

Tennessee Society

Sons of the American Revolution



Fall 2014 ★ Tennessee Patriot Newsletter

The Gathering at Sycamore Shoals

The First District of the Tennessee Society of the Sons of the American Revolution welcomed guests on Sept. 20, to the 234th Gathering at Fort Watauga, Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area at Elizabethton, Tennessee.

The Watauga, Kings Mountain and State of Franklin chapters hosted several state chapters, TNSSAR President Claude T. Hardison Jr. and Terry Gibbs, representing the Members at Large Board of Managers of the Georgia Society.

The chapters included: John Sevier, Kings Mountain, Watauga, State of Franklin, Valentine Sevier, Andrew Crockett, Lt. Quarles, Anthony Bledsoe, Col. Benjamin Cleveland and the Gen. Andrew Pickens Chapter of the South Carolina SAR.

In addition, Descendants of the Battle of Kings Mountain, Daughters of the American Revolution and Children of the American Revolution were represented.

Watauga Chapter President Ronnie L. Lail offered welcoming remarks, followed by the Invocation by the Rev. George Cobb.

The Watauga Valley Fife and Drum, directed by Drum Major John Large, accompanied the Combined Color Guard of the TNSSAR and Washington City Regiment of the North Carolina Militia as they presented the colors. Boy Scout Venture Crew 1776 led the Pledge of Allegiance. Dick Burdett, State of Franklin Chapter, performed the national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Sycamore Shoals State Historical Area Park Manager extended her appreciation to visitors.

"We are so pleased you choose to spend your Saturdays and weekends with us each year. It is

a memorable event and I know it means a great deal to all of you," she said. "This is one of the most important events we retell over this weekend and next week when the Overmountain Victory Trail Association crosses the river."

Greetings from TNSSAR President Claude T. Hardison Jr. followed. He thanked the State of Franklin, Kings Mountain and Watauga chapters, "In particular, Compatriot Ronnie Lail and Compatriot Joe Chambers" for organizing the grave marking of Capt. William Armstrong and The Gathering. "It is a lot of work and these gentlemen have done a fine job."

Hardison introduced TNSSAR Registrar Gen. Larry Guzi, SAR Foundation President Dr. Samuel Powell, Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge Command-In-Chief Jan Ryerson and Past CINC Barbara Waltz-Stone, SAR Southern District Vice President General Rick Hollis, South Atlantic District Vice President General Mark Anthony and TNSSAR Past President Charles Daaman.

Hardison preceded wreath presentations from various organizations, chapters, and visiting Sons and Daughters.

Director of Interpretation of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association Steve Ricker gave a historical presentation of the gathering of Sept. 25-26, 1780.

The program continued with Mourning of Arms and a musket volley under the direction of TNSSAR Color Guard Commander David Vaughn.

Park Interpretive Ranger Chad Bogart gave concluding remarks, then Venture Crew 1776 retired the colors.

The Rev. George Cobb closed the program with a reenactment of the historic sermon of the Rev. Samuel Doak.



The Tennessee Patriot

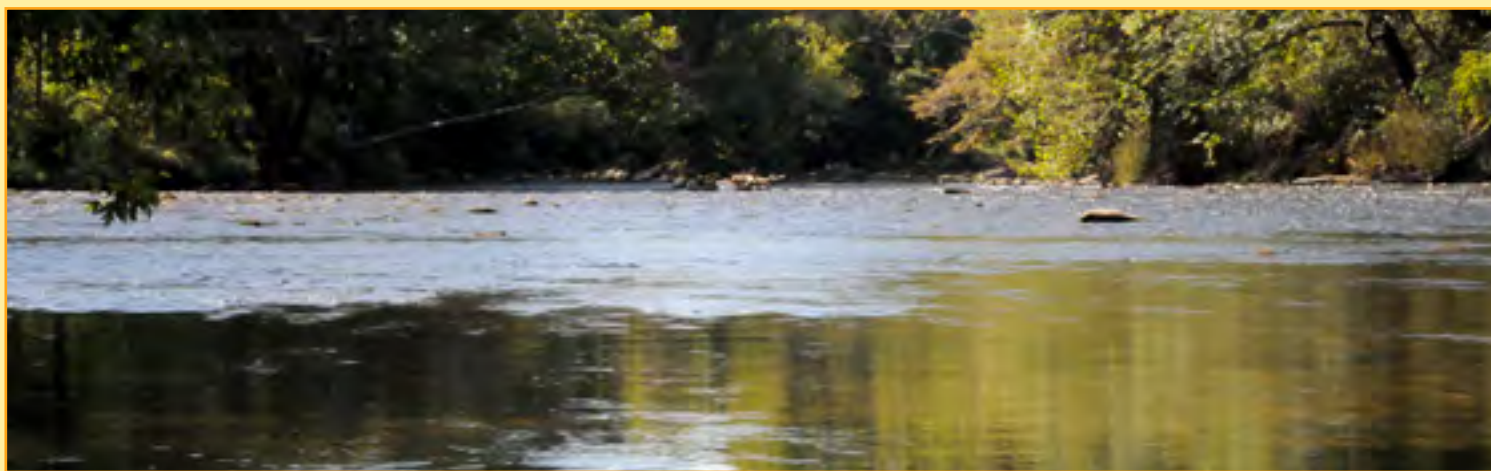
David Davis, Editor

Tennessee Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

3403 Clearwater Drive N.E.

Cleveland, TN 37312-5063

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Sycamore Shoals, the crossing on the Watauga River, is seen Sept. 20 in the top photo. In the bottom photo, compatriots pose for a photo after an event commemorating "The Gathering at Sycamore Shoals" near Fort Watauga in Elizabethton.



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Tennessee Society SAR Chapters



District 1

Kings Mountain, Johnson City

John C. Wakefield

State of Franklin, Rogersville

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Watauga, Elizabethton

Ronnie L. Lail

District 3

Col. Benjamin Cleveland, Cleveland

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John Sevier, Chattanooga

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District 5

Andrew Jackson, Nashville

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Col. Anthony Bledsoe, Gallatin

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Robert E. Moore

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Roger A. Tenney

District 4

Lt. Andrew Crockett, Franklin

James L. Hobbs

Joseph Greer, Lynchburg

William H. Comer

Stones River, Murfreesboro

Glenn J. Taylor

Tombigbee, Columbia

William S. Geshwiler

Valentine Sevier, Clarksville

John C. Head Jr.

District 2

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Stephen Holston, Knoxville

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District 6

Isaac Shelby, Memphis

Dr. Nicholas Gotten Jr.

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James Madison, Jackson

Randall H. Chandler

Tennessee Patriot Newsletter

The Tennessee Patriot Newsletter is published quarterly after each of the TNSSAR Board of Governors' meetings.

It is published for the pleasure of members of the Tennessee Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and for documenting the activities of each chapter. Submissions from each chapter are encouraged.

Please submit typewritten articles and photos in electronic

format via email to tnssarnewsletter@gmail.com; or mail CDs and scannable copy to David Davis, editor, 3403 Clearwater Dr., Cleveland, Tennessee 37312; or to Richard T. Spencer Jr., publisher, 376 Sims Lane, Franklin, Tennessee, 37067-1893 or email to DSPEN47@aol.com.

Please do not send newspaper clippings because they do not reproduce well.

Reminder

Please notify your chapter secretary of any changes of address, telephone number or email address.

The Chapter Secretary will forward that information to State Secretary John W. Kubenka.

Your addresses must be current in order for you to receive any or all Society mail, which is sent by "bulk mail," and is not forwarded.



The Stephen Holston Chapter introduced five members at its October meeting. From left to right are Chapter Registrar Ron Jones, New members Marty Vinson, Mark Whicker, Robert Anderson, Tim Richards, Sam Miller and Chapter President Paul Jorden. In the bottom photo, Mark Shedden, left, displays his powder horns at the October meeting of the Stephen Holston Chapter as Chapter President Paul Jorden looks on.



Events Calendar

- **Nov. 8, Noon CST.**
Col. James Lewis
Grave Marking, 1883
Blue Springs Rd.,
Decher, TN 37324.
Invitation by
the Joseph Greer
Chapter, contact Colin
Wakefield at 931-
703-6674. TNSSAR
Color Guard event.
- **Nov. 15, 2 p.m. EST.**
Anthony Crockett
Grave Marking,
Frankfort Cemetery,
Glenns Creek Rd.,
Frankfort, Ky., 40601.
Invitation by the Gov.

- Isaac Shelby Chapter
KYSSAR and Col.
Anthony Bledsoe
Chapter TNSSAR.
Contact Tom Higgins,
502-321-0080, email
thiggins@twc.com or
David Miles Vaughn
at 615-573-4852,
email tnmoonshine@
gmail.com.
- **Dec. 13, Noon**
Wreaths Across
America
- **Dec. 28, 2014**
4th Quarter
BOG reports due to
State Secretary

You are cordially invited
to attend the
Tennessee Society Sons
of the American Revolution
126th Annual Meeting
and the
125th Anniversary Celebration
of the TNSSAR
including the
Southern District Meeting
for members of the
Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi,
Tennessee Societies
to the
Youth Luncheon
and
President's Banquet
on
Saturday, 28 March 2015
Please RSVP by March 1, 2015



Tennessee Society 126th Annual State Meeting and 125th Anniversary Celebration

Annual State Meeting @ Museum Center at Five Points, Cleveland, Tennessee

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, March 27, 2015 @ The Hampton Inn 4355 Frontage Road, Cleveland, TN 37312

- Registration4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Reception and Silent Auction6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Saturday, March 28, 2015 @ The Museum Center @ Five Points, 200 Inman Street, Cleveland, TN 37311

- Registration.....7 p.m. - until complete
Southern District Meeting.....8 a.m. - until 9:00 a.m.
Board of Governors and Annual State Meeting9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Ladies Tour: Red Clay State Park; bus leaves from The Hampton Inn at 9 a.m. and Returns at 11 a.m.

Youth Luncheon at the Museum at Five Points12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Massing of the Colors & Memorial Ceremony honoring the memory of President General Harry T. Burn Sr. (1964-65)

Niota Cemetery (see handout for map/directions)..3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

President's Reception..(Cash Bar)... at the Museum at Five Points.....7 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

President's Banquet.....(Black Tie Optional) at the Museum at Five Points.....7:45 - 10 p.m.

Annual Meeting Registration: Please complete, detach and return this Registration Form with a check payable to TNSSAR. Please mail your Registration Form & Check to: William Hamilton, P.O. Box 4915, Cleveland, TN 37320: by March 1, 2015.

The Hampton Inn reservations at 423-458-1222. Special Group Rate for TNSSAR: \$109.00 plus tax. At Registration mention you are with the SAR. (Includes free Breakfast & Wi-Fi)

----- cut along this line and mail in form below with check -----

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____
Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
E-Mail: _____ Chapter: _____

Table with 4 columns: EVENTS, FEE, Number Attending, Amount Enclosed. Rows include Registration, Friday Evening Reception, Ladies Tour, Youth Luncheon, President's Reception & Banquet, Officer's Meeting Sunday Morning, Burn Memorial Ceremony, and TOTAL.

Let us remember our obligations to our forefathers who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an Independent Supreme Court, and a Nation of free men!

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors met Oct. 11 in Franklin where they discussed several items and approved resolutions creating a history teacher award and to charter the 22nd chapter in the Society.

State Society President Claude T. Hardison urged all members to pay their dues. He also requested chapters to participate in the Youth Programs and develop candidates.

The SAR awards the **ROTC Medal** to foster the principle of the "citizen-soldier" exemplified by the Minutemen of Revolutionary War days. The National SAR award is to be presented to the Outstanding Cadet in the third year of a four-year or in the second year of a three-year program.

The **Arthur M. and Berdena King Scholarship** is open to all Eagle Scouts currently registered in an active unit and who have not reached their 19th birthday during the year of application. The application period opened Oct. 1 and closes Jan. 30, 2015.

The **George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest** is open to all students who are United States citizens or legal aliens attending a public, parochial, private high school and accredited home school. Contestants must be in the sophomore, junior or senior grade of study during the contest year.

The **Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest** is open to all students in grades 9 - 12 in public, parochial, private and home schools within the jurisdiction of the sponsoring state society or district.

The **Fount T. Smothers SAR/C.A.R. Patriot Ancestors Essay Contest:** The ultimate mission of SAR, and CAR is to share the ideals and values of those valiant men and women who gave

us "America" with our fellow citizens and most particularly, with the next generation.

The **Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest** is for students in the fourth or fifth grades, depending on which grade year the American Revolution is taught in their educational system.

A **Trunk Program** is intended for fourth and fifth graders. The idea is to fill a trunk with items used in the Revolutionary War period. For example, they had to make their own soap and used wooden kitchen utensils. The trunk reflects the hardship of a people who did not have the conveniences of today.

Wreaths Across America, which is coming up again in December, 800 participants placed 420,000 in 2012. In 2013, more than 900 participants placed 540,000 wreaths on veterans' graves in national cemeteries. Wreaths Across America is an opportunity for chapters to raise money. For each \$15 wreath purchased, \$5 is refundable to the chapter or for buying more wreaths.

Partners in Patriotism: 140 chapters in 22 states participated in Partners in Patriotism in 2013, including only one Tennessee chapter. Chapters that march with veterans in Memorial Day parades or in a similar activity with active duty personnel or veterans qualify for a Partners in Patriotism certificate.

- Created the **Tennessee History Teacher Award** of \$500 for a history teacher selected to represent the State Society in the national contest in 2015. The teacher must teach

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A September ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the new Museum of the Sons of the American Revolution Headquarters. In the top photo, Dr. Sam Powell and Mrs. Clapsadle; in the middle photo, Dr. Sam Powell and President General Lindsey C. Brock greet each other; and in the bottom photo is TNSAR President Claude T. Hardison Jr. stands by a replica of the Liberty Bell.



Col. Anthony Bledsoe Chapter



Wakefield descendants mark patriot's grave

Descendants and TNSSAR Color Guard marked the grave of Revolutionary War Patriot Henry Wakefield on Oct. 18, in Boiling Springs. Wakefield served in the North Carolina Militia.

The invitation was extended by the Col. Anthony Bledsoe Chapter.

The Master of Ceremony's was 4th great grandson.

TNSSAR Compatriot Rev. John Wakefield of the Kings Mountain Chapter was Master of Ceremonies. Fourth great nephew Colin Wakefield gave greetings for the Tennessee Society.

It was a wonderful event with approximately 90 people, including descendants and guests in attendance.



TNSSAR Color Guard at the grave marking of Revolutionary War Patriot Henry Wakefield in Boiling Springs. In the photo are, front row left to right, Colin Wakefield, Dennis Harris and Larry Pool; back row, left to right, Commander David Miles Vaughn, Steve Gaines, John Clines, Roger Tenney, David Eagan, Clarence Watson, John Clark, George Miller, James Hobbs and Fred Ryan.

Joseph Greer Chapter

Joseph Greer Chapter enjoys annual picnic

The Joseph Greer Chapter met Aug. 30, for its annual Summer Picnic at Falls Mill near Belvidere.

Members in attendance at the regular meeting were Jim Armitage, James Brewer, James Brown, William Comer, David Hammett, Robert Hickey, Rick Hollis, Jim Maples, Mark Russell, James Michael Russell, Bryan Shaver, Bill Stone, James Van Cleave, Jaimie Vance, and Raymond Welch.

In addition, there were 15 guests in attendance for a total of 30.

Chapter President Compatriot Bill Comer opened the meeting at 12 p.m. Chaplain Jim

Armitage offered the Invocation, Vice President Mark Russell led the Pledge of Allegiance and Treasurer Robert Hickey led the SAR Pledge.

NSSAR Southern District Vice President Rick Hollis installed Compatriots Bryan Shaver and Raymond Welch as new members.

Vice President and Youth Program Chair, Mark Russell, presented an SAR Eagle Scout certificate to Scout C. D. Taylor, who received Eagle Scout rank at a recent BSA Court of Honor.

Compatriot Russell announced plans for a grave marking for the grave of Patriot

James Lewis at 12 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 8. Patriot Lewis is the ancestor of Compatriot James Phillip Parkes. His grave site is at 1883 Blue Spring Rd, Decherd, Tenn., 37324.

There is an obelisk at the Franklin County

Courthouse honoring him.

The inscription reads as follows: In memory of Colonel James Lewis, born April 6, 1756, Albemarle County Virginia, died

See PICNIC, Page XX



The Joseph Greer Chapter hosted about 30 members and guests to a picnic lunch on Aug. 30, at Falls Mill near Belvidere.



Bryan Shaver, left, and Fred Welch are inducted by Southern District Vice President Rick Hollis



David Hammett with granddaughter.



Joseph Greer Chapter Vice President Mark Russell presents an SAR Eagle Scout certificate to C. D. Taylor,



Bill Stone, from Alabama, gives the Joseph Greer Chapter an update on the on the National SAR Museum in Louisville, KY.

Col. Benjamin Cleveland Chapter



Joseph Atchley fought from start to finish

The Col. Benjamin Cleveland Chapter of the Tennessee Society of the Sons of the American Revolution recently marked the grave of Revolutionary War patriot Pvt. Joseph Atchley.

Members of the Col. Benjamin Cleveland, Hiwassee and John Sevier chapters, District 3

District 3 Director Fred I. Underdown and descendants gathered Sept. 13, at Pisgah Cemetery in Meigs County to honor a Minuteman who witnessed the surrender of British Gen. Charles Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia.

Atchley was born in 1747 in Middlesex County, New Jersey. He died Feb. 14, 1829 in Meigs County.

According to his pension application, Private Joseph Atchley joined the 1st Regiment, Middlesex Militia, 4th Company of Minutemen in March 1775. He enlisted only a short time after word spread of the clash between the Minutemen and British redcoats on April 19 at Lexington and

Concord that signaled the opening of the War.

According to historical documents, Atchley served nine months under the command of Capt. Gallaway, Maj. John Dunn, Col. Herd and Gen. Lee Mulenburg. "Removing to the Colony of Virginia, he joined April 1781 as a private in the Botetourt, Virginia Militia, which marched to Little York, Virginia, during the siege. He remained there until the surrender of British Gen. Charles Cornwallis, Oct. 19, 1781."

Col. Benjamin Cleveland Chapter President David Whaley, an Atchley descendent, said during remarks that the patriot died in 1829, about three years before the Pension Act of 1832.

Whaley said that at the time of Atchley's death, his total estate was valued at \$55.25. From a statement made by Atchley in the Rhea County, Court of Common Pleas dated Aug. 1, 1825 at age 78, the bulk of his estate was in livestock. His possessions included:

a mare from New Jersey blood and a colt valued at \$30; and three cows and one calf, \$15; seven hogs, \$4; bed, \$4; two piggins (small pails) and a pail, 50 cents; eight chickens, 25 cents; and cupboard ware valued at \$1.50.

"I am by occupation a farmer and entirely unable to pursue it from age and disability, pains and diseases," he stated in the document. "I have a wife 60 years old (who is) weak and feeble and cannot work. My son Moses is 17

years old, crippled and unable to do anything. My daughter, Therse, 16 years old, and a little boy 10 years old and I cannot live without the charity of the government."



Col. Benjamin Cleveland Chapter



Sutton, 95, was murdered for War pension

The Col. Benjamin Cleveland Chapter of the Tennessee Society of the Sons of the American Revolution marked the grave of Revolutionary War patriot Pvt. John Sutton in September.

Sutton was born Feb. 5, 1750 in Marlboro County, South Carolina and was brutally murdered in Knox County on Sept. 5, 1843.

The Col. Benjamin Cleveland, Hiwassee and John Sevier chapters, District 3 Director Fred I. Underdown and descendants gathered Sept. 13, at Concord Cemetery in Meigs County.

According to his pension application, "Private John Sutton entered the South Carolina 3rd Regiment of rangers on May 11, 1775 under the command of Lt. Jarvis, Capt. Samuel Wise, Maj. Pinckney and Col. William "Danger" Thompson. He served three years, including two months service under Capt. Steed and Gen. Francis Marion. Removing to North Carolina, he enlisted at Rockingham Courthouse in November 1779 where he served until November 1781 under command of Lt. Wyatt, Capt. Pulaski, Maj. William Parr, Col. Lewis and Gen. Thomas Burke. Said service included the Siege of Savannah, Georgia, and mortal combat at Eutaw Springs, S. C."

A headline in the in the Sept. 13, 1843 edition of the Knoxville Post decried the "Murder of a Revolutionary Soldier in Knox County, Tennessee."

The story detailed "One of the most horrible and brutal murders that has ever fallen to our lot to record, or of which the circumstances have ever come under our notice, was committed in Knox County about six and a half miles from Knoxville, on the main western road, on Tuesday evening 5th last.

"The victim was an old man by the name of John Sutton, a soldier of the Revolution, whose place of residence was in Meigs County, about 70 miles from Knoxville, and the crime was perpetrated for the sake of obtaining the paltry sum of about \$33, which the poor old man had about his person.

"He had visited Knoxville to obtain his pension money, it being his custom to perform this trip for that object once every six months; and having received from the Pension Agent the amount to which he was entitled, he left town on horseback at about 1 or 2 o'clock in the day, on his way home. He was seen by different individuals on the road riding along at a slow pace, and was noticed by some person at but a short distance from the spot the murder took place.

"At about 4 o'clock p.m., a gentleman coming from the West found him seated near the roadside, in a solitary and dreary looking hollow opposite what is called Bennett's place, with his face shockingly bruised and mangled and although he was still alive,

he was entirely speechless and insensible. The bridge of his nose was broken, one of his ears was nearly cut off, and other marks of violence were found upon his person, bearing the appearance of having been inflicted with a club. His horse was tied to a tree near him and his saddle bags, which had been rifled of the money they contained, were found lying concealed a short distance off.

"He was taken to a neighboring house and a skillful physician was forthwith called in, but all

See SUTTON, Page 13



Gathering at Sycamore



Shoals: Sept. 20, 2014



Valentine Sevier Chapter



Genealogist General John N. Sinks inducts Burnley Nathan Hunt into the Valentine Sevier Chapter. With him is his father, Compatriot Robert Lewis Hunt and grandmother Louise Podell, who pinned on his Rosette.



Compatriot David Dycus, stands with his daughter Tara Jacques as he receives his membership certificate from James Thweatt.



Burnley Nathan Hunt, left, the chapter's newest member, and second oldest member, 45 years, TNSSAR Chancellor Cleo Hogan pose with John Sinks



Mike Floyd of the Screaming Eagle Honor Flight and TNCAR President Michael Zietz explain the Honor Flight program at the September meeting. They have a goal of sponsoring a full airplane load.

Newest member presents pin to Hogan

The Valentine Sevier Chapter met Aug. 4 at the Quality Inn in Clarksville for its monthly meeting. Fifty-four people attended, including 40 members and 14 guests.

The regular meeting date was changed to accommodate the travel schedule of the new National SAR Genealogist General John Sinks, who related some helpful information on genealogy research.

Southern District Vice President Rick Hollis introduced Sinks as the guest speaker. At the conclusion of his remarks, Hollis presented the Genealogist General with a set of Tennessee Society cufflinks.

Next, TNSSAR President Claude Hardison and Hollis inducted Burnley Nathan Hunt, sponsored by Don Shelton, as

the chapter's newest member. Following his induction, Hunt presented the chapter's second oldest member, Cleo Hogan, with a 45-year membership pin.

The club then witnessed a flurry of activity where presenters and recipients switched roles. The net effect of this activity resulted in the following: Hollis received five supplemental memberships; David Hammett received one supplemental membership; and James Thweatt received two supplemental memberships.

President Gould, after presenting Claude Hardison with a certificate of appreciation for his Program at the July meeting, asked Vice President Reber Kennedy to report on his findings for the

"Screaming Eagle Honor Flight."

Kennedy reported that the "Screaming Eagle Honor Flight" was a reputable organization and worthy of the chapter's support. He then put forth the motion to donate \$500. The motion passed.

In addition, Gould requested all members who use a computer to become familiar with <http://www.tnssar.org/forms/americanismform.html>, the Web page used by the state society to report individual acts supporting Americanism. He said everyone would find activities to report.

He said reporting individual acts of Americanism is an important part of the duties of SAR members. He encouraged members to look at the site to enter data each month.

Valentine Sevier Chapter



TNSSAR District 1 met Sept. 18, at Amis Mill Eatery in Rogersville. Kings Mountain President Dr. John Wakefield, top photo, introduced Dr. Robert Wetzel, bottom photo, who spoke on "The First and Last Battles of the Revolutionary War (A Cautionary Family Quest)."



Hollis elected Deputy President General of the General Society of the War of 1812

Richard D. (Rick) Hollis, Clarksville was elected Deputy President General (2014-17) of the General Society of the War of 1812 at the group's Triennial Meeting held Sept. 11-14, in Baltimore.

To date, Hollis has proven 14 direct lineages to the War of 1812 veterans from Middle Tennessee, all of whom fought under General Andrew Jackson.

In other lineage societies, he presently

serves as Vice President General (Southern District) of the Sons of the American Revolution, Inspector General of the Society of the Descendants of the Soldiers of Washington's Army at Valley Forge, Deputy Governor General of the General Society of Colonial Wars, Tennessee Valley Company Governor of the Jamestowne Society and editor of the national Jamestowne Society Newsletter.

Sutton

efforts to resuscitate him proved unavailing and he died about midnight, without having been able to articulate distinctly or give any clue whereby the depraved wretch who murdered him might be detected.

"He had a number of papers about him, from one of which it was ascertained that he was a member of the Baptist Church in good standing. He was about

95 years old and is said to have been unusually active and sprightly for that advanced age."

Col. Benjamin President Dave Whaley was the Master of Ceremonies. He said 17 color guardsman in attendance included 14 TNSSAR Guardsman, two Sons of the Revolution guardsman and one from the John Sevier Memorial Association. Ninety-eight people, including 13 descendants, attended.



The Joseph Greer Chapter met Aug. 30, for its annual Summer Picnic at Falls Mill near Belvidere.

Picnic

Feb. 21, 1849, Franklin County Tennessee.

Col. Lewis served with distinction in the Revolutionary War; participated in the battles of White Plains, Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, Germantown and Yorktown.

Col. Lewis was with Washington when he crossed the Delaware.

Patriot Lewis witnessed the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Oct. 19, 1781.

After the war, he erected the first brick house and was one of the appointed commissioners for the erection of the first courthouse and jail in Franklin County.

A discussion was

held concerning the condition of the fence around the grave site of Patriot Joseph Greer, the chapter's namesake.

The chapter was asked by the Kings Mountain Messenger DAR Chapter to assist them in repairing the fence. Compatriots Comer, Wakefield, Hickey and Armitage will visit the site in the next few weeks and determine a course of action.

After the regular meeting, the group enjoyed an excellent picnic including hamburgers, hot dogs, sides prepared by the Russell family and excellent desserts prepared by Dixie Hickey, wife of Treasurer Hickey.

Watauga Chapter



Capt. Armstrong served as a spy and in battle

On Sept. 19, The Watauga Chapter held a grave marking ceremony for Revolutionary War Patriot Captain William Armstrong at the New Providence Church Cemetery in Surgoinsville on Sept. 19.

Ronnie Lail was Master of Ceremonies. This was a district event with Southern District Vice President Rick Hollis in attendance. The TNSSAR Color Guard with VASSAR, SCSAR and ALSAR Color Guard, and others, presented the colors and fired a three-shot volley with two cannon shots fired.

According to Capt. Armstrong's



**Southern District
Vice President Rick Hollis**

pension application, he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated:

"That in the year 1780 in the County of Lincoln, State of North Carolina (where he then lived) he was drafted in the militia of that State for a three months tour, against the British in South Carolina.

That he was Commissioned the Captain of the Company from Lincoln and commanded as such in the expedition – that the rendezvous of the troops was near Charlotte, and his company was placed in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Alexander [George Alexander] and General Griffith Rutherford commanded the Brigade, and William Rankin was Lieutenant of his company.

From Charlotte we marched down the Yadkin River; and thence across Black River to Rugeley's Mill (a Tory) and there encamped for the night, but about 12 at night, the line of march was again formed, and we proceeded towards Camden – that the same night the advanced army guards had some skirmishing with the enemy's guards.

That we joined the Main Army during the night, and at the dawn of day the battle of Camden commenced [August 16, 1780].

That Rutherford's brigade, and perhaps others, were divided into platoons before the battle began,

and the captains had command of these platoons instead of their Companies; and that he this applicant commanded a platoon on that memorable day instead of his company. He states, that he fought during the whole of the battle, and knows that he done his duty. The battle lasted but a short time, yet long enough to defeat General Gates [Horatio Gates], who, according to the general opinion acted dastardly on that occasion.

The Continental troops, or a portion of them was commanded by General DeKalb, who was killed in that engagement, and I well remember, he was much lamented, and his untimely fall produced a general sympathy. I remember my own feelings to this day, and the circumstances are fresh in my remembrance. I will mention, that on our way to Camden, about 40 prisoners (British and Tories) were committed to my charge as Captain of the Company, who were guarded by my Company until they were sent above here for safekeeping.

That shortly after the battle I and my company were discharged by Col. Dixon [probably a reference to Henry "Hal" Dixon] (if I mistake not) after having served out our term of service. At this time the Tories were very numerous, and had almost overrun the Country. I was appointed Captain of my

See ARMSTRONG, Page 19

Board

American history from the Revolutionary War period.

Chartered the **Gov.**

Archibald Roane

Chapter at the state capital for high-level officials such as state senators, representatives, cabinet members and judges who sometimes feel uncomfortable attending chapter meetings. Members of the new chapter will continue as members of a local chapter, but it will give them the opportunity to fellowship and support patriotic service. State Sen. Mark Norris will be the first chapter president.

- Chartered the **Gov. Archibald Roane Chapter** at the state capital for high-level officials such as state senators, representatives, cabinet members and judges who sometimes feel uncomfortable attending chapter meetings. Members of the new chapter will continue as members of a local chapter, but it will give them the opportunity to fellowship and support patriotic service. State Sen. Mark Norris will be the first chapter president.

- Approved a resolution to abolish the Archives Committee and transfer its duties to the Historian. The body unanimously voted Oct. 11, to pass the resolution discussed at the Aug. 2, quarterly meeting. The resolution was prepared by the Constitution and By-laws Committee and submitted by Committee Chair John H. Henderson.

- Now that the vacation season is over, many events are taking place in the State of Tennessee and around our region. Please be sure to keep a personal log, and turn individual participation notes in regularly to your chapter **Americanism**

chairman, or chapter president. By doing so, it will help your chapter and the State Society. Compatriots may also use the Americanism reporting tool on the TNSSAR website to turn in participation notes.

The Americanism reporting tool is completed and available to each TNSSAR member to report items to their chapter Americanism chairman. If a member has attended an event, donated to the NSSAR, or contributed in other ways that may need reported, they should visit the TNSSAR website for the tool. It can be found on the site's left column, under the heading "Online Forms." Simply fill out the information and hit submit. That will forward information to Lee Johnson, who will forward it to the appropriate chapter president or Americanism chair.

It is important to emphasize the awareness of the tool. Compatriots may be doing many things in the community, schools or with other organizations for which chapters could get points.

For more information, please contact Lee Johnson by email sent to johnsondna69@gmail.com.

During the Sept. 26-27, Fall NSSAR Leadership conference in Louisville, Kentucky, CAAH Committee Chair Charles N. Dammann attended the ribbon cutting at the **Center for Advancing America's Heritage** building.

We also had the opportunity to tour the new office spaces recently occupied.

As of Sept. 30, compatriots of the TNSSAR, family and friends have contributed a total of \$215,423.62 to the Center for Advancement of America's



Stan Evans shows the Board of Governors in October the certificate and flag designed for the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemorative Event for 2014.

Heritage. This total amount is from 354 individual donors. A portion of this amount is from matching funds provided by the Sam Powell matching grant challenge.

The **Color Guard** of Tennessee now has more than 70 members. Commander David Miles Vaughn said the Color Guard is making its presence known throughout Tennessee and extended a "great big thank you to all Color Guard members that dedicated their time to these events."

The Color Guard had four more grave markings to do after Oct. 11. He was hopeful that all Color Guard members could be involved in at least one event if not all of the ceremonies across the state.

Please contact Vice Commanders Ronnie Lail, Mountain Brigade; John Clines, Tanasi River Brigade; Edward Phillips, French Lick Company; or Bob Hughes,

Frontier Company.

The dedication and support of its members shows what the TNSSAR Color Guard is all about. Its presence at any event spreads the word and as always the crowd loves to see the Guard in action.

Remember the
Tennessee Society
Sons of the American
Revolution
126th Annual
Meeting and the
125th Anniversary
Celebration
of the TNSSAR
including the Southern
District Meeting for
members of the
Alabama, Louisiana,
Mississippi, Tennessee
Societies to the
Youth Luncheon and
President's Banquet
on Saturday, 28 March
2015 Please RSVP
by March 1, 2015.

Stephen Holston Chapter



The Stephen Holston Chapter participated in the unveiling of a Daughters of the American Revolution marker placed at a monument honoring the signing of the Treaty of the Holston. The Stephen Holston Chapter color guard



presented colors for the Oct. 18 event. There were a number of local reenactors and living history buffs present for the event. Color Guard members present were Wayne Croley, Paul Jorden, Ron Jones and David Johnston.

The days before 'The Gathering' were dark

The following excerpts taken from the official history commemorating the Battle of King's Mountain Centennial Celebration on Oct. 7, 1880, describe the events leading up to the Gathering at Sycamore Shoals on Sept. 25, 1780.

"The year seventeen hundred and eighty was the darkest period in the Revolutionary struggle. From the mountains to the seaboard, a gloom rested upon the whole country. For five years the colonies, against fearful odds, had been battling for freedom. The country was overrun, its treasury was empty, and its soldiers were hungry and naked. From the hills of Massachusetts to the savannas of Georgia, a darkness that could be both seen and felt, enveloped the land. This was especially the case in South Carolina and Georgia. From the repulse of Sir Peter Parker, on the 28th June, 1776 until the autumn of 1779, South Carolina, although in open and determined rebellion against the mother country, enjoyed comparative peace. Supplies of arms and munitions of war, together with food and clothing for the army, were landed by different nations of Europe at Charleston. From this point, these army stores, together with rice and other products of the fields of South Carolina, were transported, by wagon trains, as

far north as New Jersey. During this period, South Carolina grew and flourished, notwithstanding the existence of war.

"In the autumn of 1778, the scene began to change. Col. Campbell was sent from New York, by Sir Henry Clinton, to reduce Savannah, the capital of Georgia. On the 20th of December, Gen. Howe was forced to capitulate. Georgia fell into the hands of the enemy, and South Carolina now became a border State, exposed to the active military operations of the enemy. A bloody struggle was made, near a year afterward, for the recovery of Savannah, but it proved unsuccessful. It soon became evident that the British were determined to capture Charleston. Prevost, in May 1779, had attempted to take the city by siege, but his plans were frustrated by the adroitness of Gov. Rutledge and the military prowess of General Moultrie.

On the 26th of December, 1779, Sir Henry Clinton, with the larger part of his army, sailed from New York for the South. In January of the following year, he landed on the coast of Georgia. He had but one object in view, and that was to crush the rebellion in all the Southern colonies. His purpose was to begin at the southern extremity and go northward, leaving the country in his rear

in complete and absolute, if not willing, submission to the British government. The first thing to be done to effect his purpose, was the reduction of Charleston. On the 10th of February, he set out from Savannah to accomplish the cherished purpose of his heart. He was successful. Whether all was done that could have been done to save the city, or not, we shall not here inquire. Perhaps it would have been wise, under the existing circumstances, not to have attempted its defense. The attempt, however, was made. Sir Henry Clinton commenced and carried on the siege with as much respect to the rules of military science, as if he had been conducting the siege of an old walled town. Reduced almost to starvation, and poorly provided for every way to stand a siege, the defenders of the city, after a close siege of nearly eight weeks, capitulated on the 12th of May, 1780. The terms of the surrender were hard, and the conduct of the British commander afterward, was calculated to cast a gloom over the patriots. The civil government of Britain was established in the city, and plans were laid for establishing it over the whole State. Everything was done that could be done, to encourage the Tories and loyalists and dishearten the patriots.

See GATHERING, Page 18

Chickamauga DAR Chapter celebrates 120 years

Tennessee Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Claude T. Hardison Jr., attended the 120th anniversary of the Chickamauga Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Oct. 8 at the First-Centenary United Methodist Church in Chattanooga.

Chickamauga was chosen as the name of the first chapter of the DAR in Chattanooga when it was organized Oct. 7, 1894, four years after the National Society was founded. Chickamauga was the third chapter in Tennessee and the 128th chapter in the National Society.

The first regent was Ameilia Morrow Chamberlain, who served from 1894 to 1900. She later served two additional terms. Mrs. Chamberlain was Tennessee State Regent from 1901 to 1904 and served the National Society as Vice President General.

In 1915, the Chickamauga Chapter assisted in founding the Nancy Ward and Judge David Campbell chapters in Chattanooga.

Chickamauga Chapter members have given many hours of dedicated service during the chapter's long history. Every member has had a part in this patriotic, educational and historic endeavor and will continue to present DAR ideals in future generations.



The Chickamauga Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution celebrated its 120th anniversary Oct. 8 at the First-Centenary United Methodist Church in Chattanooga. In the top photo are Chickamauga Regent Lee Parham, left, NSDAR Vice President General Nancy Hemmrich, TSDAR Susan Thomas, TSDAR State 1st Vice President Charlotte Reynolds and TNSSAR President Claude T. Hardison Jr.



NSDAR Vice President General Nancy Hemmrich, left, TNSSAR President Claude T. Hardison Jr. and TSDAR Chickamauga Chapter Historian Marilyn J. Dammann celebrate the 120th anniversary of the Chickamauga Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution held Oct. 8 at the First-Centenary United Methodist Church in Chattanooga.



The Tennessee Society Daughters of the American Revolution had the 13th Annual Constitution Week Bell Ringing Sept. 21 on the Tennessee State Capital grounds at the Liberty Bell Replica. The TNSSAR Color Guard presented the Colors for the celebration. In the photo are, left to right, Roger Tenney Guy Kirby, Larry Pool, Edward Phillips, Commander David Miles Vaughn, Johnye Klossner Kitzman, TSDAR; TSDAR State Regent Susan Rogers Thomas, Lori Hanley, TSDAR; Fred Ryan Steve Gaines and Bob Nash.

GATHERING

“Early in June, Clinton and the fleet sailed for New York, leaving Lord Cornwallis to complete the establishing of civil government in the State. He commenced his march northward. Parties were sent out in all directions to disperse the patriots and gather up the Tories and loyalists with which to swell his ranks. This was not enough. He determined to force those who, from the results of the war, were resting quietly at home, to take up arms against their friends and against the cause which they loved. Lord Cornwallis soon found that the country still remained, and there were many who had sworn for it to live and for it to die. In South Carolina, there was not then a regularly organized American army. There were small parties of men, in almost every section of the State, who disputed every inch of ground with Cornwallis. Still he pushed on. Tories and loyalists flocked to his standard, and many who, heretofore, had been regarded as good Whigs, sought British protection. The country was full of Tories and British. Property was destroyed, old men and children were abused and cursed, and women insulted. Many, in despondency, gave up the cause as hopeless. Calamity after calamity fell upon the afflicted country. On the 16th of August, General Gates, the hero of Saratoga, was defeated and his army routed near Camden. Two days after, the brave Sumter was surprised at Fishing Creek, by Tarleton, and his command scattered.

Such was the general condition of things in South Carolina and Georgia. Many brave men had hidden themselves beyond the mountains, that, like Alfred of old, they might emerge from

these mountain fastnesses and rout the invading foe. These voluntary exiles received a welcome from the patriots of Watauga and Nollichucky. There they met Isaac Shelby and John Sevier. Amongst those refugees was Colonel Clarke, of Georgia, with about one hundred of his overpowered, but not subdued men. These refugees told the tales of suffering which they had seen in the States of Georgia and South Carolina. Their stories aroused the patriotism and stirred the spirits of the hardy pioneers of the forest.

After the defeat of Gates at Camden, Cornwallis, as had been done by his predecessor, Clinton, proceeded at once to establish civil government in the upper section of the State. Tarleton and Ferguson were ordered to scour the State. The object was to beat up the Tories and loyalists and disperse the Whigs. Ferguson, with about one thousand loyalists and one hundred and ten regulars, had been in the Ninety-Six District for some time, and portions of his command had been, on several occasions, badly cut up by the Whigs. Patrick Ferguson was a Major in the British army, and Brigadier General of the Royal Militia of South Carolina. The second officer in his command was Captain DePeyster, a loyalist. The Whig colonels, McDowell, Sevier, Shelby, Williams and Clarke, were known to frequent this section of the State. The fact that small detachments of Tories had been attacked and routed by the bold partisans, greatly incensed the British officer. Meetings of the Tories and loyalists were held throughout the Ninety-Six District. Those who claimed to be Tories or loyalists, were

threatened with severe punishment if they did not take up arms and assist his majesty's troops in putting down the rebellion. Ferguson now found that the rebellion, which Clinton and his successor, Cornwallis, thought was crushed out, was stalking over the land like a giant. Whigs, Tories and loyalists, found that each party was in earnest, and a desperate effort must be made, or all would be lost...

“...Ferguson was not ignorant of this fact. He knew the history of those men who were beyond the mountains. He knew that their ancestors, for more than two hundred years, had been fighting for freedom, and he saw that the wilds of America had strengthened the love of liberty in their children. He knew that they were Scotch-Irish and Huguenots by descent. He knew that they could be crushed into the earth, that they could be torn limb from limb, that they could be buried beneath the earth, but he feared their very dust.

He had his spies in the mountain country, and from them he had learned what was going on in the valleys of Nollichucky and Watauga. These spies often brought him the startling news that their fellows were caught and hanged, while others were tarred and suffered to return as a taunt to their champion leader. Ferguson raged. He cursed the rebels for their daring, and he cursed the Tories and loyalists for their want of courage...

“...While Colonel Ferguson lay at Gilbert Town, he paroled Samuel Phillips, a patriot, whom he held as a prisoner, and sent him with a threatening message to the back mountain men. The purport of this message was, that if these patriots in Watauga and Nollichucky

did not lay down their arms and submit to the King of England, he would come over the mountain and hang the last one of them. This was not a mere boast. He contemplated doing what he said. Ferguson was no idle boaster. No sooner had Samuel Phillips delivered his message, than the horrors of past generations loomed up before the eyes of the patriots of Watauga and Nollichucky. The blood of John Sevier and Isaac Shelby was stirred. Sevier was eloquent under the impulse of a holy resentment, and the brow of Shelby was knit with indignation, and his whole countenance indicated stern defiance. These noble men at once concluded that they would thwart Ferguson in his bloody purpose, and if there was any hanging to be done, they would do it.

At the appointed time, the entire inhabitants of the back mountain region assembled at Sycamore Shoal, and Col. William Campbell, with his Virginians, was there. Everybody was in earnest. There were no gay uniforms; no costly plumes; no long trains of baggage wagons; no ambulances; no surgeon; no chaplain. Officers and men were clad in suits made by their wives, mothers and sisters, and each man intended for the expedition was armed with a faithful Deckhard rifle.

All assembled; but all dare not leave the settlement. The Cherokee Indians were on the borders, watching an opportunity to descend with the torch and tomahawk upon the neighborhood.

On the morning of the 26th of September, preparations were made for the advance. To victory or to death, was the feeling of every breast.”

Armstrong

company in Lincoln, and shortly after the battle of Camden I called out my company to Volunteer in defense of the Country, but to my mortification I found that but twelve men good and true – the rest having joined the Tories. With these I again entered the service as a Captain, and immediately joined Colonel Dixon, and remained under him two years. During which time my company was sometimes large and then smaller, as I could get man to serve; and touring all this time the service was most dangerous and laborious.

The Tories had the ascendancy in point of numbers, and many times we were unable to oppose them and we frequently had to act defensively, owing to the want of men. The force under Colonel Dixon were incessantly employed against the Tories and scouting parties of the British – marching from point to point as

occasion required, to relieve the Country, and had many skirmishes and engagements.

Frequently I acted in the capacity of a spy, and had the command of a spy Company.

At one time I had only eight man under me, and was sent out to Savis's Mill in Rowan County for the purpose of discovery, and on arriving there we found 42 footmen and 15 dragoons there before us. They had discovered our approach and lay in ambush & fired on us as we entered the Creek, but luckily killed none of us.

We instantly turned to fire, but at the moment saw the dragoons advancing us from their ambush, on the opposite side of the Creek, and we were obliged to retreat through a Contiguous old field, and reserved our fire for more urgent necessity, as we expected to be pursued; but strange as it may seem, when we reached the other side of the field we halted, and

looked back and discerned the enemy retreating in some haste. This movement of theirs was unaccountable, unless they supposed a larger force was near at hand. They threw out their forage & precipitously retreated, and we in turn pursued them five or six miles, and might have killed and taken them all, if Col. Dixon had sent reinforcements, as I had requested by a messenger, but the reinforcement did not arrive in time to effect the object.

About this time our service was uncommonly severe – Cornwallis was marching through the Country from Charleston towards Virginia, and almost every day we encountered some scouting party, and notwithstanding all our exertions the Country suffered much, and it was impossible for our forces to afford complete protection to the inhabitants.

I myself suffered materially by them,

having while out in service, been robbed of everything I had, and having lost five horses at one time by the Tories. I continued under Col. Dixon, in this service till the close of the war late in 1782 (about December) which was upwards of two years – indeed near three years but the precise time I cannot fix. I forgot to name one circumstance: at the battle of Ramsour's [Ramsour's Mill, June 20, 1780], Gillefall [sic] commanded the Whigs, and was killed there, and the Regiment to which I belonged would have been in the action, but the express did not arrive [in] time – this action was fought the 20 June as well as I remember. I was a Captain, regularly commissioned as such, during all the time of my service in the revolution, which could not be much short of three years.

I could name many persons who served with me in the revolution, but I suppose they are all dead – I know of none living."



Color Guard present at the Capt. William Armstrong grave marking Sept. 19, at Surgoinville are, front row left to right, James Moore (VASAR), Bill Pettis, John Clines, Larry Pool. Michael Mankin, Dennis Harris, back row left to right, James Hobbs, Roger Tenney, TNSSAR President Claude Hardison, Stan Evans, James Norris (SCSAR), Jim Maples (ALSAR), Gary Randles, Michael Rhotens, Ronnie Lail, Mel McKay and Color Guard Commander David Miles Vaughn.