

*Tampa Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
January 2016*

Contents

Meeting announcement
Revolution History note
Program Schedule
Florida Society BOM Meetings
Misc. reminders and information

The January meeting of the Tampa Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, will held on Saturday, January 16th at the Piccadilly Cafeteria, located at 11810 Dale Mabry Highway North, Tampa, Florida (813-963-1660). The meeting starts at noon but many members arrive early for a time of conversation and fellowship. The program will be Compatriot Jack Bolen explaining the battle of Cowpens and its importance during the War for Independence.

An agenda for the meeting will be provided and the membership will be given a report of the Board of Management meeting that was held prior to the meeting.

The December Meeting was the annual officer installation meeting. This meeting was held at The Rusty Pelican restaurant in Tampa. Regional Vice President Pat Niemann (Clearwater Chapter) conducted the formal installation ceremony. Outgoing President Dick Young thanked all the 2015 officers, committee chairmen, committee members and all active compatriots for their support and assistance over the past two years. A number of Certificates of Appreciation and SAR Medals were presented.



Wreaths Across America

The Tampa Chapter, for the third year, sponsored the Wreaths Across American ceremony at American Legion Post #5 Veterans Cemetery in Tampa. The Hillsborough River Camp (Tampa chapter) color guard presented the colors at this small but impressive ceremony.



After the WAA Ceremony the Tampa Chapter also laid a wreath on the gravesite of a Vietnam War veteran buried in the public part of the cemetery next to the American Legion Veterans Cemetery. This is part of the Chapter's participation as a Commemorative Partner in the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War.

American Revolution Notes:

George Rogers Clark captures the "Old Northwest". Part I

An often overlooked part of the War for independence (and indeed, this space has neglected it the last few years) is the fighting west of the Appalachians in Kentucky and north of the Ohio River in what is now known as the Old Northwest (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan).

Throughout the 1760's and early 1770's, in defiance of the British Proclamation of 1763, Americans had moved over the Appalachians into

Kentucky. Relations between the settlers and the Native Americans fluctuated between periods of raiding and periods of relative peace. However, once the War for Independence broke out, the fighting became more intense. The British Lt. Gov. of Canada, Henry Hamilton, who headquartered himself in Ft. Detroit, began to more actively arm and encourage the Native Americans to drive the American interlopers off their land and back across the Appalachians.

As the fighting intensified in 1777, George Rogers Clark, who had achieved some renown for his leadership and fighting against the natives, asked the Governor of Virginia, Patrick Henry, for permission to mount a raid north of the Ohio River with the goal capturing British outposts and thereby diminishing the influence of the British over the natives. Gov. Henry promoted Clark to Lt. Col. of the militia and authorized the expedition.

In May, 1778, Clark led his men (approximately 175) across the Ohio River and quickly captured the British outposts at Kaskaskia. Cahokia and Vincennes fell in short order. A major reason for the quick success was that most of the inhabitants of the area were French settlers dating back to before the French and Indian War when the area was under French control. These French inhabitants had no desire to fight for the British and wanted to minimize anything that disrupted their lucrative fur trade with the natives.

With winter coming on, Clark released most of his men and settled in for the winter. Meanwhile, Hamilton in Detroit sent a force to reoccupy Vincennes, which they did. Clark realized his task was not done and began making plans for a winter campaign to retake Vincennes.

Clark's dramatic winter campaign will be the topic for Part II in the February newsletter.

Program Schedule

Jan—Cowpens—Compatriot Jack Bolen

Feb— Rand Sholet on Alexander Hamilton

March— TBA

April—ROTC Recognition

May—Tampa Bay History Center

Sept—TBA

Oct— Law Enforcement/Fire Fighter Commendations

Nov.—First Thanksgiving controversy revisited.—Compatriot Bob Yarnell
Dec—Officer Installation

Florida Society Board of Management Meetings

The Florida Society winter BOM Meeting is February 5-6 at The Florida Hotel and Convention Center in Orlando. The agenda for the meeting, BOM registration for and hotel reservation information can be found on the FLSSAR website (www.flssar.org) under the "BOM" tab. All compatriots are welcome to attend and all officers, especially new officers, are encouraged to attend.

The Spring BOM and Annual meeting is May 13-15 at the same hotel. The agenda and registration form have not yet been posted to the website.

Ed note: While he was President, D. Young took care of the job of adding the pictures and misc. SAR information to the newsletter. He has graciously agreed to become co-editor and continue doing that.

Misc. Notes and reminders:

Chapter Website—remember you can find information about the chapter and programs on the chapter website.

<http://www.tampasar.org/>

One of the duties of the Chapter Chaplain is to send cards to our members that are sick. Another is to send a sympathy card to the family of a member who has passed away. If you know of anyone that should be the recipient of these cards please mention it to Chaplain Goolsby at our next meeting.

Chapter officers and committee chairman are encouraged to send any pertinent information they wish included in the newsletter to the editor.