



The Halley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—June/July 2007



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Meeting Schedule

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

11 June 2007
Regular Meeting
11:00 am Holiday Inn

July 2007
No Meeting

Chapter web site
www.SAR1776.com

State web site
www.alssar.org

President's Message

The summer months are now upon us, and everyone will be traveling, going on vacation and enjoying the warm weather. I trust everyone will be out traveling, therefore, I encourage each of you to drive safely.

I attended the Alabama Society Board of Manager's meeting at the American Village on Saturday May 5. The meeting was well attended with 35 members present. The new ALSSAR Ladies Auxiliary met at the same time, and later prepared lunch for both groups. Those of you who didn't attend missed a real treat. The next BOM will be in October in Montgomery. I encourage all to attend.

The National Society SAR Annual Congress will be held in Williamsburg, Virginia, July 6-12. This will be an excellent opportunity to attend a National Congress if you have never attended and to do some early American sightseeing at the same time. Jamestown, our first permanent settlement, is very close by. This year we are celebrating its 400th anniversary. There is still time to get registered.



Robert Scott Davis, who heads the Family and Regional History Program at Wallace State College, was our speaker for April. His topic was "Finding Your Revolutionary War Ancestor."



Our May speaker was Tennessee Valley Chapter Vice-President Richard Smallwood. Richard gave a talk on the use of obituaries in genealogical research.

Secretary's Report
April Meeting Minutes

President **Brian Alexander** opened the meeting. Compatriot **Rusty Troth** led the Pledge of Allegiance. Compatriot **Larry Crabtree** led the pledge to the SAR. **Father Les McAbee** gave the invocation. President **Alexander** recognized the guests in attendance. They were: **Ken and Nathan Dowd, Linda Maples, Abby Alexander, Rhonda Larkin, Susan Crabtree, Robert Scott Davis, Chip Manning, and Lorraine Ennis.**

Lorraine Ennis of the Twickenham Town Chapter of the DAR made a request to the chapter for assistance in transporting and placing cemetery markers for Revolutionary War soldiers **Efford Bentley** and **Francis Epps Harris** and their wives. The patriots and their wives are buried in the Harris Cemetery located on Highway 72E. Compatriot **Jim Alexander** said he would provide assistance for this endeavor.

Vice-President **Richard Smallwood** introduced the speaker **Robert Scott Davis** who heads the Family and Regional History Program at Wallace State College. **Mr. Davis** spoke on the topic "Finding Your Revolutionary War Ancestor."

Treasurer **David Billings** gave the Treasurer's report stating that the Chapter had a current balance of \$6247.13. Secretary **Larry Crabtree** shared correspondence from **John H. Killian**, ALSSAR Secretary, regarding an invitation for members to attend the spring meeting of the Board of Managers which will be held on May 5th at the American Village in Montevallo. State President **Jim Alexander** provided additional details regarding the meeting.

Compatriot **Jim Alexander** reported that the Chapter's Oration Contest winner **Ben Odendahl** placed 3rd in the state youth oration competition. He also reported presenting the ROTC medal to **Neal Kennedy**, a student at the University of North Alabama.

President **Alexander** mentioned that at the last meeting, which was held on March 3rd, chapter officers were installed for 2007-2008.

Compatriot **Jim Alexander** made a motion for consideration by the chapter as follows:

In addition to the present policy (paying the Chapter Oration Contest candidate's expenses for one night's lodging at the hotel where the contest is being held and 25 cents per mile round trip), the chapter will also pay for one additional night's lodging, should the candidate win the Oration Contest. **The motion was voted on and approved.**

President **Alexander** announced that the National Congress would be held July 6-11 at Williamsburg, Virginia. Compatriot **Jim Maples** announced that The Descendants of Valley Forge are holding a grave marking on May 12 at noon behind Morton Hall on the UAH campus for Revolutionary War soldier Cpt Lewellen Jones. He invited Tennessee Valley Chapter members to attend.

President **Brian Alexander** led the recessional, and **Father Les McAbee** gave the benediction. President **Alexander** adjourned the meeting.

Revolutionary Answers

1. On September 22, 1777, Washington and his American troops were bitterly defeated by Cornwallis and Howe at this Pennsylvania creek.

Brandywine Creek

2. John Paul Jones famous response, "I have not yet begun to fight", was in answer to the captain of which British frigate?

Serapis

3. On the night of April 18, 1775, which of the three riders on their way to warn the Minutemen of Lexington and Concord actually eluded the British and gave the alarm to Concord?

Dr. Samuel Prescott

4. What happened to the other two riders?

Paul Revere was captured by the British.

William Dawes was thrown from his horse, fled into the woods, remounted his horse and returned to Lexington.

5. In 1781, which general from Rhode Island led the Colonists against a deployment of British troops at Eutaw Springs, South Carolina, the last major battle the Americans would fight in the war for independence?

Nathanael Greene

Revolutionary Questions

Who am I?

1. I played a major role in two countrys' revolutions; military officer at 17; and a general at 20. Shared the hardships of Valley Forge with General George Washington; was seriously wounded at the battle of Brandywine Creek. Served the American cause first as an enlisted man and offered to serve without pay. In my native country, I was named head of the National Guard at which time I created a cockade of red, white and blue to be worn by supporters of that country's Revolution.

2. In 1781 I was living near Camden, South Carolina. My plantation or "Fort" became the British officers' headquarters during the fighting in that area. I begged "Light Horse Harry" Lee and Francis Marion, "The Swamp Fox," to burn my home, if necessary, to drive the British out. I supplied the Americans with fire arrows to do the job. As the attack began, the 150 British officers surrendered, the fire was doused, and I cordially invited both the patriots and their British captives to dine that night at my table. (Hint: I am a woman.)

Upcoming Events

11 June - 11:00am, Regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn

7 July - 11 July - National Congress, Williamsburg, VA

13 August - 11:00am, Regular meeting, downtown Holiday Inn

May Meeting Minutes

President **Brian Alexander** opened the meeting. Compatriot **Skeet Vaughn** led the Pledge of Allegiance. State President **Jim Alexander** led the pledge to the SAR. **Father Les McAbee** gave the invocation. President **Alexander** recognized the guests in attendance. They were: **Abby Alexander, Susan Crabtree, Chip Manning, Spike Fields, Charles Bendall, Greg Johnson, and Larry Moore**. Compatriot **Ernie Ritch** quizzed chapter members on the colonial period.

President **Brian Alexander** introduced the speaker Vice President **Richard Smallwood** who spoke on the topic "Use of Obituaries as Documentation for Lineage and Hereditary Society Applications." He also shared a request from **Ranee Pruitt**, Archivist at the Huntsville Madison County Library, for volunteers from SAR to assist in indexing obituaries from The Huntsville Times for the years 1940-49.

Treasurer **David Billings** gave the Treasurer's report stating that the Chapter had a current balance of \$6136. He reported that the Chapter had 83 members who had paid their dues and 5 who had not paid.

Registrar **Derald Morgan** indicated that he was ready to serve the Tennessee Valley Chapter in his new role as Registrar and invited anyone in need of his services to contact him.

State President **Jim Alexander** updated members on state activities. He reported on the BOM and that lunch for the delegates was provided by the newly formed Ladies Auxiliary. He also stated that at present three chapter members have registered to attend the National Congress: **Hoyt Smith, Jim Maples, and Jim Alexander**. Additional slots are available if anyone else desires to attend. Compatriot **Jim Alexander** reminded members that the state convention will be held in Huntsville at the Holiday Inn Select on February 29-March 1, 2008.

Compatriot **Jim Alexander** also gave the Youth Program report and stated that the Tennessee Valley Chapter's oration contest representative placed third in the state competition.

President **Brian Alexander** noted that the Tennessee Valley Chapter had five members in attendance at the BOM: Compatriots **Brian Alexander, Mark Alexander, Hoyt Smith, Jim Maples**, and State President **Jim Alexander**. **Linda Maples and Abby Alexander** were also in attendance.

Compatriot **Jim Maples** spoke to the group about possibly canceling the July meeting due to a conflict of dates with the National Congress. **Action : Jim Maples and Jim Alexander will look into the matter and report to the chapter. Suspense: Before June 1. A report will be given at the next meeting.**

Compatriot **Jim Alexander** reported to the Chapter that a member had recommended that a flag certificate be given to DRS. Compatriot **Alexander** said that he would present one to this business.

President **Brian Alexander** reminded members of the following upcoming event: The National Congress will be held at Williamsburg, Virginia, July 6-11. In addition, Compatriot **Jim Alexander** stated that the Blue Star Salute will be held at the American Village on Memorial Day. Secretary **Larry Crabtree** led the recessional, and **Father Les McAbee** gave the benediction. President **Alexander** adjourned the meeting.

Jeremy V. McAbee, son of Tennessee Valley Chaplain, Fr. Les McAbee, is completing four years in the Army. He served two tours in Iraq. His recent deployment was with the 224 MI Bn. Homebase: Hunter Army Air Base, Savannah, Ga. The 224th arrived back at Hunter May 1, 2007. Jeremy is shown below with his dad. Welcome home Jeremy!



"Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect every one who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately, nothing will preserve it but downright force. Whenever you give up that force, you are inevitably ruined."

Patrick Henry

ROTC Awards



Compatriot Jim Alexander presents a Senior ROTC Award to Cyrus English at Alabama A&M University.

Compatriot David Milam is shown with Junior ROTC Award recipient, Lt. Battles , a student at Butler High School.



Compatriot Jim Alexander presents a Senior ROTC Award to Neal Kennedy at the University of North Alabama.

Jim Maples
1501 Elmwood Dr.
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TO: