



The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society

Sons of the American Revolution

January/February 2026



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Meeting Schedule

13 January 2026

11:00am Regular Meeting

Huntsville Public Library

1st Floor Meeting Room

10 February 2026

11:00am Regular Meeting

Huntsville Public Library

1st Floor Meeting Room

Happy New Year, Fellow Compatriots!

The past year was a very good one for the Tennessee Valley Chapter. Best of all, we had 25 new members join our chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and we have 12 more that are awaiting approval of their applications. Twelve more supplementals were approved and six are still in review.

To summarize, this past summer we reinstituted our annual BBQ feast that had not been held since before the Covid shutdown. We also restarted our lunch outings following our monthly meetings. Several places were tried before finding a very receptive venue at the City Café Diner that provides ample walk-in seating in a relatively quiet area and with a great assortment of dishes with plentiful amounts at very reasonable prices. All who participated seemed to really enjoy the change. We also had a well-attended farewell luncheon for long-time Compatriot Dr. David Billings who served our chapter tirelessly for many years, as well as holding offices at the State, District, and National Levels.

We only have two more meetings before our annual Installation Banquet that will again be held at the Valley Hill Country Club. Mark your calendars for Friday, the 20th of March. More Information about that will be coming out soon.

Thanks again to all who have volunteered in one way or another this past year. Many have served diligently and loyally for several years. Others have just stepped up to head or participate on committees when replacements were needed. Thanks also to all those who assisted with judging, presenting awards, and especially to those that have been involved in the Honor Guard and Color Guard activities statewide and beyond. This organization could not exist without your devoted invaluable service.

I hope you can come to our next meeting at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, January 13th, at our regular meeting place in the Huntsville Library. Vice President Hillis will be presiding while Sarah and I enjoy a much needed getaway to the Alabama Gulf Coast.

Don Wolfe
Don Wolfe
President



Above, VP Lawrence Hillis presents an Eagle Statue and Certificate to our November speaker Lee Anne Hewett from the Alabama Historical Commission.

Revolutionary Questions George Washington's Tent

Who was the upholsterer in Philadelphia that made George Washington's first pair of tents in 1776?

- A) Pierre Charles L'Enfant
- B) Plunket Fleeson
- C) Virginia Whelan
- D) W. Herbert Burk

Who was George Washington's enslaved valet that slept in the tent and was later freed in his will?

- A) Selina Norris Gray
- B) William Lee
- C) George Washington Parke Custis
- D) Robert E. Lee

During the Civil War, from which location was George Washington's tent seized by Union soldiers?

- A) Mount Vernon
- B) Valley Forge
- C) Arlington House
- D) Yorktown

Who protected George Washington's tent fabric when Arlington House was ransacked during the Civil War?

- A) Mary Anna Custis Lee
- B) Selina Norris Gray
- C) Robert E. Lee
- D) W. Herbert Burk

In what year was George Washington's tent returned to the Lee family after a Supreme Court case?

- A) 1865
- B) 1881
- C) 1901
- D) 1909

Where is George Washington's tent currently displayed?

- A) Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia
- B) Mount Vernon

- C) Smithsonian Institution
- D) Arlington National Cemetery

Who created a 1782 watercolor painting depicting George Washington's tent at Verplanck's Point?

- A) Plunket Fleeson
- B) Virginia Whelan
- C) Pierre Charles L'Enfant
- D) W. Herbert Burk

What material was primarily used for the roof of George Washington's tent?

- A) Cotton
- B) Wool
- C) Linen
- D) Silk

Answers from the Nov/Dec Newsletter

1. What exact date was George III born at Norfolk House in London?

- B) June 4, 1738 (New Style; May 24, Old Style)

2. What specific German principality was George III's family tied to through the House of Hanover?

- C) Electorate of Brunswick-Lüneburg (Hanover)

3. What was the name of George III's father, who died before he ascended the throne?

- B) Frederick, Prince of Wales

4. What specific number of children did George III and Queen Charlotte have who survived infancy?

- B) 15

5. What specific tax act did George III reluctantly approve in 1765, sparking colonial unrest?

- B) The Stamp Act

6. What British prime minister advised George III during the Stamp Act crisis?

- B) George Grenville

7. What specific event on March 5, 1770, did George III lament as a failure of colonial governance?

- B) The Boston Massacre

8. What specific Coercive Act did George III personally endorse to punish Boston in 1774?

- B) The Boston Port Act

Welcome New Members!



Robert Humphrey



Larry Layne

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“The 250th Anniversary of Common Sense”

https://youtu.be/_BJvemx0bec



Thomas Paine



After the December meeting Christmas Cards were presented on behalf of the Chapter to the Veterans at Tut Fann Veterans Home.



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 13 January 2026 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room.

Tuesday, 10 February 2026 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room.

Friday, 13-14 March, Alabama Society Annual Meeting and Banquet

Friday, 20 March 2026, 6:00 pm - Annual Chapter Banquet - Valley Hill Country Club

Monday, 13 April 2026 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room.

Monday, 11 May 2026 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room.

Monday, 8 June 2026 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room.



At the left, Life Saving Medals were presented to Rosalyn Leavell-Rice and Thomas Frederick.



Officer Bethany Glazier



Seanna Estes

Above, a Life Saving Medal was presented to Officer Bethany Glazier.

At the left, an EMS Medal and certificate was presented to Seanna Estes.



Deputy Tony Vest

At the left, a Law Enforcement Medal and Certificate were presented to Deputy Tony Vest.

Below a Fire Safety Medal and Certificate were presented to Captain Ryan Ledford.



Captain Ryan Ledford

Below, a group photo of all the awardees. Congratulations to all our first responders!

Thanks to the ladies who proved snacks for the December meeting!





At the left Vice President General of the Southern District Dr. John Fulwider visited our Chapter in November and presented District Roger Sherman Medals to Bob Anderson, Benny Hannah, and Jim Maples.

Below, President Wolfe presents two approved supplemental application certificates to Charles McMurry.



Veterans Day Parade 2025

