

patriot



TENNESSEE SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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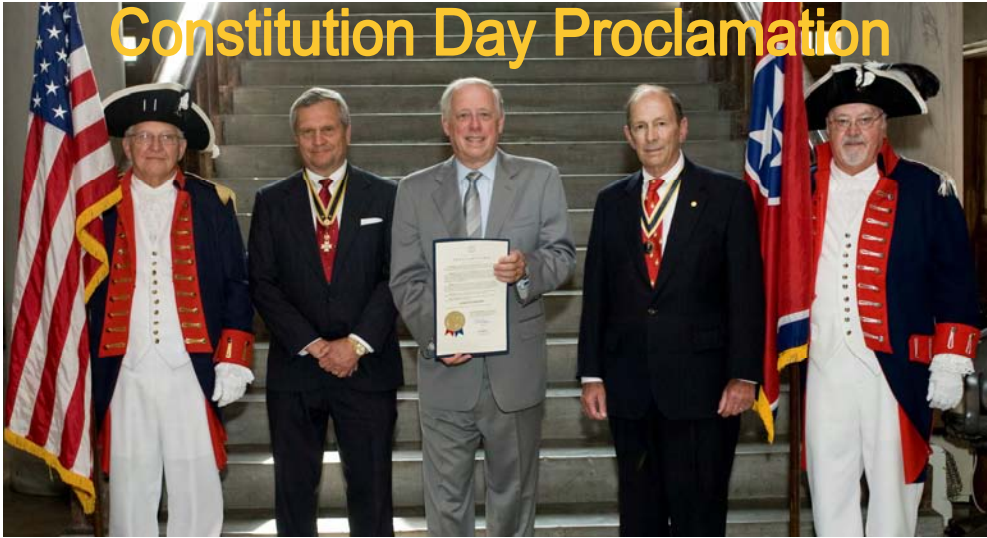


RICHARD T. SPENCER, JR., *Publisher*

RICK D. HOLLIS, *Editor*



Constitution Day Proclamation



Patriotic Education Chair **Jerry V. Smith** arranged for a Proclamation from Tennessee **Governor Phil Bredeesen** proclaiming Constitution Day on September 17. (l to r): **Wayne Long** (*Valentine Sevier*), **Jerry V. Smith** (*Christopher Strong*), **Governor Phil Bredeesen**, President **William L. Eubank III** (*John Sevier*), and TNSSAR Color Guard Commander **Jim Hurst** (*Valentine Sevier*).

Gathering at Sycamore Shoals



GATHERING AT SYCAMORE SHOALS—Bill and Fay Eubank, Ed and Robin Butler. A native of Memphis, Ed Butler resides in San Antonio where he served as a Federal Judge. Butler's term as President-General for NSSAR is 2009-2010.

Bob Yankle 

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Eubank



Smothers



Alexander



Heard

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct 4 Grave marking, Union City
- Oct 7 Battle of Kings Mountain
- Oct 10 3 grave markings, Claiborne Co
- Oct 10 Greer grave marking, Lynchburg
- Oct 17 Board of Governors, Nashville
- Oct 24 Wilcox grave marking, Clarksville
- Oct 24 Sevier grave marking, Clarksville
- Nov 7 Susong grave marking, Greene Co
- Nov 11 Veterans Day Parade, Nashville
- Nov 16 Lincoln County 200th, Fayetteville
- Jan 23 Board of Governors, Nashville
- Mar 11-13 Leadership Meeting, Louisville
- April 9-10 Annual Meeting, Chattanooga



President's Report JROTC National Winner

As we are now moving into autumn, one reflects on activities during the summer and how we can move forward during the Fall and Winter. What can we do to assist our Tennessee Society to progress, and at the same time provide enjoyment to our members?

Let's first look at our objectives and goals. During the summer, our chapters and color guard were very active in honoring our patriot ancestors at grave markings throughout the state.

Second, in order to encourage greater participation in our youth contests we plan to increase monetary awards for essay and oration contests. We hope we see increased participation in these programs this year with an entry from each chapter in the state.

Third, new member recruitment. We have furnished all Chapters with PG Ed Butler's CD to assist you in gaining new members. This, plus assistance from our friends in DAR who are participating in the DAR Finders Program are helping us meet these goals.

Are we on target to achieve our membership goal?

The state of Alabama has grown their membership by 7.52% whereas our membership has grown by only 1.38% as of September 1. The more your chapter members participate in the membership recruitment, greater is the likelihood of chapter growth.

The Gathering at Sycamore Shoals was well attended by our Society, and by seven other state societies—North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, Georgia, Arkansas, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.



Ellen Sims, Fay Eubank, Darlene Chambers

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I extend special thanks to Executive Chair John Echerd of John Sevier Chapter, General Chair Ronnie Lail of Watauga Chapter, and Dr. Joe Chambers and Sam McKinstry of Kings Mountain Chapter for their exceptional support and assistance in both planning, and executing this

flawless event. Needless to say Ellen Sims and Carolee McKinstry were most helpful, as were Jim and Pauline Moore, who orchestrated the refreshment hour.

I believe PG Butler and his wife Robyn had a relaxing and enjoyable two days in East Tennessee. Four past TNSSAR Presidents and eight chapter presidents also attended.



Below: Cadet Wesley Althaus is being congratulated by members of the Hamilton County Board of Education for being the recipient of the first place prize for JROTC in Tennessee and in the Nation, by the Sons of the American Revolution.



Above: Col. Tom McConnell of John Sevier Chapter, Leigh Althaus (mother), JROTC Cadet Wesley Althaus, ROTC/JROTC Chair Jim Moore and Lt. Col. Hugh Enicks, instructor at Red Bank High School.



Compatriot Major Clyde Hick presenting ROTC Award to Cadet McKinley White at East Tennessee State University's Sr. SAR ROTC Award program in April 2008.

Compatriot Hicks served as the JROTC/ROTC coordinator for Kings Mountain Chapter TNSSAR for 20 years. During that period Major Hicks personally presented over 60 awards and oversaw the awarding of over 200 awards. Major Hicks also served as treasurer of the Kings Mountain Chapter for 18 years.

Major Hicks is retired from the US Army having served in both WW II and the Korean conflict. Major Hicks was a crew member of B-24s and lost a twin brother Jim Hicks over Formosa Bay in 1944. Major Hicks retired with 28 years military service.

Major Hicks died, suddenly, on July 24, 2009.

Left: John Echerd always sets the right example for a SAR grave service. At the James Cozby service in Hixson, Echerd enlisted the help of C.A.R. member Sam Hood to unveil the newly installed Patriot marker at the gravesite of one of John Sevier's closest friends. The service was sponsored by John Sevier Chapter and held August 8.



Fellas...it's about the children...



Fount Smothers frequently tells the compelling story of Rev. James Maury, Head Master of the Maury Classical School for Boys in Charlottesville, Virginia. Among Maury's students were Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe and Gen. George Rogers Clark. He was also Thomas Jefferson's guardian after his father Peter Jefferson's death.

"Imagine that, in a little one room log school house out on the Virginia frontier, Rev. Maury produced: the author of the Declaration of Independence, the author of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and the author of the Monroe Doctrine."



Fount eloquently articulates the values of our Founding Fathers within his family, his church, community, SAR, and to children across the state. He is a tireless supporter of the Children of the American Revolution and works with SAR leaders across the state to form new chapters.

As the DAR/C.A.R. Liaison for the Tennessee Society SAR, Fount has single-handedly forged a special relationship between SAR and C.A.R. by creating the "Grandma Said" essay contest. In this contest, children of all ages are encouraged to talk to their grandmothers and older relatives to learn about their Patriot ancestor. Then, they write the story, and if they are too young to write, they receive help. The whole idea is genius. It gets children interested in talking to relatives about family and it causes their elders to pass along family stories that might not otherwise be shared. Fount has shared many times that he attributes his own love of history to the stories told to him by his own grandmother. The "Grandma Said" essay contest perpetuates these inspirational family stories...a compliment to SAR's mission.

When Rev. James Maury taught those rambunctious students in his school in Colonial Virginia, he had no clue of their destiny, nor the essential role he played in stimulating their deep convictions that still govern our nation. Neither do any of us know how we may ultimately influence the children in our own realm. Fount's influence is like a beacon that constantly reminds us that, at its core, SAR is really all about the children, as he steadily guides us back on course.



Smothers with Alisha Adams, C.A.R. President

Fount Smothers surrounded by adoring members of the Children of the American Revolution



EDITORS NOTE: This is the third in a series of articles that highlights the valuable contributions of Compatriots across Tennessee who devote themselves to community service and activities that fulfill the SAR Mission to "perpetuate the stories of patriotism, courage, sacrifice, tragedy, and triumph of the men who achieved the independence of the American people..." Their individual efforts is an extension of SAR. Please submit your Chapter's nomination to the editor. The editor will contact you to develop a story for inclusion in a future edition of Tennessee Patriot.

CAPTAIN DENNIS TRAMMELL



FREEDOM SOIL

Soil was collected at each site where Trammell lived or fought, and was spread around the tombstone at Dennis Trammell's grave.

Left: Tennessee Trailblazer **Bob Hughes** lays a wreath as Steve Trammell prepares to also lay a wreath. **Hughes and Trammell** spent countless hours to plan this exceptional event to honor Captain Dennis Trammell in Whitfield, near Oneida, Tennessee



In preparation for the memorial service, Steve Trammell left West Chester, Ohio with the wreath he holds in the above photo, with a mission of taking a photograph of the wreath at every place Dennis Trammell was known to have lived or fought. At each place along the way, he collected one gallon of top soil; some was spread at his grave. The journey was more than 2,000 miles.

FREEDOM JOURNEY

- 1759—Birthplace—Amelia County, Virginia
- Hillsborough, Orange County, North Carolina—moved here as a small boy
- Eutaw Springs, Orangeburg County, South Carolina
- Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia—Fort Augusta
- Wrightsborough, Johnson County, Georgia—rendezvous point prior to marching to Fort Fulton
- Grange, Georgia—Fort Fulton
- Washington, Wilkes County, Georgia
- Due West, South Carolina—nearby Battles of Long Cane and Hogskin Mill (a/k/a Beatties Mill)
- Cross Anchor, Spartanburg County, South Carolina—Musgrove Mill
- Ninety Six, Greenwood County, South Carolina—Battle of Blackstock's Ford
- Cowpens, Spartanburg County, South Carolina
- Martinsville, Henry County, Virginia
- Huntsville, Scott County, Tennessee
- March 29, 1849—Buried—Houk Trammell Cemetery, Whitfield, Scott County, Tennessee

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Left: Steve Trammell speaks about his 5th great grandfather, born in 1759, 250 years ago

Right: Honor Guard renders a salute in honor of Captain Dennis Trammell



FAREWELL

SIMMONS, John H.—Age 63, of Bradley County, passed away Monday, July 27, 2009 at his home. John was preceded in death by his mother and father, Rachel Huffine Simmons and Hugh Lee Simmons of Bradley County. He was also preceded in death by his grandparents, Frank and Emma Baldwin Simmons of Bradley County and Ben and Rose Byrd Huffine of Chattanooga.

He is survived by wife of 32 years, Sharon Simmons; two children, Penny Farmer (Steve) of Knoxville and Grant Pirkle (Danielle) of Charleston; four grandchildren: Skylar and Darby Pirkle of Charleston, Jennifer and Courtney Farmer of Knoxville; brother, David Lee Simmons (Charlene) of Leawood, KS; sister, Mary Ann Radford (Thurmon) of Mt. Desert, ME; aunts, Ruby Simmons and Ruth Simmons Moore (John B) and Mildred Johnson (Jim), mother-in-law, Opal Miller; sisters-in-law, Jeanette Brown (Jackie) and Martha Moses (Eddy) all of Bradley County as well as his uncle, James Huffine (Ruth) of Gallatin and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

John grew up in Cleveland and attended Arnold Elementary and Junior High Schools. He graduated from Bradley High School, 1964, attended Tennessee Wesleyan College, 1964-66, and served the US Navy, 1966-70. John was a corpsman at Bethesda Naval Hospital and served in Vietnam as a corpsman with the 1st Marine Division. John was involved in many combat situations in Vietnam which resulted in a profound impact upon him for the rest of his life.

John traveled as a sales representative for Hardwick Clothes of Cleveland, 1970-2001. John was very active in Veterans Affairs locally and at the State and National level. He was Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Veteran of the Year for Tennessee, 2008; served as service officer for the American Legion Post 81, VFW Post #2598 and local Vietnam Veterans Association. He helped countless veterans get claims approved. John would tell you that helping Veterans was his purpose and kept him going. John did this in spite of being classified as 100% disabled himself and often in pain.

"When we come to say 'goodbye' to our loved ones, it is not easy, but if we remember the true definition of the word goodbye, it will make it easier. Our word 'goodbye' comes from the old English benediction meaning "God Be With You.""

*Compatriot Roy J. West
1928—2008*

To report the death of a Compatriot, please contact your Chapter President; State Secretary, at tnssar@bellsouth.net; and State Chaplain at steenj@comcast.net. The State Secretary will communicate with National SAR HQ to update records.

TATUM, Robert Stevens—Age 56, of Colonial Heights, Va., passed away on Wednesday, July 8, 2009 after a valiant battle with cancer. Steve was born on January 13, 1953, the loving son of Robert Walton and Marguerite White Tatum of Colonial Heights. Also surviving him is his cherished wife of 20 years, Susan.

Steve was an avid outdoorsman. He loved hunting, fishing, boating and his place at the lake. He had a successful business of home repairs and remodeling. Steve thoroughly enjoyed his work as Building Inspector for the City of Colonial Heights, where he worked until his medical retirement in 2006.

During his illness Steve stayed active with his research in genealogy. He became a member of the SCV and the SAR, documenting many ancestors. Surviving family members in addition to his parents and wife are his two daughters by his first marriage, Jennifer T. Stalls and husband, Will and Megan T. Cannon and husband, John; three granddaughters; a brother, Mark A. Tatum and wife, Patricia; a sister, Karen T. Valente and husband, Anthony; three nephews; sisters-in-law, Sandra H. Browder (Gerald) and Carol H. Price (Len); three nieces; one nephew and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

HICKS, Clyde Randolph—Age 85, of Johnson City, died Friday, July 24, 2009, after a brief illness. Mr. Hicks was a native of Bradley County, TN, and a former resident of Jamestown, ND. He had lived in Johnson City since 1984. He was preceded in death by parents, Levi Wilson and Cleo Randolph Hicks, of Cleveland, TN; a sister, Helen Hicks; and his twin brother, Sgt. James L. Hicks.

He was an electrical dispatcher for TVA and the U.S. Department of Energy, retiring as the Chief Dispatcher of North Dakota and Montana after 30 years. He was a U.S. Army Air Corps WWII and Korean War veteran, and retired with the rank of Major. Active in the Military Officers Association of America, he served three years as president and presenting the annual MOAA award to the outstanding ETSU ROTC graduate for the past 16 years.

He was also a proud member of SAR, serving as an officer for many years. Mr. Hicks was a member of Munsey Memorial UMC, a master woodworker and an avid Bridge player.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Virginia W. Hicks; four daughters, Marian Raml, Limestone, TN, Patti Hicks Whaley and her husband, Rob Wheeler, London, England, Jayme Hicks, Limestone, TN, The Reverend Martha Hicks Touchton and her husband, Butler, Murfreesboro, TN; one brother, Roy M. Hicks, Cleveland, TN; three sisters, Wilma Hicks, Betty Hyde and Bonnie Dean Lawson, all of Cleveland, TN; four grandchildren, Vincent and Charles Raml and James and Georgia Touchton; two step-grandchildren, Rachel and Caitlin Touchton; and two great grandchildren.

WILLIS, Thomas William—Age 66, of White Plains on Old Walton Road, Cookeville. Tom passed from this life on Sunday, July 19, 2009. Tom was born Sept. 20, 1942, to Thomas Houston and Jessie Isabelle Zeigler Willis of Selma, Alabama. He attended a small country school in Burnsville, Ala., and graduated from Parris High School in Selma. His B.A. in history came from Livingston College (now Northwest Alabama University). During this time, he earned his master's in school administration from the University of Alabama. After "hearing the calling," he earned his doctorate in special education in 1979 from the University of Alabama. That same year, Tennessee Technological University advertised for his specialty in learning disabilities and gifted education, so Tom moved to Cookeville to pursue his career in teaching and his passion for the Tennessee Walking Horse. He was employed at TTU for more than 30 years.

Outside of his career and family, his love of genealogy, history, antiques and Tennessee Walking Horses were his driving forces. Among his winners were "Winston's Big Secret," Reserved World Champion Owned and Trained Walking Horse, "The Hickory Stick," World Champion Yearling Colt and Reserved World's Champion Yearling, "Mitchie's KV," 1987 3-year-old Plantation World Champion, and, most recently, "Fashion's Sunnie Attraction," 2008 FOSH North American Champion and 2008 NWAH High Point Versatility Champion.

He was proud of his membership in the Sons of the American Revolution, where he served as a charter member and vice president of the Lt. William P. Quarles Chapter of Cookeville and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. He was also a member of several other history-related and heredity societies. His love of history, genealogy, antiques, horses and family, along with teaching and his many students, will be his lasting legacy.

Truly a Southern Gentleman!

His family includes his wife, Martha Elizabeth Summers Shanks Willis.

PERSPECTIVES ON THE FOUNDERS...

BY COLBY S. MORGAN, JR., 2008-09 TNSSAR PRESIDENT

This is the preamble to my address to the Isaac Shelby Chapter of the Tennessee Society Sons of the American Revolution at their June 30, 2009 luncheon:

"In the popular musical 1776 about the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the John Adams character sings a song: "Is anybody there, does anybody care, does anybody see what I see." And indeed that plaintive question resonated at a time of extreme risk, danger, and uncertainty in his life, the lives of the other Founders, and the life of the colonies that were soon to become a new nation. In many ways the Founders were indeed alone without a blueprint for the direction they should take. And by resolving that the colonies should be free and independent states, the Founders knew that they were embarking on a course that would label them as traitors by the most powerful nation in the world, that they would be hunted down for acts that were considered to be treason, and for this they would live every day in the shadow of the gallows.

And yet they succeeded in creating a new form of government the likes of which had never been seen in the history of man. Upon the foundation of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution a mighty nation has built itself, based on the ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and the notion that all men are created equal. Our nation miraculously defeated powerful Britain in the Revolution, years later survived a bloody, fratricidal war between the states, defeated fascism and communism in the Twentieth Century, built the most prosperous economy in history, repelled the horrors of terrorism after 9/11, and continues to keep the forces of terror at bay even today.

All this can be attributed in great part to the vision, fortitude, and perseverance of the Founders.

And yet we are now beset with the worst economic calamity since the Great Depression, dangerous countries wish to do us great harm, we have been invaded by hordes of illegal immigrants, and the threat of militant Islam will not go away. We are seeing constitutional provisions ignored and swept away by bailout mania. Instead of seeing creative solutions and new ideas, we instead watch almost helplessly as our new edition of leaders attempts to tax and spend our way back to prosperity to the tune of trillions of dollars and the debasement of our currency. I might add that this process has been going on for years and cuts across party lines.

So the question seems even more burning now: "Is anybody there, does anybody care, does anybody see what I see?" Do our foundational documents mean anything any more? Where are the creative minds and solutions? And why is it that no one seems to want to ask the question; "What would the Founders do now?" Are they even relevant?

Where they were once revered, they are now vilified as dead white guys with guns ... slave owners, oppressors of women, or perpetrators of genocides against Native Americans. This is revisionist history at its worst, and is being taught in many of our schools today.

I personally believe that if the Founders were consulted today, we would not be in the mess we are in now. That if we followed their example of thrift, fairness, justice, and small limited and balanced government we could pull ourselves out of this morass -- perhaps with some pain -- but at least get back on the right track, and avoid the inevitable disaster that will come from merely mounting debt on top of debt, and selling out to a mentality of globalism that flouts national boundaries in a movement away from pride and patriotism toward a collectively planned and overriding global financial system where the interests of the individual are ground down at the alter of a new world statism. So we need to take a closer look at the Founders..."



Colby S. Morgan, Jr.

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SOMETHING TO PONDER

"You cannot legislate the poor into freedom by legislating the wealthy out of freedom. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that my dear friend, is about the end of any nation. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it."

~~~~~ Dr. Adrian Rogers, 1931

## 227TH BATTLE OF BLUE LICKS, KENTUCKY



(l to r): **Charlie Scott** of Kentucky, an event organizer and Editor of THE KENTUCKY PIONEER, NSSAR Historian General **Lindsey Brock** of Florida, Benjamin Franklin, also known as **Dick Fowler** of Ohio and Florida, and Editor of THE FLORIDA PATRIOT, and TNSSAR President-elect **Rick Hollis** of THE TENNESSEE PATRIOT. Compatriots **Scott, Brock** and **Fowler** are special friends of the Tennessee Society SAR.



## Bradley County's Only Patriot



*Left:* Descendants unveil markers for **Joseph Lusk**, a Kings Mountain Patriot. Lusk is the only Patriot known to be buried in Bradley County.

Descendants Wesley Hannah, Charles Hannah, and David Hannah



*Above:* Tennessee Society SAR Color Guard (l to r): **Phil Newman** (Benjamin Cleveland), **Don Horton** (Valentine Sevier), **Gordon Jackson** (William P. Quarles), **James Stone** (Benjamin Cleveland), Commander **Jim Hurst** (Valentine Sevier), **Brian Jackson** (William P. Quarles), **David Whaley** (Benjamin Cleveland and Sons of the Revolution State President), and **James McClain** (Benjamin Cleveland).



## Cozby

**COZBY SERVICE** **John Sevier Chapter** hosted a grave marking ceremony honoring James Cozby, in Hixson. Front (l to r): **Mike Hill**, 5th great-grandson of Cozby; TNSSAR and John Sevier Chapter President **Bill Eubank**, former TNSSAR President **John Echerd**, and Vice President-East **Charles Dammann**. Color Guard members present were: TNSSAR Color Guard Commander **Jim Hurst** (Valentine Sevier), **Brian Jackson** (Quarles), **Don Horton** (Valentine Sevier), **Gordon Jackson** (Quarles), **James Stone** (Benjamin Cleveland) and **Stan Evans** (Benjamin Cleveland).



*Right:* Cleveland Police Chief **Wesley B. Snyder** of **Benjamin Cleveland Chapter** and descendant of Patriot **Joseph Lusk**

## Independence Day at James White's Fort



*Left:* The Think Tank Students of North Knoxville standing inside James White's Fort, observing the annual Independence Day ceremony in downtown Knoxville.

*Below:* **Stephen Holston Chapter** members **Doug Fidler**, President **David E. Johnson** and past state President **Paul Jorden**.



NOW, THEREFORE, I Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 19, 2009, as

# SYCAMORE SHOALS

**GATHERING AT SYCAMORE SHOALS DAY** in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



**GATHERING AT SYCAMORE SHOALS** were color guardsmen from Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee.

(l to r): North Carolina President **Frank Horton**, Tennessee President **Bill Eubank**, President-General **Ed Butler**, Arkansas President **David Hoss**, Kentucky President **Tom Higgins** and West Virginia President **Lance Carter**. Also present was District of Columbia Trustee **Paul Hays**.



Above: **PG Butler** presented **John Echerd** with a National Meritorious Service Medal  
*Photo by Bob Yankle*

Left: **Bob Yankle** of North Carolina made 1001 photos of the event



Above: Mourning of Arms and Musket Volleys presented by the SAR Color Guard and the Washington County Regiment NC Militia  
*Photo by Bob Yankle*



Far left: General Chair **Ronnie Lail**

Left: Watauga Valley Fifes & Drums of the Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area furnished music

## Fort Watauga





## SPIRIT OF '76—JIM SNODGRASS

GENERAL JOSEPH MARTIN CHAPTER, HARROGATE



Jim Snodgrass's family has always been on a frontier. One grandfather was born on Little Horse Creek when Wyoming was still a territory and a great grandfather was the first roundup chairman of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. Their winter home was in Cheyenne when women were first given the right to vote. His pursuit of his own family history has led him to more formal studies in history, earning his bachelor's degree from Lincoln Memorial University and his masters at the University of Tennessee. Here, he was a graduate assistant on the papers of President Andrew Johnson. This Marine taught history at Webb School of Knoxville and retired as headmaster of the Upper School.



As a teacher he earned various honors including the Excellence in Teaching Award from the East Tennessee Historical Society and induction into the Hall of Fame for Excellence in Teaching from LMU. While teaching, he was active in several historical societies including Marble Springs, the farm home of John Sevier, where he led student efforts to dismantle an old, c.1820 log cabin, and to move it to the farm site. He organized and lead a boarding institute for students from throughout the country in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park where they studied the burial practices of Appalachia and led daily excursions to locate, record their condition, and plot graves in the park region. These records were incorporated into resources used to create a listing and directional guide to the graves.

Always one to visit graveyards which included members of his and his wife's family, he combined his interest in history with his hobby and began investigating familial ties extending to the Revolutionary War period. The battle of Kings Mountain especially intrigued him since two Snodgrass's and a Davidson of his own family were there from Washington County, Virginia and joined by seven Barkers related to his wife. The joke was that when he and the two Edmondson's of the General Joseph Martin Chapter were together they represented a large segment of the membership of the Kings Mountain troops from Washington County. Jim spent part of one summer retracing the route to this battlefield from both Abingdon and Wilkes County, North Carolina. He studied the common family and cultural characteristics of men from the Shenandoah Valley and the region of Franklin, Pennsylvania who fought amongst the cornfields and bridges at the battle of Antietam, located close to his own pre-Revolution home in Berkeley County, Virginia where his ancestor John Snodgrass was in the militia company commanded by George Washington in the 1750s.

He has written several short articles on Revolutionary War ancestors, including some that are included on the web page of the General Joseph Martin Chapter, and encouraged his two sons to enter SAR. He has researched and provided proof within the guidelines required by SAR for his sons, whose Revolutionary War ancestors include the names of Snodgrass, Marsee/Massey, Davidson, Barker, Chiles, Bays, Redshaw, Crow, Ely, Groce, Trotter, and Turner. Jim stated "this has been a very enjoyable hobby and has allowed me to expand my knowledge and appreciation of the Appalachian involvement in the Revolutionary War."

In a less serious notation he also declared that when placing a stone to honor family members, two of Revolutionary service in his family along with others of Civil War heritage, he learned to suggest to Donna his wife and photographer that when a picture of a grave site on a steep hillside is taken that the stone looks slanted if you photograph the others beside the stone in an orderly straight line. Jim has erected stones for his ancestor Theobald Groce (Battle of Hanging Rock) at Albany, Kentucky and Charles Barker of his wife's family in Mendotta, Virginia (Kings Mountain.) Most of his Revolutionary War patriots passed through the Appalachian area and he believes many in this area have not discovered their own rich past.

*Submitted by President Todd Williams*

**EDITORS NOTE:** *As in the land of OZ, behind the curtain in every Chapter there are Compatriots whose participation and leadership add aura to their Chapter and to SAR. Usually serving without office, these Compatriots make contributions to the Chapter and to the SAR that are so worthwhile that a Chapter's identity is often shaped by their contributions.*

*This is the seventh in a series of articles that highlights the valuable men and women across Tennessee who possess the "Spirit of '76" - Compatriots who step forward and do the job that needs to be done, just because they can. Please submit your Chapter's nomination to the editor. The editor will contact you to develop a story for inclusion in a future edition of The Tennessee Patriot.*



Stories such as those of Thomas Ely, his ancestor, who died of bayonet wounds two years after the Battle of Buford's Defeat is reputed to have declared to the soldier who bayoneted him that he had a right to be at that battlefield, have kept Jim searching for more graves since, as he says, "Their sacrifices should not be forgotten and even without locating the grave one is left with the enjoyment of the personal history after honoring the patriot with the historical search."

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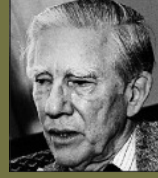


# Tennessee Society

## Sons of the American Revolution

### Vanderbilt University Chancellor Alexander Heard

Alexander Heard (1917-2009) died on July 24, 2009 following a protracted illness. He became the Chancellor of Vanderbilt University in 1963, after serving as Dean of the Graduate School at the University of North Carolina. During a period of two decades (1963-1982) he led the university from regional to national status.



Chancellor Heard was admired by the alumni, revered by the faculty and highly regarded nationally. By "shaking the tambourine" he led the university through two successful fund raising drives. During his tenure, the Owen Graduate School of Management was established; the Blair School of Music and the Peabody College of Education became part of the university through mergers.

He served as Chairman of the Board of the Ford Foundation for fifteen years beginning in 1972. He was the recipient of numerous honorary degrees, and served on a number of presidential commissions. The breadth of his early career was truly remarkable; he served in the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Bureau of Indian Affairs during the late 1930s. During World War II he served initially in the State Department and then as a Naval Officer in the Pacific Theater from 1943 to 1946.

Alexander Heard is survived by his wife Jean, sons Stephen, Christopher and Frank, a daughter Cornelia, and two grandchildren. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, serving as President of the Andrew Jackson Chapter during the early 1990s. He was the most pleasant luncheon partner imaginable. Faculty marveled that he would listen patiently to gossip during lunch at the University Club, and were sad when he was no longer able to join us.

*By Robert T. Nash, President, Andrew Jackson Chapter*

### Congressman furnishes US flag

Tennessee's vibrant 7th district US Congressman **Marsha Blackburn** (R-TN) recently furnished a US flag for use by the Tennessee Society SAR Color Guard. When accepting the flag,



Marsha Blackburn

Commander **Jim Hurst** stated, "I am especially honored that we can carry a flag furnished by Congressman **Blackburn**. She is a true Patriot. I admire her service to our country. She always makes us proud and we shall remember her fondly as we carry the flag."



Perpetuating the stories of patriotism, courage, sacrifice, tragedy, and triumph of the men who achieved the independence of the American people in the belief that these stories are universal ones of man's eternal struggle against tyranny, relevant to all time, and will inspire and strengthen each succeeding generation as it too is called upon to defend our freedoms on the battlefield and in our public institutions, including the stories of those brave men and women who came to this Tennessee wilderness with little more than their raw grit and determination and proceeded to claw out a gracious society of which WE are the recipients.

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