



THE TAMPA CHAPTER  
FLORIDA SOCIETY  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Newsletter March 1989

Your Editor didn't get to make the trip he thought he was as was written about in the January-February Newsletter. On the Friday before the Monday departure date, his automobile was involved in enough of a traffic accident that it had to be repaired to the tune of just a little under \$2,000. You can tell it wasn't much of an accident!! At any rate the whole trip was called off. Two good things about the accident...no one was hurt in it and the weather up the east coast, where the trip was to be, was lousy the next couple of weeks anyway.

So, to report on the last couple of meetings.

January

Would you believe....either your Editor didn't press the right buttons on his tape recorder or the recorder developed gremlins (you all do remember gremlins?). At any rate it didn't record, so everything written here is from memory plus one note on the attendance. Which was about the usual--15 SARs, 5 ladies and 1 guest, 21 in all.

There were the usual business type things...the secretary minutes, some committee chairman reports and the election of officers for the short year March through December 1989. The short year because of the change in the Chapter by-laws as were written about in the last newsletter. Just in case you can't remember the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee (the call for nominations from the floor resulted in the usual....a big 0) it was:

President	- Duane Vandenberg
Vice-President	- Jim Washburn
Secretary	- Herb Mason
Treasurer	- Sam Beauregard
Genealogist- Registrar	- Ted Dickerson

For whatever reason, the speaker Veep Duane had lined up for the meeting didn't show up, so rising to the occasion and filling the void with his fairly spacious presence was the Chapter's own Ted Dickerson. Now if any Chapter member has done more than Ted in researching his genealogy, he has been mighty quiet about it. Be that as it may, Ted told us some of the fascinating details about his experiences in tracking down his ancestry. In particular there is one story about his difficulties in tracking down the grave site of one of his grandmothers (how many generations back, I forget). He finally found the grave site. But would you believe that it was in a farmer's barnyard...a pig pen as I recall. Knowing Ted, that farmer is in for a whole heap of trouble. Desecrating a grave site in the state where the farmer lives is illegal...but that is only part of his problem, Ted is the rest.

February

As those of you who didn't attend will recall, it was a joint meeting with the Clearwater Chapter and DARS at Ruth Eckerd Hall. Ten of our Chapter members were there plus two wives. OK, so Bill Staples is a member of both Chapters if you want to be picky...maybe Tampa had 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  then. It was a very impressive meeting. It looked like there were maybe 200 people there including members from the Suncoast Chapter (New Port Richey/Pasco County area). A Revolutionary WAR flag was presented to the Clearwater Countryside High School Junior ROTC. This was the third Revolutionary War period flag presented to this ROTC unit. The two previous flags were carried to the front of the meeting by two ROTC Cadets for display.

The meeting was primarily for honoring the birthday of George Washington which was 257 years ago on February 22, 1732. The speaker for the occasion was The Honorable Howard P. Rives, Jr., Circuit Judge-Pinellas County. He spoke of the less well known contribution in the establishment of the United States

by Washington in his firm support of the Constitution as eventually passed in the face of negative criticism of the draft, some by responsible persons and worthy of consideration. Indeed, without the persuasive esteem by which Washington and Ben Franklin were held by their countrymen, we might well not have the Constitution and the Bill of Rights today. Judge Rives also noted the contribution of Washington in accepting the responsibility of being the Nation's first President. It was a very fine and worthwhile speech.

The Chairman of the program was Compatriot Robert L. Grover who helped the Tampa Chapter become established in the early days of its reformation.

#### Our Next Meeting

This will be the meeting for the installation of Chapter officers as elected at the January meeting - see above. We will also present the Eagle Scout Award. The meeting is an EVENING meeting. Plan to be at the Egypt Temple Shrine at 6:30 PM, Saturday, March 18th. The Shrine remains at 4050 Dana Shores Drive, Tampa. Dinner will be served at 7. The Chapter particularly invites wives and other guests of the members to this meeting. Incidentally, the cost of the dinner will be \$11.

Chairman Russ Rising of the Eagle Scout Award Committee reports that the Committee has selected Eagle Scout Christopher Hugh Roberts of Troop #329, St. Lawrence Catholic Church to receive the award. He is the son of Ernest and Shelia Roberts. He has been an Eagle Scout since February 1, 1988; he has 36 merit badges and 3 palms; he has been on the National Junior Honor Society and has played varsity football. He has been a Cub, Boy and Sea Scout. The subject of his patriot theme is "John Hancock". Very impressive credentials!!!

It's possible that someone from the State level of SAR will be able to make our meeting but that is tenuous at this point in time.

As usual, if the Telephone Committee hasn't been able to contact you to confirm your plans to attend the meeting by Wednesday, March 15th, call Sam Beauregard (948-1462) ~~that night~~ to let him know how many there will be in your party at the meeting Saturday night.

This meeting will, <sup>be</sup> an excellent chance for those Chapter members who haven't been attending the Saturday morning meetings or otherwise participating in Chapter activities, to let the Chapter know that you are interested in it ~~by~~ beyond just paying your yearly dues. It would be very heartening to the regularly active members to see you at this sort-of-special meeting.

#### Odd and Ends

Were you aware that the Florida State Society CAR held their 58th ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE February 17, 18 and 19th at the Ramada Inn University here in Tampa? Have you sent your check to the FLSCAR. The flier on the Conference lists the Sr. State Treasurer, FSCAR as Martha Cox

6109 West Lynn Road  
Tampa 33625

A check for \$9 to her (payable to FSCAR) will make you a State Promoter and support CAR at both the State and National levels.

The annual meeting of the State Society should be announced shortly. Keep an eye out for the announcement.

The Winter Edition of The SAR Magazine has on page 9 the Pre-registration Form for the 98th Annual Congress of the SAR. It is being sponsored by the District of Columbia Society from Sunday, July 2nd through Thursday, July 6th. This is a great opportunity to attend a function at the National level and to do some sightseeing in the Capital District too!! Look up the Form for nitty-gritty (it's in my dictionary).