

The Tampa Chapter Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution

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2000
NEWSLETTER

MARCH MEETING

Our March meeting will be Saturday March 18th at the **PICCADILLY CAFETERIA**, 11810 North Dale Mabry, Tampa, Florida at 12:00 Noon. When you arrive go straight to the private room and after opening of the meeting we will adjourn long enough to get in the serving line and select our lunch and return to the meeting room to eat. Each person is responsible for paying for their own meals and leaving a gratuity for the waiter or bus person.

PROGRAM FOR MARCH

In as much as your Editor is going to some class and School reunions and has to get the newsletter out early before leaving I do not have the program for this month. Vice President Yarnell promises a Historical program for this month. Normally we would have our Eagle Scout award this month but for the past two years we have had no response to all the invitations to those eligible.

Why not invite a friend to attend our meetings. Remind those that receive our newsletter that all are invited and encouraged to attend any of our meetings.

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER NOW ON WEB

Thanks to sitemaster Fowler our Chapter newsletters are being posted on the web. For those of you who have access to the internet I recommend that visit the site not only for our newsletter but many items of interest to all members of the SAR. The address is: <http://www/flssar.org>. We are grateful for all the work that went into developing this site and all of its links. I found it most interesting and highly recommend those who have access to the internet visit and take advantage of all of the interesting historic articles.

You can hours just reading "Telling it like it was" and other historical items. It is a shame that so many of our members will miss reading some of these articles because they do not have access to the web. I will from time to time try to include some of the items in my newsletter in order that those can enjoy.

Minutes of the January 15, 2000 meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

In the absence of the President, Secretary Yarnell presided over the meeting until the installation of new officers had been completed. The secretary called the meeting to order at 12:05. Chaplain Jim Washburn gave the invocation and Kevin led the pledge to the flag and the pledge to the SAR.

Members present: Dwight Tetrick, Elwin Thrasher, Marty Miller, Jim Washburn, Barry Rich, and Kevin Yarnell, Welcome guests: Janett Tetrick, Billie Washburn, Jack and June Bolen, West Central Regional VP Charles Schaeffer and his wife.

The membership approved the minutes of the December meeting as published in the newsletter.

The secretary reported on the absence of President Yarnell. He was coaching a soccer game in Orlando. The secretary presented to Compatriot Schafer, the West Central Regional Vice President, our score sheet for the 'chapter challenge' contest. Secretary Yarnell reported to the membership that the chapter had posted its highest score in recent memory, topping last year's number by more than 20 points. Compatriot Schafer congratulated the chapter on the fine work represented by the score.

Treasurer Marty Miller had no formal financial report as the chapter books were being audited. The board of governors, at the December meeting, asked the secretary to perform the audit. The secretary reported to the membership that all was in order and complemented the treasurer on the fine work.

The secretary reported having received two essays for the annual contest. One would be chosen and sent on to the state competition.

Compatriot Schafer was introduced to perform the installation of officers for the year 2000. He began by reminding the elected officers and the membership of the parable of the talents and charged the elected officers to do their best in performing their duties. After all had been sworn, newly elected president Tetrick was presented the gavel, his membership badge and neck ribbon, and perhaps most importantly, the president's notebook.

The meeting adjourned for lunch.

The program for the meeting consisted of a 15 minute segment from a recent A&E film entitled "The Crossing" which recounted the events surrounding Washington's crossing of the Delaware and the subsequent battle.

The 50/50 drawing fell to Janet Tetrick.

The president Tetrick led the recessional, the chaplain offered the benediction, and the meeting adjourned at 1:41.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell
Chapter Secretary

The following taken from FLSSAR Web site.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION,
INCLUDING ALSO THE
BEAUTIES OF AMERICAN HISTORY

NEW YORK

DERBY AND JACKSON
119 NASSAU STREET

A RARE ACT OF PUBLIC MUNIFICENCE

We give below an anecdote of Robert Morris, as related by Judge Peters, showing the style in which this

benevolent individual bestowed unbounded favors on our country, when, in the hour of need, she was most in want of necessaries on which the fate of the contest would depend. We give it I exactly his own language.

"In 1779, or 1780, two of the most distressful years of the war, General Washington wrote to me a most alarming account of the prostrate condition of the military stores, and enjoining my immediate exertions to supply deficiencies. There were no musket cartridges but those in the men's boxes, and they were wet; of course, if attacked, a retreat or a rout was inevitable. We (the board of war) had exhausted all the lead accessible to us, having caused even the spouts of houses to melted, and had offered, abortively, the equivalent in paper of two shillings specie for lead.

"I went, in the evening of the same day in which I received this letter, to a splendid entertainment given by Don Mirailles, the Spanish minister. My heart was sad, but I had the faculty of brightening my countenance even under gloomy disasters, yet it seems then not sufficiently adroitly. Mr. Morris, who was one of the guests, and knew me well, discovered some casual traits of depression. He accosted me in his usual blunt and disengaged manner: 'I see some clouds passing across the sunny countenance you assume - what is the matter?' After some hesitation I showed him the general's letter, which I brought from the office with the intention of placing it at home in a private cabinet. He played with my anxiety, which he did not relieve for some time.

"At length, however, with great and sincere delight, he called me aside, and told me that the 'Holken' privateer had just arrived at his wharf, with ninety tons of lead, which she had brought as ballast. It had been landed at Martinique, and stone ballast had supplied its place, but this had been put on shore, and the lead again taken in. 'You shall have my half of this fortunate supply; there are the owners of the other half,' (indicating gentlemen in the apartments.) 'Yes, but I am already under heavy personal engagements, as guarantee for the department, to those and other gentlemen.'

"'Well,' rejoined Mr. Morris, 'they will take your assumption with my guarantee.' I instantly, on these terms, secured the lead, left the entertainment, sent for the proper officers, and set more than one hundred people at work during the night. Before morning a supply of cartridges was ready and sent off to the army."

COURAGEOUS YOUNG WOMAN

At the attack on the Middle Fort, at Schoharie, by the British and Indians, on the 17th of October, 1780, an interesting young woman, perceiving, as she thought, symptoms of fear in a soldier, who had been ordered to a well, (without the works, and within range of the enemy's fire,) for water, snatched the bucket from his hands and ran for it herself. Without changing color, or giving the slightest evidence of fear, she drew, and brought pail after pail to the thirsty soldiers, and wonderful to relate, she escaped without receiving one single injury.

GOVERNOR CLINTON

At the conclusion of the struggle for independence, virulence against the tories was the order of the day, and once a British officer was placed on a cart, in the city of New York, to be tarred and feathered. This was the signal for violence and assassination. Governor Clinton, at this moment rushed in with a drawn sword, and rescued the victim at the risk of his life.

REMARKABLE INCIDENT

A very singular occurrence took place at the siege of Augusta. Two outlaws, distinguished by the enormity of their offences, were taken and condemned to die. Every soldier in the army shrunk from the office of hangman. It was at length determined that one deemed least guilty should be pardoned, provided he would act as executioner of the other. The terms were accepted, and the most atrocious culprit turned off. He who was pardoned had little time for triumph, for his part was just performed, before a four pound shot from the enemy's battery struck him on the breast, and laid him dead by the side of the man whom he had just hung.

THE TABLES TURNED

In August, 1775, General Gage sent two armed schooners from Boston to Machias, with cash, to buy live-stock, and gave orders to take the stock by force, if the inhabitants would not sell it. They did refuse; —the crews of the schooners then attempted to take off the stock by force, upon which the inhabitants rose, made all the men prisoner, seized on the schooners and cash, and shared about 5 lbs. Sterling a man.

GALLANTRY OF THE GLOUCESTER MILITIA

On the 9th of August, 1775, the British sloop of war Falcon, Captain Linzee, hove in sight off Gloucester, Massachusetts, in quest of two schooners from the West Indies, bound to Salem, one of which he soon brought to; the other taking advantage of a fair wind, put into Gloucester. Linzee having made a prize of the first, pursued the

second into the harbor, bringing his prize along with him.
He anchored, and sent two barges with fifteen men in each, armed with muskets and swivels, and attended by a whale-boat, in which was a lieutenant and six privates, with orders to seize the other schooner and bring her under the Falcon's bow. The militia and other inhabitants, indignant at this daring attempt, prepared for a vigorous resistance: --The bargemen under the command of the lieutenant boarded the schooner at the cabin windows, which provoked a smart fire from the people on shore, by which three of the enemy were killed, and the lieutenant wounded in the thigh, who thereupon returned to the sloop of war.

Linzee then sent the other schooner and a cutter he had to attend him, well armed, with orders to fire on the "damn'd rebels" whenever they could see them, and then he would in the mean while cannonade the town; he immediately fired a broadside into the thickest settlements; and looking with diabolical pleasure to see what havoc his cannon might make == 'Now,' said he, 'my boys we will aim at the damn'd Presbyterian Church. Well done, my brave fellows; one shot more and the house of God will fall before you.'

Not a ball struck or wounded a single individual, although they went through the houses in almost every direction filled with women and children. The small party on the water-side performed wonders, for they soon made themselves masters of both the schooners, the cutter, the two barges, the boat and every man in them. In the action, which lasted several hours, the Americans had but one killed, and two wounded; of the British, thirty-five were taken prisoners, and several wounded. The next day the Falcon warped off, with the loss of half of her crew, as well as the loss of her prize, tender, and boats.



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Minutes of the February 19, 2000 meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Tetrick called the meeting to order at 12:04. Chaplain Jim Washburn gave the invocation and Dwight led the pledge to the flag and the pledge to the SAR.

Members present: Dwight Tetrick, Elwin Thrasher, Marty Miller, Jim Washburn, Cy Gamber, Jim Chambers, Bob Yarnell, and Kevin Yarnell,
Welcome guests: Janett Tetrick, Billie Washburn, Jack and June Bolen, and Joshua Corbin.

The membership approved the minutes of the January meeting as published in the newsletter.

The secretary reported that he had filed the annual state report including payment of dues for the chapter. Also, he attended the USF army ROTC military ball and awards ceremony on Feb. 18 where he presented a silver ROTC medal to, as it turned out, one of his former students.

Treasurer Marty Miller reported the chapter's financial transactions over the course of the past month. The current balance is \$2,364.48.

Vice president Yarnell reported on the cancellation of three of the four high school speakers due to last minute commitments that could not be altered.

Elwin Thrasher, our newsletter editor, ask that all items for the March edition be sent to him early so that he can publish the newsletter prior to his vacation.

President Tetrick alerted the chapter to the fact that we now have our own web site. Compatriot Fowler, the state webmaster, worked with Elwin to get the necessary information. The address is www.flssar.org/fl-tamp.htm

Jim Washburn reported on an editorial in the Tampa Tribune about a constitutional amendment to allow Congress to prohibit flag burning and desecration. The editorial pointed out that these acts are not common and questioned whether the serious step of amending the constitution was appropriate. Jim commended the editorial to the membership for reflection.

The meeting adjourned for lunch.

President Tetrick reconvened the meeting and introduced VP Yarnell. Bob explained the purpose of the program was to reflect on George Washington. We had invited four high school students to help with this, but, as reported earlier, most had to cancel at the last minute. Bob introduced Kevin who, in turn, introduced Joshua Corbin. Joshua is a high school senior at Tampa Catholic High School. He hopes to pursue an engineering degree at USF in the fall.

Joshua began his remarks with a review of the purpose and goals of the revolution then turned his attention to George Washington. Joshua was most impressed with the leadership of Washington exhibited at Valley Forge. The ability to hold the army together under such conditions impressed our speaker.

The vice president then asked the membership for their thoughts. Specifically, he asked if more people thought of Washington in terms of his military leadership or his political leadership. The vast majority sided with the military leadership and Bob offered a few comments of why this is a common trend when he asked this question of his classes.

In the discussion that followed, president Tetrick showed two famous pictures of Washington and noted that both showed the general at prayer. Bob informed the membership that Washington originated the idea of the Purple Heart medal. Only 3 were given during the revolution. Of interest is that Washington insisted that only enlisted men be eligible for the award.

The 50/50 drawing fell to Jim Chambers who donated the proceeds to the chapter.

The president Tetrick led the recessional, the chaplain offered the benediction, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell
Chapter Secretary