

The Tampa Chapter
Florida Society
Sons of the American Revolution

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EDUCATIONAL - PATRIOTIC - HISTORIC

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1998
NEWSLETTER

MARCH MEETING

Our March meeting will be Saturday March 21st at the Best Western Resort & Convention Center Hotel, 820 Busch Boulevard, Tampa, Florida at 12:00 Noon. Each Person will be responsible for payment of their own meal. Gratuity will be added to your check.

PROGRAM FOR MARCH

The program for March will be the presentation of this years essay contest winner. In as much as your editor is leaving town and will be gone until after the meeting and must get the newsletter out before he leaves is unable to give more information on this. This should be a very interesting program so bring your wife or friend and enjoy.

CAR VISITOR

Last month we were honored by visit and a presentation about "Old Ironsides" by CAR Barry Marler (better known to his friends as Bear). Bear gave an outstanding presentation on the vessel. I recall back in 1930's a special train being run for school children to go to see this vessel in Galveston, Texas. Town had no railroad station and the train stopped at road crossing to load the children on the Train and as I recall it made many stops along the way doing the same. Thanks Bear for honoring us with your presentation. Come again soon.

THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG TAP'S

Thanks to Compatriot Allison for sending the following story that ran in the Citrus Chronicle which was reprinted from the Merchant Marine Newsletter:

In 1862, DURING the Civil War, Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harricson's landing in Virginia. On the other side of this narrow strip of land was the Confederate Army.

During the night Captain Ellicombe heard the moan of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. Not knowing if he was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life to bring back the stricken man for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gun fire Ellicombe reached the soldier and began pulling toward his encampment. When Ellicombe reached his own lines, he discovered the soldier was a confederate and he was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly went numb with shock. In the dim light he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son! The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, he had enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The Following morning the heartbroken father asked that his son be given a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was partially granted - dirge by Army band members was dnied. Out of respct for the father he was allowed one musician . The captain chose a bugler. Ellicombe asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece in the pocket of his son's uniform.

This wish was granted. That music was the haunting bugle melody we now know as "Taps", used at all military funerals.



John Allison Jr.

March 1



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED