The Tampa Patriot

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

Volume VI · Issue VI | PATRIOTIC ⚑ HISTORIC ⚑ EDUCATIONAL | September 2006

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Spaniards capture Baton Rouge

On September 21, 1779, the Louisiana governor and Spanish military officer Bernardo de Galvez, with the aide of American troops and militia volunteers, captures the British post and garrison at Baton Rouge, located in what was then British-controlled West Florida.

In a cunning and brilliant move, de Galvez included in the terms of the British surrender of Baton Rouge that the British also surrender Fort Panmure at Natchez to Spanish control. Defeated and on the verge of utter annihilation, the British had no other choice but to accept the terms.

The Spanish capture of Baton Rouge and Fort Panmure ended British control of the Mississippi Valley and opened the Mississippi River to a Spanish supply line—running from the Gulf of Mexico to the Ohio Valley—that greatly benefited the American cause. De Galvez was then able to lay siege to the British-occupied city of Pensacola, Florida, in the spring of 1781, which ended in a British surrender on May 8.

Spain never officially signed an alliance with the American revolutionaries, as King Charles III was hesitant about the precedent he might be setting by encouraging the population of another empire to overthrow their monarch. However, Spain also wanted to regain Gibraltar in the Mediterranean from the British and solidify control of its North American holdings, so it allied itself to France in the international war against Britain. Spain regained West Florida during the fighting and East Florida, which it exchanged for the Bahamas, in the final peace. Though Gibraltar remained in British control, Spain also won all the land surrounding the Gulf of Mexico.

Bernardo de Galvez

Spaniards capture Baton Rouge. (2006). The History Channel website. Retrieved 10:34, Sep 7, 2006, from http://www.history.com/tdih.do?action=tdihArticleCategory&id=50904.

OUR NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 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 May 20, 2006 Meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

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

Members present: Jack Bolen, Luke Lloyd, Marty Miller, Ed Neugaard, Richard Hardesty, Alan Bell, Barry Marler, Ken Skillman, and Kevin Yarnell.

Welcome guests: June Bolen, Jean Lloyd, William Riley and his daughter Billie Marie

The president introduced the guests.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved.

The secretary reported only typical monthly activity during the past month and briefly discussed the recent state society meeting.

The treasurer reported a balance of $1924.02.

The registrar, Luke Lloyd, gave an update on the status of those applying for membership. There are 9 current working applications. Roger Quackenbush was approved this past week. The other new application with the state registrar is Willard Hawn. One prospect elected not to join sighting that the requirements to prove the bloodline are not strict enough – DNA being his preference.

There being no further business the meeting recessed for lunch.

President Bolen reconvened the meeting and introduced Vice President Neugaard who, in turn, introduced Captain William Riley of Station 7 in the Bloomingdale area. The President presented the Fire Safety Award and then asked the Captain to detail a story that had been widely reported in the papers. The story involved a boy who had been struck by and subsequently dragged by a car across an intersection. The 8 year old boy ended up trapped under the car. Equipment necessary to lift the car was several minutes away, and so after a quick assessment Captain Riley, by sheer strength and adrenaline, lifted the car off the boy. The boy has since completely recovered.

The president then moved on to the remainder of the business meeting. Under old business the recently completed ROTC program was discussed. It was suggested that we begin the process of determining which member will present at which school earlier in the spring to allow better coordination. The secretary, who coordinates the program, thought this was a fine idea and agreed to do this next year.

The chapter continues to search for a suitable recognition for Janet Tetrick's service to the chapter. Since she has already received the SAR awards available to the chapter the idea of some custom award was discussed. Richard Hardesty moved and Luke seconded that the President be empowered to spend up to $200 on a suitable award. The motion passed unanimously.

Allen Bell reported on our plans to begin a color guard. He has so far been unable to contact Ed Young the state commander but is confident that we'll be ready to start at the latest in the fall.

The President called on Barry Marler to give a brief overview of his current activities. Barry is the recent past president of the Florida CAR and is now serving as a regional vice president of the National CAR. He is in the ROTC at Georgia Tech and has a busy summer planned having just completed his freshmen year.

Luke Lloyd suggested that the chapter secure the appropriate service medal for those current and future members who served in time of conflict. Ken will publish a notice in the newsletter asking members to provide information if they thus served.

The vice president reported that the September meeting would be to honor an FBI agent with a law enforcement award.

Marty won the 50/50 drawing and donated his share to the chapter. The treasury was thus enriched by $7.00.

President Bolen led the recessional. Chaplain Hardesty gave the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell
Chapter Secretary

"The people are the masters of both Congress and courts, not to overthrow the constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert it!"

– Abraham Lincoln

Captain William Riley is presented the SAR Fire Safety Award by President Bolen (see Chapter Minutes at left for story).

Registrar Luke Lloyd presents the SAR Bronze ROTC Medal to an outstanding cadet at East Bay High School.

A Message from Our President

A Very Special Lady

Janett Tetrick was not a member of our Chapter but for years she was a big part of it. The Chapter owes a lot to Dwight and Janett. Their contributions are well known by most of us. Dwight was a member and was elected to various offices over the years. He always performed his duties well but he was a member and, to some extent, his service could be considered his duty. Janett on the other hand did her labors for us because she enjoyed helping the members. I have no idea how many hours she worked on member's applications and genealogy but it had to be a great deal of time.

In my case, I had a number of names of ancestors that I suspected might qualify me for membership but I really had little idea of how to find the proof necessary. I gave this "mess" to Janett and in short order she had proof for two ancestors. I would never have tried to use either of them. I remember asking her how she had done it so quickly. She said she saw the surname Thrower and "just knew that was the one to work on." My story is typical of many of our members who received her help.

It was suggested at a meeting earlier this year that we award Janett something appropriate for her help. When we started reviewing our files it was determined that she had already received every award that was offered by the NSSAR for Chapter presentation. We decided that we would develop a new award for her. I decided to call the new award the "President's Award" and Janett would be the first recipient. While the award was at the engravers, Janett passed away.

We will be awarding this to her posthumously. I will contact Dwight to see when he will be able to attend a meeting and accept this award on Janett's behalf.

She was a very special friend of the Tampa Chapter and a very special lady.

Jack C. Bolen
President

Dwight and Janett Tetrick at the commemoration of Our Liberty Tree in Al Lopez Park on May 7, 2005.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Chaplain's Corner

In Remembrance

We remember September 11th as the modern day of "infamy," not unlike Pearl Harbor day. We give over our thoughts to those brave men and women in the fire departments, police, rescue workers, and especially those passengers of Flight 93 who paid for the price of Freedom with their lives. For all those good men and women who died on that day....more than 3,000 Americans, we must continue to support the fight on terrorism, just as our fore-fathers fought the unjust rule of our fledgling country. They will always live in our memory; in a memory not limited by time or space. May God bless their souls, as we too, bless and remember them. In God's name we pray,
Amen.

Richard Hardesty
Chaplain

SAR NEWS INSIDE!

September Program

This month Brian MacNeel from Florida Crime Prevention will talk on "Safety and Crime Prevention." Brian is a former Army Ranger and an expert on community crime prevention.

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 September 16, 2006 and October 21, 2006 – please mark your calendars.