The Tampa Patriot

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

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Emotional Events Push America Toward Revolution

As a means of generating income for colonial administration, Parliament in 1767 passed the Townshend Acts, which placed duties on paper, lead, paint and tea imported into the colonies.

A boycott engineered by the Americans angered the imperial authorities. Customs officials repeatedly asked for military backing, in the hope that a show of force would enable them to collect duties from reluctant colonists. In October 1768, those pleas were answered and the first soldiers were posted in Boston. Eventually, about 4,000 redcoats, equal to one-fourth of the city's population, were deployed.

Bostonians resented the presence of "foreign" soldiers in their city, but many common workers shared an additional concern. The British soldiers were so poorly paid that many had to find part-time jobs in order to meet their basic needs. In so doing, the redcoats were taking jobs needed by the colonists.

Incidents between citizen and soldier were frequent; the most incendiary was the so-called Boston Massacre of March 5, 1770. On that day a single sentry was on duty at the Customs House on King Street, present-day State Street. An argument broke out between the soldier and a local merchant, who was struck by the butt of a musket during the confrontation. A crowd assembled quickly and began pelting the sentry with a variety of materials — stones, oyster shells, ice, and chunks of coal. Tensions were further heightened when the bells of the city's churches began to toll, the traditional means of summoning help in fighting fires. Reinforcements under Captain Thomas Preston were rushed in to relieve the beleaguered sentry. The mob taunted the soldiers, daring them to fire, while remaining somewhat secure in the widely held knowledge that the soldiers could not discharge their weapons within the city without prior authorization from a civil magistrate.

At this juncture, someone in the crowd hurled a wooden club at the redcoats. Private Hugh Montgomery was struck and fell to the ground. As he regained his footing, someone — Montgomery, another soldier, or someone in the jeering mob — yelled, "Fire!" The redcoats did so; Preston, who clearly had not given the order, ended the firing and tried to restore order. By that time, however, three colonists lay dead and two others mortally wounded; six others would later recover from their wounds.

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OUR NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 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 February 18, 2006 Meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Bolen called the meeting to order at 12:04. Chaplin Richard Hardesty offered the invocation. John Skillman led the pledge to the flag and President Bolen led the pledge to the SAR.

Members present: Jack Bolen, Marty Miller, Luke Lloyd, Ed Neugaard, Ken Skillman, John Skillman, Allen Bell, Robert Yarnell, and Kevin Yarnell.

Welcome guests: June Bolen, Jeanne Lloyd, Shelley Jakes, Roger and Kathy Quakenbush, and John Sessions. Both Roger and John are prospective members.

The president introduced the guests and, for the benefit of our speaker, recessed the meeting for lunch.

President Bolen reconvened the meeting and introduced our speaker Shelley Jakes. Mrs. Jakes spoke on Mount Vernon during the Civil War years. She began, in honor of Washington's upcoming birthday, by donating a wonderful, framed portrait of Washington to the chapter.

The woman credited with establishing the Mount Vernon Women's Society in 1853 is Pamela Cunningham. Her mother, on a visit to Mount Vernon, was appalled at the state of the home. She was instrumental in raising a substantial amount of money which allowed some restoration to begin. When the war started Miss Cunningham, a southerner, had to return to the south to assist her family.

The home was left in the care of two individuals- one man, Mr. Upton, a southerner, and one woman, Sarah C. Tracy, a northerner. The perception that this created is not to be overlooked and the society had to reassure interested persons that everything was appropriate. The fact that the pair represented both sides of the conflict turned out to be a significant advantage. The speaker shared several stories to illustrate this point.

Money to sustain the property was, at time, difficult to obtain as visitors had a hard time getting to the home. In the first year of the war almost no visitors were allowed. After that time visitors were allowed by boat. Passengers paid $1.50 for passage and additional money to see the home.

In order to keep Mount Vernon neutral in the conflict soldiers were not allowed to wear their uniforms or the uniforms were covered. This neutrality was crucial for survival and patrons did not feel like the admission fee was supporting one side or the other.

They had some trouble with visitors taking souvenirs and thus degrading the property. This led to the idea of selling items for guests to take with them. Items included wild flowers and pictures of the visitor at Washington's grave. This latter was, to the mind of the speaker, rather expensive. Mr. Upton and Miss Tracy married after the war which added a small romantic angle to the story.

A short question and answer session followed and the President presented Mrs. Jakes with a certificate of appreciation from the chapter. The significant applause for Mrs. Jakes reflected the appreciation of the membership for the presentation.

The meeting proceeded with the business portion.

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

The secretary received acknowledgement for our donation of $86.65 to the Endowment Trust Fund. These funds were collected from members as an additional donation with the dues. A thank you phone call was received from the Riverview JROTC unit in response to our donation.

The treasurer reported a balance of $2226.19. Marty Miller reported his audit of the chapter accounts. He made a suggestion to the treasurer regarding a better way to record one transaction and assured the chapter that the books were in order.

Luke Lloyd, as registrar, submitted a written report which is summarized here. Seven members have applications in process. He brought up several items for consideration.

- a new member is needed to maintain the ancestry database started by Rod Stebbins
- a new webmaster is needed
- supplies are needed from National; specifically a computer program to aid in typing applications

The secretary reported on his activity with the chapter webpage. Rod Stebbins was handling the site but recently indicated that he was no longer able to do so. The secretary has had the appropriate accounts transferred to him and is currently working on a new website. He asked for suggestions for content.

The President reported on plans to visit other SAR chapters to observe how they contact their meetings. The goal is to take the best ideas and incorporate them into our meetings so as to make the gatherings more enjoyable to the membership and guests.

Next month Grant Wallin from the Clearwater chapter will be present to explain to the members how we might form a color guard.

Marty Miller won the 50/50 drawing. He donated his share to the treasury which was thus enriched by $19.00.

President Bolen led the recessional. Chaplain Hardesty gave the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 1:28pm .

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell
Chapter Secretary

A Message From Our President

Last month June and I attended a meeting of the Athens, Georgia SAR Chapter. A cousin of mine, Robert Hale, was installed as President. The affair was black tie and held at the Athens Country Club. They had a cash bar that was open for thirty minutes. The cost of the meal was $30.00 per person. Twenty-two people were present including several wives. The new officers were installed after dinner followed by a short program. Each February they combine the installation of officers with a formal dinner to honor George Washington and celebrate his birthday.

Athens Georgia is a "college town". The town did not exist until it was decided that the University of Georgia would be built there in 1801. The population is about 102,000.

The Athens Chapter has about 30 members making it similar in size to our chapter. Also, like our chapter they had gone through some tough times in the past and had reorganized several years ago and were in a growth mode now.

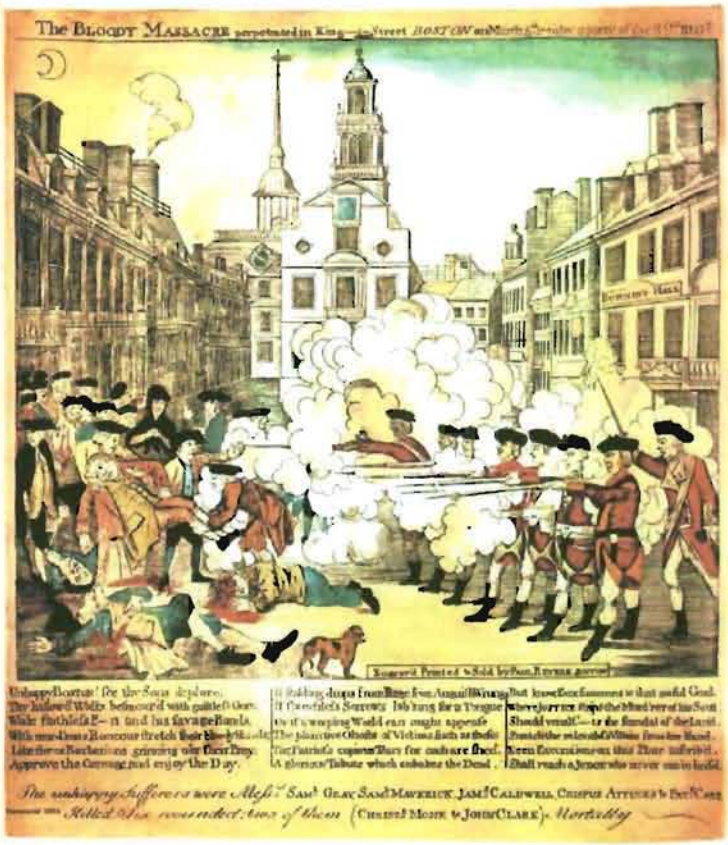
I'm sharing this information because I think it interesting to learn what different chapters do about meetings, etc. Black tie may be more than we want to try but it made the meeting and installation very impressive. I plan to visit other chapters as I can a let you know what they do at meetings and how they do these things. If any of you have the opportunity to visit other chapters, I would appreciate you letting me know about their meetings.

This month we will have two members of the Clearwater Chapter Color Guard as our guest. They will talk about color guard activities and answer our question about uniforms, etc.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 18th.

Jack Bolen
President

February guest speaker Shelly Jakes presents the SAR Tampa Chapter with an inspiring, framed portrait of George Washington. Photo: Luke Lloyd



This engraving by Paul Revere though not considered accurate to the actual events still sold many copies and spurred on the revolution. For more information visit: www.bostonmassacre.net/gravure.htm

Emotional Events *(continued from page 1)*

The Boston Massacre was, of course, not a "massacre." Samuel Adams and other propagandists immediately capitalized on this incident, using it to fan colonial passions. Paul Revere assisted the effort by issuing one of his most famous engravings, possibly plagiarized, depicting the American version of the event.

In response to these tensions, Lieutenant Governor Thomas Hutchinson ordered that the British soldiers be withdrawn to Castle Island, giving the colonists a much-celebrated victory and indicating the rudderless nature of British policy. A combined funeral for the slain was held a few days later and the procession was said to have been joined by 10,000 people.

Later, 35-year-old John Adams risked the disapproval of his friends and neighbors by defending the British soldiers in a highly publicized trial.

Historians tended for many years to regard the Boston Massacre as a watershed event. American opinion was radicalized by skillful propaganda, which moved many former moderates to outspoken opposition to British policies. More recent scholars, however, have found evidence of a more discerning Boston public that was appreciative of British restraint and disapproving of provocative mob actions. Evidence of the latter view was found in the relative quiet that descended on the community after the funeral. Further unpopular British actions would have to occur before a larger portion of the populace would embrace the radical view. (source: www.u-s-history.com)

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Chaplain's Corner

Something Only God Can Do

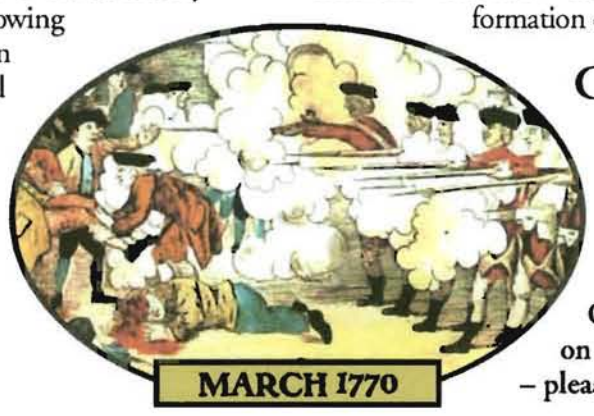
The psalmist wrote, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24) We need to become saturated with this belief. We need to shout it above the din of (battle) daily distractions. It is God's Day! It is a day for setting our sights on SOMETHING ONLY GOD CAN DO, and then following though with prayer and meditation while listening for His Holy Spirit to guide and lead us. Wouldn't that be wonderful? God using us in such a way that we all recognize His divine presence — and the subordination of our own — in what was accomplished. Why? Because we would know that it could absolutely never have happened without our allowing Him to work in each of our lives! Can you imagine the results? We would all sense that God had been among us. And, that sense would inspire each of us to do more for His Kingdom.

Luke Lloyd, *Past Chaplain*

MARCH SAR NEWS INSIDE!

March Program

We will honor Morgan Cheek, our local winner of the SAR essay contest, for her essay on Ben Franklin. Morgan is in the 11th grade at Tampa Catholic High School, and her essay can be read on the chapter website listed below. Also, Grant Wallin from the Clearwater Chapter of the SAR will discuss the formation of a color guard.



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 March 18, 2006 and April 15, 2006 – please mark your calendars.