



*Tampa Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
March 2021*

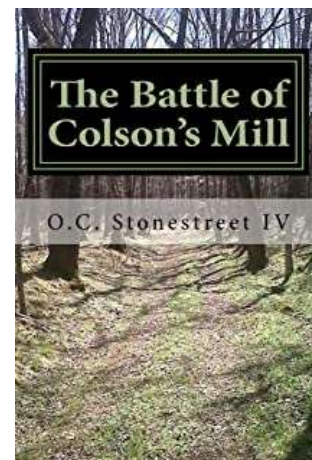
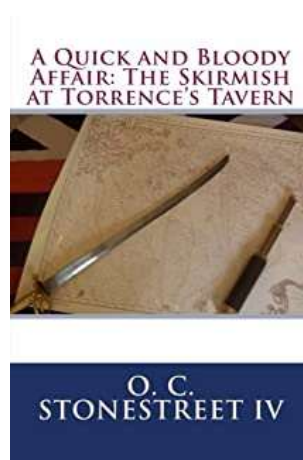
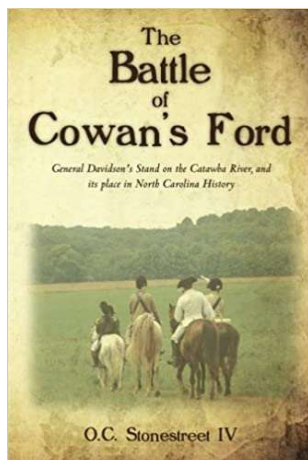
Contents

- Meeting Announcements
- Revolution History note
- Program Schedule
- Color Guard Activity
- Vietnam Veterans Day
- SAR Events
- Youth Protection Program
- Misc. reminders and information

Meeting Announcements

The March meeting will be Sat. March 20 at noon. The meeting will, again, be on Zoom. Members will be able to log on as early as 11:45 and will not impact our time this month. Pres. Dave Bryant will send out a Zoom link to everyone prior to the 20th so you can log on and participate. The program will be presented by Ms. Isabela Park, a senior in the early college program at St Petersburg College. She will talking on which event during the Revolution she would most like to have witnessed and explain why. Without giving away too much, it will concern the night of April 18-19, 1775...but not what you might think.

The February Zoom meeting included a virtual presentation by O. C Stonestreet who told us about the Battle of Cowan's Ford. This is one several battles won by the British that led to them needing to go Yorktown for supplies and reinforcements, which never arrived.



Revolution History Note

Pennsylvania Backwoods Militia

(ed. note) This column focuses on the frontier Pennsylvania militia. Their experiences differ greatly from the militia further north who saw more service with the main army.

Most of what has been written about militia during the war for independence concentrates on the militia that fought with main army. Less has been written about the militia that fought in the back country. They fought a brutal war against Indians and Loyalist groups. While not as important in terms of gaining Independence, their war is worth knowing about.

My ancestor fought in the back country with the Pennsylvania militia. While I have been unable to find many specifics about his service, I have been able to find out quite a bit about the service of the Pennsylvania backwoods militia.

Many, if not most, of the back country militia were reluctant to leave their homes and communities to fight with the regular army. Pennsylvania had a draft law. However, the law allowed a person drafted/called up for service to send a substitute. Especially during the spring planting season and fall harvesting season, younger members of the family and community fulfilled the military obligation so the older more experienced men would be at home to do the planting and gathering in of the crops.

The need (and desire) to protect hearth and home from Indian attacks contributed to the reluctance of frontier militia to join or serve in the main army as well. Many who refused service in the east, volunteered for extended duty on the frontier.

Frontier service included guard duty during planting and harvesting seasons, patrolling surrounding areas for signs of Indians in the neighborhood and offensive raids against Indian towns and villages.



Revenge for Indian attacks and deprivations motivated the men. Driven by revenge, the frontier militia also engaged in deprivations against the Indians—burning villages and towns, burning crops, and killing women and children.

They had other motives in addition to protecting hearth and home. Any military action that resulted in pushing the Indians further west meant more land available to the current settlers and land that could be opened to new settlement.

The fighting against loyalists in the Pennsylvania back country differed from the back country Patriot-Loyalist fighting in the south with which most people are more familiar. In most cases the fighting revolved around who would get the lands being opened for settlement. The Pennsylvanians considered back country militia from Virginia to be loyalist (and therefore fair

game) as well as some frontier New York militia because they represented competition for the new land.

The war fought by the backwoods militia in Pennsylvania reminds us that the motivations and experiences of the men fighting the war differed from region to region. That the backwoods war differed from the war fought in the east by the major armies of both sides. That the "Patriot-Loyalist" fighting in backwoods Pennsylvania differed from Patriot-Loyalist fighting on the southern frontier. And that a full understanding of the war is only possible when all theatres of the war are considered.

Program schedule

March 20 Isabela Park, St Petersburg College Student - Virtual Meeting

April 17 TBD

May 15 TBD

Color Guard Activity & Opportunities

Other Chapters and State Societies continue to hold virtual Color Guard events. That information will be forwarded as it comes available.

Your Color Guard Commander participated in three in-person events, in Florida, as part of the Florida SAR State Color Guard, since our last meeting. The first was the Presentation of the Colors at the Florida Society Children of the American Revolution Annual Conference Banquet on Saturday February 20. The second was the Presentation of the Colors at the Florida Society DAR State Conference on Friday March 5. Tampa Compatriot Robbie Robinson also participated in this DAR Color Guard event. The third was at the Commemoration of the Last Naval Battle of the Revolution on March 13. This battle was fought off the coast of Cape Canaveral in 1783.



Florida Society C.A.R. Meeting



Florida Society DAR Meeting w/NSDAR PG Van Buren

Future Color Guard Opportunities

- Currently, there are plans to hold an in-person commemoration of the Battle of Thomas Creek in Jacksonville on March 27.
- The Okeechobee Chapter will be making a Liberty Tree Dedication on April 18, as part of the Highlands County 100th Anniversary Celebration.
- The Pensacola Chapter announced last month that it plans to host a virtual commemoration of the Battle of Pensacola on May 8. This event may not happen. There is talk of cancelation due to COVID concerns.

The Registration form for the Battle of Thomas Creek Commemoration and information on the Liberty Tree dedication are attached to same email used to send this Newsletter. These are all National Events for purposes of counting points toward the Silver SAR Color Guard Medal and the SAR Von Steuben Medal for Sustained Achievement in the National Color Guard. You do not need to be in uniform to attend any of these events unless you want to participate in the Color Guard.

Other important dates

March 27	Battle of Thomas Creek Commemoration (Jacksonville)
April 13	Thomas Jefferson's Birthday
April 18	Liberty Tree Dedication (Highlands County)
April 19	Battles of Lexington & Concord
April 30 - May 2	Florida Society Spring BOM and Annual Meeting (Kissimmee)
May 8	Battle of Pensacola Commemoration (Pensacola)
May 31	Memorial Day
June 14	Flag Day
July 4	Independence Day
July 8 - 14	National SAR Annual Congress - Seattle

Vietnam Veterans Day

March 29 is Vietnam Veterans Day. For many years, the Hillsborough County Veterans Memorial Park hosted a "Welcome Home" Ceremony for veterans of the Vietnam War era. Last year COVID caused its cancellation, and the Park is still not scheduling its usual events. To all of the veterans and active duty military reading this "Thank You For Your Service" and to all the Vietnam Era veterans reading this, especially those who served in-county, "Welcome Home". The Florida Society and the Tampa Chapter are Partners in the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. In Tampa, once a year, we take the time, at one of our meetings to recognize all our veterans with an extra recognition of those who served during the Vietnam War.



SAR Events

The Florida SAR plans to hold an in-person meeting for its Spring Board of Management Meeting and Annual Meeting in Kissimmee on April 30 - May 2. There will also be a meeting of the South Atlantic District of SAR in conjunction with the Florida Annual Meeting. There will also be a meeting of the 2023 Congress Committee if you are interested in being a volunteer for this event. Meeting and hotel information as well as the BOM registration form can be found under the BOM tab on the www.FLSSAR.org website.

Youth Protection Program

Those of you who have been around for a few years know that National SAR has been talking about Youth Protection Training for some time. At one time, SAR was using the Boy Scouts Youth Protection Program training, but that training was not mandatory. More recently, SAR has developed its own training. Though not as in-depth as the Boy Scout program, the new SAR program is a good program. It is designed not to help identify predators, but to help identify young people who may need protection and to help identify certain situations to avoid potential claims of inappropriate conduct. For the current year, National SAR is requiring all members of National SAR youth oriented committees to complete the training. Next year, the plan is to require all State Society youth oriented committee members to complete the training, moving on to the Chapter level after that.

Miscellaneous Reminders

The new face book page for the Tampa Sons of the American Revolution is Tampa Sar. The password to add anything is American1776. Please feel free to upload pictures or comments.

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 Sessums or one of the other officers.

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