

FLORIDA SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
TAMPA CHAPTER
(Site of the 96th Annual Congress)



Newsletter April 1986

Our Last Meeting

The First Annual Awards Banquet for the Tampa Chapter was held on March 15th at the Egypt Temple Shrine. It was also the occasion for the installation of the Chapter officers for '86-'87. Forty members and guests attended. Among those were Compatriots Glenn A. Arter, Recording Secretary and Chairman Target Cities Committee FLSAR, Past President Wynn Young of Clearwater, and Past Presidents of Lakeland Chapter John Alderman and I. Newell Kellogg. Past Regent Phyliss Bearçss of the DeSoto Chapter DAR was with us too.

Florida Society President and Mrs. J. R. Miles were late comers having toured a substantial portion of Tampa and after having met a goodly number of Tampaians who, fortunately, were able to direct them to the Shrine Club.

Our Vice President West Central Region, Al Snapp was to have come too but apparently the "bug" got to him first.

But there in full dress uniform was an Army ROTC Color Guard from the University of Tampa consisting of four Cadets under the Escort of Major Paul Landers, USA. The Guard opened and closed the banquet festivities in a very impressive manner.

Prior to the banquet Registrar-Genealogist Martin McKinnon reported that 4 new applications for membership had already been approved by the State Registrar and had been forwarded to National by him. If they were received at National prior to March 15th, our banquet night, and approved there, then the final total for new members of the Tampa Chapter should stand at 16. If so, this puts our Chapter in contention for an award for the largest increase in new members when the State convention is held in May.

The usual Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Pledge of the SAR and Welcome and Introductions preceded the actual banquet. President (soon to be Ex) Baylies and Compatriot Arter split these functions.

Following the meal Compatriot Arter gave a few remarks regarding the re-founding of an SAR Chapter in Tampa and its progress to date. As Chairman of the Target Cities Committee, he and his Committee provided the spark which, together with the enthusiasm and vigor of President Bob Baylies and the other Chapter officers has brought the Tampa Chapter in one year to be one of the most vital in the State.

It was fitting that upon this occasion the Chapter was privileged to swear in a new Compatriot, Cecil Samuel Beauregard, Jr. (That's right Samuel.) Sam is a native of Connecticut and is descended from Connecticut Patriot David Dickinson. He-Sam, not David - served as a Navy radioman. He and his family live in Tampa.

Awards were then presented as below:

Certificate of Service to Robert L. Grover and the Clearwater Chapter for their help in getting the Tampa Chapter under way and particularly for the privilege of reporting our activities in their newsletter before we had one of our own.

Certificate of Service and Honorary Associate Membership in the Tampa Chapter to Glenn Arter for the "spark" as mentioned above.

Certificate of Service to Tampa Compatriots Jim Smith and Martin McKinnon for their considerable services to the Chapter, which, for the most part, are behind the scenes and not called to the attention of most of the Compatriots.

A SAR Medal of Appreciate to DeSoto Chapter DAR member Kay McKinnon (Mrs. Martin) for all the help she has given Martin and prospective SAR members in searching for the information for and preparing the applications for membership.

A Tampa Chapter President's Award to your Editor.

The installation ceremonies followed the awards with the officers for '86-'87 as announced in March's newsletter but with the addition of Bob Baylies as secretary.

New President Jim Smith acknowledged the honor of being elected to his office and then introduced State President Miles.

Compatriot Miles got some chuckles as he recounted the saga of one trying to find the Egypt Temple for the first time. He then continued on with information about the State Society and his long experience in it.

A very fine evening concluded with the SAR recessional and the retiring of the Colors.

Registrar's Report

Current membership including dual, associate and applications pending now stands at 46 for the Tampa Chapter. At our April meeting President Smith plans to swear in new Compatriots-

Elwin Roland Thrasher, a Texan now retired to Brandon. He descends from a Scotsman, James Selkirk, who settled in New York. Patriot Selkirk served for six and 1/2 years, wintered at Valley Forge and was present at Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown. Mrs. Elwin Thrasher is currently Regent of the DeSoto Chapter, DAR.

Charles Carroll Bearss, a native Tampan, descends from a Battle of Concord Minuteman, Ebenezer Stow. Chuck served in the USAF for four years and is currently employed by GTE. He and his wife, Cynthia, live in north Tampa. They have 3 CAR sons.

Herbert Preston Mason, Jr. is an insurance agent, formerly of Massachusetts. He served with the 69th Infantry in Europe during WWII. He and Mrs. Mason live in Twelve Oaks. His Revolutionary ancestor was Joshua Cone of Connecticut.

Recent approved transfers to the Chapter are Dr. Paul Weaver formerly of Buffalo and Washington, D.C., and Mr. Austin Elwood Showers from the Illinois Society.

Secretary's Report

All of the Chapter's reports have been submitted to the State's Awards Committee and it is now a wait and see what transpires at the State Annual meeting in May.

Any member who is interested in obtaining his membership badge can see Secretary Baylies about the details. The current cost is \$65.

Membership cards have finally arrived from National. They will be given out at the April meeting. Please come and get yours to save the hassle and expense of mailing it.

Treasurer's Report

Compatriot Bob Hill expresses his thanks to the membership for the confidence placed in him. He will make every effort to carry out the responsibilities of the office, and welcomes inquiries from Compatriots about any concern that he might have the answer to. The Chapter's Funds as of March 22nd were \$407.46.

Our Next Meeting

Is Saturday, April 19th. Get there about 11:30 A.M. and mill around for awhile. We'll eat when its ready. At Egypt Temple Shrine of course, 4050 Dana Shores Drive.

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