



*Tampa Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
May 2022*

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May meeting

The next meeting of the Tampa Chapter Sons of the American Revolution will be held on Saturday May 21st. We will again be meeting on the Second Floor of the University Mall in the area denoted as the "Underground." Drive to the backside of the mall. You will see a parking garage. Go to the 2nd floor and park. Enter through the door, walk straight until you reach a big hallway, turn right. Walk 30 or so feet and the room will be on your left. The doors will be open by 11:00.

From 11:30-12 we will have our business meeting. This will include the reports of the two VPs, secretary, treasurer, registrar and any other officers or committees needing to make a report. Then any old business followed by new business. We will also make our Firefighter and EMS Commendation presentations before we break for lunch.

We will then adjourn to the food court for lunch. We will reconvene at 12:30. The program is Pres. Charles Klug speaking about Port Tampa Bay. Either before we break or lunch or after the presentation, the membership will need to decide on whether to stay at the Underground for our meetings in the fall. If not, it will mean finding a new location for the fall.

American Revolution Note

Teaching the background to the War for Independence

After so many columns about the various historiography schools of the American revolution, maybe it is time for a practical look at how it is taught. This month I will give an

example of how the period 1750-1773 is taught that emphasizes the constitutional and imperial schools, with some ideological thrown in. I will use quotation marks when our "teacher" is speaking.

"Let us start today with a snapshot of the 13 American colonies in 1750. What do we see? Not counting the slaves, the colonists in the 13 seaboard British colonies in N. America were among the freest people on earth. Except in the area of foreign policy and foreign trade, they were self-governing. Colonial government bureaucracies were miniscule. A few aides for the Royal Governor, a few clerks for the courts and that was it. Aside from the basic, do not kill, do not steal and a few other similar laws, you were free to do what you wanted as long as you did not hurt others. The faraway government in England handled foreign policy. There were some restrictions on foreign trade, but these were lightly and inconsistently enforced. So, what happened between then and 1775 that resulted in the War for American Independence?"

(In 1754 at Great Meadows, Pa. the French and Indian War began. In 1763, when the smoke cleared and the treaties had been signed, England found herself, quite unintentionally, in possession of an empire.)

"England now has a problem of empire. First, England is deeply in debt from the war. It needs money. Second, England now has to garrison and administer this empire. That takes money for ships, men, administrators etc. The people of England are already heavily taxed. So, the English government looks around at its various overseas possessions and asks the question, which one is the wealthiest and most prosperous? Answer—the 13 seaboard colonies in N. America. How can we get some money for them? After some deliberation, it is decided to put a stamp tax on all printed material. Lawyers, newspaper publishers, printers and so on would have to buy sheets of stamps (pay a tax) and affix a stamp to everything they published/printed (deeds, newspapers, pamphlets, books). It would be an indirect tax (publishers could simply pass along the stamp fee (tax) to their consumers) and therefore hardly noticeable by most people.¹"

"However, the colonists did notice. In particular they noticed this was the first time the British Parliament had passed an internal tax on the colonies...as distinguished from various taxes on trade. According to their colonial charters, the colonists had "the same rights of Englishmen as if they had been living in London." One of those rights was the right to be represented in government and not to be taxed unless you were represented. The colonists were not represented in Parliament; thus, Parliament could not tax them. The Stamp Tax was, in effect, unconstitutional. The key word there is Parliament. The colonists were represented in their colonial legislatures and paid taxes in compliance with laws passed by their colonial legislature. The complaint was not the money, it was the principle of being taxed without being represented."

"The colonists resisted the tax. Publishers etc. refused to buy the stamps. Those that did were subject to ridicule and even physical reprisals...most notably, by Sam Adams' mob in Boston². In other colonies the legislatures passed resolutions calling for the repeal of the Stamp Act. When the English government saw that very little money was being collected and that continuing with the effort was a losing proposition, Parliament repealed the stamp act. "

"However, England still needed money to pay off the debt from the Seven Years War and generate income to garrison and administer its new far-flung empire. The British ministry then decided on a tax on imports. Lord Townshend, the new PM, had Parliament pass a wide-ranging

bill that included the Townshend Duties. (What we call tariffs, they called duties). He argued that this was an external tax and thus different than the stamp tax. To combat the Townshend Act, the colonists began to boycott British goods."

"In addition to the Stamp Act and Townshend Act, the British did other things in the early/mid 1760's that got the attention of the colonists. The Proclamation of 1763 prohibited the colonists from going across the Appalachians into Kentucky and Tennessee. The reason given was the British had promised the native population that if they would either help the British or be neutral in the war, their lands would be protected. The natives agreed and thus the British said this is what we owe them. The colonists did not buy the British rationale and thought the proclamation was intended to better control the colonists. Additionally, with the war being over, the British navy began stricter enforcement of the various navigation acts that had been only lightly and intermittently enforced prior to 1763."

"The combination of import taxes and stricter enforcement of the navigation acts resulted in an increase in the amount of smuggling going on. To combat the smuggling, the British did two things. First, they issued writs of assistance—blank search warrants that could be filled in after contraband was found-- and officials were allowed to conduct searches of houses, warehouses etc. without any probable cause (as we know it) being established. Second, even when smugglers were caught, American juries would find them innocent, so the British began trying smugglers by a military tribunal, not civilian court with a jury. While most of this did not affect the vast majority of the population, it did effect merchants, traders, plantation owners, and businessmen."

"In Boston, Sam Adams wanted to come up with something that would push Britain over the edge and unite the colonists against Britain. The result was the event we now know as the Boston Massacre—where colonists threw snowballs and pieces of rocks at the British sentinel guarding the customs house. He called for help. A squad of British soldiers arrived. When one slipped and accidentally discharge his musket, all the soldiers fired, and five colonists lay dead. This had the opposite reaction to what Sam Adamas wanted. Both sides realized things were getting out of control so both sides backed off. Parliament repealed the Townshend Duties, as much for domestic reasons as for colonial policy reasons. The colonists put pressure on Adams to back off. And things settled down."

"Then, the law of unintended consequences hit England. The Townshend Act, colonial boycotts and tougher enforcement of the Navigation laws, had a detrimental effect on the English economy. The combination brought about a recession due to warehouses overflowing with unshipped goods resulting in factory and maritime unemployment. The British East India company, hit hard by the recession, went to Parliament for relief. The result was the Tea Act. It gave the East India Company a monopoly on tea sales in the colonies, but Parliament would set the price. Parliament set the price below market value to allow the East India Company to compete on favorable terms with the smugglers. If this is what would have been passed, all might have been well. However, the British ministry decided to add a small tax on the tea. The price would still be low and once the colonists paid the first penny of tax as they unloaded a tea ship, the colonists could no longer claim no taxation without representation. The colonists learned about the added tax and were not taken in. In city after city, port after port—Charleston, Savannah, Baltimore etc. as tea ships arrived, they were told we are not unloading

the tea, you might as well go home. And the captains of the tea ships did exactly that. Except in Boston. The commander of the three-ship flotilla of tea ships that came to Boston decided he was not going to turn around. He decided to wait the Bostonians out, figuring that sooner or later they would relent, unload the tea and pay the paltry tax."

"Oops. Sam Adams saw a new chance. He gathered his group together and the result was the Boston tea party. The immediate reaction in the colonies was not one of support for Adams. It horrified businessmen and merchants. What Adams had actually done was go into a warehouse and destroy property belonging to a private business. If England would have stayed calm and waited it out, public opinion could easily have swung to England. Parliament, however, saw this as the last straw. England overreacted by passing the coercive acts or intolerable acts—the most important one being that the port of Boston was closed until the tea had been paid for. So instead of Adams being the heavy, the British turned Bostonians into victims. Other colonies rallied to aid the Bostonians and stricter British measures were met with increased push back and resistance."

Following that, events took on a momentum of their own that led to Lexington and Concord.

This, in abbreviated form is how I have always taught the background to the War for Independence. Emphasis on the constitutionality of the stamp act which started the whole mess. The inability of the various British prime ministers to come up with a way to pay for empire and reduce the debt and some mention of traditional Rights of Englishmen being taken away...not as a planned event but as ad hoc reactions to events the British ministry could not get a handle on.

I would mention George III and his part in all of this during my discussion of the Declaration of Independence. Also, during that discussion, I would make the distinction between the traditional rights of Englishmen (the John Adams/John Dickinson camp) and natural rights (the Lockean/Jeffersonian camp).

¹ For those not aware we still pay a stamp tax today. Look at the receipt from when you closed on your house, and you will see an item labeled "Doc. Stamps." It is a tax collected by the government on real estate transactions.

² What we so nicely today call the Sons of Liberty...thereby excusing them from the property damage they did and their physical abuse of people.

Program Schedule

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

Sep 17	Rodney Kite Powell-Historian and Curator of the Tampa History Museum Speaking on the History of Tampa Bay
Oct 15	TBD
Nov 19	Law enforcement recognition
Dec 17	TBD

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



Tchecoy Blount, Chapter Winner
Florida Runner-Up

April Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Klug at 11:30. Following the opening exercises (pledge, introductions) officers gave their reports.

Treasurer Will Wagner reported a balance of 9,078.28.

Secretary Bob Yarnell had nothing to report.

Dick Young gave the registrar's and color guard report. We have several applications at National that should be approved soon.

Compatriot Bob Yarnell gave a brief talk about his ancestor and his service in the Pa. backwoods militia.

The meeting adjourned for lunch.

At 12:30 the meeting reconvened

Compatriot Whipkey received his Supplemental Ancestor Certificate

Daniel Schultz received the membership certificates for himself and his son

Pres. Klug introduced Compatriot Terry Doan who presided over the ROTC recognitions.

1VP Robinson gave a brief intro to the cadets and guests explaining what the SAR is.

Compatriot Doan then recognized the following JROTC cadets.

Nicholas Baumhover—Alonso HS

Matthew Addington—Jefferson HS

Daniela Busquet-----Leto HS

Tchecoy Blount-----Middleton HS

Woodson Stuckey---Zephyrhills HS

The JROTC part of the meeting concluded with VP Robinson speaking on "Leadership." Using examples from his experience in the Air Force he identified and discussed three topics.

1. When you are the leader---be in charge; and take responsibility for your decisions.
2. Never stop learning
3. Never compromise your ethical or moral compass.

President Klug adjourned the meeting at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted

Bob Yarnell

Secretary request.

Any officer or committee chairman giving a report that includes numbers or names, I would appreciate it if you could give me that information either via email prior to or after the meeting or hard copy at the meeting. During the meeting I may easily miss those details and that information will enable us to have more accurate and complete minutes. Thanks.

Florida Society Spring Board of Management and Annual Meeting

The Florida Society held its Semi-annual Board of Management and Annual meetings on May 14-15 in Kissimmee. We will discuss this meeting at our meeting on Saturday.

2023 Annual Congress

The 2023 National SAR Annual Congress will be held at the Rosen Plaza in Orlando on July 14-20. There will be a few hundred of our Compatriots in Orlando for several days. We will need many volunteers, some just for a day, or two or three, during the event, others to help with the planning and execution of some portion of the event. We will start filling in the blanks over the summer and we will be getting back to you next fall. Some of you can expect me to call on you before then.

Color Guard Events and Opportunities

On Friday May 6, Tampa Compatriots Matt Balencie and Dick Young joined Color Guardsmen from Florida's Pensacola and William Dunaway Chapters, multiple chapters from the Alabama Society and the National Color Guard Adjutant, Scott Collins, from Athens Georgia. This was the first time in many years, the SAR had been invited to participate in Pensacola's Galvez Day ceremony, making it also a commemoration of the Battle of Pensacola. It was important that the SAR make a good showing and we did. Making presentations at the ceremony were local politicians as well as representatives from the city and province in Spain which were home to General Bernardo de Galvez. Lunch was provided to the Color Guardsmen afterwards and a good time was had by all.



The whole group



Matt & Dick

The following Tuesday, May 10, your chapter Color Guard was on hand with flags and muskets to welcome home the first Honor Flight of West Central Florida in two years. Sixty-six veterans from WWII, Korea and Vietnam had traveled to Washington DC to tour many of the monuments

and returned home about 8:30 PM. We were there with the Pithlachascotee DAR Chapter and a few hundred other people to greet these veterans and their escorts on their return.



Bill Swain, Robbie Robinson, Dick Young, David Bryant

Your Chapter Commander attended the Florida Society Board of Management meeting this past weekend and participated with the Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade at the BOM events as well as the separate SAR South Atlantic District meeting held at the same location.

Upcoming Events

May 30	Memorial Day	American Legion Post #5 USS Tampa
June 14	Honor Flight	Clearwater/St Petersburg Airport
July	Independence Day	TBD

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.