

The Tampa Chapter Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution

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Educational • Patriotic • Historic



N·E·W·S·L·E·T·T·E·R

**MARCH
2003**

OUR MARCH LUNCHEON MEETING

WILL BE THE 3rd SATURDAY OF MARCH

Our March 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 MARCH MEETING

J. "Ed" Sitton
will give a talk on
The Military Order of the Purple Heart

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2002 MEETING OF THE TAMPA CHAPTER SAR AT PICCADILLY CAFETERIA, DALE MABRY HIGHWAY NORTH TAMPA, FLORIDA.

Minutes of the February 15, 2003 meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Tetrick called the meeting to order at 12:00. Chaplain Jim Washburn offered the invocation. The secretary led the pledge to the flag and the president the pledge to the SAR.

Members present: Dwight Tetrick, Jack Bolen, Dan Stutzman, Marty Miller, Jim Washburn, Bob Yarnell, and Kevin Yarnell.

Welcome guests: June Bolen, Janette Tetrick, and Don Middleton- potential member. Bob Spencer from the Detroit area SAR also joined us.

The president introduced the guests.

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

The secretary had no report.

The treasurer reported receiving \$153.00 from the Endowment Trust Fund for reimbursement of our ROTC expenses. The chapter's current balance is \$2,265.12.

Marty Miller reported on the audit he performed of the chapter books for 2002. He concluded Jack Bolen reported on Fred Patton's health condition. He is home and still under doctor's care.

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.

Under old business the President returned to the idea of purchasing a digital camera for the chapter. In the past month he purchased his own digital camera which he will bring to meetings and thus we will delay the purchase of a camera for the chapter.

The president asked for volunteers to present JROTC medals at the local high schools. The chapter will continue to hold the awards luncheon- in April this year, but it would still be nice to have a member present at their awards ceremony. Bob Yarnell and Jack Bolen agreed to help as their work schedule allows. Kevin Yarnell will coordinate the assignments with Dwight and the others. Dwight will be handling the senior ROTC medals for the college units.

There being no other business the meeting recessed for lunch.

President Tetrick introduced Vice President Bolen who spoke on the events and forces that shaped George Washington.

Jack began with some background on Washington's ancestry beginning seven generations prior to George. The family began in Sulgrave, England. Jack provided some details about the family leading up to George's birth.

His early childhood was spent in the frontier areas and this setting did much to form his character. George's education was mostly home schooled from his other brother Lawrence and was not substantial. The family was not in anyway well off. George caught the attention of a Lord Fairfax who arranged to get George into the Royal Navy. However, George's mother would not allow this. Instead the Lord Fairfax got George a job on a survey crew. This led to his first purchase of land.

At twenty, George succeeded his brother as a militia leader. This was as much a political position as a military one. The Ohio valley was a contested area between the French and England. Washington was sent as an emissary to the area delivering a message from the English King for the French to leave the area. George delivers the message, which was ignored and survives an attempt on his life by one of the guides on the return journey.

Washington, with no military experience, next travels with a group of soldiers to the Ohio valley. The commander of this group never actually catches up with the force leaving George in charge. Washington makes several errors ending with his defeat at Fort Necessity. He tries unsuccessfully to get a commission in the British army but this doesn't work out.

A second trip into the Ohio valley by the British will George attached as a non-military person ends in another defeat. One might think that Washington would not be well thought of after these two unsuccessful ventures. However, in both cases the Virginians think George as done the best he could under trying circumstances and he continues to gain respect. Further, it is clear that he learned a great deal from these early encounters.

George married a rich widow, Martha Custis, and begins a career as farmer and plantation owner. Tobacco was the major cash crop at the time but it had significant drawbacks in that it needed to be sold in England and the price paid was not in the control of the farmer. So, he converted the land at Mount Vernon from tobacco to wheat and also started a system of crop rotation. This last was an example of the many innovations that Washington employed.

Jack reviewed Washington's views on slavery. These changed as he aged. Increasingly he saw slavery as a significant issue for Virginia and later the new country. All of the slaves at Mount Vernon were freed on George's request after his death and before Martha's death. This was done in a way so as to make the transition as smooth as possible.

The speaker concluded with a few comments on George's death.

President Tetrick expressed the thanks of the chapter for Jack's research and presentation.

Kevin Yarnell won the 50/50 drawing. Thus the treasury was enriched by \$6.00.

President Tetrick led the recessional and Chaplain Washburn benediction. The meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell
Chapter Secretary

MARCH IN THE REVOLUTION

- March 26, 1776** British evacuate Boston.
- March 12, 1777** The Continental Congress returns to Philadelphia from Baltimore.
- March 16, 1778** The British Parliament creates a commission to negotiate peace with the colonies. The commission sails to Philadelphia and offers to meet all the demands of the colonies except independence. The Continental Congress declines.
- March 15, 1781** General Cornwallis suffers heavy losses and stops his plans to conquer the Carolinas. Instead, he retreats to Maryland and then begins his campaign into Virginia.
- March 5, 1782** Parliament gives the king power to negotiate peace with the United States.
- March 7, 1782** American militia massacres 96 Delaware Indians in Ohio. This was in retaliation for Indian raids conducted by other tribes.
- March 20, 1782** Lord North resigns as Prime Minister. Lord Rockingham succeeds him two days later and seeks immediate negotiations with the American peace commission.
- March 10, 1783** An anonymous letter is circulated among the senior officers under Washington. It calls for a meeting to urge the officers to defy the new government (Congress) for its failure to honor past promises to the Army.
- March 11, 1783** Washington forbids the meeting and instead wants to hold a meeting on March 15. Another letter is circulated which claims that His Excellency sides with the rebellious officers.
- March 15, 1783** Washington talks the officers from rebelling and thus preserves the American democracy.
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Jack Bolen, Chapter VP, gives insight to George Washington's life at the February meeting.

Notes of Interest Concerning Washington

More places are named for George Washington than any other President. He is the only person to have a State named for him. Our Nation's Capital is named for him. In addition, 30 counties, 17 communities, 9 colleges, 121 post offices, and 7 mountains are named for the Father of our Country.

During his presidency, Washington felt that bowing rather than shaking hands was more formal.

Even though he was a prosperous farmer, Washington lived a lavish and had trouble handling money. Fact is, he had to borrow money to attend his own inauguration in New York in 1789.

His salary as President was \$25000 per year.

He is the only President not to have lived in Washington, D. C. The nation's capital during his 2 terms in office was in Philadelphia.



Francis Bellamy, who wrote the original Pledge of Allegiance, was honored with a plaque on Friday, February 28th at the house where he lived. President Dwight Tetrick attended the ceremony at 2926 Wallcraft Avenue, which is in South Tampa.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED