

January 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Sons of the American Revolution

Tennessee Valley Chapter

The January 13th, 2020 Chapter meeting was called to order by **President Jim Griffith** at 11:00 a.m. at the auditorium of the Huntsville-Madison County Library. Jim began the meeting by asking everyone to please silence their cell phones. **Chaplain James Henderson** opened the meeting with prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Vice-President Ray Livingston**, followed by the SAR Pledge.

Forty-one (41) members and thirty (30) guests were present for today's meeting.

President Griffith indicated that he would like to recognize any first time guests or visitors that may be in attendance. Please stand and introduce yourself: Jeanie Upton, Belinda Kennedy, Michele and Michael Kinney, Mark Icenagle, Kelly Cimino and Kathy Bond all stood and were recognized.

President Griffith also recognized, Joel Mize and Bob England from our Shoals Chapter. Joel noted that he has copies of his new book (\$20 dollars/ea.). He will be returning to the Library next week providing an overview and signing of his new book.

President Griffith started activities today by asking Belinda Melson-Kennedy to come up front. Belinda was presented a Resolution and a certificate of Appreciation for the many things she has done with the Alabama Flag and Banner Company, especially the 23-Star flag that she provided to us for the dedication at the Constitution Hall Park Ceremony. She also provided the three flags at American Village.

President Griffith then asked Randal Jennings to come up and make the next presentation. Randal asked Darren Crowden to come up front and receive a Certificate of Accommodation for his Flag display.

Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historic Oration Contest:

President Griffith asked our Oration Chairman, James Alexander to go over the rules for the contest. James announced that the Oration will be presented by each speaker without the use of notes or props. Penalty points will come into play only if the official timer and /or official prompter indicates the contestant spoke less than 5-minutes, more than 6-minutes and/or seriously deviated from the prepared manuscript. Bob Anderson was assigned as the official timer and Richard Tingle was assigned as the official prompter. The Judges were Mac Moon, Benny Hannah, and Bob Anderson with Bob

Baccus as the Chief Judge. There were four contestants competing for the award. The results were announced at the meeting but will not be announced to the public till after the State Competition.

President Griffith presented each with a check from the TVCSAR Chapter. Pictures were taken by Jim Maples for our Chapter Newsletter.

Teachers, Kelly Cimino and Kathy Bond were presented "Certificates of Commendations" for encouraging students to participate in the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historic Oration Contest.

President Griffith next asked Ray Cassell to come up front. Ray was just approved to receive his next Supplemental Ancestor Certificate for his newest Patriot-Robert Gresham.

Induction Ceremony

President Jim Griffith asked our new chapter inductees to come up front: President Griffith administered the SAR Oath to the following new approved chapter members:

- **Dennis Langham-Patriot Ancestor; James McCarter**
- **Sam Upton- Patriot Ancestor; George Washington Upton**

President Griffith asked Charles McMurry to come up front and present the new inductees with the SAR Rosettes. Pictures were taken by Jim Maples.

Introduction of Today's Program:

Vice President Ray Livingston approached the front and made the following introduction: Perry Scalfano

Perry attended American University in Washington, D.C for 3 years of a BA Program in History, with a focus on Political Movements, but has put his formal education on hold to pursue his career in theatre. Perry has been a guest lecturer on topics including History, Literature, and Drama at the Randolph School, his alma mater, and was a Shakespeare Interpreter employed at the school in the Fall of 2018. Perry has been a Teaching Artist at the Shakespeare Theatre Company and a Scholar-Artist at the Folger Shakespeare Library, both in DC. Perry was also a Remote Research Assistant and Topic Reviewer for the Pleiades Project at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at NYU for 3 years. A lifelong history fanatic, Perry spends his free time writing and researching alternative histories. A Tennessee Valley Native, Perry is a proud patriot, and proud of his Patriot Ancestors, as well as his patriot father, who invited him into the SAR. He is currently an actor and singer in the Birmingham.

Perry is a history teacher and his topic is "Colonel Tye and John Kizell: The Black Loyalist Experience." He began his lecture by saying that we don't talk much about this experience, but when we do it is mostly confusing and about people pursuing freedom. What I want to express today is what the Black Experience was and why they sided with the British during the war. Perry breaks into two basic narratives contrasting experiences of Colonial Tye and John Kizell.

Perry first wanted to get some numbers out of the way first. The difference in numbers of slaves in the States during the American Revolution versus the Civil War was striking. During the Revolution there were only about 520,000 slaves in the 13 Colonies versus millions during the Civil War. During the Revolutionary War period, the number of free slaves was very small. The breakdown was about 20,000 for the Loyalist and only about 9,000 for the Patriots. The Loyalist offered Freedom and institutional security. They also did not trust the word of the patriots, they were their masters and they had no reason to believe that the patriots would follow thru with their word. The British had a much more advanced legal system and the British had the largest Army on the planet at that time. By joining the Loyalist, it also provided a means of retribution against their former masters. While the Continentals were at first reluctant to enlist African Americans into the rebel army, the British had no such compunctions. The Dunmore Proclamation of 1775, named for the governor of Virginia, the Earl of Dunmore, promised freedom to any slave that volunteered to serve the King. Within a month of the issuing the decree, as many as 800 slaves joined the Tories from Virginia alone. Tens of thousands more would follow from other colonies, draining Georgia, Virginia and the Carolinas of much of their slave populations and crippling the southern economies. Historians have pointed out that the policy was in fact the first widespread emancipation of slaves in American history.

While the bulk of runaways would serve in pioneer or engineering units, the British army also raised fighting regiments from these loyal refugees. One was called the Ethiopian Regiment. Officered by whites, the 300-man outfit was given rudimentary training and thrown into battle between 1775 and 1776.

The Ethiopians saw action for the first time at the Battle of Kemp's Landing in Virginia in late 1775 where it scattered a larger force of Patriot militia. Nine rebels were killed, while only one of the former slaves was wounded. Within days, the regiment would take part in the disastrous Battle of Great Bridge near Norfolk, where a dozen of black soldiers as well as more than 50 British regulars were cut down by rebel sharpshooters. The unit would serve into 1776, after which point it was disbanded and its members sent to other units.

A core of veterans from the regiment formed the nucleus of an elite force of former slaves known as the Black Brigade. The group was characterized by later historians as a sort of 'commando unit' that specialized in guerrilla-style warfare. It was led by a runaway by the name of Tye. Although British regulations barred non-whites commissions, the band's unlikely commander would earn an honorary rank of colonel. Tye was wounded in action in 1780 and died later from his injuries.

By contrast, John Kizell was long believed by historians to be Sherbro, born to a chief on what was later called Sherbro Island, in what is now Bonthe District, Southern Province, Sierra Leone. Kevin Lowther has proposed that Kizell may have been Bom or Krim, other peoples who lived on the islands and in this area near the Sierra Leone coast.^[2] As a child, Kizell (as named in North America) was captured and sold into slavery, taken during a visit to see his uncle, a chief who lived nearby.

Surviving the Middle Passage, the boy was sold again after his ship reached Charleston, South Carolina, which had a major slave market. He was named John. The city was the center of a major area of cultivation of rice and long-staple cotton, two commodity crops that were labor intensive and created a high demand for enslaved labor.

In 1779 during the American Revolutionary War, John learned of the Philipsburg Proclamation by British General Henry Clinton, who offered freedom to slaves of rebels who escaped to British lines. He had taken the surname Kizell and escaped during the Siege of Charleston, when the British and allies surrounded the city. He joined the British forces.

After the war, the British kept their promise of freedom. Kizell was among nearly 3,000 Black Loyalists who were evacuated and resettled in Nova Scotia, along with white Loyalists. The Crown had promised them land in the new colony. Implementation of such plans was slow, and the immigrants suffered from the harsh climate, limited supplies and, for the blacks, discrimination by present and former slaveholders.

A short time passed before they were offered another choice. The British were developing a new colony in West Africa for resettling the freed slaves they had evacuated, including some Black Poor from London. Most were former enslaved African Americans from the United States. The British offered the Black Loyalists a chance for their own colony.

Along with 1,200 African-American Black Loyalists, Kizell joined the expedition to Freetown on the coast. The Sierra Leone Company was a quasi-business that managed the development of the new settlement. Kizell helped establish Settler Town, Sierra Leone, the first area developed as part of what is now Freetown.

Kizell ran a trading post on his native Sherbro land, a kind of outpost colony of Freetown. It was called Kizzelltown, He also served as an intermediary between British officials and inhabitants of Sherbro Island. They included Afro-Europeans, or Atlantic Creoles, such as the Caulkers and Clevelands, who were descendants of early white British slave traders and Sherbro women. Kizell became a prosperous trader and a Baptist preacher who established a church on Sherbro Island.

Perry took a couple of questions after the lecture. Vice President, Ray Livingston presented Perry with a certificate of Appreciation and an Eagle head for his presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

Last month's meeting Notes were posted on the website two weeks prior to today's meeting. If there are no objections or comments, the minutes stand approved as posted. No additional comments were made, minutes are approved.

Officers Report:

President-Jim Griffith

- Public Relations Initiatives
 - February 17th – Big, big day at the American Village. Please attend as we will be dedicating our tree on that day!

- Please use our Speaker's Bureau and our Patriot's Chest. Patriot Chest is about to be expanded.
- Signup Sheet has been passed around for the Spring Banquet. Please sign up!
- President's Day "Moment's in History" will be recorded in the next few weeks and broadcast on WLRH on February 17th.
- Amazon Smile, please sign up and help the Chapter.
- We need someone who is a member of the Huntsville Country Club.
- The Color Guard continues to be a very active part of our Chapter. Please consider volunteering.
- Annual Spring Banquet – March 20, 2020 at the Huntsville Country Club. Cost is \$40.00 per person. Please sign up starting today. Forms are in back of the room.
- Nominating Committee has been active and included: Mac Moon – Chair, Bob Baccus, David Byers, and Jim Griffith (Ex-Officio)
- Proposed slate of officers will be officially presented for consideration in February, per our By-Laws. Note that nominations from the floor are an option at the February meeting.
- Current slate that we anticipate proposing in February are as follows:
 - Ray Livingston – President
 - Benny Hannah – Vice President
 - Jim Maples – Corresponding Secretary
 - Dudley Burwell – Recording Secretary
 - Ray Cassell – Registrar
 - Bill Sommers – Genealogist
 - Randal Jennings – Treasurer
 - Jim Alexander – Historian
 - Richard Tingle – Chancellor
 - James Henderson – Chaplain
- We have been invited to attend the Civil War Roundtable presentations. Upcoming presentations are impressive and can be found at <https://tvcwrt.org/> Please take a look and attend if interested. Feb. 13th is a meeting that they would like to see a good turnout.
- Poster Judges are needed on January 27th and February 1st! Please help us judge these posters. We are anticipating around 800 entries this year!

Vice President-Ray Livingston

Next month, we will be doing the Youth Awards.

Chaplain –James Henderson

Please let him know if anyone is in the hospital. He knows that many of us have our own ministers, but he would like the opportunity to visit.

Treasurer-Randal Jennings

A graph was displayed on the overhead showing our checking account and our money market account totals. The January totals were \$9326.43 in the money market and \$19831.84 in the checking account.



Registrar-Charles McMurry

SUMMARY AS OF 09 JAN 2020

1. SAR COMPATRIOTS APPROVED / REGISTERED AWAITING INDUCTION—2
2. SAR APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AT NSSAR AWAITING REVIEW — 2
3. SAR APPLICATIONS MAILED NOT RECEIVED AT NSSAR—1
4. SAR APPLICATIONS STARTED, NOT FINALIZED —23
5. SAR PROSPECTS: AWAITING PROSPECT’S FAMILY DATA INPUT – 58
6. SAR SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS APPROVED, CERT NOT AWARDED--2
7. SAR SUPPLEMENTAL APPS RECEIVED AT NSSAR AWAITING REVIEW—3
8. SAR SUPPLEMENTAL APPS MAILED NOT RECEIVED AT NSSAR—4
9. NEW SAR MEMBERS INDUCTED AT LAST REGULAR MEETING 09-Dec 2019 - 1
10. SAR SUPPLEMENTAL CERTIFICATES AWARDED AT MEETING 09-Dec 2019 —0

Recording Secretary-**Benny Hannah**

Americanism Award is still in progress. The totals for 2018 were just over 12,500 points. This year (2019) is still working and the total points at this point are just over 16,500.

Corresponding Secretary-**Jim Maples**

Please keep in mind Bob Doherty, who is in poor health. I know he would appreciate a card or e-mail to wish him well.

Historian –**Cliff Lanham**

No Report..

Genealogist-**Warren Adams**

No Report..

Committee Report: (none)

Randal Jennings sent out invitations to upcoming Color Guard activities. He needs a response from members, especially for the February events. He needs to let the State Color Guard Commander know what kind of support he can expect from our chapter.

Upcoming Activities:

Feb 8, 2020- Alabama Society Colonial Dames State Meeting
Feb 17, 2020- TVCSAR Tree Dedication at American Village.
Feb 22, 2020- ALSSAR Annual Business Meeting Hoover, AL.
Mar 6, 2020- ALDAR State Convention Auburn, AL.
April 18, 2020- Folk Life Festival @Early Works (Tentative)
April 25,2020- Folk Life Festival @Early Works (Tentative)
May 9, 2020- Blue Star Memorial @ US Veterans Museum in HSV.
July 3, 2020 – Fourth of July Baseball Game in Madison, AL.

President Griffith made the following closing comments:

- Thank you to Jim Alexander for your focus on the Oration Contest!
- Thank you greeters (Charles Gattis and J.P. Johnson)
- Thank you to all of our visitors for joining us today
- Thank you Ladies Auxiliary for your undying support!
- Yearly Banquet will be on March 20th at the Huntsville Country Club

We look forward to seeing everyone on February 10th at our next meeting!

President Jim Griffith asked the group to stand for the dismissal prayer by James Henderson. Jim then led the group in the SAR Recessional.

President Griffith adjourned the meeting at 12:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Benny Hannah, Recording Secretary
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