# The Tampa Patriot

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

Volume VI · Issue IV | PATRIOTIC · HISTORIC · EDUCATIONAL | April 2006



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## The Shot Heard 'Round The World

The Battles of Lexington and Concord were the first battles of the American Revolutionary War. They were fought on April 19, 1775 in Middlesex County, Province of Massachusetts Bay within the towns of Lexington, Concord, Lincoln, Menotomy (Arlington), and Cambridge. The battles marked the outbreak of open armed conflict between Great Britain and its thirteen colonies in the mainland of British North America.

About 900 British Army regulars under Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith were ordered to capture military supplies that were reportedly stored by the Massachusetts militia at Concord. Weeks before the expedition, the colonists had received intelligence warning of an impending British search and moved nearly all the supplies to safety. The colonists had also received details about British plans on the night before the battle, and information was rapidly supplied to the militia.

The first shots were fired in a skirmish at Lexington during the British Army's advance. The militia were outnumbered and fled. Other colonial soldiers at the North Bridge in Concord fought three companies of the king's troops. The British Army broke ranks and fled from the Minutemen after a pitched battle in open territory.

More Minutemen arrived in the following hours and inflicted heavy damage on the British regulars returning from Concord. Smith's expedition was rescued upon returning to Lexington by reinforcements under Hugh, Lord Percy, later 2nd Duke of Northumberland. This combined force of around 1900 marched back to Boston under heavy fire in a successful tactical withdrawal, and the British reached the safety of Charlestown. *(continued on page 3)*

## OUR NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2006

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 March 18, 2006 Meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Bolen called the meeting to order at 12:00. Chaplain Richard Hardesty offered the invocation. President Bolen led the pledge to the flag and the pledge to the SAR.

Members present: Jack Bolen, Marty Miller, Cy Gamber, Ken Skillman, John Skillman, Richard Hardesty, and Kevin Yarnell. Also Gene Brown and Grant Wallin of the Clearwater Chapter were in attendance.

Welcome guests: June Bolen, Roger Quakenbush, Morgan Cheek, our essay winner, her mother and great grandmother.

The president introduced the guests.

The minutes of the February were approved with two corrections.

The secretary reported on his activity with the chapter webpage. He asked for suggestions and feedback.

The treasurer reported a balance of $1991.19.

In new business, the secretary reported on the arrangements for next months meeting honoring the JROTC cadets. Members will be paying for the meals of the cadets. Several members agreed to present the awards at the local unit ceremonies.

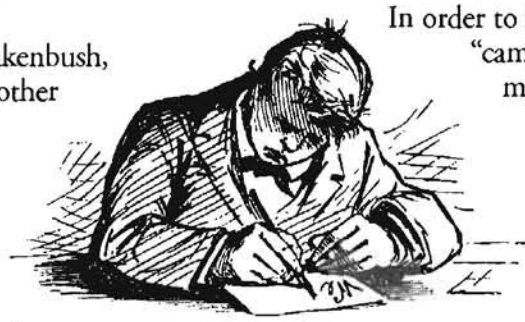
The president, on behalf of Registrar Luke Lloyd, briefly reported on the status of our prospective members. He also gave a brief report of his recent trip to Athens, GA where he attended the local SAR officer installation ceremony.

There being no further business the meeting recessed for lunch.

President Bolen reconvened the meeting and introduced the secretary who, in turn, introduced Morgan Cheek the winner of the chapter essay contest. Morgan is a junior at Tampa Catholic High School and is currently enrolled in Advanced Placement U.S. History as well as Political Science. Morgan read her essay on Benjamin Franklin for the members. The president then presented Morgan with a certificate and book. The latter contained a dedication signed by all those present.

Next, the president introduced Grant Wallin and Gene Brown of the Clearwater chapter. They spoke to the membership on forming a color guard.

The main reason to form a color guard is recognition and exposure for the SAR. Grant pointed out that just in walking through the restaurant to attend the meeting he received any number of questions and comments.



In order to form a color guard a name for the "camp" needs to be selected. A camp commander is the only required officer. Ed Young is the state commander and we'd need to work through him to establish the camp.

Uniforms are available from a variety of sources and can be of many types. There are three official uniforms:

The Alpha Uniform is a colonial dress uniform

The Bravo Uniform: Tricorn hat, with brigade button, blue blazer with SAR badge patch and medium gray trousers

The Charlie Uniform: Tricorn hat, with Brigade button, blue blazer with SAR patch and white trousers

The national SAR website has a list of uniform suppliers. Grant discussed the colonial dress uniform at some length answering questions by the members as they arose.

Grant briefly discussed how the Clearwater chapter obtained two replica muskets and some of the issues surrounding weapons. He also discussed how they participate in parades using a pickup truck as opposed to marching.

Grant Wallin won the 50/50 drawing. He donated his share to the treasury which was thus enriched by $16.00.

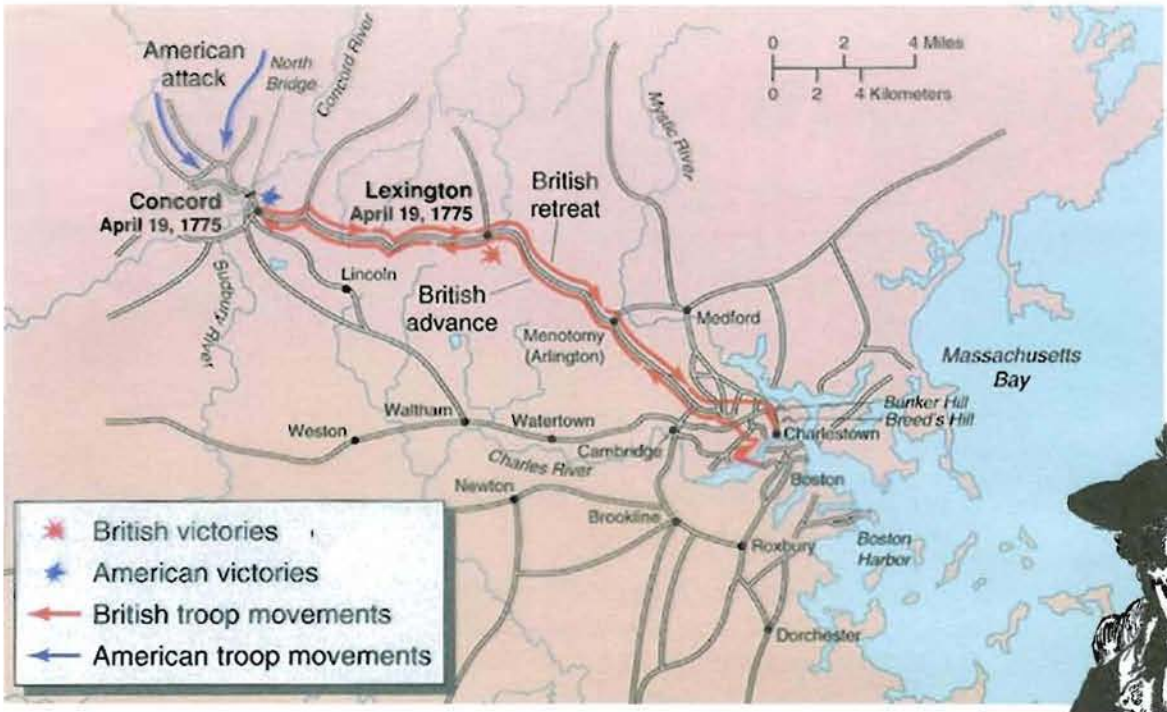
President Bolen led the recessional. Chaplain Hardesty gave the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 1:17p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

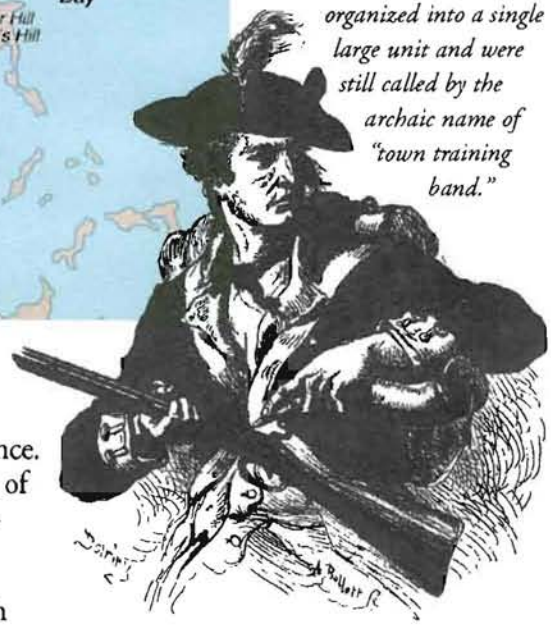
Kevin Yarnell
*Chapter Secretary*

*"The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants."*

*— Thomas Jefferson*




*Popular histories of the Battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775, the first battles of the American Revolutionary War, have often labelled all the irregulars on the American side as Minutemen, most notably Captain John Parker's Lexington Militia, but, at the time of the battle, all of Lexington's militiamen were organized into a single large unit and were still called by the archaic name of "town training band."*



**Shot** *(continued from page 1)*

The British failed to maintain the secrecy and speed required to conduct a successful strike into hostile territory, and they seized no weaponry of significance. However, most British regulars returned to Boston unharmed. The occupation of surrounding areas by the Massachusetts Militia that evening marked the beginning of the Siege of Boston.

The battles are known as the "shot heard 'round the world," described in Ralph Waldo Emerson's Concord Hymn.

## A Message From Our President

At our last meeting we heard about SAR color guards from two compatriots from the Clearwater Chapter. There seems to be enough interest among our members for us to seriously look at forming our own color guard. Besides just being fun, a color guard participating on community events would bring us much needed notoriety and aid in recruiting new members.

I'm asking everyone interested to plan to stay a few minutes after the April meeting. We need to get a head count, form a Sons Of Liberty Camp, elect officers and discuss uniform options. For those of you that were not at the March meeting, a uniform can vary widely and cost from just a few dollars to whatever you can afford.

One need that we have is transportation fro the color guard when we participate in parades. The Clearwater color guard uses a member's pick up truck with seats placed in the bed and signage on the sides. If any member has a truck, convertible or small trailer that could be used, that would be great!

Perhaps if you have not been able or interested in attend our Saturday meetings the color guard would give you the opportunity to honor your ancestor in a different way. If you can't attend on April 15th. but are interested in the color guard, please call me at home (813-685-4026) or on my cell (813-477- 9534) to discuss.

We are coming to the time when we need members to present Jr. ROTC awards to high schoolers. Kevin Yarnell is in charge of this important program. Basically all you need to do is attend the schools ROTC awards day ceremony and, when called on, present the certificate and medal to the cadet. You do not have to make a speech or anything. Awards are given out by a number of patriotic groups including the DAR, veterans groups, civic clubs, etc. The time required is normally one to one and one half hours. Simply pick out schools near your home, get the awards from Kevin, and attend the ceremony. It's a GREAT EXPERIENCE AND VERY IMPORTANT TO THESE FINE YOUNG PEOPLE! Last year I believe we attended 20 or so ceremonies. This is another opportunity to participate in your chapter if Saturday meetings are not convenient.

Jack Bolen
*President*

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## Chaplain's Corner

*Empty Tomb, New Life!*

Nine-year old Phillip had Downs Syndrome and was not destined for a long life. As Easter approached, his Sunday School Teacher gave each child and empty plastic egg and asked them to place "symbols of new life" inside. The following Sunday they opened there eggs and showed what they had found. Phillip's egg was the last opened. It was empty. One child yelled, "That's not fair, he didn't do it right!" Phillip tugged at the teacher's sleeve and said, "I DID DO IT RIGHT. IT IS EMPTY BECAUSE THE TOMB IS EMPTY. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE NEW LIFE." Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (John 11:25) Phillip died shortly thereafter. Together with their teacher each child went forward at the funeral and placed an empty plastic egg on their friend's tiny casket. Do you walk through life in the confident belief that Jesus is indeed the bringer of new life?

Richard Hardesty
*Chaplain*

# APRIL SAR NEWS INSIDE!

## April Program

We will honor local R.O.T.C. cadets with the presentation of SAR medals and certificates. Compatriot Kevin Yarnell will give a brief talk on the topic "Are you an historian?"

## 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 April 15, 2006 and May 20, 2006 – please mark your calendars.**