



Volume V · Issue III

PATRIOTIC  HISTORIC  EDUCATIONAL

March 2005

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“I know not what course others may take...”

“Radical,” is a title that few men can wear with ease. The name Patrick Henry, during the revolution and for some time after, was synonymous with that word in the minds of colonists and Empire alike. Henry’s reputation as a passionate and fiery orator exceeded even that of Samuel Adams. His Stamp Act Resolutions were, arguably, the first shot fired in the Revolutionary War.

Patrick Henry’s personality was a curious antidote to the stern honor of Washington, the refined logic of Jefferson, and the well-tempered industry of Franklin. Extraordinary times create extraordinary men, and it is not difficult to imagine passion which inspired Patrick Henry on March 23, 1775 when he finished his famous speech with these words: “It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace—but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”



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March Meeting Program

Our esteemed Secretary/Treasurer Kevin Yarnell will announce the winner of the essay contest and read aloud the winning entry. Also, Captain/Compatriot Rod Stebbins will talk about “Getting at the Past”—the chapter’s on-going genealogy project.

OUR NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2005

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.

Minutes of the February 19, 2005 meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Bolen called the meeting to order at 12:00. Chaplain Lloyd offered the invocation. Ken Skillman led the pledge to the flag and the President led the pledge to the SAR.

Members present: Jack Bolen, Rodney Stebbins, Ed Neugaard, John Skillman, Kenneth Skillman, Chuck Grant, Luke Lloyd, and Kevin Yarnell.

Welcome guests: June Bolen, Ellie Skillman, and John Potter a USF student

President Bolen then asked the secretary for his report. He read several pieces of correspondence received.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$2285.63. He requested that Marty Miller be allowed to audit the chapter books for 2004. Marty and the members agreed. He'll report his findings at the March meeting.

Under old business, President Bolen reported on behalf of Dwight that the Liberty Tree is still on track.

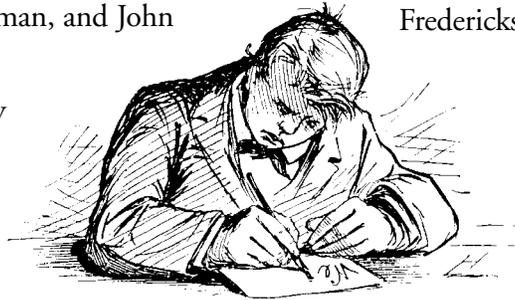
Luke Lloyd asked the secretary for a listing of names and address of those who are homebound or in nursing home for the purpose of possible visits and phone calls by him on behalf of the chapter.

John Skillman asked if a more formal dinner meeting with wives was ever done or might be considered now. A discussion followed including possible joint meetings with the DAR or other SAR chapters. One issue raised was the need for the members to get to know each other, not only in this

chapter but with some of the other local SAR chapters. The consensus was for a combination of a joint event with the St. Petersburg SAR chapter and the wives. The president will make some initial inquiries.

In response to some comments from the previous discussion the president then asked all the members to introduce themselves.

Following lunch the president introduced Vice President Ed Neugaard who in turn introduced our speaker Dr. Philip Levy. Dr. Levy is a professor at USF and his topic was the early home of George Washington in Fredericksburg.



Professor Levy's talk was most informative. Some highlights are provided here for those not in attendance. The professor's hunt for the home began in 1995. Washington lived in four places during his lifetime: Pope's Creek 1732-1735; Hunting Creek 1735-1738; Ferry Farm 1738-1752; and Mount Vernon, 1752-1799. Ferry Farm is the site of interest to Dr. Levy. It has undergone significant changes including a Christmas Eve, 1740 fire that burned the house to the ground. By 1832 none of the original buildings are standing. The large amount of change at the site makes the excavation and subsequent identification of the home more difficult.

Dr. Levy then looked briefly at the various paintings and images that have been purported to be Washington's boyhood home. These pictures that have become iconic but none of them are based on any factual issues. A few Civil War era photographs provide the best early look at the site but none of the Washington era buildings are standing at this point in history. *(continued on next page)*



USF's Dr. Philip Levy, co-director of a ten-year, extensive excavation of the remains of Augustine Washington's Stafford County, VA plantation.



Dr. Levy gave a fascinating lecture and slide presentation which generated a great deal of interest from the Tampa Chapter membership.

The excavation began in 2001 and they have found the remains of three Washington era buildings. Dr. Levy discussed some of the items they've found and how they help to establish the time period of the buildings. They are not yet ready to name one of them as Washington's boyhood home. Over the next seven years they hope to finish the excavation and begin a reconstruction of the home.

A question and answer session followed. In response to one question Dr. Levy touched briefly on the cherry tree story. It turns out the original story is that Washington 'barked' not 'chopped down' a cherry tree. He pointed out that there is no evidence to support or refute the story but it is a plausible story and therefore should not be dismissed quickly as simply legend.

Chuck Grant won the 50/50 drawing. The treasury was enriched by \$9.50

President Bolen led the recessional and Chaplain Lloyd the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 2:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell
Chapter Secretary

Welcome Our New Chaplain

Luke Lloyd has recently assumed the duties of Chapter Chaplain and has graciously offered to perform outreach services to those members who have unusual circumstances which prevent them from attending regular chapter meetings.



New Chaplain Luther "Luke" Lloyd (left) is welcomed by President Jack Bolen at the February 19, 2005 meeting.



Explore Your Genealogy & Benefit The CAR

Did you know that Tampa Chapter member Rod Stebbins maintains a huge SAR genealogical database which is available to members for purchase? According to Rod, "When a family is doing their family research to join SAR, they can put their information into *our* copy of the SAR database. We will then print them out a tree, which will show how their history connects with our database and will aid in their research. Once accepted into SAR, members are eligible to purchase their own copy on disc. All of the money derived from this effort is given to the Children of the American Revolution in the form of grants to individual CAR members. The CAR Chapter selects the member to receive a grant. Neither the Tampa Chapter nor any of its members derive any cash benefit from the earnings from this effort." The database runs on the popular Family Tree Maker software which is available at most computer stores or directly from the manufacturer (www.ftm2005.com).

Members who would like to purchase their own copy of the SAR database should mail a \$25 check payable to the Tampa Chapter of the SAR to: Rod Stebbins, 8626 Chadwick Drive, Tampa, Florida 33635-6029.

Upcoming State & National SAR Events

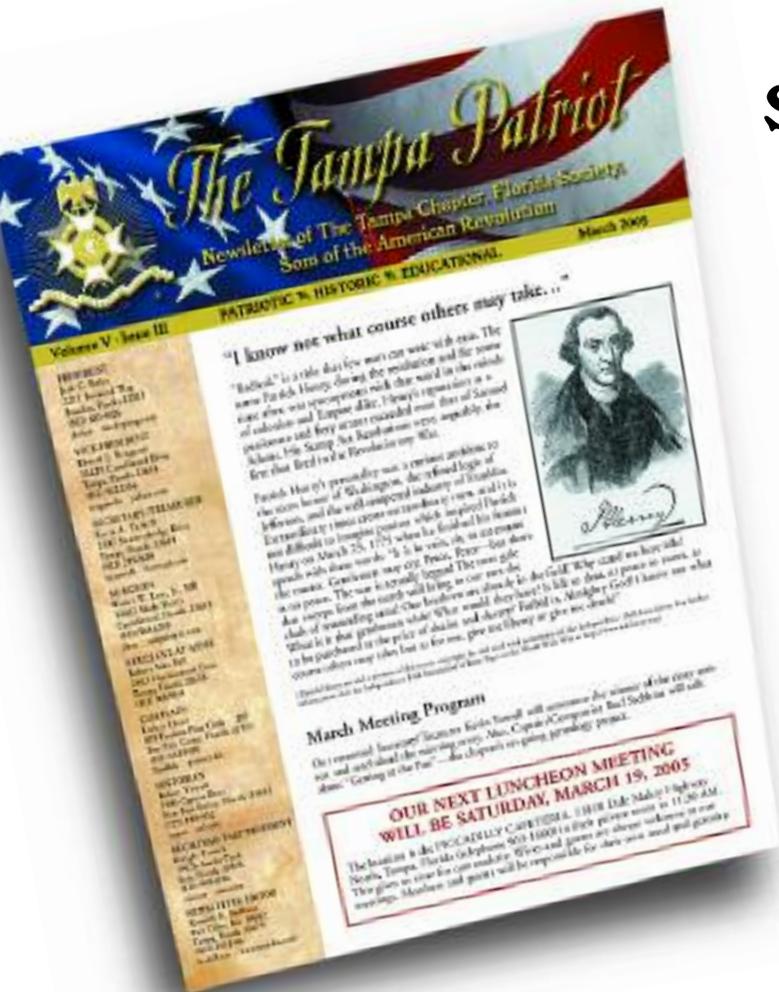
115TH ANNUAL CONGRESS, NSSAR
1-5 July 2005
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Louisville, KY

MIAMI CHAPTER'S 3RD PATRIOT TRAIL
16-22 October 2005
West Point, NY



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



SAR NEWS INSIDE!



Chapter Notes

Please visit the Chapter Website at: www.patriot-web.com and the National SAR Website at: www.sar.org

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.

Our next two meetings will be held on March 19 and April 16, 2005 – please mark your calendars.