



The Valley Patriot

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution

May/June 2025



President's Report

Compatriots,

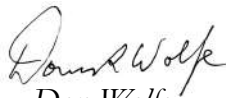
I wish to thank you all for the honor of being your Tennessee Valley Chapter President this year. Our chapter has accomplished great things in the past, and I aim to help us carry on that tradition.

Our Registrar, Ray Cassell, reported in our last meeting that we had approvals last year for 33 new members and 5 junior members. Already this year we have had 5 new and 2 junior members approved with over a dozen already in review and others coming in. Ray and I have a goal of reaching a membership of 300 by the Semi-quincentennial (250th Anniversary) of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, July 4th next year. It is my hope that we can reach that goal THIS year, realizing that it will be a difficult task, but not impossible. Applications have been mailed for my son and grandson, and I encourage all of you who have eligible relatives to assist them in applying. It can be a fairly simple process when you already have SAR approval of a Patriot in your line.

We want to make our new members welcome and at home in our chapter. When they are sworn in, they will now receive a welcome letter from me and a package containing a membership handbook and information about our chapter and the SAR. We are also developing a mentorship program to assist them in any way we can. We can use volunteers to help with mentoring our new members.

Several of our chapter documents have not been updated since before we were sidelined by Covid-19. Some procedures have changed, but they have not been updated in our written procedures. We are currently reviewing our Standard Operating Procedure Guidance and making the necessary changes to bring it up to date and to remove any conflicting verbiage found there. The documents will be posted on our chapter webpage when finalized. Online information is also being brought up to date.

Interest was shown at our last meeting concerning going out for a "Dutch treat" lunch following our monthly membership meetings. I will try to start this at our next meeting and hope many of you will attend. It will be a great opportunity to get to know each other better.


Don Wolfe
President

Our April speaker was Tom Sandner. Tom is a member of Project Appleseed which is a national non-profit program that teaches the fundamentals of rifle and pistol marksmanship combined with the storytelling of American Revolutionary War history. He gave a very interesting program on Lexington and Concord



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Meeting Schedule

13 May 2025

11:00am Regular Meeting
Huntsville Public Library
1st Floor Meeting Room

10 June 2025

11:00am Regular Meeting
Huntsville Public Library
1st Floor Meeting Room

Revolutionary Questions

1. Which colony initially refused to join the First Continental Congress in 1774?
 - a) Virginia
 - b) Georgia
 - c) New York
 - d) Rhode Island
2. Who proposed the Albany Plan of Union in 1754, a precursor to colonial unity?
 - a) Benjamin Franklin
 - b) John Dickinson
 - c) Samuel Adams
 - d) Thomas Hutchinson
3. What was the primary purpose of the 1774 Suffolk Resolves?
 - a) Declare independence
 - b) Boycott British goods
 - c) Demand repeal of the Coercive Acts
 - d) Form a colonial army
4. Who was the British commander at the Battle of Lexington and Concord?
 - a) Thomas Gage
 - b) William Howe
 - c) John Burgoyne
 - d) Henry Clinton
5. What was the significance of the 1775 Second Virginia Convention?
 - a) It ratified the Declaration of Independence
 - b) It elected George Washington as commander
 - c) It featured Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty" speech
 - d) It formed the Virginia militia
6. Which battle saw the first use of American naval forces in 1775?
 - a) Battle of Valcour Island
 - b) Battle of Machias
 - c) Battle of Bunker Hill
 - d) Battle of Sullivan's Island
7. Which American general led the failed invasion of Quebec in 1775?
 - a) Benedict Arnold
 - b) Horatio Gates
 - c) Nathanael Greene
 - d) Richard Montgomery
8. Which British general devised the 1777 campaign that led to defeat at Saratoga?
 - a) William Howe
 - b) John Burgoyne
 - c) Henry Clinton
 - d) Charles Cornwallis

Answers from the March/April Newsletter

1. Which British officer's death at Bunker Hill in 1775 was a symbolic blow to imperial confidence?
William Howe's brother-in-law, Major John Pitcairn
2. What 1766 act asserted Parliament's right to tax the colonies "in all cases whatsoever"?
The Declaratory Act
3. Who was the Swiss-born Patriot whose 1776 death at Quebec ended an invasion of Canada?
Richard Montgomery
4. What ciphered correspondence between a British general and a traitor was intercepted in 1780?
The Arnold-André letters (between Benedict Arnold and John André)
5. Which Virginia governor's 1775 seizure of gunpowder from Williamsburg escalated tensions?
Lord Dunmore (John Murray)
6. What 1778 treaty with France was negotiated by a delegation including a future U.S. treasury secretary?
The Treaty of Alliance (negotiated by Benjamin Franklin, Arthur Lee, and Silas Deane)
7. Which British fort, captured in 1779 by George Rogers Clark, secured the Northwest Territory?
Fort Sackville (at Vincennes, IN)
8. What Loyalist pamphlet of 1776 countered *Common Sense* with a defense of monarchy?
"Plain Truth" by James Chalmers
9. Which Patriot victory in 1777 disrupted British supply lines near Fort Stanwix?
The Battle of Oriskany
10. What 1775 proclamation by a British governor offered freedom to slaves who joined the Loyalists?
Lord Dunmore's Proclamation
11. Which British general's failure to reinforce Burgoyne at Saratoga doomed the 1777 campaign?
Sir Henry Clinton
12. Which Revolutionary figure's 1780 capture by the British led to his exchange for Cornwallis in 1782?
Henry Laurens

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Merlon Largen



Jim Rountree



Charles Snavelly

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 13 May 2025 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room.

Tuesday, 10 June 2025 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room.

Tuesday, 8 July 2025 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room.

13 - 18 July 2025 - National Congress - Uncasville, CT

Tuesday, 5 August 2025 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room. **NOTE: FIRST TUESDAY RATHER THAN THE SECOND TUESDAY**

Tuesday, 9 September 2025 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Downtown Huntsville Public Library Main Meeting Room.

Tuesday, 14 October 2025 - Regular Meeting, 11:00am, Madison Library Auditorium 2: **NOTE: CHANGE IN LOCATION TO MADISON**



Mark Seanor



Cadet Donovan Mendiola



Cadet 1st Lieutenant
Talbot Aiban



Cadet Gavin Curry



Cadet Kenia Durham

ROTC/JROTC Awards

Preceding page top left Steve Brouse presented the Silver ROTC Medal at Alabama A&M University. Next, Lawrence Hillis presented a JROTC Medal at Huntsville High School and next Lawrence and Mark Hubbs presented a JROTC Medal at Columbia High School. Just above Guy Osborne and Zack Magnusson presented a JROTC Medal at Athens High School. At the right Smokey Ferguson presented a JROTC Medal at Arab High School. Below Steve Brouse and Bill Sommers presented a JROTC Medal at Grissom High School. To the right Guy Osborne and Lawrence Hillis presented a JROTC Medal at Hazel Green High School. Below left, Bob Anderson presented a JROTC Medal at Cullman Technical Academy and Smokey Ferguson presented a JROTC Medal at Marshall County Technical School.



Cadet Jacob Cox



Cadet-Commander
accepts for Cadet
Joshua Carter



Cadet Justin Olvey



Cadet Jordan Lay



Guy Osborne receives a Military Service Medal and Certificate from State President Benny Hannah



George French receives a War Service Medal and Certificate from State President Benny Hannah

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Click on the link below for the latest episode entitled:
 "The Capture of Fort Ticonderoga"

<https://youtu.be/-dwvdVhGTO0>



Jim Griffith Dr. Matt Keagle Curator - Fort Ticonderoga

Chapter Banquet March 14th.
 Below, back row left to right Don Wolfe, Steve Brouse, Ray Cassell, Mark Icenogle. Front row left to right Lawrence Hillis, Jim Maples, Randal Jennings, James Henderson.



Chapter Officers for 2025-2026



President Don Wolfe



Chip Pharr receives his Past President's Pin



Randal Jennings receives the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal



Ray Cassell receives the Silver Color Guard Medal

America's 250th Anniversary Stamps

The Post Office recently released the "Battlefields of the American Revolution" stamps and last year released the "First Continental Congress" stamp. The Army, Navy, and Marine Corp all celebrate their 250th anniversary this year. On May 16, 2025 the stamps shown at the bottom will be released. All of these stamps are forever stamps which can always be used for first class mail.

*These are the times that try men's souls:
The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will,
in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country;
but he that stands it now, deserves the love
and thanks of man and woman.*

THOMAS PAINE

Battlefields of the American Revolution

- Lexington & Concord**
April 19, 1775
- Bunker Hill**
June 17, 1775
- Trenton**
December 26, 1776
- Saratoga**
September 19, 1777
to October 17, 1777
- Yorktown**
September 28, 1781
to October 19, 1781

