

*The Tampa Chapter
Florida Society
Sons of the American Revolution*

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Educational · Patriotic · Historic



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FEBRUARY

2003

OUR FEBRUARY LUNCHEON MEETING

WILL BE THE 3rd SATURDAY OF FEBRUARY

Our February meeting will be **Saturday, the 15th** at the **PICCADILLY CAFETERIA**, 11810 Dale Mabry Highway North, Tampa, Florida (telephone # 963-1660) in their private room at 11:30. This gives us time for camaraderie. Wives and guests are always welcome at our meetings. Members and guests will be responsible for their own meal and gratuity.

ALL SAR MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO WEAR THEIR SAR INSIGNIA TO ALL MEETINGS.

PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

Jack Bolen will be our speaker. Jack will give insight into George Washington as a businessman and a planter. He will explain how Washington acquired Mount Vernon and the business of running his estate. In addition, Jack will also touch on his Excellency's Pre-Revolution career.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2002 MEETING OF THE TAMPA CHAPTER SAR AT PICCADILLY CAFETERIA, DALE MABRY HIGHWAY NORTH TAMPA, FLORIDA.

Minutes of the January 25, 2003 meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Tetrick called the meeting to order at 12:06. Chaplain Jim Washburn offered the invocation. The president led the pledge to the flag and the pledge to the SAR.

Members present: Dwight Tetrick, Walter Lane, Jack Bolen, Dan Stutzman, Marty Miller, Ed Neugaard, Jim Washburn, and Kevin Yamell.

Welcome guests: June Bolen and Larry Bradley State Sr. Vice President. Rod Stebbins and Don Middleton, both potential members. were also present.

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

The secretary reported receiving dues from Robert Hill and Ted Dickerson bringing our membership to 22 for 2003. He attended the state BOM meeting last weekend. While there he picked up Eric Stutzman's membership certificate and several additional copies of the Florida Patriot. These were overruns from the last publication. The state editor hoped that we might donate these to local libraries.

The treasurer reported sending a \$25.00 donation on behalf of the chapter for the state and national efforts to raise the amount of prize money offered in that youth competition. This was done after a request came to President Tetrick from the state ROTC chairman and the resulting consultation with the chapter officers. The current balance is \$2,112.72.

The President commented on the scrapbooks that the secretary had updated and had on display for the meeting. He then proposed that the chapter purchase a digital camera. The discussion that followed indicated that some research was required. The President asked the secretary to perform this research and report back during the February meeting. He also appointed Rod Stebbins as the chair of a new committee to deal with the technology issues of the chapter.

Vice President Bolen reported on Fred Patton who is currently in the hospital. Fortunately, he is making good progress and may be returning home soon.

The President received an invitation from Charleen Herreid inviting him or another member to the 100th anniversary of the DeSoto Chapter of the NSDAR. No member expressed an interest in attending. President Tetrick also made available wallet calendars courtesy of the Order of Purple Heart.

There being no other business the meeting recessed for lunch.

President Tetrick introduced Compatriot Bradley who inducted the chapter officers for 2003. He then spoke to the membership concerning recent events in the State and National society. The National Society is currently raising money for a new library and museum. The library receives additional 1,500 volumes each year. The SAR did not originally build the current building those houses both national offices and the library and not intended to house a library and the resulting weight. In addition there is no room for the expanding collection. The speaker has personally used the library facilities and found them to very useful. The fund-raising for this project is progressing well. Approximately 1.7 million of the required 3 million dollars needed has been raised.

Compatriot Bradley then discussed the national census survey project. Members are providing information on relatives that are eligible for membership on a survey form. This information is then being distributed to the closest chapter as a source of new members.

Finally, the speaker encouraged the members to attend the state BOM meetings. There is a continual need for new members and leaders of the thirty state committee and he encouraged the members to consider participation at the state level.

A brief question and answer question session followed.

June Bolen won the 50/50 drawing (again!). Thus the treasury was enriched by \$5.00.

President Tetrick led the recessional and Chaplain Washburn benediction. The meeting adjourned at 1:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yamell
Chapter Secretary

FEBRUARY IN THE REVOLUTION

February 26, 1776 ----- Washington issues an order making it illegal for cards, dice, or any other games of chance to be played in the Continental Army.

February 27, 1776 ----- The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, North Carolina. Americans stopped a force of Scottish Highlanders from joining the British Army.

February 6, 1778 ----- Treaty of Alliance with France.

February 23, 1778 ----- Prussian Baron Von Steuben joins the Continental Army at Valley Forge.

[July 4, 1779]

"Upon my arrival at the army I was . . . received with more marks of distinction than I had expected. General Washington came some miles to meet me and accompanied me to my quarters, where I found an officer and 25 men on guard. On my remonstrating against this on the ground that I was simply to be regarded as a volunteer, he replied in the most courteous manner that the entire army took pleasure in protecting such volunteers. He presented Major-General Lord Stirling and several other generals to me, and also Lieutenant-Colonel Fernans and Major Walker, whom Congress had designated as my adjutant-generals. On the same day my name was given to the army as the password, and on the following day the army turned out, General Washington accompanying me to review it. In a word, if Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick or the first field-marshal of Europe had arrived in my place he could not have been received with more marks of distinction than I was.

My services as a volunteer lasted no longer than five weeks, during which I drilled the army and made various dispositions in it which met with such approbation that I received my commission as a major-general on the 26th of April. This was also accompanied at the same time with another commission of inspector-general of all the armies of the United States. My salary was now fixed at 16,400 French livres; while, in addition, my table and all of my official staff were maintained free of cost by a commissary of our own, and furnished with everything needful. Moreover, 22 horses for myself and equipage, 1 captain of horse, 2 lieutenants, and 40 dragoons to act as a body-guard were assigned to me by Congress. Furthermore, my adjutants and officers received the requisite number of horses and servants commensurate with their rank. I have 2 adjutant-generals, 2 inspection-adjutants, and 2 secretaries whose salaries are paid by Congress....

William L Stone, translator, Letters of Brunswick and Hessian Officers during the American Revolution (Albany, 1891), 244-255 passing

Von Steuben at the time was middle age, stout, balding, and had a long nose; he had an Italian greyhound as a pet. He came with the recommendations of Benjamin Franklin and Silas Deane. Washington had received Von Steuben's cover letter prior to his arrival. The General was not aware that Von Steuben was not what he claimed, a lieutenant general nor had he served 22 years under Frederick the Great. Washington gave him 100 men to test and kept an eye on the drills. The rest is history.

Von Steuben took the 100 choice men and trained them so they could go out and work within each brigade. He trained them in his full dress uniform, while they were nearly naked. He would swear and curse at them in German and French. When this failed to work, he had Captain Benjamin Walker, who understood French, to swear at the men for him in English

Von Steuben introduced progressive training for the troops. Company commanders were responsible for the training; however, sergeants carried out the work. The troops worked with and without arms. As the men were schooled, they were placed in groups of three, then 12. They were taught to wheel, dress to the right, and to the left. This was necessary to create a smooth firing line. The speed in which the troops fired with accuracy generally decided the battle. Von Steuben simplified the existing firing drill down to a quicker version, which was:

Half Cock --- Flintlock! One Motion
Handle --- Cartridge! One Motion
Prime! One Motion
Shut Pan! One Motion
Charge with Cartridge! Two Motions
Draw Ramrod! Two Motions
Ram Down --- Cartridge! One Motion
Return --- Ramrod! Two Motions
Fire! Two Motions

During this time at Valley Forge, Von Steuben wrote "Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States." He based this book on the training techniques he used on the troops at Valley Forge. The Army used this book for over 30 years.

Von Steuben also set up a system of camp sanitation. Until now. Officers and enlisted men just found a spot and made them comfortable as best they could. There was no organization. Von Steuben had the troops organize by company and regiments. Huts and tents were put into rows or streets. Command on one line, officers are another, and the enlisted men. The kitchen and latrines were placed on opposite ends of the camp, with the latrines on the downhill side.



Frederick William Augustus, Baron Von Steuben
1730 – 1794
Portrait by Charles Willson Peale

Log Hut at Valley Forge. All butts are replicas, none of the originals survived



February 27, 1778 ----- British House of Commons votes against further war in America.

February 3, 1783 ----- Spain recognizes the United States of America.
Sweden, Denmark, and Russia soon follow.

FEBRUARY 4, 1783 ----- ENGLAND OFFICIALLY DECLARES AN END TO HOSTILITIES IN AMERICA.



Swearing in ceremony January 25th, Chaplain James E. Washburn, Secretary/Treasurer Kevin A. Yarnell, Surgeon Walter W. Lane, JR., MD, Vice-President: Jack C. Bolen, President/Registrar: Dwight Tetrick, Newsletter Editor Daniel M. Stutzman and officinal FLSSAR Vice President, Larry Bradley.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED