The Tampa Patriot

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

Volume V · Issue VI | PATRIOTIC · HISTORIC · EDUCATIONAL | October 2005

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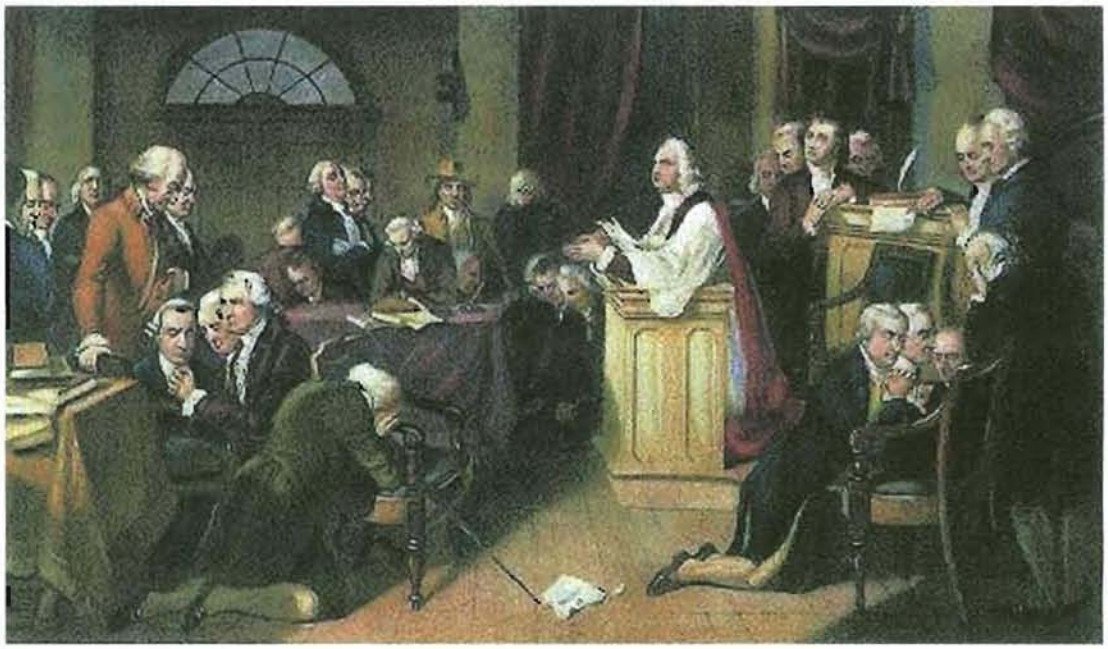
The First Continental Congress

The first Continental Congress met in Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia, from September 5, to October 26, 1774. Carpenter's Hall was also the seat of the Pennsylvania Congress. All of the colonies except Georgia sent delegates. These were elected by the people, by the colonial legislatures, or by the committees of correspondence of the respective colonies. The colonies presented there were united in a determination to show a combined authority to Great Britain, but their aims were not uniform at all. Pennsylvania & New York sent delegates with firm instructions to seek a resolution with England. The other colonies voices were defensive of colonial rights, but pretty evenly divided between those who sought legislative parity, and the more radical members who were prepared for separation. Virginia's delegation was made up of a most even mix of these & not incidentally, presented the most eminent group of men in America. Colo. George Washington, Richard Henry Lee, Patrick Henry, Edmund Pendleton, Colo. Benjamin Harrison, Richard Bland, and at the head of them Peyton Randolph — who would immediately be elected president of the convention. *(continued on page 3)*



OUR NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 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 September 17, 2005 meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Bolen called the meeting to order at 12:00. Chaplain Luke Lloyd offered the invocation. Marty Miller led the pledge to the flag and President Bolen the pledge to the SAR.

Members present: Bob Yarnell; Jack Bolen; Dwight Tetrick; Ken Skillman; Marty Miller; Walter Lane; Ed Neugaard; Alan Bell; Luke Lloyd

Welcome guests: Jeanne Lloyd and Charles Sheldon

The minutes of the May meeting were approved without correction. Jack Bolen thanked Ken for his work on newsletter and complemented him on its quality.

In the absence of the secretary Bob Yarnell read the following secretary's report.

I attended the State Board of Management meeting last month along with President Bolen. The new state president, Harry Hollien, has many innovative program ideas in the works. He is especially interested in raising the profile of SAR with a new emphasis on publicity. One idea along these lines involves the production and distribution of 60 second public service spots for radio. The subject of each piece would be some aspect of the revolutionary war. The committee charged with implementing this idea hopes to have something definitive by early 2006.

In the absence of the treasurer, Bob Yarnell reported a current balance of $2,516.51. This included two checks from the Endowment Trust Fund — one for $250 in reimbursement for expenses incurred in planting our Liberty Tree and the second for $276 in reimbursement for our ROTC medals.

Following the secretary's report, President Bolen spoke briefly about the BOM meeting and complimented Kevin on job he does as state secretary.

Dwight then reported to the membership on the liberty tree presentation. He then announced that due to his wife's current health problems, he will need to relinquish the job as registrar.

President Bolen announced that the nominating committee will be formed and in particular we need to look for some one to do the treasurers job and a replacement for Dwight in the registrar's job.

Bob Yarnell informed the membership about the Congressional mandate for constitution day education programs around the country. He also expressed concern about the suggestions presented on the official website as topics for these programs. The membership requested that Bob draft a letter to be approved at the October meeting to be sent up through SAR channels to see if the national organization should get involved in making sure the Constitution Day education suggestions are appropriate.

Luke Lloyd reported to the membership that he and his wife had stopped by the national headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky while traveling this summer to see the headquarters and do some research. He was complimentary of the facility and the helpfulness of the people at the national headquarters.

In his capacity as chaplain he also informed the membership about 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. Following a brief discussion the membership approved a $100.00 contribution to be made from the chapter treasury.

President Jack Bolen presents Compatriot Ken Skillman with his first SAR Supplemental Certificate for his ancestor John Mersereau, I.

Chaplain Luke Lloyd caught this photo of assorted Tampa Chapter members and officers preparing to address the day's business.

The meeting recessed for lunch

After lunch the meeting resumed with President Jack Bolen presenting a program on the Revolutionary War in the south. Jack first pointed out that while revolutionary war events in the north are better known, the war in the south is arguably much more important. In addition to a brief overview of the major campaigns in the south, President Bolen explained the difference between the militia and the regular troops and why the militia should not be as soundly criticized as they have been. While they had their bad moments, they were, after all, just plain farmers and shop keepers that were expected to stand up to the best soldiers the British had. In some cases they performed admirably, in other cases not as well. He also briefly mentioned the guerrilla activity of the American partisans. It was a nice presentation to start the year.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Bob Yarnell and the treasury was thus enriched by $6.00.

President Bolen led the recessional and Compatriot Lloyd offered the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Note: The secretary expresses his thanks to Bob Yarnell for taking the minutes of the September meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell
Chapter Secretary

Continental Congress *(continued from page 1)*

The objectives of the body were not entirely clear but, with such leadership as was found there, a core set of tasks was carried out. It was agreeable to all that the King & Parliament must be made to understand the grievances of the colonies & that the body must do everything possible to communicate the same to the population of America, and to the rest of the world.

The first few weeks were consumed in discussion & debate. The colonies had always, up to this time, acted as independent entities. There was much distrust to overcome. The first matter to be considered by all was A Plan of Union of Great Britain and the Colonies, offered by Joseph Galloway of Pennsylvania. The plan was considered very attractive to most of the members, as it proposed a popularly elected Grand Council which would represent the interests of the colonies as a whole, and would be a continental equivalent to the English Parliament. Poised against this would be a President General, appointed by the crown, to represent the authority of the king in America. Conflict in Boston overcame the effort at conciliation. The arrival of the Suffolk County (Boston) resolves just prior to the vote on the Plan of Union, caused it to be discarded by a narrow margin.

On October 14, the Declaration and Resolves established the course of the congress, as a statement of principles common to all of the colonies. Congress voted to meet again the following year if these grievances were not attended to by England.

A Message From Our President

This month and next, our Vice President, has scheduled programs to recognize and honor someone from Law Enforcement and Fire Fighting. These two groups are part of what are referred to in the after 9/11 world as "First Responders." We see them everyday but, unless we need them, we pay little attention to what they are doing. When we do need them they quickly become some of the most important people in the world.

Several years ago, my phone rang in the middle of the night. It was my mother calling for help but she was so upset that all I could understand was that it was a medical emergency. She was 87 at the time and lived by herself in Madeira Beach near John's Pass. I was the only relative in the area. My mother was a fiercely independent woman who, even at that age, mowed her own lawn, worked with her rose bushes and refused to ask anyone for help except as the very last resort. I knew if she was calling it was a true emergency. My first thought was to get dressed, jump in the car and drive over there. Fortunately, I woke up and realized that I could probably not be there in time to help. I called the little Madeira Beach Fire Station and told them the problem. Within minutes they were at mothers house with the EMS people, gave her first aid and took her to a hospital. Mom had suffered massive heart failure. Those First Responders saved her life.

I hope you will make a special effort to be present at both of the meetings as we honor those that serve us so well.

Please note that in the Fall Edition of the Florida Patriot Kevin has asked for suggestions from members on "what news and information, if anything, you'd like to receive from the state society." You can send your suggestions to: kayarnell@hotmail.com. Lets support Kevin's efforts to improve our society's communication.

Finally, the Fall 2005 Board of Management meeting is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, October 28th. and 19th. in Lakeland. The Friday night dinner is scheduled at 6:30 but if you were interested in attending I would advise you to arrive by 6:00 as tables fill up quickly. After hearing the speaker you can stay for the business meeting or leave.

It's an interesting event and I encourage any and all of y'all to attend at least once. Complete details and forms can be found in the latest issue of the Florida Patriot.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Chaplain's Corner

Surrendering More Each Day!

Paul wrote to the Corinthians (6:20), "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." In humor, Billie Burk once said, "Age is something that doesn't matter unless you are a cheese." My body tells me a different story, but my mind and my spirit have me as young as I was in the prime of life. For the Christian, age does not matter! Our relationship with God is the key element. Polished and sophisticated speech, money, clothes, possessions, etc. do not matter. The saying goes, "The Christian life begins when one surrenders as much of himself as he can to as much of Jesus as he understands." (Ben Johnson) Surrender is the key! But as we develop a closer relationship with Christ, we are to surrender MORE AND MORE areas of our lives to Him. Have you done that? What areas in your life still need attention? What are you doing about it? Now is the time to take action!

Luke Lloyd
Chaplain

OCTOBER 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 October 15 and November 19, 2005 – please mark your calendars.