



**THE TAMPA CHAPTER  
FLORIDA SOCIETY  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 1988

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Our Next Meeting

Will be on Saturday, January 23rd - NOTE - This is the fourth Saturday of January rather than the usual third Saturday. The Shrine has some other of its activities going on the third Saturday so we had to move our meeting up a week for January.

The place - Egypt Temple Shrine, 4050 Dana Shores Drive, Tampa; the time - 11:30 AM; the price of the meal - \$8 - remain the same. Compatriot Jim Smith is contacting the Tampa City Police and the Hillsborough County Sheriff Departments regarding the selection of a worthy recipient of the SAR's Law Enforcement Medal to be presented at the meeting. And, as the chapter year book (on page 19) shows, the nominating committee will present its slate of officers for the year 1988-1989. Article 3 of the chapter's By-Laws provides that "the slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee at the January meeting may be supplemented by nominations from the floor. Voting shall be by written ballot if requested by any member."

Incidentally, at the time of the Board of Governors' meeting (on the 7th) there had been a number of responses to the survey printed at the bottom of the first page of the December newsletter; however, there had been no clear-cut indication that a change in the place, day or time of our meetings was being called for. Any chapter member still wishing to express his views on the matters brought up in the survey should make them known to President Jack Seymour as soon as possible.

As usual, any chapter member planning to attend the meeting and not having been contacted by the telephone committee should let Treasurer Bob Hill (689-5395) know by at least the 20th so he can let the Shrine kitchen know how many lunches to prepare.

Our Last Meeting

Was attended by 22 people including Bob Baylies' son, Benjamin. Benjamin looked to be about seven years old so you can see Benjy is starting with the right attitude about attending meetings. Or maybe Bob was son-sitting while Moma Frances was out buying Santa Claus.

Bob also mentioned that he was NOT the chairman of the Ben Franklin Home Committee but that he was going to the next Board of Management meeting and would take what the chapter has collected with him to turn in. The Florida Patriot which you received just recently reports that at the Fall BOM Meeting the Committee was discontinued because the National Committee had been discontinued. One must presume that there will be an appropriate disposition of the monies collected for that purpose.

Registrar Ted Dickerson reported the application which he has been working on recently was ready for mailing in to National. In the regard to membership, be forewarned that the total membership will undoubtedly be dropping by somewhere between four to six. At last report, two have decided not to renew their membership and two others are moving away. And there are others who have not yet sent their '88 dues to Bob Hill. So you can see that to just hold our own in turns of membership all the present members have to be aggressive in promoting the Chapter and the SAR to anyone who might be eligible for membership.

Ted also mentioned that he had been talking to a John Williams who has a sword that is Revolutionary ancestor carried while an officer at Valley Forge among other places. Ted has invited him to attend a chapter meeting so if any of you Compatriots see a stranger wandering around the Shrine with a sword in his hand at about meeting time, please make him welcome. The sword is reported to be a beautiful specimen of the sword making art.

Name tags are available for all members. The 100 the Chapter ordered have been paid for. The Chapter members who have not yet paid their \$3.50 for theirs are putting the Chapter in a bit of a bank-balance-squeeze. Come to the January meeting, pay your \$3.50 and get your tag if you haven't already done so.

One of our guests at the meeting was Charles M. Parkin, Jr., a retired Army officer now living in Florida. He is the co-author of the book "Captain Gray and the Pacific Northwest". Captain Robert Gray was born in Rhode Island in 1755. He was a sea captain and one of his accomplishments was to be the first to carry the flag of the United States around the world. But perhaps his greatest significance to us today is the exploration he did along the coast of the Pacific northwest. He did this about the same time that the English explorer, George Vancouver was in the same area. However it was Captain Gray who discovered what is now the Columbia River. That and his other explorations in the area are in large part responsible for the fact that what is now the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana became part of the United States when the boundary line between the States and Canada was settled in 1846.

Mr. Parkin's talk about Captain Gray was very interesting and was very educational for many of us.

Since our February meeting is to be a joint meeting with the Clearwater Chapter with them as the hosts, a considerable amount of discussion arose as to the extent of our chapter's participation in these joint meetings. After all those who expressed an opinion, the consensus seemed to be that at these joint meetings the host chapter be responsible for the program with due recognition being given to the presence of the "guest" chapter's officers and members.

More will be in the February newsletter about the February joint meeting but for some advance information, it will be in observance of Washington's Birthday (2/15) on February 20th at Eckerd Hall, McMullen-Booth Road, Clearwater. Lunch will be served about noon and cost \$10 per person.

#### Odds and Ends

You all should have the winter 1987 issue of THE FLORIDA PATRIOT, the official magazine of the FLSAR, by now. Hopefully you will all read it, or at least most of it. To outline it a bit for those who have so far put it aside:

Presidents Message - primarily about keeping chapters active and increasing membership.

Editors Comment - Right now the editor is also the president...and he needs some help. A good chance for someone to become active at the state level.

Report of the adhoc committee for review of the Florida Society Endowment Trust disbursements guidelines. Many Compatriots don't realize that a trust fund has existed since 1972 for the purpose of funding Society programs.

Help Wanted - State offices for which the nominating committee had no nominees. Another opportunity for service at the state level.

Senior vice-president's report on membership recruitment.

The story behind the SAR badge.

Minutes of the fall BOM meeting.

Douglass G. High oration contest. This has never been mentioned at the Tampa Chapter.

Good citizenship award.

Official family profiles...profiles of state officers.

Chapter news in brief.

Schedule of 1987-1988 Board of Management meetings.

You can see that the Patriot has a lot of information for a Compatriot seriously interested in the SAR.

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