



The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—October/November 2011

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Meeting Schedule

10 October 2011
11:00am Regular Meeting
Huntsville Public Library
Main Meeting Room

14 November 2011
11:00am Regular Meeting
Huntsville Public Library
Main Meeting Room

President's Message

In the weeks preceding and following the 10th anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001 we all read and saw many commentaries on Patriotism and Heroism. Every act, position, and thought stated in these commentaries was inspiring and in many cases heartrending. These National memories caused me to mull over in my mind the heroes or acts of heroism and patriotism that I have encountered on a smaller scale, though, assuredly just as important in someone's life. Since I have never been personally involved in anything on the order of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, my thoughts were more attuned to things we hear and see in our own communities on a daily, weekly and monthly basis.

I recall our own Compatriot Hoyt Smith being a prime mover in constructing a "HEALS" clinic at Madison Crossroads to render medical assistance to youngsters who cannot afford the prices of a doctors' visit or the attendant medical insurance. Is he not a Hero? (See story on page 6 & 7.)

I think of our Compatriots who are heading the Chapter's Youth Programs. They are giving of themselves to insure our youth hear and understand the sacrifices made, not only by our Forefathers who struggled during the Revolutionary War, but also those who participated in America's other conflicts.

Other Compatriots work with and recognize the dedication and perseverance of ROTC cadets and Eagle Scout aspirants as they strive to attain their goals. All of these Compatriots are heroes in their own right.

Compatriot Royer has the difficult duty of lining up inspiring speakers to present programs to our SAR members in an effort to remind each of us of the great debt of gratitude we owe to our Forefathers in general and to each of our personal ancestors through whose personal sacrifices we attained membership in SAR.

Not a week goes by that we do not read or hear about one of our local Police Officers, Fire Personnel, Emergency Responders, etc. who risk their lives to assist one of our citizens. Do you remember in the past couple of weeks when a pair of heroic citizens pulled the driver from a burning car that had moments before crashed into a building? One of these heroes asked not to be identified. Heroes one and all!

In the past week our DAR Sisters lost a very dedicated, longtime member to cancer. Her name was Gary Cox. Gary had been a moving force in assisting the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School in Grant, Al. Gary not only devoted many hours of leadership she also took the time to read to young students, assisting them in becoming better-educated and well-rounded citizens. Gary Cox is very much a community Hero and will be sorely missed.

Heroes surround us! Those single parents who not only work every day to put food on the table but also manage to raise bright, moral, well-rounded children are truly heroes. Neighbors who do chores, fix meals or just check on those who are less fortunate or incapacitated are without a doubt Heroes. Maybe on a smaller scale, but heroes nonetheless.

The thrust of these random thoughts is to ask each of you to be alert in identifying our heroes. Each year we endeavor to officially recognize an outstanding individual from our Fire Department, Police Department, and Emergency Response Team. However we can also recognize ordinary citizens doing extraordinary things. Please bring any information that you might find concerning our local Heroes to my attention. We absolutely wish to say "Thanks".

Connie Cook

Upcoming Events

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

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

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

Secretary's Report - August Meeting

Call to Order – President Conrad Cook called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, the SAR Pledge, and the invocation. He then introduced three new members who came forward to be recognized, Bill Burleson, Alexander Black, and Leonard (Pete) Stillson. Following brief questioning of the candidates, he then presented the membership certificates. David Byers then presented the new members the SAR rosette, the official recognition of the society. Each was given the opportunity to say a few words. Bob Baccus and Bob Hammond were then called forward to receive supplemental certificates acknowledging additional patriots in their lines. President Cook and individual SAR members introduced guests, and some introduced themselves. There were 25 Chapter members and 14 guests attending the meeting. The June meeting minutes were accepted without public reading.

Program - Vice President and Program Chair, George Royer introduced the program – Sgt Jarrod Harmaning, soldier musician of the AMC Band now stationed at Redstone. He plays the bassoon in the concert band and the bass drum during ceremonies. His topic was a history of the band and the military. The AMC Band supports the AMC Headquarters, fifteen AMC Major Subordinate Commands, AMC installations worldwide, as well as Redstone Arsenal garrison and 11 tenant organizations on the Arsenal. Under the recommendation of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission, the AMC Band was relocated to Redstone Arsenal, Al. in December 2010. Following the presentation, George presented Sgt Harmaning a Certificate of Appreciation for the fine program. Connie introduced Kim Keller for the youth quiz, and the tri-corn hat was passed for donations for the youth program. Connie presented George Royer recognition for his contribution to the Foundation; David Byers was recognized at the national level for getting at least ten new members.

Announcements - Connie briefed on the medical condition of Susan Crabtree. Her spirits are high, and all are waiting for the pathology reports. He spoke briefly about the upcoming SAR get together on August 13 at his residence, 111 Steele St. Connie informed the group of an upcoming officer training class on September 12 which Jim Alexander would teach. This will be an excellent opportunity for those missing the training at the NC event to receive the points. In trying to inform the public more

about the SAR and our chapter, we have successfully gotten our meeting announcements included in the Times and Valley Planet. He noted that thanks to Ron Bledsoe, we would get a full-page placement as part of the Partners in Charity project in the Huntsville Times. It will be printed in the September 9 newspaper. The Shoals Area chapter will have a formation meeting on August 11, and members of our Chapter are encouraged to attend. Lastly, Connie informed the Chapter that Jim Maples was elected the new Vice President General of the SAR and Larry Cornwall is the genealogist General.

David Byers reported on new members, and we have 80 on the list now for interest in joining the SAR. On September 21 there will be a workshop on joining the SAR to be held in the Library auditorium. The processes will be reviewed and the workshop is open to all interested people, SAR members, and DAR. Renee Pruitt of the library will assist as well and help with a better understanding of the records available.

George Royer noted that Ken Brown from Cullman would be our next month's program.

Reports

Secretary – No Report

Orations - Phil Graham reported on the Oration contest to be held on the 14th of January. He is seeking participation by the members and to publicize the contest to the schools.

Treasurer - Bob Hammond gave the Financial Report, which is attached to these minutes. Our membership now stands at 105, a significant increase for the chapter. He reported that the dues notices would be sent beginning about September 1. He requested that members bring their dues to the meeting on September 12.

Hoyt Smith reported on the presentation of flag certificates to various people and organizations for their projects relating to display and honor of the Flag. Connie thanked the chapter for their efforts in community service relating to patriotism.

Ron Bledsoe, State Convention planning chair, reported on the upcoming convention to be held at the Marriott in February, and that planning is underway.

The SMDC Conference will be held next week at the VBC and all were encouraged to drop by to see the exhibits and to see what the Army is doing.

The next meeting of the Chapter will be at the Library on September 12.

Old business – There was no old business.

Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned with the Recessional and benediction at 12:25 p.m.

Secretary's Report - September Meeting

Call to Order – President Conrad Cook called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, the SAR Pledge, and the invocation. He then introduced five new members who came forward to be recognized. Following a brief induction of the candidates, David Byers presented the

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membership certificates and rosettes. In remembrance of the 10th anniversary of 9/11 we all sang our National Anthem. A member moved, which was seconded, that the reading of the Minutes from the August meeting be dispensed with. The motion passed.

Program - Vice President and Program Chair, George Royer introduced the program – Compatriot Ken Brown of the Cullman Chapter spoke on his ancestor, Jacob Brown, with history relating to Major Andre and Benedict Arnold. Following the presentation, George presented Compatriot Brown a Certificate of Appreciation for the fine program.

Connie introduced Kim Keller for the youth quiz, and the tri-corn hat was passed for donations for the youth program.

Announcements - President Cook highlighted some announcements for Chapter information. Listed below are brief statements of the topics covered.

- State budget will be voted on at the Board of Managers meeting in Montgomery.
- Youth awards at the State level have been increased by some \$25 per category.
- Genealogist General Larry Cornwell set a goal to get new applications approved in six weeks
- Former AL State President, Bruce Pickett is running for Registrar General against Mike Tomme of Georgia.
- Larry Guzy from Georgia is running for Historian. He is running against Bob Bowen of Virginia.
- The new President General of the SAR is Larry Magerkurth of California
- Youth awards for the chapter year will remain at the same level as last year.
- Jim Alexander will present officer training following today's meeting
- Fall Leadership meeting will be held at the end of September
- BOM meeting will be Oct 8 in Montgomery
- Autumn picnic will be Sept 23 at the home of President Cook, and sign up is on the table
- A book sale of Revolutionary era books as a fund raiser for the youth fund is being planned

David Byers reported on new members and those having interest in joining the SAR. On September 21 there will be a workshop on joining the SAR to be held in the Library auditorium. The processes will be reviewed and the workshop is open to all interested people, SAR members, and DAR. Raneé Pruitt of the library will assist as well and help with a better understanding of the records available.

Committee reports

Treasurer - Bob Hammond gave the Treasurer's report, which is attached. 109 members.

Secretary – Darryl Adams had no report

Historian – Bob Adams had no report

David Byers announced a workshop on Sept 21 here in the library, 12 applications in work

George Royer announced Jim Maples and John Hall will be the

program next month on Washington's Life Guard.

Old business – There was no old business.

New Business - The next meeting of the Chapter is October 10 here at the library

The Shoals Chapter Chartering Banquet will be December 3

Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned with the Recessional and benediction at 12:20 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

September, 2011

(data current as of August 18, 2011)

Savings	Prior month	\$ 2009.93
	Monthly activity	none
	Current month	\$ 2009.93
Checking	Prior month	\$ 3092.22
Income	Youth programs	75.00
	Application fees	125.00
CONVENTION –		
	Memorials	100.00
	TOTAL	300.00
Expense	Officer supplies	52.20
	Library room fee (A/S)	20.00
	TOTAL	72.20
	Current month	\$ 3320.02

Monthly Highlights-

- Youth program contributions this chapter year total \$600.42
- As of September 1, 2011, chapter membership totaled 105, including 2 dual members. Paperwork is in process to transfer one additional member from the "at large" division of the Alabama Society into the Tennessee Valley Chapter. When completed, our membership will be 106.
- Dues cards for the 2012 chapter year have been mailed out.

Membership Dues

It is time once again to pay your dues for the coming year if you haven't paid already. Dues for 2012 are \$63. Make your check out to Tennessee Valley Chapter, SAR and send it to our Treasurer at:

Robert Hammond
Tennessee Valley Treasurer
1111 Somerset Circle
Huntsville, AL 35803

Bob Baccus and Bob Hammond receive approved Supplemental Applications from President Connie Cook





Top Row left to right: Sgt Jarrod Harmaning of the AMC Band gave our program at the August meeting on music in the Revolutionary War. Ken Brown of the Cullman chapter gave a program at the September meeting on his ancestors' roles in the Revolutionary War. President Connie Cook presents the Liberty Medal that was awarded to David Byers at the National Congress. The Liberty Medal is awarded for being the first line sponsor on 10 new member applications. This is the first of more to come for David.

Second Row left to right: Chapter Registrar David Byers introduces State Registrar Ron Bearden. Ron and David presented a seminar on preparing SAR applications. The next picture is Ron giving his presentation. Connie Cook presents a certificate to Vice-President George Royer acknowledging that he is a George Washington Fellow. A George Washington Fellow is one who has contributed \$1000 to the George Washington Endowment Fund. The George Washington Endowment fund is used to fund under-funded programs of the SAR.

Chapter Picnic 2011



Our chapter picnic was held at the home of Pat and Connie Cook on Friday, September 23rd. Members and guests of the Tennessee Valley Chapter were treated to an outstanding event!

*Alabama Society Member Instrumental in the Development of
Elementary School Medical Clinic.*

When the students at Madison Crossroads Elementary School returned to school this year, they were pleasantly surprised to find a new addition to their school. They discovered that they had a new clinic that provides medical services to the students. "We're very excited about having the new medical health facility at our school," said Mrs. Mitzi Dennis, Principal of Madison County Crossroads Elementary School. She said they have a number of students who are enrolled in the state insurance program and do not have a personal primary care physician. The clinic will provide them with a physician. The new health facility will make wellness care available on campus and eliminate the need for students to miss school because of having to travel to town to get medical care. Also, having the clinic will ease the minds of the students about medical care and provide an opportunity for them to become better students. It is the policy of Madison Crossroads Elementary School to strive to educate parents on the significance of healthcare for the students, and this facility will provide just the opportunity needed to familiarize the parents with the necessity of providing medical attention for their children. The clinic also provides an opportunity for the parents to locate an insurance company and obtain health insurance for the family.

The clinic was made possible through cooperation of the Lighthouse Baptist Church and the Huntsville Establishments at Local Schools (HEALS) organization, along with the assistance of many volunteer workers. The Lighthouse Baptist Church, which leases the house from the Madison Crossroads Elementary School, made it available so that the clinic could be built. Rev. Randy Watts, Pastor of the Lighthouse Baptist Church, said, "This gives us the opportunity for a new outreach ministry into the community and to meet a very important need that has existed for some time. Mr. Hoyt Smith has been the instrument that made this project possible.

Hoyt Smith became involved in the project when Lighthouse Pastor Watts mentioned the need for a clinic at the school during church service last year. The next day he and his wife stopped by the pastor's office to get more information about it. After finding out the details, Mrs. Smith said, "This is just the job for Hoyt."

The HEALS, Inc., is a local organization that has provided free medical and dental care to Huntsville school-aged children and their siblings for the past 12 years. All the medical and dental



The Madison Crossroads Medical Clinic extends from the doorway between the two brick sections to the end of the house. This was once the carport of the residence. The Huntsville Assistance Program (HAP) occupies the other part of the building.



Hoyt Smith turns the keys to the clinic over to nurse Janice Powers



Hoyt Smith with receptionist Anne Spalding and nurse Janice Powers in the receptionist area and waiting room

reception and waiting area, patient assignment desk, an interview room, three examination rooms, and a doctor's office. During school hours, there will be a receptionist and a nurse practitioner on duty. A volunteer medical doctor will visit the clinic one day per week.

Future plans for the medical facility include a dental clinic. The dental clinic will be located in a trailer behind the clinic. Hoyt Smith plans to take an active role in this endeavor, too.

Mr. Smith, a retired employee of the 3M Company and U. S. Navy veteran, is a member of the Tennessee Valley Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, Tennessee General Society War of 1812, First



Hoyt Smith standing in the Korean War Memorial on Interstate I-65 near Ardmore Alabama

services are provided by local doctors, dentists, and nurses who volunteer their time. The new clinic at the Madison Crossroads Elementary School is the fifth clinic in the area. Ms. Connie Kearns, Executive Director of the HEALS, Inc. said, " The school was in desperate need of the clinic. There are many at risk students from low income families that need this type of healthcare. Mr. Hoyt Smith put in hundreds of hours working on the facility. He is an excellent worker, and he is very precise in his workmanship. He and two other people pretty much did it all."

Primarily, Mr. Smith and his family of Toney, Alabama, were responsible for most of the planning, design, supervision, coordination, and construction of the Madison Crossroads Elementary School medical clinic. They started with a carport of what was once part of the house. After almost a year of construction work, the clinic was completed.

It consisted of a



Pediatrician Dr. Danny Cartwright, one of the volunteer physicians, checks a young patient during school hours at the new clinic

Families of Tennessee, Alabama Division of the Sons of Confederate

Veterans, and American Legion Post Number 49. He is past National Trustee, Alabama State President, and President of the Tennessee Valley Chapter Sons of the American Revolution. In addition to the clinic project, Mr. Smith participated in a three year program to place a Korean War Memorial monument for Alabama Veterans on Interstate I-65 near Athens, Alabama. The \$150,000 project consisted of four separate structures which include the names and home counties of 757 Alabama Veterans who made the supreme sacrifice during the Korean War. For this project, Mr. Smith was Chairman of the Construction Committee.

*Welcome New Members!
The Tennessee Valley Chapter Continues to Grow*



At the August meeting President Cook welcomes new members (left to right), Pete Stillson, Alex Black, and Bill Burlison



At the September meeting President Cook welcomes new members (right to left), Justin Henderson, Jeff Rich, and Steve McCurry



Jim Maples
1501 Elmwood Dr.
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TO: