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Benjamin Franklin publishes “An Imaginary Speech”

In London on February 7, 1775, Benjamin Franklin publishes “An Imaginary Speech” in defense of American courage.

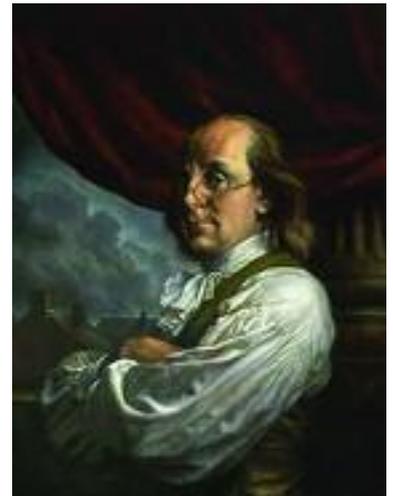
Franklin’s “speech” was intended to counter an unnamed officer’s comments to Parliament that the British need not fear the colonial rebels, because “Americans are unequal to the People of this Country [Britain] in Devotion to Women, and in Courage, and...worse than all, they are religious.”

Franklin responded to the three-pronged critique with his usual wit and acuity. Noting that the colonial population had increased while the British population had declined, Franklin concluded that American men must therefore be more “effectually devoted to the Fair Sex” than their British brethren.

As for American courage, Franklin relayed a history of the Seven Years’ War in which the colonial militia forever saved blundering British regulars from strategic error and cowardice. With poetic flare, Franklin declared, “Indiscriminate Accusations against the Absent are cowardly Calumnies.” In truth, the colonial militias were notoriously undisciplined and ineffective at the beginning of the Seven Years’ War. New Englanders, unused to taking orders and unfamiliar with the necessary elements of military life, brought illness upon themselves when they refused to build latrines and were sickened by their own sewage. During the American Revolution, Washington repeated many of the same complaints spoken by British officers when he attempted to organize American farmers into an effective army.

With regard to religion, Franklin overcame his own distaste for the devout and reminded his readers that it was zealous

(continued on page 3)



Benjamin Franklin

OUR NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2007

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 January 20, 2006 Meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Jack Bolen called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. Chaplain Hardesty gave the invocation and Compatriot Bob Yarnell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Dwight Tetrick, Ed Neugaard, Richard Hardesty, Marty Miller, Jack Bolen, John Skillman, Cy Gamber, Alan Bell, Luke Lloyd, and Robert Yarnell

Welcome guests: Thomas and Darlene Schoepski (Darlene is the daughter of Willard Hawn our newest member and Regent of the Asa Cottrell chapter of the DAR in Illinois.), June Bolen, Eileen Turnbull, Richard Hull, Ellie Skillman

Spouses and guests were introduced.

President Bolen then informed the members that he and Ed Neugaard had gone to the VFW post in Port Richey to present Willard Hawn with his membership certificate.

Since Kevin was attending the state BOM meeting, there was no Secretary/Treasurer report.

Lloyd Luke reported that there were currently 17 applications being worked upon. Some are close to being finalized and others may not get beyond the inquiry stage, but things look good for future membership additions.

Vice President Ed Neugaard reported he had a note from

Charlene Herreid asking him to send her the names of the people who bought pins from the CAR at the December meeting.

Alan then gave a report on the color guard. The CAR is hosting an event in March and we have been asked to provide the color guard for that.

President Bolen then asked if there was any old business that needed to be discussed. Hearing none he asked if there was any pressing new business. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned for lunch.

At 12:50 the meeting reconvened. The program was the installation of the new officers. Past President Dwight Tetrick did the installation. Following the installation, new President Ed Neugaard gave a brief talk about his life and what brought him to Tampa many years ago.

Past President Bolen offered a brief thank you for all who had assisted him during his years as President.

The 50/50 drawing took place and the chapter was enriched by \$10.00.

Following the recessional and the benediction, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted in the absence of the Secretary,

Bob Yarnell
Chapter Historian



A Message from Our President

At our January meeting we installed our new officers for 2007. It was indeed a great honor to have been elected and duly installed as your President. I am a fairly new member of the chapter and consider myself to be one of the 'new kids on the block.' Dwight and Jack are going to be hard acts to follow. I will try to do my best during my year in office. Many of you have graciously offered to give me a helping hand when I need it. I am sure I will be calling on some of you.

The Color Guard seems to have gotten off the ground. Let's hope that a few more of our members will step forth and put on their Colonial tights. Even your new president has acquired a 'uniform' of sorts. It does not look very authentic, but it might fool enough people to get by.

We are fortunate to have so many applications in the pipeline. Almost all clubs are having difficulty in attracting and keeping new members, especially younger ones. Let's all make an effort to recruit a new member this year.

Whenever you get a chance, talk up the S.A.R. Most people have never heard of it or have an erroneous impression of what it stands for.

Our Vice President has promised to line up interesting some programs for the year. This is what increases our attendance and makes our chapter attractive to new members.

Our thanks goes to Dwight Tetrick, who was kind enough to install our new officers.

I look forward to working with all of you to make 2007 a good year for our organization.

God Bless,

Ed Neugaard
President

Chapter Ambassadors Needed

In an effort to generate interest and increase our membership, we are producing a number of additional newsletters each month which are sent out to prospective members. This worthy activity comes at some additional cost which is a financial burden on the chapter. We are looking for one member per issue to donate \$25 to this cause. This person will be designated a "Chapter Ambassador" and will receive recognition in that month's newsletter. If you wish to contribute, please see Kevin, Ken or any chapter officer.

Imaginary Speech *(continued from page 1)*

Puritans that had rid Britain of the despised King Charles I. Franklin surmised that his critic was a Stuart [i.e. Catholic] sympathizer, and therefore disliked American Protestants, "who inherit from those Ancestors, not only the same Religion, but the same Love of Liberty and Spirit..."

Benjamin Franklin publishes "An Imaginary Speech". (2007). The History Channel website. Retrieved 06:03, Feb 12, 2007, from <http://www.history.com/tdih.do?action=tdihArticleCategory&id=240>.



"We can't all be Washingtons, but we can all be patriots."

— Charles F. Browne



Newly inducted 2007 Tampa Chapter officers pose with Past Presidents. From Left to Right: Vice President Alan Bell, Past President Dwight Tetric, President Ed Neugaard, Registrar Luke Lloyd, Chaplain Richard Hardesty, Chapter Historian Robert Yarnell, and Past President Jack Bolen.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



February Program

This month's guest is Mr. Floyd Head, founder of Head's Flags. Mr. Head is considered a local authority on the origins and history of American flags. He has spoken to groups similar to ours around the state.



FEBRUARY SAR NEWS INSIDE!



Chapter Ambassador

Special Thanks to
John E. Skillman, III

Sons of Liberty Brigade News

The Hillsborough River Camp - Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade is now officially registered. Our first official duty will be a color guard ceremony for the Florida CAR State Conference on Friday, March 30, here in Tampa. At this point we are looking to gain five new members and are currently in the process of scattering British forces about the countryside.



FEBRUARY 1775

Chapter Notes

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

Our next two meetings will be held on February 17, 2007 and March 17, 2007 – please mark your calendars.