The Tampa Patriot

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

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A Man of Uncommonly Good Sense

The French philosopher Voltaire (1694-1778) once said, "Common sense is not so common." Although this statement was as true during his time as it is today, there was one man who changed history by sharing his simple and clear vision for America's future.

On January 9, 1776, writer Thomas Paine published his pamphlet *Common Sense*, setting forth his arguments in favor of American independence. Although little used today, pamphlets were an important medium for the spread of ideas in the 16th through 19th centuries.

Originally published anonymously, *Common Sense* advocated independence for the American colonies from Britain and is considered one of the most influential pamphlets in American history. Credited with uniting average citizens and political leaders behind the idea of independence, *Common Sense* played a remarkable role in transforming a colonial squabble into the American Revolution.

At the time Paine wrote *Common Sense*, most colonists considered themselves to be aggrieved Britons. Paine fundamentally changed the tenor of colonists' argument with the crown when he wrote the following: "Europe, and not England, is the parent country of America. This new world hath been the asylum for the persecuted lovers of civil and religious liberty from every part of Europe. Hither they have fled, not from the tender embraces of the mother, but from the cruelty of the monster; and it is so far true of England, that the same tyranny which drove the first emigrants from home, pursues their descendants still."

Paine was born in England in 1737 and worked as a corset maker in his teens and, later, as a sailor and schoolteacher before becoming a prominent pamphleteer. In 1774, Paine arrived in Philadelphia and soon came to support American independence. Two years later, his 47-page

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OUR NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 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 December 18, 2005 meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Bolen called the meeting to order at 12:03. Chaplin Luke Lloyd offered the invocation. Marty Miller led the pledge to the flag and the President led the pledge to the SAR.

Members present: Jack Bolen, Marty Miller, Luke Lloyd, Barry Marler, Ed Leary- a new transfer from the Maryland society, Robert Yarnell, and Kevin Yarnell.

Welcome guests: June Bolen, Allison Williams, Jeanne Lloyd, Mrs. Marler, five CAR members and their advisor.

The weather being poor the president postponed the business until after lunch and recessed the group for that purpose.

President Bolen reconvened the meeting.

The SAR membership approved the minutes of the November meeting as published in the newsletter.

The secretary reported that the annual report was coming along with 22 of 32 members having renewed. The president offered to contact these people.

The treasurer reported a balance of $2,397.99. This does not include the recently collected dues.

June Bolen offered an update on the health of Janet Tetrick.

The president made a few comments regarding membership issues for our chapter. He had published an article on this topic in the December newsletter. The primary concerns are the lack of any significant growth and the aging of the current members. He read excerpts from an email from John Skillman who spends time in Virginia and reported on how the meetings there are conducted.

The President passed on suggestions that had been made that might help the visibility of the organization. A color guard is a possibility. The state is working on a program wherein 1 minute radio spots are aired on local radio stations. A brief discussion followed. The president's intent was to raise the issues and have a more in depth discussion in January.

Barry Marler, our newest and youngest member, was in attendance having just returned from his first semester at Georgia Tech. The President called on Barry to share some of his experiences during the semester. Following his remarks the Secretary presented Barry with an Eagle Scout award in reorganization of his Eagle Scout achievement last summer.

The next item of business was the election of officers. A quorum was certified and no nominations were offered from the floor. A motion was made and seconded to elect the slate of nominates as published. The slate was elected unanimously.

The CAR then presented their program. Valerie, the current Ft. Brooks president, discussed the National D-Day museum in New Orleans. The goal of the CAR is to contribute $5000 to the education outreach of the museum. Barry added some information about the museum in light of the hurricanes. Fortunately, they did not suffer much damage. Specifically, the bulk of their artifacts were on the second floor.

Next Bob Yarnell offered a review of colonial Christmas time. We tend to think Christmas was a wonderful celebration but in truth very little was done to celebrate Christmas. In the north, Christmas was looked down upon, work was common, and it was actually outlawed in Massachusetts. In Pennsylvania the German influence led to a 12 day celebration starting on the 25th and running for the next 12 days. People went to church on the 25th and ate the large meal at the end of the 12 days. Bob ended by pointing out that the settlers at Jamestown were the first to observe Christmas and under severe circumstances. A brief question and answer session followed.

Marty Miller won the 50/50 drawing. He donated his share to the treasury which was thus enriched by $5.00.

President Bolen led the recessional. Chaplain Lloyd gave the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 1:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell
Chapter Secretary

"I can never fear that things will go far wrong where common sense has fair play."
–Thomas Jefferson

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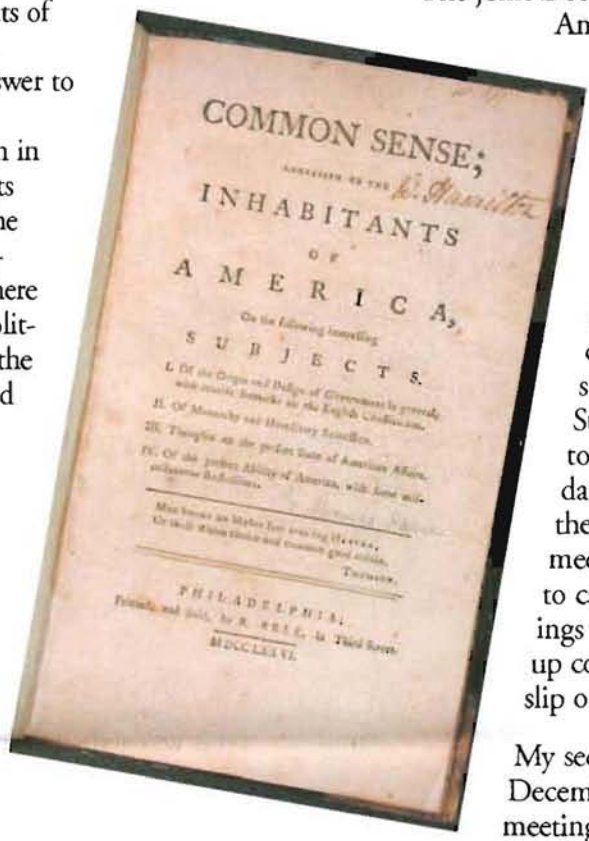
pamphlet sold some 500,000 copies, powerfully influencing American opinion. Paine went on to serve in the U.S. Army and to work for the Committee of Foreign Affairs before returning to Europe in 1787. Back in England, he continued writing pamphlets in support of revolution. He released "The Rights of Man," supporting the French Revolution in 1791-92, in answer to Edmund Burke's famous "Reflections on the Revolution in France" (1790). His sentiments were highly unpopular with the still-monarchal British government, so he fled to France, where he was later arrested for his political opinions. He returned to the United States in 1802 and died in New York in 1809.


COMMON SENSE;

INHABITANTS

OF

AMERICA,

SUBJECTS.

PHILADELPHIA.

Although his pamphlet was extremely popular and sold about half a million copies, Paine never accepted any royalties from its sale and donated all proceeds from it to Washington's Continental Army and the Revolutionary War effort.

State President Dr. Harry Hollien to Visit Tampa Chapter

SAR Florida Society President Dr. Harry Hollien will attend our January meeting and will install the 2006 Tampa Chapter Officers. Once the new officers have been installed, he will host a brief discussion of Florida Society issues and then give a talk on Myles Standish who is an ancestor of Dr. Hollien.

A Message From Our President

I trust that everyone survived the holidays in good order. I don't know if the fireworks are getting louder or if I'm just getting older and crankier...I'm lying, I'm just getting older!

The joint December meeting with the Children of the American Revolution went well although attendance was low on our part. We will install officers in January and, I hope,

we can continue our discussion about growing our membership so that we can enjoy more and varied activities.

I have two concerns at this time. The first is that our attendance has been off for the past couple of meetings. Some of this is due to personal health issues as is the case of Compatriots Stebbins and Tetrick. Some, no doubt, was due to the Holidays. Perhaps we should look at the dates of next December's meeting in relation to the Christmas holidays and consider moving the meeting date? Someone suggested that we needed to call the membership a week before the meetings to remind them. We all receive notices about up coming events, set them aside and then they slip our mind.

My second concern is the one we discussed in the December Newsletter and, briefly, at the December meeting, i.e., our need to grow our membership. I hope we can have a deeper discussion at our next meeting. My brother has just made application to join the Brevard (Florida) chapter. He attended his first meeting at Patrick AFB and said they had about 40 present with many wearing uniforms. The Tampa area certainly has many people as the Melbourne area. Where are we missing the boat? Should we strengthen our ties to MacDill AFB? Would this give us access to active and retired military in our area that may not know us?

Compatriot John Skillman is planning to be at the January meeting. John has been attending meetings in Virginia and he is the one that started me thinking about our need to grow. I look forward to hearing John's observations. His purpose is not to criticize our chapter but to cause us to consider how we could improve our situation.

Looking forward to seeing all of you.

Update: Compatriot Ed Leary has moved to Sun City and applied to transfer his membership from Maryland to Tampa. Ed attended the December meeting with a guest. Please seek him out this month and make him feel welcome.

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President

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Chaplain's Corner

A Path of Righteousness

2006 is upon us. What will be our spiritual journey with Jesus in the coming year? Obviously our answers will va ry. But as it is written in 1 Chronicles 19:13, "Be of good courage, and let us behave ourselves valiantly for our people, and for the cities of our God; and let the Lord do that which is good in his sight." Valiantly...what a wonderful word! It conjures up all sorts of brave situations and courageous images in our minds. Each evidences the necessity for a strong heart. Some would even say we are not t ruly Christians till we behave valiantly. I believe there are three keys to a valiant walk. We must be over-comers. We must project into any situation something that is a unique contribution of our personality, our spiritual understanding and creativity. Lastly, no matter what comes, we should rejoice. Only in this way can we transform tragedy into triumph, as did Jesus.

Luke Lloyd, *Chaplain*

JANUARY 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 January 21, 2006 and February 18, 2006 – please mark your calendars.