapter information. The Board of Managers meeting is coming in May, and we are seeking more members to pledge to the Foundation. Awards were given at the banquet; Bob Hammond received the State Award for having the most supplementals, and our chapter was recognized for obtaining the greatest % increase of new memberships as well as the state award for the greatest number of supplementals. He also noted that David Milam is going to be reinstated into this chapter. He then thanked Abby Alexander for the support of the Ladies Auxiliary and read a letter from her to the Chapter. He cautioned anyone from ordering from the online store with credit card due to potential security issues. He then thanked the ladies for providing the food. Finally, on behalf of the Chapter, Connie sent a condolence card to the Bledsoe's for the loss of their Grandson Tom Gilliam. He concluded stated that the Alabama SAR state convention will be held in Huntsville in February 2012.

Chaplain - Hoyt Smith acknowledged the service of David Byers presenting him with the Meritorious Service Award, and ALSSAR President David Billings pinned the medal.

Treasurer – Treasurer Bob Hammond reported a clean audit of the chapter record and submitted a written financial report, which is attached.

Secretary – Secretary Darryl Adams reported that he is attempting to reconcile all the record of the chapter membership with the databases at the National SAR.

State President – State President David Billings reported that the State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution honored Debra Moriarity, a biology professor and interim chair of the Biological Sciences Department at The University of Alabama in Huntsville, April 5 with a citation and medal for heroism. She received the award during the university's annual Undergraduate Academic Honors Convocation last week. David Billings, dean emeritus of the College of Business Administration and the 2011-2012 State President for SAR, made the presentation. The organization honored Dr. Moriarity for demonstrating personal courage and bravery on Feb. 12, 2010, during an attack that killed three and seriously injured three more of her colleagues at UAHuntsville during a routine faculty meeting. He reported on the ongoing progress of the Shoals Chapter toward charter later this year. He reported that two AL members are running for national officers (Larry Cornwell for Genealogist General and Mike Wells for Librarian General). President Billings reported on the NSSAR Congress to be held in Winston Salem on 11 – 13 July. He concluded by stating that the State Convention will be held in Huntsville in February 2012.

Secretary's Report continued on page 3

President Cook reported that there will be no meeting in July because of the Winston Salem Congress event. He also reported that an August picnic is being planned.

Old Business – None

Adjournment - A motion for adjournment was made at 12:10 p.m. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned with the Recessional being recited by all.

Secretary's Report - May Meeting

Call to Order – President Conrad Cook called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m. with the Color Guard Posting the Colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the SAR Pledge. Compatriot Hoyt Smith provided the invocation. President Cook called Charles Cornelius and Robert Peck forward to introduce them to the Chapter. He asked affirmation question to each and admitted them to the Chapter. Connie then presented certificates, and State SAR President Dave Billings presented the official SAR Rosettes to each new member. Charles Cornelius described his ancestor / patriot, William Cornelius, followed by Robert Peck describing his ancestor, Bradley Gamble. Guests were then recognized. There were 20 Chapter members and 18 guests attending the meeting. The April meeting minutes were accepted without public reading.

Program - Vice President and Program Chair, George Royer spoke to introduce the program – Uniforms and Equipment of the Revolution. Our uniformed members included Jim Maples, Hoyt Smith, Conrad Cook, Otha Vaughn, and Bob Anderson; each wearing a uniform or clothing of the day. The compatriots described the uniforms, clothing, and the weapons and supporting equipment used during this period. Conrad described hunting garb, knives, rifles and equipment. Jim Maples wore and described the Commander in Chief's Guard uniform and flag. Hoyt Smith then talked about the Brown Bess Musket with bayonet used by the British. Otha Vaughn portrayed the backwoodsman with hunting shirt, coonskin cap, squirrel rifle etc. Bob Anderson fully was dressed in the traditional Blue and Buff uniform (white vest and britches) worn by the likes of General Daniel Morgan. He also talked about the rifles, muskets, and rosettes as well. Dave Billings then talked about a 52 caliber family rifle he brought that has been in the family for many years.

George Royer announced the next program will be about Richard and Mrs. Montgomery and will be presented by Larry and LeAnne Cornwell.

Announcements

President Cook told of Compatriot Aunon's situation following the tornado outbreak of April 27. In a note to the Chapter, Jorge wrote, "We were hit by the tornado. Everybody is ok. House is standing. All the trees in the property are down. Power returned last night. We were very fortunate as just down the block, houses were totally." Connie provided a card for members to sign that will be mailed to Jorge.

Kim Keller presented the Youth Program and quiz and the hat was passed for contributions while the quiz took place. The quiz centered on our relationship with Lafayette during the

Revolutionary War days. The answer was Lafayette.

Connie further reminded the Chapter of the principles of SAR by reading the Principles and Objectives. He reminded the group that the State Convention will be in Huntsville and the National Congress will be in Winston Salem in July. He reminded the Chapter that there would be no July meeting because of the Winston Salem event. He noted that the Board of Managers meeting would be held this next weekend in Columbiana. He added that the certificate to be presented to David Milam would be presented at a further meeting.

Reports - Treasurer Bob Hammond presented the Treasurer's Report, which is attached. He reported that there are ninety members on the rolls, and we are in the process of verification to agree with national and state records.

Committee reports – There were no further committee reports

Old business – President Cook reported that a grave dedication had been planned with Dale Garrison, however the tornadoes of April 27 destroyed much at the site including tombstones. The dedication will be later. There will be no meeting in July, and the Chapter picnic will be August.

The next meeting of the Chapter will be at the Library on June 13.

Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned with the Recessional and benediction at 12:30 p.m.

Treasurer's Report May, 2011

(data current as of April 18, 2011)

Savings	Prior month	\$2004.96
	Interest posted	2.47
	Current month	\$2007.43
Checking	Prior month	\$3643.55
Income		
	Youth programs	\$146.00
	Member dues (reinstated.)	60.00
	Banquet receipts	140.00
	TOTAL	\$346.00
Expenses		
	Banquet payment	\$871.10
	Library room fee (A/M)	20.00
	TOTAL	\$891.10
	Current month	\$3098.45

Monthly Highlights-

- Youth program contributions this chapter year total \$336.42
- As of May 1, 2011, chapter membership totals 90, including 2 dual members and one transfer from the General Richard Montgomery chapter. There are 4 member reinstatements currently in the system.



At the left, State President Dave Billings pins the Meritorious Service Medal on David Byers. David was awarded this medal for his outstanding job as Chapter Registrar.

David Byers was our speaker for April. David gave an extremely interesting presentation on the founder of Huntsville, John Hunt. All in attendance learned many things about John Hunt that they probably didn't know.



For our program in May, several Tennessee Valley members dressed in period uniform and talked about the uniforms and weapons of the Revolutionary War. State President Dave Billings brought an antique rifle from the period that has been in his family for many years. From left to right are, Chapter President Connie Cook, Jim Maples, Hoyt Smith, State President Dave Billings, Skeet Vaughan, and Bob Anderson.



At the Board of Managers meeting in May at Columbiana, past State President John Wallace pins the George Washington Fellows pin on George Royer as State President Dave Billings looks on.

Passing of Tennessee Valley Member

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Tennessee Valley member Carl Jerry Whelchel. Mr. Whelchel received his membership certificate at the February meeting. He was a retired engineer who worked on many of the Army's missile programs with Atlantic Research Corporation.

No Meeting in July

Please note that due to a conflict with the dates of our National Congress, we will not hold a meeting in July.

Flag Day, June 14th

Don't forget to celebrate Flag Day on June 14th. This observance commemorates Congress's adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777. President Woodrow 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 was originated in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin by a young school teacher, Bernard J. Cigrand. As a 19 year-old school teacher in 1885, Mr. Cigrand began putting a flag on his desk and assigning essays on the flag and its significance.

independent musical productions, inc.
and
Huntsville Community Chorus Association
present

The Chorus Huntsville Community Chorus Association

This program has been made possible by a grant from the Alabama State Council of the Arts

1776

The Musical

Summer 2011

June 24, 25, 30, July 1, 2, at 7:30 p.m.
June 26 and July 2 at 2:30 p.m.

Lee Lyric Theater
located at
Lee High School
Huntsville, AL

Ticket Outlets
Harrison Brothers Hardware
A.B. Stephens Music
Off Campus Bookstore
The Arts Council, Inc.
call IMP at 256-337-9071
or HCCA at 256-533-6606

"1776" is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI)
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019, Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684
www.MTIShows.com

GRAPHIXATION

Independent Musical Productions and Huntsville Community Chorus will present "1776" at Lee High School on the last weekend in June and first weekend in July. This will be the last play held at the old Lee High School before it is torn down. If you have not seen "1776," you will want to be sure to go. If you have seen "1776," then I know you will want to see it again. Linda and I saw it in 1976 at the VBCC Concert Hall, again in 1996 at Lee High School, and last summer in Louisville, KY. "1776" is a musical about the ratification of the Declaration of Independence written for the celebration of our Nation's Bicentennial in 1976. It had a very successful run on Broadway.

New Tennessee Valley Members



From left to right, State President Dave Billings pins the SAR Rosette on new Tennessee Valley members Robert Peck and Charles Cornelius .



Jim Maples
1501 Elmwood Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35801

TO: