

The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution—February/March 2014



President's Message

This will be my last President's Message. New officers will be installed at the Chapter's annual banquet on March 7, 2014. It is hard to believe that this year is coming to an end. It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as your President. I would like to express a heartfelt thanks to all of my officers and Program Chairmen this year. Without their help and support, this year would not have been so successful. The Chapter has continued to prosper and is in great shape thanks to all of you. We have continued to grow. When the year started we had 151 members and now we have 180, even after losing 25 to normal attrition. We have several more potential members awaiting final approval and even more applications in work.

Our Color Guard participated in three Grave Markings this year. The first was at Rock Springs in Mt. Hope and honored five Revolutionary War soldiers buried in the Rock Springs Presbyterian Church cemetery. The soldiers are William Lackey, private, Virginia and South Carolina Continental Line, Abraham Horton, private, Pennsylvania Continental line, Samuel McGaughey, Captain, North Carolina Militia, John McWhorter, private, North Carolina Militia and Hugh Stephenson, who fought alongside his father at the battle of Kings Mountain at age 15. The second was at Pinson, Alabama in support of the Birmingham Chapter and honored Rev. Soldier Edward Tatum. The last was an 1812 Grave Marking in Maple Hill Cemetery and honored Dr. David Moore, Personal Physician to Gen. Andrew Jackson. In addition to these activities the Color Guard participated in several other activities throughout the year.

For the first time ever, we entered a float in the Veterans Day Parade Nov 11, 2013. Washington successfully crossed the Delaware! A good time was had by all participants and we received a lot of applause and great comments on our float. We also continued our long tradition of placing wreaths on the graves of several Revolutionary Soldiers. Graves so marked included the graves of Lewellen Jones, 1st Continental Light Dragoons, Peter Efford Bentley, Virginia Militia, John Ward, North Carolina Militia, Albert Russel, 12th Virginia Regiment, and Francis Eppes Harris, Virginia Militia.

At our December meeting we awarded Heroism and Commendation medals and certificates to local First Responders. Medals were presented to representatives from Huntsville Police Department, Madison County Sheriff's Office and Huntsville Fire Department.

Thanks to the hard work of our Youth Program Chairmen, our youth programs had a very successful year. We awarded three winners in the Youth Poster contest, a first time program winner in the new Americanism Tri-Fold Brochure Contest for Middle School, a winner in the Orations Contest and an Outstanding JROTC Cadet of the year. Speaking of which, we had a first for the Tennessee Valley Chapter and for Alabama as our 2013 Outstanding JROTC Cadet Victoria Offei-Dua won National Honors.

I wish to thank all of the Tennessee Valley Compatriots whose hard work has contributed so much to this year's success. I also wish to thank all of the Chapter members for your support, help and kind words during my tenure. I know that with your continued support the 2014 - 2015 year will be an even greater success.

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Meeting Schedule

10 February 2014
11:00am Regular Meeting
Huntsville Public Library
Main Meeting Room

7 March 2014
6:00pm
Valley Hill Country Club
Annual Chapter Banquet



Vice-President Bob Doherty presents a Certificate of Appreciation to our December speaker, John Allison. John is the Archivist for Morgan County.

Secretary's Report - December Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Anderson at 11:00 a.m. in the auditorium of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library. Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag and the pledge to the SAR, the prayer of invocation was given by compatriot chaplain Conrad Cook. Thirty-five members signed the attendance roster and 23 persons signed the guest roster. Reading of the minutes of the November 18 chapter meeting was dispensed with by voice vote of the membership.

Acts of heroism and public service by local law enforcement and fire fighting personnel were acknowledged by presentations to the following persons:

- Jerry Carter was presented with the Fire Safety Commendation Award in acknowledgement of 40 years as a fire fighter
- Jake Church, a SWAT team member, was presented with the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal for his performance in a volatile situation with a sniper concealed in a house
- Bryon Thompson was presented with the Medal for Heroism for pulling an incapacitated driver from his burning car.

Guests were recognized and introduced to the chapter membership.

Program speaker for the meeting was John Allison, Morgan County archivist, who was introduced by Vice President Bob Doherty. Through his primary job responsibility of managing records of Morgan County he accumulated knowledge pertaining to the American Revolution. Thirty-three Revolutionary War veterans are recorded as being buried in Morgan County but only six gravesites are known today. Morgan County was established from Cherokee lands in 1818 and originally named after an Indian named Cotaco. In 1821 it was renamed Morgan County, probably in honor of Revolutionary War General Daniel Morgan. Notable Morgan County war veterans include John Minosee who moved to the area in 1818, whose grave site is west of Decatur, and who helped create the short lived US State of Franklin in what is now East Tennessee; John Lacy who served in the Second North Carolina Regiment and whom Lacey's Spring is named after although misspelled; Robert Barkley a South Carolina private who died in Morgan County in 1848; and General Jesse Winston Garth, a War of 1812 veteran and who was at one time the largest slave owner in the county. At the conclusion of his program John Allison was given a certificate of appreciation.

Compatriot Connie Cook prefaced his history quiz session with a narrative about the extreme hardships Revolutionary War soldiers endured while marching to spend the winter at Valley Forge. On December 4, 1777 of the 11,000 soldiers

who began their slow eight-day march from White Marsh to Valley Forge only one in four had shoes. The history quiz subject was about the early settlement in Alabama. The first European visitors to the area were Spanish explorers in 1539 who were led by Desoto. The first attempted settlement was at Dauphin Island at the entrance to Mobile Bay. It was called the Isle of Skulls because of the large amount of human bones found by the settlers before they abandoned their settlement effort.

General information presented:

- Treasurer Brian House reported that to date 50 members had not submitted dues for 2014
- Registrar Bob Baccus reported that charges for submitting supplemental membership certifications may be increased from \$60 to \$100
- The recent death of chapter member Frank Ornburn was announced

The program for next month will include a presentation about the 1781 Gulf Coast Campaign. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. with the SAR Recessional led by Bob Baccus and a Benediction given by Connie Cook.

Frank Vinz, Secretary

Secretary's Report - January Meeting

President Bob Anderson called the monthly meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. in the auditorium of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library. Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag and the pledge to the SAR, the prayer of invocation was given by Chaplain Connie Cook. Thirty-eight members signed the attendance roster and thirty persons signed the guest roster.

The following new members were sworn into SAR membership by Bob Anderson and then presented with the SAR lapel rosette by Registrar Bob Baccus:

- Thomas Miles Jones
- Hiram Richard Chapman

Reading of the minutes of the December 9 monthly chapter meeting was dispensed with by voice vote of the members.

Kylie Jane Ledesma, a Grisson High School student and Rumbaugh Oration contestant, gave her oration composition to the audience for the first time in preparation for the state-wide competition. A certificate and check was presented to Kylie by Compatriot David Byers, chairman of the oration contest. She was then presented with a Chapter Orations Medal by Compatriot Bob Anderson.

The subject selected for the fifth grade poster contest this year was Francis Marion – The Swamp Fox. Compatriot Hal Thornton was the chairman of the contest. The following students were winners and were presented with SAR certificates

for Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest, a copy of the Declaration of Independence, a SAR Good Citizenship Medal, and a check:

- 3rd Place – Andrew Orames
- 2nd Place – Sophie Batchelor – Providence School
- 1st Place – Mary Beth Gentle – Hartselle Intermediate School. Her supporting teacher for the poster contest, Jonathan Bragwell, was also presented with a check.

An adjunct to the elementary school poster contest was created for middle school students and the first year of this competition resulted in an award to Hannah Hembree from the Academy for Academics and Arts (AAA). Hannah received a SAR certificate for the Americanism Middle School Brochure Contest, a Good Citizenship Medal, a copy of the Declaration of Independence, and a check. The Principal of AAA, Ms. Ann Jobe, was in attendance and was presented a check for Mr. Gary Leopold, teacher of the winning student, for his support of and the achievement of the winning student.

Eagle Scout Lowell Crook was presented with a SAR Certificate of Recognition for the Eagle Scout Scholarship Program, a copy of the Declaration of Independence, a Good Citizenship medal, and a check. His parents and scoutmaster were introduced and photographed with him.

Junior ROTC 1st Lt. Sarah Rose Stough from Huntsville High School was presented with the SAR Outstanding ROTC Cadet Certificate, JROTC Medal, and a check. Her SMI, USAF Lt. Col. Dave Murphy from the Huntsville High School ROTC program and the Huntsville High School principal, Mr. Mark Mincher, were also in attendance in support of their outstanding student.

Vice President Bob Doherty introduced Dr. Bob English as the guest speaker. Dr. English has authored two books and numerous articles on American History and is the current vice president of the Muscle Shoals SAR chapter. Subject of his presentation was Bernardo de Galvez and the Anglo-Spanish War, 1778-1783. He declared that at one time during the American Revolution there were more Americans that were loyal to the English throne than those opposing English rule of the colonies. In addition to the 13 colonies of the revolution, the English colonies included East Florida with its capital at St. Augustine, West Florida with its capital in Pensacola, Newfoundland, Upper Canada, and Lower Canada. Galvez was the Spanish governor of the Louisiana territory, and before Spain entered into war with England, he provided military supplies to General George Washington. He raised an army in New Orleans that eventually drove the British out of the Gulf of Mexico. In contrast to the English commander's treatment of their American loyalist militia, Galvez treated his multinational soldiers with respect and provided them with outstanding uniforms and equipment. Galvez commanded an army of over 7,000 black and white soldiers from Cuba, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Spain that captured Pensacola from British forces just

months before the final American battle at Yorktown. The Texas city of Galveston is named in honor of Bernardo de Galvez. At the completion of his program, Dr. English was presented with a SAR Certification of Appreciation.

The following general announcements were made by President Bob Anderson:

- Election of chapter officers will be made at the February 10 chapter monthly meeting.
- The annual Alabama State SAR convention will be held February 14 and 15 in Dothan.
- The chapter annual banquet will be held March 7 at Valley Hill Country Club.

Following the SAR Recessional led by Bob Anderson and the Benediction given by Connie Cook, the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Frank Vinz, Secretary

Upcoming Events

10 February 2014 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Huntsville Public Library.

14 - 15 February 2014 - ALSSAR State Convention - Dothan

28 February - 1 March - NSSAR Leadership Meeting - Louisville

7 March 2014 - Annual Banquet, 6:00pm, Valley Hill Country Club



Vice-President Bob Doherty presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Bob England, our January speaker

Treasurer's Report

January - December 2013

Income	
Annual Banquet Income	1,785.00
Corp Contributions - Youth Programs	500.00
Individual Youth Prog Contributions	125.00
Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	15.93
Annual Dues	2,790.00
New Member Application Fee	1,350.00
SAR AL State Medal	<u>360.00</u>
Total Income	6,925.93
Expense	
Awards and Grants	
Essay Contest Award	1,647.00
JROTC Cash Award	1,751.62
Poster Contest	502.44
Accounting Fees	27.28
Facilities (Summer Social/Other)	335.00
Medals and Awards	1,582.41
Operations	
Postage	134.80
Supplies/Printing	1,489.98
Other Expenses	
Library Memorial Expense	50.00
Membership and Dues	20.00
Travel and Meetings	
Conference, Convention, Meeting	1,655.48
Travel	50.00
Total Expense	<u>9,246.01</u>
Net Ordinary Income	-2,320.08
Net Income	-2,320.08

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Endeavor Money Market	10,035.91
RFCU Business Checking Account	<u>2,565.01</u>
Total Checking/Savings	12,600.92
Accounts Receivable	<u>509.00</u>
Total Current Assets	13,109.92
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities (National/State Dues Payable)	425.00
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	15,005.00
Net Income	<u>-2,320.08</u>
Total Equity	12,684.92
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	13,109.92

Brian House, Treasurer

Compatriot Bob Baccus plays *Taps* at the Wreaths Across America ceremony held on December 14th at Valhalla.



Award Chairman George Royer presents the Fire Safety Commendation Medal and Certificate to Fireman Jerry Carter.



Awards Chairman George Royer presents the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal and Certificate to Deputy Jake Church of the Madison County Sheriff's Department.

Awards Chairman George Royer presents the Heroism Medal and Certificate to Officer Byron Thompson of the Huntsville Police Department.



An annual event of the Tennessee Valley Chapter is to present signed Christmas Cards to the 150 residents of Tutt Fan Veterans Home. After our December meeting a group of us went to Tutt Fann and presented the cards to Compatriot Dewey Lusk. Dewey is a member of the Tennessee Valley Chapter and a resident of Tutt Fann. From left to right, Spike Field, George Royer, Dewey Lusk, Bob Doherty, Bob Anderson, Connie Cook and Jim Maples.

New Members - January *Welcome new members!*



Above, our Eagle Scout winner Lowell Crook is shown with his family and his Scoutmaster along with President Anderson. At the right President Anderson presents our JROTC winner Sarah Strough with her medal. Sarah also won at the State level so our chapter has another JROTC Cadet competing at National!



Our Poster Contest winner Mary Beth Gentle is shown with her parents along with President Anderson and Poster Chairman Hal Thornton.



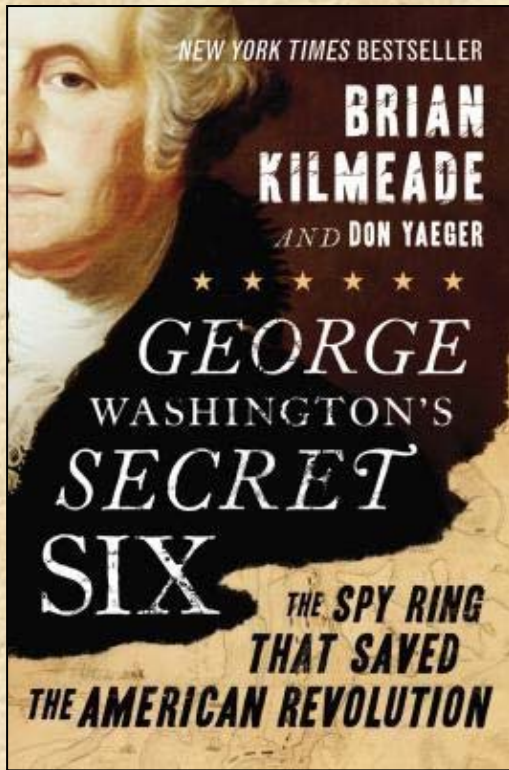
Our Tri-Fold Brochure winner Hannah Hembree is shown with the Principal of her school, Ann Jobe and President Anderson.



President Anderson presents our Orations winner Kylie Ledesma with her medal.

Chapter Banquet

Our annual chapter banquet will be held on Friday, March 7th, 6:00pm at Valley Hill Country Club. A registration form will be available at the next meeting and is available at our website at www.SAR1776.com. Our guest speaker will be Johnny Curry from The American Villiage. This serves as our March meeting.



George Washington's Secret Six

I recently read this book about George Washington's spy ring written by Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger. I highly recommend it as a very interesting read on a subject about which most of us know very little. Washington knew that he couldn't beat the British with military might so he recruited a secret intelligence network to infiltrate New York known as the Culper Spy Ring. Washington picked Major Benjamin Tallmadge as his spymaster in 1778. Tallmadge convinced a New York merchant and a former neighbor of his, Abraham Woodhull, to become a spy. Woodhull became Samuel Culper. A few months later Robert Townsend would join the ring and become Samuel Culper, Jr., with Woodhull then becoming Culper, Sr. Others in the spy ring were Austin Roe, a tavern keeper; Caleb Brewster, a longshoreman; James Rivington, owner of a coffeehouse and print shop; and a female known only as Agent 355. The identity of Agent 355 has never been discovered (some scholars believe that she may have been killed), and the identity of Robert Townsend would not be discovered until 1929. This group provided invaluable information to George Washington such as uncovering the Benedict Arnold plot, however Washington would never meet any of the "Secret Six" or know of their identity. Don't miss this Revolutionary War spy novel!



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TO: