The Tampa Patriot

Newsletter of The Tampa Chapter, Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution

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America's First Emancipation Proclamation

It is generally believed that when President Abraham Lincoln issued his famous Emancipation Proclamation it was less an effort to free the slaves and rather intended to destabilize the South. Few remember that Lincoln had a good historical precedent set by John Murray who was the Earl of Dunmore and the last royal governor of Virginia. By November 14, 1775, when Murray issued the original Emancipation Proclamation, his plan to offer freedom to slaves who would leave their patriot masters and join the royal forces was already well underway.

Dunmore understood that such an act would have a wide-ranging effect. Not only would it disrupt production, it was also feed the growing fear among the colonists of armed slave insurrections. Planters would be distracted from waging war against Britain by the necessity of protecting their families and property from an internal threat. At the same time, Dunmore's own force of 300 soldiers, seamen and loyalist recruits, cut off from the support of British troops in Boston, would be reinforced by black fighting men and laborers.

Word of Dunmore's plan was known as early as April, when a group of slaves presented themselves to him to volunteer their services. He delayed the decision by ordering them away, but the Virginia slaveholders' suspicions were not allayed. On June 8, 1775, Dunmore left Williamsburg, taking refuge aboard the man-of-war Fowey at Yorktown. Over the next five months, he reinforced his troops by engaging in a series of raids and inviting slaves aboard the ship. On November 7, Dunmore drafted a proclamation, and a week later he ordered its publication. It declared martial law and adjudged the patriots as traitors to the Crown; more importantly, it declared "all indented servants, Negroes, or others...free that are able and willing to bear arms...."

Response from the colonists was immediate. Newspapers published the proclamation in full, and patrols on land and water were intensified. Throughout the colonies, restrictions on slave meetings *(continued on page 3)*

OUR NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2005

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.

Minutes of the October 15, 2005 meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Bolen called the meeting to order at 12:10. Chaplain Luke Lloyd offered the invocation. President Bolen led the pledge to the flag and the pledge to the SAR.

Members present: Richard Hardesty, Barry Rich, Jack Bolen, Ed Neugaard, Luke Lloyd, Alan Bell, Cy Gamber, and DeVaux McLean of the California society

Welcome guests: Jeanne Lloyd, June Bolen, Mrs. Lopez, and, Tony Velong and Carlos Lopez of the Temple Terrace Police Department

The President introduced the guests then, for the benefit of our guests, recessed the meeting for lunch.

President Bolen introduced VP Ed Neugaard who in turn introduced Tony Velong of the Temple Terrace Police Department. Chief Velong told the membership of the work of Carlos Lopez. Office Lopez formerly worked as a detective in New York City and recently moved to Florida. Both men spoke to the membership of their work and answered questions. President Bolen then presented the SAR Law Enforcement award to Office Lopez.

President Bolen continued with the business portion of the meeting.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved without correction.

The secretary read a draft letter composed by Robert Yarnell with regard to the Congressional mandate for constitution day education programs. The letter expresses concern over the topics approved for this purpose as found on the official website and suggested the SAR might wish to be involved in improving this situation. The membership suggested that some specific examples would help the clarity of the letter. After these additions, the secretary will take the letter to the state Board of Management meeting in two weeks.

The treasurer reported a current balance of $2,396.97. As approved by the membership at the September meeting a check for $100 was sent to Operation Helping Hand- a program of the Military Officers Association of America to help defray the costs of and assist families visiting their injured and wounded family service members.

Under new business President Bolen reported that the nominating committee met and decided to leave the officers as is with two changes. Dwight will be unable to continue as registrar and Luke Lloyd will take that job. Richard Hardesty will serve as chaplain.

Compatriot Hardesty gave a brief update on Janet Tetrick's health treatments.

President Bolen presented Luke Lloyd a supplemental certificate for a patriot ancestor. This is most notable in that the application was first submitted in October of 2003.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Allen Bell and the treasury was thus enriched by $4.00.

President Bolen led the recessional and Compatriot Lloyd offered the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell
Chapter Secretary

President Jack Bolen presents Chaplain Luke Lloyd with a certificate for his First Supplemental Ancestor, Ezekiel Boyden, a Sergeant who served in Colonel Wheelock's Regiment, Massachusetts Militia.

Tampa Chapter Officer Nominations for 2006

President . . . . . Jack C. Bolen
Vice-President . . . . . .Edward J. Neugaard
Secretary/Treasure . . . . . .Kevin A. Yarnell (see note below)
Surgeon . . . . . .Walter W. Lane, Jr., M.D.
Sergeant-At-Arms . . . . . .Robert Allen Bell
Chaplin . . . . . .Richard A. Hardesty*
Historian . . . . . .Robert Yarnell
Registrar . . . . . .Luther Lloyd*
Newsletter Editor . . . . . .Kenneth R. Skillman

*New in this office.
Note: If anyone would like to serve as Treasurer, please make it known to any current officer.

Other nominations from the floor will be welcomed at the December meeting.

Emancipation Proclamation *(continued from page 1)*

were tightened. The Virginia Gazette warned slaves to "Be not then...tempted by the proclamation to ruin your selves" and urged them to "cling to their kind masters," citing the fact that Dunmore himself was a slave holder.

In December, the Virginia Convention issued its own proclamation as a broadside, declaring that runaways to the British would be pardoned if they returned in ten days, but would be severely punished if they did not. The document began with a reminder of the penalty for slave insurrection — death without benefit of clergy — though in practice, it was used sparingly during the war.

By then, 300 black men had been inducted into "Lord Dunmore's Ethiopian Regiment," armed, and outfitted in military uniforms inscribed with the words "Liberty to Slaves." By early June, however, Dunmore's forces had been decimated by smallpox and the patriot's defenses. In August, the British destroyed over half of their own ships and sailed out of the Potomac, taking the 300 healthiest blacks with them.

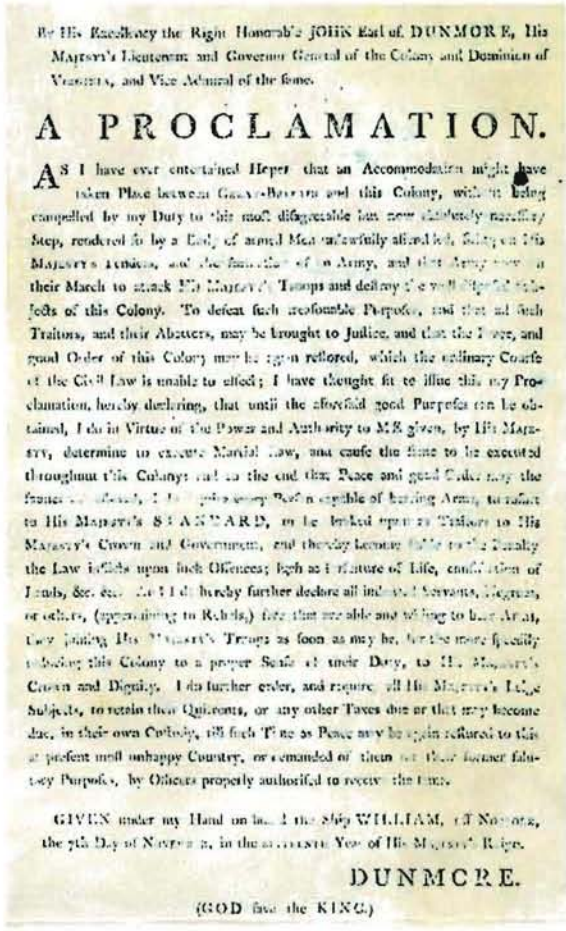
Although probably no more than 800 slaves actually succeeded in reaching Dunmore's lines, word of the proclamation inspired as many as 100,000 to risk everything in an effort to be free.

Law Enforcement Commendation

Since joining the Temple Terrace Police Department on July 22, 2004, Officer Carlos Lopez has become the highest producing patrol officer for the year 2004. Officer Lopez has gone above and beyond and obtained an outstanding set of statistics in only seven months with the Department. In the past seven months Officer Lopez has made 86 misdemeanor arrests, 50 felony arrests, 31 warrant arrests, issued 169 citations, seized 593 grams of cocaine (over a pound and an half), 206.6 grams of marijuana, and $10,847.00 in U.S. currency. Officer Lopez's activities should be a model for other police officers in the Department.

Officer Carlos Lopez receives his SAR Certificate and Medal while accompanied by his wife and Tony Velong, Chief of Police.

Lord Dunmore's Proclamation



By His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN Earl of DUNMORE, His Majesty's Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia, and Vice Admiral of the same.

A PROCLAMATION.

AS I have ever entertained Hopes that an Accommodation might have taken Place between Great-Britain and this Colony, without being compelled by my Duty to this most disagreeable but now absolutely necessary Step, rendered so by a Body of armed Men unlawfully assembled, [illegible] His Majesty's Troops, and the Formation of an Army, and their Army now in their March to attack His Majesty's Troops and destroy the well disposed Subjects of this Colony. To defeat such treasonable Purposes, and that all such Traitors, and their Abettors, may be brought to Justice, and that the Peace, and good Order of this Colony may be again restored, which the ordinary Course of the Civil Law is unable to effect; I have thought fit to issue this my Proclamation, hereby declaring, that until the aforesaid good Purposes can be obtained, I do in Virtue of the Power and Authority to ME given, by His Majesty, determine to execute Martial Law, and cause the same to be executed throughout this Colony: and to the end that Peace and good Order may the sooner be restored, I do require every Person capable of bearing Arms, to resort to His Majesty's STANDARD, or be looked upon as Traitors to His Majesty's Crown and Government, and thereby become liable to the Penalty the Law inflicts upon such Offences; such as Forfeiture of Life, confiscation of Lands, &c. &c. And I do hereby further declare all indented Servants, Negroes, or others, (appertaining to Rebels,) free that are able and willing to bear Arms, they joining His Majesty's Troops as soon as may be, for the more speedily reducing this Colony to a proper Sense of their Duty, to His Majesty's Crown and Dignity. I do further order, and require all His Majesty's Liege Subjects, to retain their Quit-rents, or any other Taxes due or that may become due, in their own Custody, till such Time as Peace may be again restored to this at present unhappy Country, or demanded of them or their former Attorney Purposes, by Officers properly authorized to receive the same.

GIVEN under my Hand on Board the Ship WILLIAM, at Norfolk, the 7th Day of November, in the [illegible] Year of His Majesty's Reign.

DUNMORE.

(GOD save the KING.)

Despite its significant effects, Dunmore's proclamation was insincere and ultimately failed to achieve his goals. He fled Virginia, and soon after left America for England. A short time later he was named British Governor of the West Indies in Nassau. Again he embraced the institution of slavery, buying a retinue of personal slaves and paying a bounty to slave ships that brought their cargo to the Bahamas.

November Meeting Program

The SAR Fire Safety Commendation Award will be presented to Captain Pete Soden of the Temple terrace Fire Department. Captain Soden is responsible for the School Safety Education Programs including the annual Open House, the school Blitz and the CPR programs.

The Fire Safety Commendation Medal may be presented by the National Society (SAR), a state society or a chapter to an individual for accomplishments and/or outstanding contributions in an area of fire safety and service. Award is not limited to firefighters. It may be presented to recognize a variety of fire safety and service that has evolved into a highly technical and skilled profession with constant study, development and involvement by numerous dedicated citizens with a single goal — protect human life and property by preventing injuries or casualties due to fire and chemicals.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

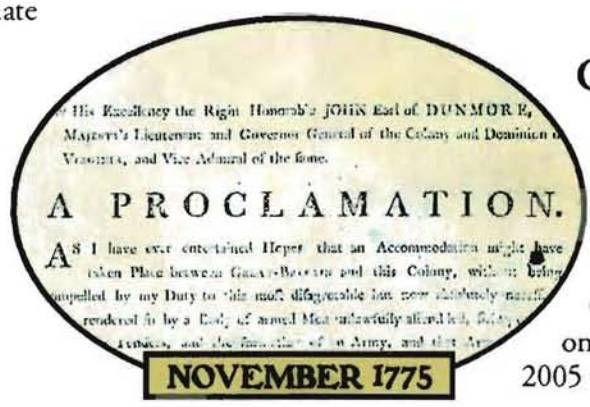
Chaplain's Corner

All The Way!

In Joshua 14, we read of the memorable deeds of caleb and Joshua. While the Israelites failed to take total possession of the land of the Canaanites and sought peace at any price despite God's desires, Caleb intended to go all the way. He was spiritually exuberant and filled with "fightin' and finishin' words" as illustrated in verse 12 when he asked for the most difficult terrain and enemy defenses to overcome. Yes, that's right ... IT WAS HIS ATTITUDE. He was 85 and still growing; still tackling giants and pushing toward fresh horizons. Back in my old airborne unit years ago, we used to challenge each other to finish the task with "All The Way." Do those words resonate in your heart as they do in mine? As military personnel, we were often given daunting tasks to accomplish. As Veterans in Christ's Army, we have been equally challenged. Does the tone of Caleb's example resonate in your life for the lord?

Luke Lloyd
Chaplain

NOVEMBER SAR NEWS INSIDE!



Chapter Notes

Please visit the Chapter Website at:
www.patriot-web.com
and the National SAR Website at:
www.sar.org

Our next two meetings will be held on November 19 and December 17, 2005 – please mark your calendars.