The Tampa Chapter
Florida Society
Sons of the American Revolution

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OUR DECEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING
WILL BE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

The location is the **PICCADILLY CAFETERIA,** 11810 Dale Mabry Highway North, Tampa, Florida (telephone #963-1660) in their private room at 11:30 AM. This gives us time for camaraderie. Wives and guests are always welcome at our meetings. Members and guests will be responsible for their own meal and gratuity.

DECEMBER PROGRAM

The CAR will present a program at the joint meeting.

Minutes of the Sept. 20, 2003 meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Tetrick called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM. Vice President Jack Bolen read the invocation. President Tetrick led the Pledge of Allegiance and the SAR Pledge.

Members present: Dwight Tetrick, Marty Miller, Jack Bolen, Dan Stutzman, Walter Lane, Claude Ritchie, Don Middleton, Luke Lloyd, Rod Stebbins, and Richard Hardesty.

Guests present: Officers Jonathan Touchton and Brett Bartlett, Fimi Richie, June Bolen, Janett Tetrick, and Gene Brown.

President Tetrick recognized the guests.

The SAR membership approved the minutes of the October meeting as distributed.

There was no Treasurers report as Kevin Yarnell was unavailable.

Gene Brown, who is the Chairman of the Liberty Tree Commission for the state, gave a talk on this project. The project was started by the Clearwater Chapter, with the first dedication on July 4, 2000. There are now 15 dedicated in Florida. Most are depicted by bronze plaques 16" by 16".

President Tetrick reminded the membership that the 2004 dues is now payable. He also stated that the January meeting will be moved to the 4th Saturday due to the Winter BOM Meeting.

President Tetrick gave the status of the pending membership applications.

There being no other business, the meeting recessed for lunch.

Jack Bolen introduced Officer Jonathan Touchton of the Tampa Police Department. Officer Touchton received the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal. He has been with the Force since 1990. He was recognized for his efforts to control prostitution and drugs through the Nebraska corridor of Tampa. Officer Touchton gave an overview of his work and efforts.

Rod Stebbins gave an update on the Chapter website. More information has been added. Through information given him, Rod was able to track Jim Washburn's lineage back through the Pilgrims. Rod emphasized that the site is open to all members and he would be more than happy to assist with research.

The Daughters of Liberty Medal was awarded to Janett Tetrick. Through her efforts, the Tampa Chapter has grown three fold.

Rod Stebbins won the 50/50 and donated his share, $12.00, to the treasury.

President Tetrick led the recessional and Jack Bole gave the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 1:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Stutzman
Newsletter Editor

DECEMBER IN THE REVOLUTION

December 6, 1776
The naval base at Newport, Rhode Island is captured by the British.

December 11, 1776
Washington takes his troops across the Delaware into Pennsylvania. The Continental Congress flees Philadelphia, believing the British would now attack Philadelphia.

December 13, 1776
Major General Charles Lee was captured by British Light Dragoons at the Widow White's tavern in Basking Ridge, New Jersey. Story is told that the dragoons celebrated in such earnest that they insisted the Major General's horse get drunk with them.

December 25, 1776
Washington crossed the Delaware River on that stormy night. The river, at McKonkey's Ferry, is 1,000 feet wide. The boats used by the Army were Durham boats. They were forty to sixty feet long and pointed at each end like a canoe and generally had an eight-foot beam. The boats, built by Robert Durham, could carry 15 tons of iron ore, pig iron, or other supplies. These boats ferried 2,400 Continentals across the Delaware on that far from mild Christmas night.

December 26, 1776
Washington attacks and defeats the Hessians at Trenton, New Jersey.

December 19, 1777
The Continental Army begins its winter encampment at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. A city of log huts was constructed by orders of the commander, George Washington. Squads were formed of 12 men and each squad was to build its hut. The hut was 16 feet deep, 14 feet wide, and 6 ½ feet high; the hut had a front door but no windows. A fireplace and chimney were in the back for heat. The gaps in the logs were filled with clay. The roof was constructed with any material available. The bedding was straw that covered wood slats.

December 14, 1782
The British evacuate Charleston, South Carolina.

From General Gage

The following orders were sent to Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith, Tenth Regiment of Foot, from Lieutenant General Thomas Gage, military governor of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, on the eve of Lexington and Concord:

Boston, April 18, 1775
Lieut. Colonel Smith, 10th Regiment "Foot,

Sir,

Having received intelligence, that a quantity of Ammunition, Provision, Artillery, Tents, and small Arms, have been collected at Concord, for the Avowed Purpose of raising and supporting a Rebellion against His Majesty, you will March with the Corps of Grenadiers and Light Infantry, put under your Command, with the utmost expedition and Secrecy to Concord, where you will seize and destroy all Artillery, Ammunition, Provisions, Tents, Small Arms, and all Military Stores whatever. But you will take care that the Soldiers do not plunder the Inhabitants, or hurt private property.

You have a Draught of Concord, on which is marked the Houses, Barns, &c, which contain the above military Stores. You will order a Trunion to be knocked off each Gun, but if it's found impracticable on any, they must be spiked, and the Carriages destroyed. The Powder and flower (flour) must be shook out of the Barrels into the River, the Tents burnt, Pork or Beef destroyed in the best way you can devise. And the Men may put Balls of lead in their pockets, throwing them by degrees into Ponds, Ditches &c., but no Quantity together, so that they may be recovered afterwards.

If you meet any Brass Artillery, you will order their muzzles to be beat in so as to render them useless.

You will observe by the Draught that it will be necessary to secure two Bridges as soon as possible, you will therefore Order a party of the best Marchers, to go on with the expedition for the purpose.

A small party on Horseback is ordered out to stop all advice of your March getting to Concord before you, and a small number of Artillery go out in Chaises to wait for you on the road, with Sledge Hammers, Spikes, &c.

You will open your business and return with the Troops, as soon as possible, which I must leave to your own Judgement and Discretion.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant
Thos. Gage

From Lord Percy

The following is the report sent to General Gage. Lord Percy's brigade was at Lexington and was to serve as a relief column. Due to his effort, the British retreat did not turn into a rout.

In obedience to your Excellency's orders I marched yesterday morning at 9 o'clock with the 1st brigade and 2 field pieces, in order to cover the retreat of the grenadiers and light infantry in their return from their expedition to Concord. As all the houses were shut up, and there was not the appearance of a single inhabitant, I could get no intelligence concerning them till I had passed Menotomy, when Iwas informed that the rebels had attacked his Majesty's troops who were retiring, overpowered by numbers, greatly exhausted and fatigued, and having expaned almost all their ammunition - and at about 2 o'clock I met them retiring rough the town of Lexington - I immediately ordered the 2 field pieces to fire at the rebels, and drew up the brigade on a height.

The shot from the cannon had the desired effect, and stopped the rebels for a little time, who immediately dispersed, and endeavoured to surround us being ery numerous. As it began now to grow pretty late and we had 15 miles to retire, and only 36 rounds, I ordered the grenadiers and light infantry to move of first; and covered them with my brigade sending out very strong flanking parties wch wre absolutely very necessary, as there was not a stone wall, or house, though before in appearance evacuated, from whence the rebels did not fire upon us. As soon as they saw us begin to retire, they pressed very much upon our rear guard, which for that reason, I relieved every now and then.

In this manner we retired for 15 miles under incessant fire all round us, till we arrived at Charlestown, between 7 and 8 in the evening and having expended almost all our ammunition. We had the misfortune of losing a good many men in the retreat, though nothing like the number which from many circumstances I have reason to believe were killed of the rebels. His Majesty's troops during he whole of the affair behaved with their usual intrepidity and spirit nor were they a little exsperated at the cruelty and barbarity of the rebels, who scalped and cut off the ears of some of the wounded men who fell into their hands.

French Brigadier General André Barrière (far right) hosted a "friendship buffet" at the officer's club of MacDill Air Force Base on Wednesday, November 19th. The French officers of the Liaison Team organized the supper to thank all of their friends who have kindly facilitated their stay in Tampa, Florida and to celebrate the second anniversary of the presence of the French detachment at MacDill.
Colonel Thierry de Seguins Cohorn (far left), a member of the French Society of the Sons of the American Revolution has attended meetings at the Tampa Chapter FLSSAR. He is leaving Tampa this month for his new posting just outside of Paris.
Tampa Chapter President Dwight Tetrick was treated to fine French hospitality and cuisine. A perfect setting to say adieu and farewell to his friend Thierry.

Chapter Notes

The Chapter Website is www.patriot-web.com

Dues for 2004 was due December 1. You can still pay to remain active. Please make the check payable to the "Tampa Chapter of the SAR". The total is $55.00 of which $25.00 is National, $20.00 State, and $10.00 Local. You can bring the check to the December meetings or mail to Kevin Yarnell, 7507 Summerbridge Dr, Tampa, Fl. 33634

The Chapter would also like to support the "Pennies for Patriots" Fund. Each member is asked to contribute a penny a day or $3.65 for the year to this fund. The money goes to the Florida State Society Trust Fund. In the past, the Tampa Chapter was very supportive.

Walter Lane underwent knee surgery on November 17 and was up and moving on the 18th. Hard to keep a good man down.

The January meeting will be held the 4th Saturday. Please mark your calander.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED