

October 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Sons of the American Revolution

Tennessee Valley Chapter

The October 14th, 2019 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** was absent so President Griffith asked **Bob Baccus** to open the meeting with prayer.

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

Forty-four (44) members and twelve (12) 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: No new guest were in attendance today.

President Griffith also recognized, Julia Coberly of Early Works.

Introduction of Speaker:

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

Today's speaker is Ed Kennedy. His talk will be on the Continental Army Training. Lt Col (ret) Edwin Kennedy, Jr. served 22 years as an infantry soldier in the US Army. Enlisting during the Vietnam War, he attended and was commissioned from the Military Academy at West Point. He taught graduate courses at the US Army's Command and General Staff College for nineteen years in three separate departments. Before retiring from active duty in 1997, he taught military history then returned to teach operations and tactics and finally, leadership. He still takes military units and leaders to battlefields such as Chickamauga frequently to study leadership, tactics, and logistics and is a frequent speaker to veterans, civic and historical groups.

Ed started off by thanking the group for inviting him back. It has been 4-years to the month that he was here last. Ed said that he would also like to thank Bob Anderson for recommending that he buy the book: "Life of General Morgan". It was a very expensive book but he was able to locate a reprint of the book by an India Book company for only \$30 dollars. He noted that it was a great book.

Military tactics during the Revolutionary War , please hold any questions to the end. How did we do this? Taking on the mightiest army in the world. We were not even a country when we started the war.

Here are some of the things that we are going to consider: how do you maintain a level of uniformity on the battlefield. Several factors are involved. Number one is getting soldiers to the right place quickly. Next, set up in a line – The object is to spread a volume of lead at your enemy quickly. Another major concern is dealing with untrained men and having them perform under fire and under stress while being shot at. How do you get them to fire quickly, it's not simple and not standardized. A big issue was getting them to hold their ground while they were being charged with bayonets.

Overall we had 13 colonies with 15 different systems, while the British had their own system. In January 1766, Timothy Pickering was commissioned a lieutenant in the Essex County militia. He was promoted to captain three years later. In 1769, he published his ideas on drilling soldiers in the Essex Gazette. These were published in 1775 as "An Easy Plan for a Militia."^[5] The manual was used as the Continental Army drill book until replaced by [Baron von Steuben's](#) Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States. The Count, fully realizing the potential of an officer with Prussian general staff training, introduced him to [Benjamin Franklin](#). Franklin, however, was unable to offer Steuben a rank or pay in the American army. The [Continental Congress](#) had grown tired of foreign [mercenaries coming to America](#) and demanding a high rank and pay. Promoting these men over qualified American officers caused discontent in the ranks. Von Steuben would have to go to America strictly as a volunteer, and present himself to Congress. Upon the Count's recommendation, Steuben was introduced to future president [George Washington](#) by means of a letter from Franklin as a "[Lieutenant General](#) in the King of Prussia's service", an exaggeration of his actual credentials that appears to be based on a mistranslation of his service record. He was advanced travel funds and left Europe from [Marseilles](#) on Friday, September 26, 1777, on board the frigate *Flamand*.^[8]

Steuben picked 120 men from various regiments to form an [honor guard](#) for General Washington, and used them to demonstrate military training to the rest of the troops.^[9] These men in turn trained other personnel at regimental and brigade levels. Steuben's eccentric personality greatly enhanced his mystique. In full military dress uniform, he twice a day trained the soldiers who, at this point, were themselves greatly lacking in proper clothing.^[14]

As he could only speak and write a small amount of English, Steuben originally wrote the drills in [German](#), the military language of Europe at the time. His secretary, Du Ponceau, then translated the drills from German into French, and a secretary for Washington translated it to English. They did this every single night so Washington could command his soldiers in the morning. Colonel [Alexander Hamilton](#) and General [Nathanael Greene](#) were of great help in assisting Steuben in drafting a training program for the Army. The Baron's willingness and ability to work with the men, as well as his use of profanity (in several different languages), made him popular among the soldiers.

Steuben introduced a system of progressive training, beginning with the school of the soldier, with and without arms, and going through the school of the regiment. This corrected the previous policy of simply assigning personnel to regiments. Each company commander was made responsible for the training of new men, but actual instruction was done by sergeants specifically selected for being the best obtainable.

In the earlier part of the war, the U.S. used the [bayonet](#) mostly as a cooking skewer or tool rather than as a fighting instrument.^[9] Steuben's introduction of effective bayonet charges became crucial. In

the [Battle of Stony Point](#), U.S. soldiers attacked with unloaded muskets and won the battle solely on Steuben's bayonet training.

The first results of Steuben's training were in evidence at the [Battle of Barren Hill](#), May 20, 1778, and then again at the [Battle of Monmouth](#) in June 1778. Steuben, by then serving in Washington's headquarters, was the first to determine that the enemy was heading for Monmouth.

During the winter of 1778–1779, Steuben prepared [Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States](#), commonly known as the "Blue Book".^{[16][17]} Its basis was the training plan he had devised at [Valley Forge](#).^[18] It was used by the United States Army until 1814,^[6] and affected U.S. drills and tactics until the [Mexican–American War](#) of 1846.^[13]

Stuben became a real hero to the US Army and had a lasting impact on the US Military. Ed finished his lecture by answering several questions from the attendees. After questions, Ray Livingston came up and presented Ed with an American Eagle desk piece and a Certificate of Appreciation. Pictures were taken by Jim Maples.

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:

- **Perry Lee Scalfano**, Patriot Ancestor- Solomon Lee
- **Jason Paul Scalfano**, Patriot Ancestor- Solomon Lee (His Father Frank Scalfano stood in and received his certificate)
- **Roger Harold Whitesides**, Patriot-Frederick Hambright

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

President Griffith spoke to the new members; we appreciate your interest in this organization. The Tennessee Valley Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution is a growing, dynamic organization that is active in our community. There are a lot of activities that we do, there is a heavy schedule of Color Guard activities. You can see that this is an active organization. We are happy that you are here today and encourage you to volunteer in activities that match your skills. We do not know what those skills are, so please let us know. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to ask a member or an officer.

I would like to stop now and thank Charles McMurry for all his effort. He has done this for our organization a long, long time. This organization is successful because of all work that was done by its members. So, Charles, thank you again.

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

BOO Meeting – Actions and Approvals;

Many thanks to Jess Brown for getting several of the following opportunities set up for our group!

American Village Tree Planting has been basically approved; we are just waiting on feedback from Tom and American Village. There will be a tree planted and a plaque from our chapter.

Constitution Hall Park Flag, we are in discussions with Constitution Hall for placement of a 23-Star Flag placed in the same room with the original Alabama Constitution, We are the 22nd State to enter the Union, but Maine came into the union so soon after that they did not have time to create a 22-Star flag.

Purchase of Patriots Chest Products: The Patriot Chest Program is an interactive presentation, intended to compliment Elementary and Middle School lesson plans on the Revolutionary War and Colonial Period of American History. Most of the cost will be provided by National. Funding was approved at the last BOO.

Library Donations as memorials is in the works to renew the program again. Additional information will be provided at our next meeting,

Membership Retainment – Dues cards are available for payment today, emails will be sent to anyone who hasn't paid by the end of this meeting, Phone calls were scheduled to be made to all unpaid members the first week of December. This date needs to be moved up now, due to the payment to state is now required by November 30th.

Amazon Smile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping Features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on Amazon Smile, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. If you shop on Amazon.com, consider using Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com). Then, identify "National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution" in Huntsville as your Charity.

If you have not received your handbook by e-mail, please let us know. You can go to your e-mail and verify your information.

Our Color Guard has many upcoming activities, check out the schedule. Go to the website and open up the Calendar and view all the activities.

TVCSAR will be on Television very soon. We have been invited to appear on WHNT for an interview with Steve Johnson.

TVCSAR will be on Public Radio on every Patriotic Holiday in the following year!!!

Please follow up with Julie if you are interested in volunteering at Early Works. Her immediate need is someone to portray Mrs. Clause.

Mugs are for sale in the back full of candy. \$10 dollars each or our special price: two for \$20 dollars.

Schedule of upcoming events:

October 20, Maple Hill Stroll, 1:30 P.M. (Chapter Event)

November 2, Saturday, Cullman Christmas Parade, (Chapter Event)

November 7, Thursday, Hunt's Spring National Defense Luncheon

November 9, Saturday, Hartselle Veterans Day Parade

November 10, Sunday, Lemuel Mead Marking

November 11, Monday, Huntsville Veterans Day Parade, (National Event)

November 13th, Wednesday SAR Monthly Meeting (Note: Alternate date due to Holiday)

November 22, Cullman Christmas Parade

December 9, Christmas time visit to Tut Fann Home.

December 12, Hartselle Christmas Parade, (Chapter Event)

December 14. Saturday, Wreaths Across America, (National Event)

Next Meeting will be on **Wednesday** November 13th at our usual location in the Library. (Different date)

Vice President-Ray Livingston

Next month's speaker will be Bill Stone; Bill is the National Society Historian General. Bill will be updating us on the new Library and Museum. He will also speak on the George Washington Foundation.

Ray asked Mike Gray to come up front. Ray then presented Mike with the National War Service Medal for his service during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Pictures were taken by Jim Maples.

Chaplain –James Henderson

Not in attendance today..

Treasurer-Randal Jennings

A graph was displayed on the overhead showing our checking account and our money market account totals. The October totals were \$9308.82 in the money market and \$6720.03 in the checking account.

Randal noted that he had received about 70% of the dues from the members attending today. He also informed the group that our State dues have now been moved up to November 30th.

Registrar-Charles McMurry

SUMMARY AS OF 11 October 2019

1. SAR COMPATRIOTS APPROVED / REGISTERED AWAITING INDUCTION—8
2. SAR APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AT NSSAR AWAITING REVIEW — 1
3. SAR APPLICATIONS MAILED NOT RECEIVED AT NSSAR—0
4. SAR APPLICATIONS STARTED, NOT FINALIZED —26
5. SAR PROSPECTS: AWAITING PROSPECT’S FAMILY DATA INPUT – 53
6. SAR SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS APPROVED, CERT NOT AWARDED--0
7. SAR SUPPLEMENTAL APPS RECEIVED AT NSSAR AWAITING REVIEW—2
8. SAR SUPPLEMENTAL APPS MAILED NOT RECEIVED AT NSSAR—0
9. NEW SAR MEMBERS INDUCTED AT LAST REGULAR MEETING 09-Sept - 1
10. SAR SUPPLEMENTAL CERTIFICATES AWARDED AT MEETING 09 Sept —0

Recording Secretary-Benny Hannah

Handbook is complete and has been e-mailed to all members by Jim Maples. Junior member’s info has been removed to keep their info confidential. Please review the e-mail and verify your personal information for accuracy.

Please remember to sign the guest register before you leave today.

Corresponding Secretary-Jim Maples

If you need nametags, make sure you have your name on the list in the back, Make sure that you put your name down as you would like to be called.

If you have an e-mail change, please let him know. We need to keep the data base updated with your info and also allows us to keep updating the handbook.

After our December meeting, remember that we plan to visit the Tut Fann Veterans Home. Remember to get your Christmas Cards ready to thank a veteran.

Historian –Cliff Lanham

Not in attendance.

Genealogist-Warren Adams

Nothing new to Report.

Committee Report:

Randal Jennings updated the chapter on the current Color Guard activities:

Recent activities included:

Wed , September 11th -- Patriot James McCrory, DAR Grave Marking, Aliceville, AL
Tue, September 17th -- Ringing of the Bells, Greater Huntsville Combined DAR, Constitution Village
Wed, September 18th -- Constitution Week, John Wade Keyes DAR, Athens State University
Sat, October 5th – Grave Marking- Peggy Rogers Hunt Spring DAR.

Upcoming Activities:

October 20, Maple Hill Stroll, 1:30 P.M. (Chapter Event)
November 2, Saturday, Cullman Christmas Parade, (Chapter Event)
November 7, Thursday, Hunt's Spring National Defense Luncheon
November 9, Saturday, Hartselle Veterans Day Parade
November 10, Sunday, Lemuel Mead Marking
November 11, Monday, Huntsville Veterans Day Parade (National Event)
November 22, Cullman Christmas Parade
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December 14. Saturday, Wreaths Across America, (National Event)

The Color Guard is still looking for new members. One of our challenges this year is to increase our numbers. Randal would like to have enough members to form two units. This would allow us to cover two events at the same time. If anyone is interested we have some extra uniforms. Please contact Randal for information.

Flag Committee- If you know of anyone who is properly displaying our Flag please let Randal know so we can recognize them with a flag certificate.

Other Committee Notes:

Mac Moon indicated that the time is here again for Public Service and Heroism awards. Mac said that several people have helped to identify people who need to be considered. We need to get the word out to the departments for accommodations. Mac has all the letters written and has requested help in personally delivering the letters. Bob Anderson has agreed to take the letters to Morgan County. In the past we have not received many responses from them. Mac has already mailed some letters to Madison County because he has confidence that they will respond. Mac has letters for Limestone County where he has never received a response. Mac also noted several other departments that have never responded.

Mac told everyone who is willing to hand deliver letters that if for some reason they could not deliver this week, they must seal up the letter and put it in the mail. It is imperative that these letters be delivered as soon as possible because they must be returned to him by the 15th of November. Mac needs to have enough time to get the citations and medals before the December meeting. Mac feels that this is one of the most important things that we do as an organization.

Randal noted that we received a streamer from National for our activity in Public Service and Heroism last year. We need to keep up the good work.

Randal updated us on the Color Guard. Randal said that he is working with two new members. His goal is to get enough guardsmen to have two complete units. Randal reminded everyone of the upcoming Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll event this weekend. Our Color Guard will kick off the event.

We will also have a float in the Veterans Day Parade. The float needs some work. Bob Anderson said that the float was at his house now. Bob plans to work on it this coming Saturday. If anyone is interested in helping, let him know and he will give you directions to his house. The float will hold up to sixteen people for the parade. Keep in mind that color Guard members in uniform have priority for seats in the float. Bob mentioned that they have some extra uniforms if someone would like to borrow.

President Griffith made the following closing comments:

- Jim said that he would like to make a special recognition for our own David Billings. David was recognized by National last year as a Minuteman. This is one of the most prestigious awards in the Nation. There are only eight in the state of Alabama. The National Society only recognizes six new Minutemen each year. Congratulations to David.
- The Oct meeting of the John Hunt CAR will be on Sunday November 1st at the main library on Monroe St. in the auditorium. Contact Jane Michel with any questions.
- Thank you greeters Mike Gray and Dan Speigelburg
- Thank you Ladies Auxiliary for your undying support. Your efforts are appreciated more than you know!

- The Tennessee Valley Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution is a growing, dynamic organization that is active in our community. We are happy that you are here today! If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to ask a member or an officer.
- And don't forget our next meeting will be: **Wednesday**- November 13th at 11 am at the library.

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

President Griffith adjourned the meeting at 12:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Benny Hannah, Recording Secretary
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