

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

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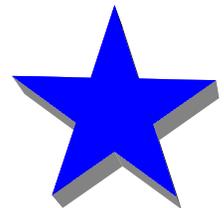
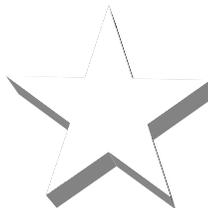
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**OUR FEBRUARY LUNCHEON MEETING  
WILL BE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2004**

The location is the **PICCADILLY CAFETERIA**, 11810 Dale Mabry Highway North, Tampa, Florida (telephone #963-1660) in their private room at 11:30 AM. 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.

# FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Don Middleton, a Chapter member and a teacher in the Hillsborough County School District will give a talk about George Washington.

## Minutes of the January 24, 2004 meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Tetrick called the meeting to order at 12:15. Chaplain Washburn offered the invocation. The secretary led the pledge to the flag and the President led the pledge to the SAR.

Members present: Dwight Tetrick, Jack Bolen, Ed Neugaard, Luther Lloyd, Joe Hill, Rodney Stebbins, Marty Miller, Jim Washburn, Manning Miller of the St. Petersburg chapter, Walter Lane, Don Milleton, Harold Hackney (recently approved member), Bob Yarnell, and Kevin Yarnell.

Welcome guests: Janett Tetrick, June Bolen, Jeanne Lloyd, Billie Washburn, Chuck Grant (potential member) and John Skillman (potential member)

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

The secretary reported that the membership had risen to 27 members. Further, Tampa was the only chapter to submit money for the Pennies for Patriot fund and was recognized for this at the recent state board of management meeting.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$2,345.12. He asked if Marty Miller would again audit the chapter books. Marty graciously agreed.

The president reported on the status of various people in the process of applying for membership. His fine work, along with that of his wife, continues to add members to the chapter's roster.

There being no other business the meeting recessed for lunch.

President Tetrick introduced the secretary who, in turn, introduced Manning Miller, President of the St. Petersburg Chapter. Compatriot Miller then installed the Tampa Chapter officers for 2004.

Following the induction, the secretary gave a brief overview of current projects at the state level. To this end, he provided copies of the reports submitted to the recent Winter Board of Management. In particular the secretary highlighted the excellent financial health of the state society  
youth contests

- recent vote by the BOM to hold three of the four meetings each year in Lakeland
- new system by which members may receive the Florida Patriot magazine via the web
- work of the education committee particularly in the area of textbook adoption
- George Washington Memorial currently in planning for the Miami area
- National Society's Advancing America's Heritage project

A brief question and answer session followed.

Janett Tetrick won the 50/50 drawing. The chapter treasury was enriched by \$14.00.

President Tetrick led the recessional and Jim Washburn gave the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 1:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell  
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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 inspector-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 this 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 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 at them in German and French. When this did not 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. So the men were schooled, they were placed in group of three, then 12. They were taught to wheel 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 the winter at Valley Forge, Von Steuben wrote "Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States." He based his 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 companies and regiments. Huts and tents were put into rows or streets. Command on one line, officers on another, and then 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**



## **HESSIANS**

During the American Revolution, Germany was divided into over 300 principalities. These countries supplied soldiers to the British Army. England, at the time, was short on manpower to cover her empire. The largest group of Germans to serve in the British Army came from Hesse-Cassel and therefore, all Germans were referred to as Hessians. Nearly 30,000 Germans fought for the British in North America.

Frederick II was the Prince of Hesse-Cassel and he sold the services of approximately 12,000 soldiers to King George III. Frederick received a mighty high price for their services, of which the soldiers received basically their rations. These soldiers were technically not mercenaries.

At that time, there were nearly 200,000 German-Americans in the colonies, which were thriving in the new country. Since the economic conditions in Germany were not good, this new land was very appealing to the Germans. In addition, the Americans enticed the Germans to desert with the lure of free land, economic gain, and freedom. An estimated 5,000 Germans remained in America after the war.

## Chapter Notes

The Chapter Website is [www.patriot-web.com](http://www.patriot-web.com)

The Chapter would also like to support the “Pennies for Patriots” Fund. Each member is asked to contribute a penny a day or \$3.65 for the year to this fund.

The money goes to the Florida State Society Trust Fund. In the past, the Tampa Chapter was very supportive.

The March meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.



### **Inauguration 2004**

Secretary-Treasurer Kevin A. Yarnell, Sergeant at Arms Edward J. Newgaard, President-Registar Dwight Tetrick, President of the St Petersburg Chapter Manning Miller, Vice President Jack Bolen, and Chaplain James E. Washburn.



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