



*Tampa Chapter*  
*Sons of the American Revolution*  
*February 2022*

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**Meeting Announcements**  
**February**

Please find attached the Meeting Notice of this month's meeting aboard the historic American Victory Ship moored in the Channel District of Tampa. A map of the area is inserted in the attached meeting notice. Please let me know if you cannot open it or need additional directions on the location.



The American Victory Ship and Museum is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization and operates and maintains the vessel. The American Victory Ship is one of only four fully-operational WWII ships in the country and is recognized on the National Register of Historic Places. The ship consists of a huge three-level cargo hold, radio and gyro rooms, hospital, galley, weaponry,

steering stations, flying bridge, signaling equipment, wheelhouse, mess halls, crew cabins, lifeboats, the Captain's quarters, cargo equipment and the engine. Please note that the American Victory Ship and Museum relies heavily on private donations, grassroots efforts, and sincere dedication from its group of committed volunteers; the organization would gladly accept your individual donations or volunteer services.

This is a terrific opportunity for the Tampa Chapter to experience a shipboard maritime museum dedicated to honoring the men and women who built, sailed, protected and provided service, worldwide, through the American Merchant Fleet, and we hope you will enjoy this excursion into this local historic treasure. Unfortunately, I will be out of town and unable to attend this great event. Robbie Robinson will be running the meeting with the assistance of Roger Roscoe and the great team of officers and members of this chapter.

### January

Our January meeting was primarily the installation of our 2022 Officer. Regional Vice President Parks Honeywell was the installing SAR officer. Many thanks to Compatriot Honeywell for taking his time to join us at this special meeting. Following is the list of installed officers:

President	Charles Klug
1st Vice-President	Robbie Robinson
2nd Vice-President	Roger Roscoe
Secretary	Bob Yarnell
Treasurer	Wil Wagner-Hart
Registrar	Dick Young
Chaplain	Matthew Balencie
Sgt. At Arms	OPEN



## American Revolution Note

### *The "new" George III*

The British Government a few years ago made the decision to make available most of the state and personal papers of George III. There have been several articles in the national magazine written by the scholar the SAR helped sponsor to do research on George III. The picture now emerging from articles written by both American and British historians based on the new evidence (should/will) will change the way George III is viewed and taught.



Americans have mainly viewed George III as either insane or a tyrant. What I called the Namier school in my historiography list emphasized the madman view. He did have mental issues late in life, but they had no bearing on his decision making during the period 1763-1783.

Which brings us to the "George was a tyrant" view. In the early 1800's George Bancroft put this view forward in his writing and, of course, it's what is in the declaration. To understand why the colonists called him a tyrant in the declaration, we need to understand how the colonists viewed the British government.

The colonists viewed themselves as loyal subjects of the King. They viewed their colonial legislatures as equivalent to Parliament in domestic affairs. The Parliament legislated for the UK; the colonial legislatures legislated for their respective colonies. In their view, Parliament had no power over the colonies. The colonists viewed the King as their protector against a rogue Parliament. His "job," as they saw it, was to veto bills coming out of Parliament that hurt the colonies, or to use a phrase familiar to us but not applicable to that time, they expected him to veto unconstitutional bills. As a result, though upset by laws passed by Parliament, the colonists blamed the King because he did not protect them by vetoing those laws.

The new research is providing evidence that George III was a conscientious constitutional monarch. When his ministers brought him their proposals to take to Parliament, he asked questions and discussed the proposals with them. In the end, even though he disagreed with some of the proposals, he gave his approval to the PM to present them to Parliament for debate and vote. George supported the system as it had evolved and thus, he supported and defended Parliament.

Many colonists did not understand this. In their various petitions to the King, they kept saying, we are your loyal subjects. Parliament is exercising power over us they do not have. Why aren't you protecting us from Parliament? It took a while for many of the colonists to

understand that George believed his job was to support and back Parliament, even when they passed laws he did not like or had opposed in his discussions with his ministers.

How does this now fit in with the various ways the background to the Revolution is taught? It fits nicely with the "constitutional" school which I told you I favor. Over the past five years as I became aware of the new research, I included this view of George III in my teaching. Prior to that I had always emphasized it was Parliament who was passing the laws and I had George on the sidelines.

The new research contradicts the Bancroft approach that describes George as a dictator determined to take away the rights of the colonists. As far as the ideological school is concerned, they maintain that the British government had a plan to take away the rights of the colonists.<sup>i</sup> And regardless of what the King's role may or may not have been, rights were being taken away.

Was George III a tyrant? Of course not. He did his job as he thought it should be done. Consulting with Parliament, advising Parliament, but always understanding that Parliament held supreme power. Once you tear yourself away from the second paragraph of the Declaration and the notion that the US is a propositional nation, you can view the declaration for what it is. A piece of political propaganda attempting to prove that an illegal rebellion was in fact a legal one. Since George was not doing his job as the colonists thought he should, they vilified him, and he became a tyrant.

It will take years and the training of a new generation of teachers incorporating the new evidence into how they teach the Revolution before this more nuanced view of George III will get into American high schools and colleges.<sup>ii</sup> In the meantime, George III will either remain a tyrant or a madman.

<sup>i</sup> The Constitutional view states that the various laws passed by parliament were an ad hoc assortment of pillar to post reactions to events. The Bancroft and ideological schools believe the taking away of colonial rights was a planned government policy and some historians of those schools maintain George III was the leader and instigator of that plan. In my opinion the evidence does not support the view that there was a master plan or conspiracy within the British government to take away colonial rights.

<sup>ii</sup> As an example, in 2002 the first book based on primary source research on Shay's Rebellion was published. It challenges the "traditional" way Shay's Rebellion is viewed. I was aware of the book and changed how I taught Shay's Rebellion based on the primary source information in the book. Over twenty years later, most textbooks and teachers are not yet up to speed on this information.

There may be time for me to have a Q & A at the March meeting, if so, ask me about this and I will explain.

## Program Schedule

Dates for the spring are below. Feel free to pass along any program/speaker suggestions to either President Charkes Krug, VPs Robbie Robinson, Roger Roscoe or Sec. Bob Yarnell

Feb 19	Visit to American Victory Ship
Mar 19	Jeff Lubinski—Tampa Chapter essay winner & Q&A with Bob Yarnell
Apr 16	ROTC recognition
May 21	EMT recognition

Sep 17

Presentation on the port by Compatriot Klug

Please let one of the officers know if you would be interested in an informal get-together over the summer.

### **New Members**

We have received the Membership Certificates for the following new Compatriots:

Guy Martin Balencie  
Matthew Gerard Balencie  
Daniel Schultz  
Teague Schultz  
William Frissell

### **January minutes**

Pres. Dave Bryant called the meeting to order at noon. Following the usual opening exercises, he made a few remarks about his term as President and expressed thanks to several people.

West Coast Regional VP Honeywell installed the new officers. New Pres. Charles Klug then took over. The main order of business was to announce that in March, April and May we will meet at a new location, a room on the second floor of University Square Mall. The officers met there a week prior to the January meeting to check it out. The decision was to try it this spring and see if the membership likes it. The tentative schedule for the rest of the spring was announced. Compatriot Dick Young gave both a registrars and Color Guard report.

WC VP Honeywell made a report on the Florida Society's Educational Initiative.

A general discussion followed during which members made program suggestions for the fall.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50

### **Color Guard Events and Opportunities**

March 12	Commemoration of the Last Naval Battle	Merritt Island
March 26	Commemoration of the Battle of Thomas Creek	Jacksonville
May 3	Honor Flight	Clearwater/St Petersburg Airport
May 30	Memorial Day	
Jun 14	Honor Flight	Clearwater/St Petersburg Airport

We can never have enough Color Guardsmen. If any of you have any interest in joining the Color Guard, please contact Dick Young, Chapter Commander or any of the members of the Tampa Chapter Color Guard. If you do not want to start with the full Continental Line uniform, we can show you how to get started with a militia "uniform" with much less cost.

### **Miscellaneous Reminders**

The 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. Invite all your friends to look.

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 Balencie or one of the other officers at our next meeting.

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