

Sept. 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Sons of the American Revolution

Tennessee Valley Chapter

The September 9th, 2019 Chapter meeting was called to order by **President Jim Griffith** at 11:00 a.m. at Constitution Hall Historic Park and Museum in downtown Huntsville (First time meeting at this location). Jim began the meeting by asking everyone to please silence their cell phones. **Chaplain James Henderson** was asked to open 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 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 :

Young Sam Upton stood and was introduced along with Karen Hillis. Other guest (excluding Ladies Auxiliary) that signed in were; James Watson Jr., Jacob Downs and Woody Williams.

President Griffith also recognized, Julia Coberly, volunteer coordinator for Early Works Family of Museums. Jim also took the time to thank Julia for hosting our meeting and her offer to provide free tours for our members after the meeting. Jim noted how nice the facilities were and how great a place to have a meeting. The Alabama Constitution Hall Park started offering guided tours on June 1st, 2019. This 90-minute tour takes our guests through our historic buildings that display Huntsville during the constitutional convention of 1819. Learn how Alabama became a state, with stories of the community, and see demonstrations of how people survived without our modern conveniences. They will be setting up Civil War displays in early October and if anyone would like to assist with the displays please contact Julia or let Jim know.

Introduction of Speaker:

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

Today's speaker is local attorney Julian Butler. Julian is Co-chairman of the Huntsville/Madison County Bicentennial Committee. Julian's topic will be "The Road to Statehood."

Julian Butler received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Alabama where he was President of the student body. He served as an assistant to U. S. Senator Lister Hill and to Congressman Carl Elliott and as law clerk to U. S. District Judge Seybourn H. Lynne.

Butler has been in the private practice of law in Huntsville since 1966. He is a partner in the state-wide law firm of Sirote & Permutt. He served as County Attorney for Madison County for 35 years and has served as President of the National Association of County Civil Attorneys. Butler has served as a Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Alabama.

Butler is listed in The Best Lawyers in America and Alabama Super Lawyers. Butler is a member of the Huntsville/ Madison County Bar Association, the Alabama State Bar and the American Bar Association. Butler is a Fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation. Butler was awarded the 2012 Community Service Award by the Madison County Bar Association.

Butler serves on the Board of Trustees of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, on the Board of Directors of the Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform Foundation, on the Board of Directors of the Alabama Humanities Foundation, and on the Board of Directors of the University of Alabama Library Leadership Board. Butler serves as a Trustee of the Eleventh Circuit Historical Society, and a member of the Council of the Alabama Law Institute. Butler was a founding member and the first Chairman of the Center for Public Law and Service at the University of Alabama. Butler was a founding member and the second Chairman of the Environmental Law Section of the Alabama State Bar. Butler served as President of The Arts Council, as Vice-President of the General Joe Wheeler Home Foundation, and as President of the Huntsville/Madison County Chapter of the University of Alabama Alumni Association. Butler twice served as Chairman of the Creek District of the Boy Scouts of America.

Active in political affairs on the local, state and national level, Butler has chaired state-wide Democratic campaigns and has served as the attorney for the Alabama Democratic Party.

Butler served as Chairman of Class V of Leadership Huntsville-Madison County. An award given to a non-Leadership graduate who has contributed significantly to the success of Leadership Huntsville-Madison County is named in Butler's honor. Butler was the first recipient of the award. Butler was a member of Class V of Leadership Alabama.

Julian and his wife, Betty, have three children and five grandchildren.

"The Road to Statehood." By Julian Butler:

The first settlers of the area were Muscogee-speaking people. The Chickasaw traditionally claim to have settled around 1300 after coming east across the Mississippi. A combination of factors, including depopulation due to disease, land disputes between the Choctaw and Cherokee, and pressures from the United States government had largely depopulated the area prior to Revolutionary War veteran John Hunt's arrival and settlement in the land around the Big Spring in 1805. The 1805 Treaty with the Chickasaws and the Cherokee Treaty of Washington of 1806 ceded native claims to the United States Government. The area was subsequently purchased by LeRoy Pope, who named the area Twickenham after the home village of his distant kinsman Alexander Pope.

Twickenham was carefully planned, with streets laid out on the northeast to southwest direction based on the Big Spring. However, due to anti-British sentiment during this period, the name was changed to 'Huntsville' to honor John Hunt, who had been forced to move to other land south of the new city.

Before [Mississippi](#)'s admission to statehood on December 10, 1817, the more sparsely settled eastern half of the territory was separated and named the [Alabama Territory](#). The [United States Congress](#) created the Alabama Territory on March 3, 1817. [St. Stephens](#), now abandoned, served as the territorial capital from 1817 to 1819.^[38]

Alabama was admitted as the 22nd state on December 14, 1819, with Congress selecting Huntsville as the site for the first Constitutional Convention. From July 5 to August 2, 1819, delegates met to prepare the new state constitution. Huntsville served as temporary capital from 1819 to 1820, when the seat of government moved to [Cahaba](#) in [Dallas County](#).^[39]

Cahaba, now a ghost town, was the first permanent state capital from 1820 to 1825.^[40] The [Alabama Fever](#) land rush was underway when the state was admitted to the Union, with settlers and land speculators pouring into the state to take advantage of fertile land suitable for cotton cultivation.^{[41][42]} Part of the frontier in the 1820s and 1830s, its constitution provided for universal suffrage for white men.^[43]

Southeastern planters and traders from the [Upper South](#) brought [slaves](#) with them as the cotton [plantations in Alabama](#) expanded. The economy of the central [Black Belt](#) (named for its dark, productive soil) was built around large cotton [plantations](#) whose owners' wealth grew mainly from slave labor.^[43] The area also drew many poor, disfranchised people who became [subsistence farmers](#). Alabama had an estimated population of under 10,000 people in 1810, but it increased to more than 300,000 people by 1830.^[41] Most Native American tribes were [completely removed](#) from the state within a few years of the passage of the [Indian Removal Act](#) by Congress in 1830.^[44]

From 1826 to 1846, [Tuscaloosa](#) served as Alabama's capital. On January 30, 1846, the Alabama legislature announced it had voted to move the capital city from Tuscaloosa to [Montgomery](#). The first legislative session in the new capital met in December 1847.^[45] A new capitol building was erected under the direction of [Stephen Decatur Button](#) of [Philadelphia](#). The first structure burned down in 1849, but was rebuilt on the same site in 1851. This second capitol building in Montgomery remains to the present day.

Induction Ceremony

President Jim Griffith asked our new chapter inductees to come up front. Perry Johnson was then asked to take the SAR Pledge. Jim then presented him with a membership certificate and asked Registrar Charles McMurry to come up front and present him with the SAR Rosettes. Pictures were taken by Jim Maples. Perry informed us that his patriot was Evan Prothro from South Carolina. Evan was a private in General Francis Marion's Brigade. Jim asked us all to welcome Perry into the group.

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 comments, minutes are approved.

Officers Report:

President-Jim Griffith

September 17th – BOO Meeting

Officers to meet and address several items including budget, membership retainment, public relations initiatives, Speakers Bureau, Patriots Chest and Library Donations.

Amazon Smile

EVER HEARD OF AMAZON SMILE?

AmazonSmile 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 AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

(What to do) If you shop on Amazon.com, consider using AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com). Then, identify “National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution” in Huntsville as your Charity.

October 5th – ALSSAR BOM Meeting at The American Village

All members are invited, please fill out registration form and return to Jim.

Regular meetings will resume at the Huntsville Public Library in October.

Please plan on attending

Handbook Distribution

The Handbook is complete and will be distributed electronically. By providing the handbook in electronic format instead of hardcopy will save the chapter \$400 to \$500 dollars. If you want a hard copy, you will be able to print out the PDF file from your computer. Jim also noted that if you do not want your personal info in the handbook, please let us know. Thanks to Benny Hannah for his effort on this project.

Schedule of upcoming events:

September 17th – Board of Officers Meeting at 2101 Clinton Ave. Huntsville, Alabama.
September 18th—Athens State University Constitution Day Celebration (See Face book details)
October 5th – ALSSAR BOM Meeting at the American Village in Montevallo, Al.
October 5th—DAR Grave Marking (Supported by our Color Guard)
October 14th – Monthly meeting back at the Library
October 20, Maple Hill Stroll, 1:30 P.M. TENTATIVE (Chapter Event)
November 11, Monday, Huntsville Veterans Day Parade, TENTATIVE (National Event)
November 13th, Wednesday SAR Monthly Meeting (Note: Alternate date due to Holiday)
December 9, Christmas time visit to Tut Fann Home.
December , Cullman Christmas Parade, TENTATIVE (Chapter Event)
December 12, Hartselle Christmas Parade, TENTATIVE (Chapter Event)
December 14. Saturday, Wreaths Across America, TENTATIVE (National Event)

Next Meeting will be on October 14th at our usual location in the Library.

Vice President-Ray Livingston

Next month’s speaker will be Ed Kennedy, his talk will be on the Continental Army Training.

Chaplain –James Henderson

Continuing to pray for the sick and encourage everyone of us to let him know of prayer needs.

Treasurer-Randal Jennings

A graph was displayed on the overhead showing our checking account and our money market account totals. No other updates.

Registrar-Charles McMurry

SUMMARY AS OF 05 September 2019

1. SAR COMPATRIOTS REGISTERED AWAITING INDUCTION—4
2. SAR APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AT NSSAR AWAITING REVIEW — 5
3. SAR APPLICATIONS MAILED NOT RECEIVED AT NSSAR—1
4. SAR APPLICATIONS STARTED, NOT FINALIZED —24
5. SAR PROSPECTS: AWAITING PROSPECT’S FAMILY DATA INPUT – 54
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 08-July - 2
10. SAR SUPPLEMENTAL CERTIFICATES AWARDED AT MEETING 08 July —0

Recording Secretary-Benny Hannah

Handbook is complete and will be sent to Jim Maples tonight for e-mail distribution to the entire chapter. Junior member’s info has been removed to keep their info confidential.

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

Original handbook layout was developed by Jim Maples, which is what we still use today. Many thanks to Jim for his original work.

Corresponding Secretary-Jim Maples

Our chapter is now over 225 members again. Now, the largest chapter in Alabama.

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.

Historian –Cliff Lanham

If any of the officers or committee members have any historical data (electronic or hardcopy) to Archive please get it to him. Cliff plans to update the depository by the first of November.

Genealogist-Warren Adams

Nothing new to Report.

Committee Report:

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

Recent activities included:

Our Color Guard presented the Colors Saturday night (9/7) at Chase Park Church of Christ when the people who have worked on the Space Program at NASA were honored. Pictured are Keegan Hembree (Bob Anderson's grandson), [Robert Anderson](#), [Bob Baccus](#), and [Randal Scot Jennings](#).

The Tennessee Valley Chapter Color Guard gave a presentation to the 4th Grade Students of Goldsmith Schiffman Elementary School in Huntsville on Friday, September 6, 2019. Taking part in the Presentation were [Randal Scot Jennings](#), [Robert Anderson](#), Kay Anderson, and [Bob Baccus](#). Thanks to [Gregg Crabtree](#), 4th Grade Teacher for setting this up for us

Upcoming Activities:

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

Oct 5th-Grave Marking has been rescheduled to October 5th which is the same day as our next BOM. (Randal is out of town and will not be available for either event) He will need someone to cover for him.

The Color Guard is still looking for new members. One of our challenges this year is to increase our numbers. 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 him know so we can recognize them with a flag certificate.

Other Committee Notes:

We still need help in getting into schools for our Youth Programs especially in Madison County. Bob Anderson has done a great job in working the Morgan County schools. Richard Lewis noted that members working with students this year will need training certification. Bob Anderson noted that SAR is working on a new program for training which is quicker and simpler than the BSA training. He indicated that he would have more information to share with us after his Leadership conference this week end. President Griffith also congratulated the group on their effort in the Youth Program last year where our chapter had over 60% to 75% of the posters and Brochures submitted in the state.

Mac Moon stated that it was time to start contacting Public Service groups for our Public service and Heroism Awards. He will have a letter prepared to go to the different organizations by our October meeting.

Bob Baccus has already started distributing applications for the Youth Program "ESSAY" contest. The deadline for submitting applications is Dec 1st.

Additional comments were discussed involving the Flag Committee. Randal noted that Flags mounted on houses do not qualify, only free standing. Randal also noted that if anyone needs to have their flag retired, please get it to him and he will have a proper disposal. Bob Anderson also noted that a black streamer can be used on flags mounted on a house to indicate a flag at half mast.

Mac Moon came back up and discussed how important the George Washington Fellowship is, what it does and education it provides to both kids and adults. Mac noted that the National goal was to get 100 new members this year. We are at 51 new members to date. Mac then asked Randal Jennings to come up and be celebrated as the newest George Washington Fellow. Mac then presented Randal with a pin and certificate for his new accomplishment. Mac also congratulated Randal as being one of the most active members in the chapter. Kudos to Randal.

Bob Baccus also announced that Old Time Brass is playing at Wheeler Hall this Saturday in a Birthday celebration for Joe Wheeler. This is a state event.

Randal Jennings informed all the committee chairmen to get their updates done on the website. Don't leave all the old, out of date information on our site.

President Griffith made the following closing comments:

- The Sept meeting of the John Hunt CAR will be on Sunday the 22nd at the main library on Monroe St. in the auditorium. The main speaker will be CAR President Will Cane of the Lafayette Society in Tuscaloosa. He will discuss the mission and priorities for the current year. Local SAR Chapters are invited. Contact Jane Michel with any questions.
- Thank you greeters **Jim Greene** and **Randal Jennings** .
- Thanks again to Julia for the use of their wonderful Historic facilities here at Constitution Hall.
- 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: October 14th at 11 am at the library.

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

President Griffith adjourned the meeting at 12:01PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Benny Hannah, Recording Secretary
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