

November 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Sons of the American Revolution

Tennessee Valley Chapter

The November 13th, 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. Today's meeting is being held on Wednesday due to the Library being closed on Monday for Veterans Day. Jim began the meeting by asking everyone to please silence their cell phones. **Chaplain James Henderson** was stuck in traffic on I-65, so Jim 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.

Thirty-four (34) members and fifteen (15) 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 first time guest were identified.

President Griffith announced that we have three special guests that he would like to recognize today:

Bill Stone, our National Historian General, also a Minute Man and Past State President, Chairman of the GW Foundation Committee and Chairman of the Museum Board. Since Bill is today's speaker, we will hear much more about Bill later in the meeting.

Arnie Burris, ALSSAR Poster Chairman. Arnie is modeling the SAR tee shirts which are on sale today for \$25 dollars each. See him after the Meeting if you would like to purchase.

Joe Barker, Color Guard Leader, is working directly with our State President to help generate more interest throughout the state in our Color Guard.

Welcome everyone! We are happy to have you with us today. This is a growing, dynamic, and active chapter. If you have any questions about our Chapter or SAR, please do not hesitate to ask.

President Griffith expressed his feelings on how it has gotten all too common when greeting a veteran and just saying "Thanks for your service". Jim then reads a beautiful poem: "I am a Veteran"

I AM A VETERAN

by Andrea Christensen Brett

You may not know me the first time we meet
I'm just another you see on the street
But I am the reason you walk and breathe free
I am the reason for your liberty

I AM A VETERAN

I work in the local factory all day
I own the restaurant just down the way
I sell you insurance, I start your IV
I've got the best-looking grandkids you'll ever see

I'm your grocer, your banker
Your child's schoolteacher
I'm your plumber, your barber
Your family's preacher
But there's part of me you don't know very well
Just listen a moment, I've a story to tell

I AM A VETERAN

I joined the service while still in my teens
I traded my prom dress for camouflage greens
I'm the first in my family to do something like this
I followed my father, like he followed his

Defying my fears and hiding my doubt
I married my sweetheart before I shipped out
I missed Christmas, then Easter, the birth of my son
But I knew I was doing what had to be done

I served on the battlefield, I served on the base
I bound up the wounded and begged for God's grace
I gave orders to fire, I followed commands
I marched into conflict in far distant lands

In the jungle, the desert, on mountains, and shores
In bunkers, in tents, on dank earthen floors
While I fought on the ground, in the air, on the sea
My family and friends were home praying for me

To all Veterans; please stand, if able, and be recognized

Introduction of Speaker:

Communications Secretary- Jim Maples approached the front and made the following introduction: Our speaker today is my good friend Bill Stone. Bill has held many leadership positions in the SAR including Chapter President of the General John Archer Elmore Chapter, Alabama Society State President and Germany Society State President and was recently elected SAR National Historian General for 2019-2020. Bill was appointed by three different President Generals to serve as Chairman of the George Washington Endowment Fund Board overseeing 2.15 million dollars of endowment investment funds over the last three years and is the Project Manager over the SAR Education Center & Museum which is the largest and single most expensive project undertaking in SAR history. Bill will quickly tell you that the future of our country will be determined on the field of education for upcoming generations who are presently being deprived of American History in classrooms across America. He fully recognizes the vital importance of the SAR & DAR in promoting patriotic and historical outreach education in an all-out effort toward saving the fundamental principles of our republic, our individual freedom and our democratic way of life. Bill has received a number of National awards and recently achieved the very highest award of the SAR as Alabama's newest Minute Man of the Class of 2019. His roots have humble beginnings. Being raised on a farm, he was driving a John Deere Model B tractor at the age of 10 years old. His family lineage goes back to the early settlement of the Alabama Territory. Bill graduated from the University of Montevallo in 1972 and has been happily married to Frances Wrobel Stone for 42 years. Bill is an avid amateur historian who truly loves American & Alabama History. Bill is here today to briefly talk to us about the George Washington Endowment Fund Program and the new "Revolutionary War Artifact Donor Program which has become so successful in procuring needed 18th century historical artifacts for the SAR Education Center and Museum. I can assure you that you will enjoy this presentation. Please welcome a good friend and a good Alabamian, Mr. Bill Stone! Today's speaker is **Bill Stone; Bill is the National Society Historian General.**

His Subject; "Donor Artifacts Program for the SAR Education Center and Museum"



SAR CAAH Resolution
Historian General **William O. Stone** (Alabama SAR)

The Historian General, working with the Education Director, oversees the history programs of the National Society. He is responsible for establishing and maintaining a relationship with the History Departments of the several Universities located in the vicinity of National Society Headquarters in order to promote the teaching of Revolutionary War history in the Universities and various school systems. He shall assist State Society Historians engaged in the search for information about Revolutionary War historical sites, war graves and memorabilia in their respective geographical areas.

Compatriot Stone is a member of the General John Archer Elmore Chapter, Alabama SAR. He has served as Chapter President and Treasurer. Compatriot Stone has served both the Alabama Society and the Germany Society in the positions of President and Trustee. His other services include being a presenter for various Historical Programs to approximately 25,000 students. Compatriot Stone has been involved at the National level for a number of years, attending District and National Leadership meetings, along with annual Congress meetings. Compatriot Stone has served as the President of the Old South Historical Association for three terms and works with Alabama Supreme Court and Court Library, the Montgomery County Historical Association, the Lowndes County, the Autauga County and the Elmore County Historical Associations.

Bill Stone began by—telling a cute story about an African safari.

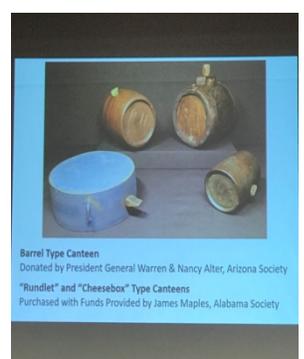
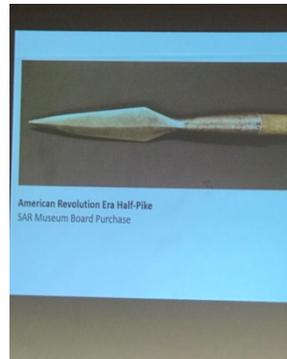
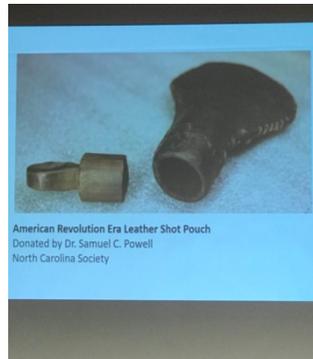
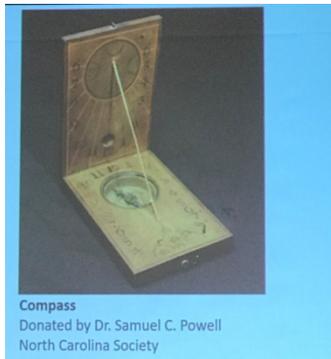
Bill noted that several years ago, he was asked as a member of the SAR Museum Board to re-access and evaluate the collection of artifacts that has been acquired for the museum. There were 4500 items to review. He had to report his findings back to the chairman of the Board. Out of the 4500 items, he

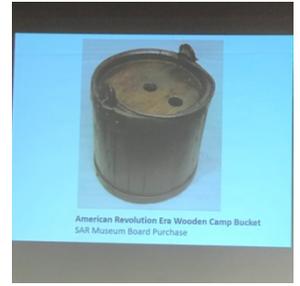
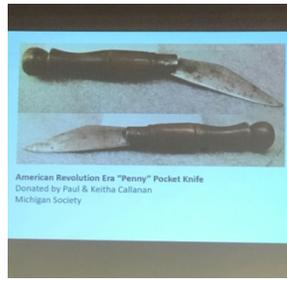
reported back that there is only 250 items worth keeping. The team spent the next three to four years to get rid of the unwanted items. Several of these items were either fake or items not from the era.

Out of this 10-year project, we only have two to three years until we are scheduled to open up. We have some good artifacts, but it was obvious we need more. Last year we began on a shoestring budget to build the collection. We began the SAR Artifacts Donor program, the deal was to come up with 3 or 4 reputable dealers that actually deal in 18th century artifacts. This would allow us to select from artifacts that we would really like to have in our collection and then offer them to our members for purchase to donate to the museum. This got started in Alabama with the first purchase being four powder Horns that we bought for \$3800 dollars. We did not realize that in the collection, there was a Naval Horn. Engraved on that horn was an American Gunboat. When we had it appraised, it came in at \$27,000 dollars. This is how it all began.

It is really an educational experience, because an artifact is nothing more than a dust collector unless it tells a story. It has to tell the story of the American Revolution and Bill says that he thinks that we will do it better than Philadelphia did and better than Yorktown did and we are going to be doing it in only 6000 square feet.

What Bill would like to do is show us some photos and talk to us about some of the artifacts that we have recently purchased. They are your artifacts and they are going in the National Library and they will be shown to thousands and thousands of museum goers.





Bill stated that they are very select on what they are going to do. We are also very select about the artifacts that we want to get for display. We are not just interested in Canons, Swords and Guns, there is much more to it than that.

A staff of people inspects every article that comes in; they evaluate it and create a file on it. If you are the one who purchased the artifact, your name will stay with that item for ever.

Bill answered a few questions after his presentation and was presented with a certificate of appreciation and an Eagle Head for his desk. 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:

- **Conley Albert Ownby II: Patriot ancestor- James Ownbey** – His 7-times grandfather. He fought at Kings Mountain and also marched with John Sevier.
- **Tony Ray White: Patriot ancestor- Richard Conyers** – His 7-times grandfather. His main contribution was providing services and material to the troops.

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.

Historian General Bill Stone returned to the stage to make special presentations to our new George Washington Endowment Fund Fellows. He requested that **Ken Michel, Raymond Livingston, Benny Hannah, Jim Griffith and Donis Wolfe** to please come up front. Bill said that he personally feels that this award is the highest honor that he has received.

The George Washington Endowment Fund (GWEF) was created to establish a permanently restricted fund, the income of which would provide annual funding for support of NSSAR unfunded and underfunded committees and special projects. The GWEF is the only permanently restricted endowment fund established and managed under the expressed authority of the George Washington Endowment Board of the SAR.” The GWEF has grown annually and continues support of approved NSSAR activities and projects. The corpus of the fund is never touched. Eighty percent of the earnings are withdrawn each year to support NSSAR projects with twenty percent being rolled back into the corpus each year. The fund was started in 1998 with a \$50,000 dollar base. Today the fund is over 2.15 Million and has been voted the best Business Practice procedure.

Bill presented each new member with a certificate recognizing each as a George Washington Fellow. Mac Moon placed a GW Medal on each new member. Picture was taken by Jim Maples.

Mac Moon noted that with these five new members plus two new members earlier in the year and one new member to be recognized next month will give our chapter a total of eight. The National goal this year is 100 new members. Mac wanted to congratulate our chapter for contributing 8% of the national total.

President Griffith then asked all the members who are George Washington fellows to stand.

Joe Barker took the floor next to identify himself and let everyone know that State President McKinley has asked him to be Adjunct for Color Guard Development in South and Central Alabama. He understands that the Tennessee Valley Chapter has a vibrant Color Guard. He noted that we don't need him up there giving us the whole Color Guard speech that he has laid out, but does want us to know that if anyone has any questions, let him know. He has done extensive research on the uniform and the proper rank, and who are the best suppliers. He has most of the resource books on the uniform that the major companies have. If you have any questions or need any help, please give him a call.

OLD BUSINESS

Last month's meeting Notes were posted on the website two weeks prior to today's meeting. Jim asked if there are any corrections, no corrections were noted, the minutes stand approved as posted.

Officers Report:

President-Jim Griffith

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

American Village Tree Planting Project has been approved; we are ordering the Sycamore trees from Mt. Vernon today. These trees are the children of the Sycamore trees that George Washington planted in Mt. Vernon. They will be planted at American Village in the next couple of weeks. The dedication will be in the spring with more information provided later.

Constitution Hall Park Flag Project has been approved with Constitution Hall for placement of a 23-Star Flag placed in the same building where the original Alabama Constitution was created with a plaque underneath stating that it was provided by our SAR Chapter. 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. Jess Brown has approached a flag supplier who will provide the flag to us for free. They also agreed to provide it in a non shiny material and tee stain it to look more of age. The dedication is scheduled for Dec 14th. This is the same as the 200 anniversary of the State. Since we have a Color Guard conflict, we may be able to have the ceremony in the evening.

Purchase of Patriots Chest Products has been completed. The products are up front. Jim has quickly typed up a sheet to go with each. Please come up after the meeting and see these items. Please review the write up and let Jim know if changes or additions need to be made. 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. National has agreed to reimburse up to \$250 dollars, which means that we will end up with Zero cost for the chapter.

Library Donations as memorials is in the works to renew the program again that was established under Larry Crabtree. Our focus will be on creating an electronic bookshelf that we will add books too in honor of members that pass away.

Membership Retainment – Dues are due now, if you have not paid, please do so. We will be contacting all members that we have not heard from over the coming weeks.

Jess Brown called Montpelier. They have agreed to provide us with up to 20 Poplar saplings. Jim and Jess visited Botanical Gardens and they have agreed to care for and raise the trees for two to three years

until they are ready to plant in ceremonies in Madison County. We should be able to get the trees in early spring from Montpelier, then deliver to Botanical Gardens for love and care till they are ready to plant.

We have been in contact with the Trash Panda's Hockey Team and we are now on their list for our Color Guard to perform at one of their home games. We are looking at a date of around July 3rd.

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. This is probably the last time that we will announce this.

Please remember that Constitution Hall is always looking for volunteers. Julie is not with us today but you can contact her for their needs.

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. Jim wanted to give out a special thanks to our Color Guard. They have performed in events five out of the last seven days with multiple events on some days.

TVCSAR was on Television Sunday Morning November 4th. President Jim Griffith and Communication Secretary Jim Maples were interviewed by Steve Johnson of WHNT, Channel 19. The interview is posted on the website and on our face book page.

TVCSAR will be on Public Radio on every Patriotic Holiday in the following year!!! Below is a sample of one of our Veterans Day Commercials. Please click to listen.



191111_0049.MP3

Schedule of upcoming events:

November 22, Cullman Christmas Parade

December 9, Christmas time visit to Tut Fann Home scheduled for 1 PM.

December 12, Hartselle Christmas Parade, (Chapter Event)

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

Next Meeting will be on **Monday** December 9th at our usual location in the Library.

Vice President-Ray Livingston

Next month's Program will be to honor our areas First Responders.

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 \$ 9314.75 in the money market and \$10,778.73 in the checking account.

Randal noted that he had received about 100 checks for dues from the members so far. He will provide a list to Jim so we can follow up with members who have not paid.

Registrar-Charles McMurry

SUMMARY AS OF 2019 NOV. 8

1. SAR COMPATRIOTS APPROVED / REGISTERED AWAITING INDUCTION—4
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 – 55
6. SAR SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS APPROVED, CERT NOT AWARDED--0
7. SAR SUPPLEMENTAL APPS RECEIVED AT NSSAR AWAITING REVIEW—1
8. SAR SUPPLEMENTAL APPS MAILED NOT RECEIVED AT NSSAR—1
9. NEW SAR MEMBERS INDUCTED AT LAST REGULAR MEETING 14-Oct - 4
10. SAR SUPPLEMENTAL CERTIFICATES AWARDED AT MEETING 14-Oct - 0

Recording Secretary-Benny Hannah

We only have about 6-weeks remaining in this year to complete all our input for the Americanism award. If you have any awards or certificates to present, donations to make, school presentations, make sure you get them done before the end of the year.

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 e-mail me with any corrections. We need to keep our Handbook up to date.

Corresponding Secretary-Jim Maples

We have 225 to 230 members in the Chapter now.

Jim thinks that he is up to date, but if you need a nametag, 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 at 1pm. Susan Crabtree is in the back getting signatures on Christmas Cards for the event.

Please remember to sign the guest register before you leave today. If you are a member and don't see your name on the members list, please write it in.

Jim also brought in a book by Tara Ross. The title; "She Fought Too" can be purchased on Amazon. American schoolchildren have long heard the stories of American Revolutionary War heroes-men such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, or Paul Revere. They may even know about the more prominent women of those era-ladies such as Martha Washington or Abigail Adams. But America's fight for liberty included many lesser-known individuals as well: Men and women who gave what they could, when they could. These sacrifices added up to something magnificent: A miraculous victory against the large and powerful British army. "She Fought, Too: Stories of Revolutionary War Heroines" tells age-appropriate stories of **sixteen** women and girls who contributed to the American war effort, behind the scenes. An index contains more information on each of the girls, for parents and teachers who would like more information. Meet the 15- and 16-year-old girls who made brave dashes in the middle of the night, carrying warnings of British activity. Or meet the slave who was also a poet: She earned George Washington's respect at a critical moment during the war. Other women were spies, fundraisers-or simply brave in the face of adversity. "She Fought, Too" reflects a fundamental truth: Every person, every effort, always makes a difference-especially when you are fighting for liberty.

Tara also puts out several Historical posts on Face book each week.

Historian –Cliff Lanham

Cliff made the last call for all the officers and committees to get all your archive information to him. He will be making a November deposit in the Library archives.

Genealogist-Warren Adams

Nothing new to add today.

Committee Report:

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

Recent activities included:

October 20, Maple Hill Stroll, 1:30 P.M. (Chapter Event)
November 2, Saturday, Cullman Veterans Parade, (Chapter Event)
November 7, Thursday, Hunt's Spring National Defense Luncheon with DAR.
November 9, Saturday, Hartselle Veterans Day Parade, (Chapter Event)
November 10, Sunday, Lemuel Mead Marking at Harris Hill Cemetery With DAR.
November 10, Sunday, Wreath laying for two Revolutionary Soldiers at Harris Hill Cemetery
November 10, Sunday, Wreath laying for two Revolutionary Soldiers at Maple Hill Cemetery
November 11, Monday, Huntsville Veterans Day Parade (National Event)

Upcoming Activities:

November 22, Cullman Christmas Parade
December 12, Hartselle Christmas Parade, (Chapter Event)
December 14. Saturday, Wreaths Across America, (National Event)
December 14, Saturday, Flag dedication at Constitution Village.

Randal noted that he only has three Guardsmen for the Cullman Parade. If anyone else can make it, please let him know.

Randal then read a very nice thank you note from the Hunt's Spring Chapter DAR for the Color Guard support of their program last week.

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. Randal said that he is working with two new members. His goal is to get enough guardsmen to have two complete units.

Randal also stated that he has been contacted by Early Works for two dated in April for the Color Guard. The program should be similar to our last visit to Early Works this spring.

NEW BUSINESS

After the December Chapter Meeting, we plan to Go to the Tut Fann Veterans Home. We will distribute Christmas Cards and take pictures in front of their big Christmas tree.

Randal invited Roger H. Whitesides up front to present him with a flag certificate of patriotism for his proper display of the flag. Jim Maples took photos.

We will be recognizing the Alabama Flag Company in our December meeting.

President Griffith made the following closing comments:

- Come up front and take a look at the Patriots Chest display after the meeting. Please review the item write ups and add comments if necessary.
- Our banquet is set for March 20th at the Huntsville Country Club
- The next meeting of the John Hunt CAR will be on Sunday December 1st, beginning at 2:00 PM at Latham United Methodist, 109 Weatherly Rd.. Contact **Jane Michel** with any questions.
- Thank you greeters: **Ray Cassell** and **Lynn Helms**
- 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.
- Your Membership dues are due, Please get your check to Randal.
- And don't forget our next meeting will be: **Monday December 9th** at 11 am at the library.

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

President Griffith adjourned the meeting at 12:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Benny Hannah, Recording Secretary
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