

THE UPPER CUMBERLAND CHAPTER OF THE  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
Motto: "Libertas et Patria."

During the spring of 1936 a number of citizens of Cookeville and Putnam County became interested in the organization of the chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). The SAR, like its better known female counterpart, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), is a national organization chartered by an act of the Congress of the United States, with patriotic, educational, and historical purposes. The SAR was first organized in 1889, and chartered in 1906. The Upper Cumberland Chapter was officially installed by SAR officers of the Tennessee State Society on February 23, 1937, at a dinner held at the Methodist Church in Cookeville. The first president of the chapter was Austin Wheeler Smith, Dean, Registrar, and Professor of History at Tennessee Polytechnic Institute (now Tennessee Technological University). At a meeting held on July 2, 1937, on a motion by Judge Oscar King Holladay, the chapter was named the Upper Cumberland Chapter, and on another motion by Compatriot Holladay a constitution for the new chapter was adopted. That constitution is still in force.

The twenty-two men who were charter members of the Upper Cumberland Chapter of the SAR were: John Allison Bullington, Alfred Algood Carlen, Henry Frank Carlen, Walter Raleigh Carlen, William Benton Carlen, James N. Cox, Henry Nevels Foster, Robert Stantion Greenwood, John Denny Holladay, Oscar King Holladay, William Wirt Jared, Gideon Harris Lowe, Morrison Lewis Lowe, Robert Witherspoon Lowe, George Shores Shanks, Austin Wheeler Smith, Burch Dowell Wade, John Holland Whitson, H. Thurman Whitson, Walter Lee Whitson, Stacey Dyer Wilhite, and Ralph Howard Wirt. Qualifications for membership include having reached the age of 18, being a citizen of good repute, and being descended from someone who rendered active service in the cause of the American Independence from Britain.

Austin Wheeler Smith served as president of the Upper Cumberland Chapter continuously from 1937 until 1951, when he was succeeded by Gideon Harris Lowe. The chapter was subsequently led by James Anthony Carlen, II, W. Louis Johnson, Jr., Dero Armistead Darwin, Jr., and Gary E. Brewer. Newly elected president is Willaim C. Schrader.

Since its inception, the Upper Cumberland Chapter has gone through many ups and downs, but is now experiencing a revival, with 13 members coming not only from Cookeville and Putnam County, but also from surrounding counties. The next meeting will be jointly with the DAR on February 17, 2001, at noon luncheon held on the Tennessee Tech campus.

Person interested in membership in the SAR may contact President Schrader at 110-C Westgate Circle, Cookeville, TN 38506 - telephone: 931-526-5676, e-mail: WCSchrader@TnTech.edu.

SAR – [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org)

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was incorporated January 17, 1890, in Connecticut and chartered by the United States Congress on June 9, 1906. A number of state societies were formed prior to this date during the 1880's. These were organized under The Sons of Revolutionary Sires organized in San Francisco on July 4, 1876. The first Congress of the National Society took place in Louisville, Kentucky on April 30, 1890, on the 100th anniversary of George Washington's inauguration to the office of President of the United States.

On April 30, 1990 The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution celebrated the bicentennial of Washington's becoming President and the centennial of the NSSAR.

Within the Tennessee Society there are fourteen Chapters located throughout the state.

Perpetuating the memory of Revolutionary War Patriots.

Promoting fellowship among their descendants.

Inspiring reverence in the community for the principles of government founded by our forefathers.

Encouraging historical research of the American Revolution.

Preserving the records of Revolutionary War Patriots.

Marking the locations of the Revolution events and its soldiers.

Celebrating anniversaries of the Revolution.

Fostering true patriotism.

Maintaining and extending institutions of American freedom.

Carrying out the purposes of the Preamble of the Constitution.

Following the injunctions of Washington's farewell address to the American people.

**Source:** Herald Citizen newspaper, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN

(Feb. 19, 1937) The Daughters of the American Revolution have had an active chapter in Cookeville for some time, and this week, a chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution was on the verge of being created.

The 20 local men who have the genealogical credentials necessary to be part of the patriotic organization and other potential members will meet this week to pick a name for the local chapter and to choose officers.

Among the 20 already accepted by the Nashville chapter are Alfred Algood Carlen, Henry Carlen, W. B. Carlen, J. N. Cox, Robert Stockton, John Holladay and his brother, Oscar K. Holladay, Gideon Lowe, George Shanks, Thurman Whitson and John Allison Bullington.

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