The Tampa Patriot

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

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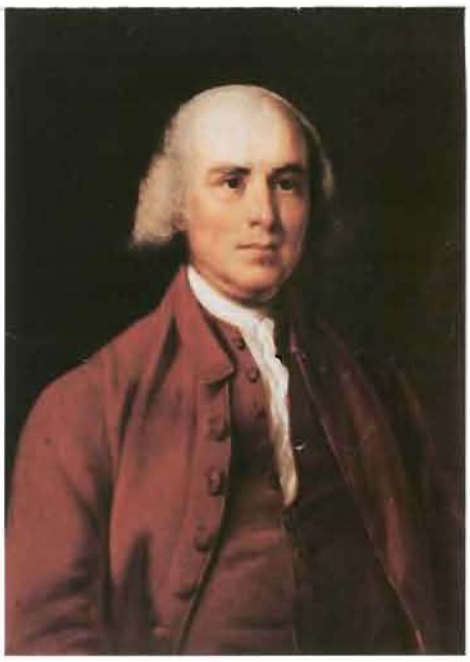
James Madison pushes Bill of Rights into law

On December 15, 1791, Virginia becomes the last state to ratify the Bill of Rights, making the first ten amendments to the Constitution law and completing the revolutionary reforms begun by the Declaration of Independence. Before the Massachusetts ratifying convention would accept the Constitution, which they finally did in February 1788, the document's Federalist supporters had to promise to create a Bill of Rights to be amended to the Constitution immediately upon the creation of a new government under the document.

The Anti-Federalist critics of the document, who were afraid that a too-strong federal government would become just another sort of the monarchical regime from which they had recently been freed, believed that the Constitution gave too much power to the federal government by outlining its rights but failing to delineate the rights of the individuals living under it. The promise of a Bill of Rights to do just that helped to assuage the Anti-Federalists' concerns.

The newly elected Congress drafted the Bill of Rights on December 25, 1789. Virginia's ratification on this day in 1791 created the three-fourths majority necessary for the ten amendments to become law. Drafted by James Madison and loosely based on Virginia's Declaration of Rights, the first ten amendments give the following rights to all United States citizens:



1. Freedom of religion, speech and assembly
2. Right to keep and bear arms for the purpose of a well-regulated militia
3. No forcible quartering of soldiers during peacetime
4. Freedom from unreasonable search and seizure
5. Right to a grand jury for capital crimes and due process. Protection from double jeopardy, self-incrimination and public confiscation of private property without "just compensation."
6. Right to "speedy and public" trial by jury and a competent defense

(continued on page 3)

OUR NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 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 November 18, 2006 Meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Bolen called the meeting to order at 12:02. The President offered the invocation. The secretary led the pledge to the flag and the president led the pledge to the SAR.

Members present: Jack Bolen, John Skillman, Ken Skillman, Ed Neugaard, Alan Bell, Don Weir, Robert Yarnell, and Kevin Yarnell.

Welcome guests: Dick Hurley, and Chuck Sheldon prospective members

The president introduced the guests.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

The secretary reminded the membership that dues are now payable for 2007. The state and national amounts remain the same. As the state society has dropped their 365 club we will not be soliciting additional donations for the Endowment Trust fund.

At the October meeting a request was made for membership directories. The secretary completed this task and brought copies to the meeting for distribution.

The Treasurer reported a balance of $1,961.13.

On behalf of the registrar, Luke Lloyd, the president gave an update on the status of those applying for membership. He commented on the fine job Luke has done this year as registrar. There are 18 gentlemen currently at some point in the application process.

Under new business Ken discussed the newsletter. He explained to the membership how the newsletter is currently being produced. It is a significant effort in both time and money. He suggested the chapter consider outsourcing the production side of the newsletter. The company he has in mind would use high quality digital printing. The cost for everything would work out to $2.25/ newsletter for 40 copies. There was much positive discussion about the financial issues. Bob Yarnell moved and Ed Neugaard seconded that the chapter dues be raised to $15.00 per year beginning with 2007. The increase would not be enough to cover the additional cost of the newsletter but the chapter would commit to absorbing the rest from the treasury. The motion also included adopting Ken's proposal for handling the newsletter. The motion passed.

With regard to paying for newsletters sent to prospective members, Ken suggested we institute an "ambassador" program. Each month a current member would be asked to be the ambassador. This would entail a donation of $25.00 to cover the cost of mailing the newsletters to these prospects. All were in agreement. John Skillman volunteered to be the first ambassador.

The next item of business was the newly formed color guard and items needed by the group. Allen Bell moved that the chapter purchase a Betsy Ross flag, 2 adjustable poles, 2 parade belts and 2 flag tops for the color guard. In addition the President is given the authority to purchase an SAR flag if the current one proves not to be suitable for use in a parade. The cost will be approximately $400. Bob Yarnell seconded. The motion carried.

The slate of officers for 2007 was put forth in nomination with two additions. Ken Skillman agreed to continue being the newsletter editor and Don Weir was nominated for Sergeant at Arms. The slate was approved by acclamation.

Ken moved that we present a certificate of appreciation to Debbie Hladych, the wonderful server who hosts us each month, for her kindness over many years to the chapter. The motion passed.

The meeting recessed for lunch.

President Bolen reconvened the meeting and introduced Bob Yarnell who presented the program. He addressed the question, "Which group deserves the title of having held the first Thanksgiving?" Many groups came to the new world and most celebrated some sort of thanksgiving event. In the course of his presentation Bob explained the claims of these groups:

- The Berkeley Plantation in Virginia 1619
- The French Huegonots, in Florida 1564
- The Spanish at St. Augustine 1565
- The Juan de Onala Expedition, Rio Grande Texas, 1598
- Popham Colony in Maine, 1607
- Coronado, in Texas 1541
- Plymouth religious, 1623
- New Foundland, 1578
- Harvest Celebration, Separatists, Plymouth, Mass. 1621

Three criteria could be considered. First that there was a religious service; Second that food was present; Third that the event was perpetuated. The Berkeley Plantation is the only event that satisfied all three criteria. Bob prepared a "tournament" bracket and the membership enjoyed working through the "contest" to see who deserved the honor. While there was some dissention, the majority of the members voted the Berkeley Plantation the honor of holding the first Thanksgiving.

Don won the 50/50 drawing. The treasury was thus enriched by $6.00.

President Bolen led the recessional. The meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell
Chapter Secretary

President Jack Bolen welcomes new member Roger Quackenbush.

President Jack Bolen welcomes new member Luther Lloyd II.

President Jack Bolen welcomes new member Luther Lloyd III.

Registrar Luke Lloyd welcomes new member Andy Lloyd.

President Jack Bolen welcomes transferring member Don Weir.

Bill of Rights *(continued from page 1)*

7. Right to trial by jury for monetary cases above $20
8. Protection against "excessive" bail or fines and "cruel and unusual" punishments
9. Rights not enumerated are "retained by the people"
10. Rights not given to the federal government or prohibited the state governments by the Constitution, "are reserved to the States... or to the people"

The Bill of Rights becomes law. (2006). The History Channel website. http://www.history.com/tdih.do?action=tdihArticleCategory&id=44.

A Message from Our President

This month's meeting will be our annual joint meeting with the Children of the American Revolution (CAR). I think it is one of the most important meetings of the year. The young people who make up the CAR are rare among their peers. They have demonstrated an interest in the history of their family and their country. It is important for us to set an example for them by attending the meeting and making an effort to make sure the young people feel welcome and comfortable with us. I hope that each of you will make a special effort to attend on the 16th.

Last month we made two important decisions. One was to take a different approach with our newsletter. The newsletter you are now reading represents that decision. We now have, without question, the finest newsletter in Florida and, perhaps the country. We all owe a special debt of gratitude to Ken Skillman who has produced our newsletter in the past. Ken has not only published the newsletter but has paid most of the printing and mailing cost himself. When his new job seemed as though it was going to preclude him from doing the newsletter in the future, he found another way to help us.

The second decision was made to spend the money necessary to purchase two flags, flagpoles and marching harnesses for the Sons Of Liberty Color Guard. Spending this money, nearly $300.00 dollars, says that we, as a Chapter, have made a significant commitment.

The commitment is not just to have a color guard but sign of our confidence that our chapter is about to enter a great new era of growth and renewed vitality. Come and be part of this activity.

P.S. If you are or want to be a part of the color guard wear what "uniforms" you have so far to the December meeting for the CAR to enjoy. We plan to have a color guard ready for the installation of officers in January.

Jack C. Bolen
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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DECEMBER SAR NEWS INSIDE!

December Program

This month's meeting will be our annual joint meeting with the Children of the American Revolution (CAR). The young people who make up the CAR are rare among their peers. They have demonstrated an interest in the history of their family and their country.

Chapter Notes

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

Our next two meetings will be held on December 16, 2006 and January 20, 2007 – please mark your calendars.