The Tampa Patriot

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

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A Remarkable Correspondence

On March 9, 1777, Continental Congressman John Adams writes three letters to and receives two letters from his wife, Abigail. He is with Congress in Philadelphia, while she maintains their farm in Braintree, Massachusetts.

The remarkable correspondence between Abigail and John Adams—numbering 1,160 letters over forty years—covered topics ranging from politics and military strategy to household economy and family health. Their mutual respect and adoration served as evidence that even in an age when women were unable to vote, there were nonetheless marriages in which wives and husbands were true intellectual and emotional equals.

In the second letter John drafted to Abigail on March 7, he declared that Philadelphia had lost its vibrancy during Congress' removal to Baltimore. "This City is a dull Place, in Comparrison [sic] of what it was. More than one half the Inhabitants have removed to the Country, as it was their Wisdom to do—the Remainder are chiefly Quakers as dull as Beetles. From these neither good is to be expected nor Evil to be apprehended. They are a kind of neutral Tribe, or the Race of the insipids." By contrast, Adams described the Loyalists, who "prepared their Minds and Bodies, Houses and Cellars," to receive General William Howe should he attack, as "a Pack of sordid Scoundrels male and female."

(continued on page 3)

Abigail Smith Adams

John Quincy Adams

OUR NEXT LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2007

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 17, 2006 Meeting of the Tampa Chapter SAR

President Neugaard called the meeting to order at 12:04. Luke Lloyd offered the invocation. Don Weir led the pledge to the flag and the president led the pledge to the SAR.

Members present: John Skillman, Ken Skillman, Ed Neugaard, Alan Bell, Marty Miller, Don Weir, Roger Quackenbush, Dick Hurley, Robert Yarnell, and Kevin Yarnell.

Welcome guests: Tom and Darleen Choepski, Bill and Dotty Love

The president introduced the guests.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved. The secretary thanked Bob Yarnell for filling taking the minutes in his absence.

The secretary had three items of business.

At the recent state Board of Management meeting a request was made of the chapters to report their efforts regarding get the "Keyhole to History" CD's aired on local radio stations. The members who have the CD's agreed to report their efforts in March.

"Chapter Ambassadors", members who donate $25 to offset the cost of mailing the newsletter to prospective members, are needed. President Neugaard agreed to sponsor a month.

The chapter received a check from the Florida Society Endowment Trust Fund for $84.73 which is the remaining amount due for reimbursement of our expenses for the ROTC medals last year. The secretary related the circumstances under which 7 members of the Florida Society contributed the money necessary to cover our check as well as the needs of several other chapters.

The Treasurer reported a balance of $2,108.87.

The registrar, Luke Lloyd, gave an update on Jack Bolen's status after his back surgery this week. The prospective list is now up to 21. Two of these came from the Florida Society. Dick Hurley noted that the National website showed his application as approved- which is welcome news for the chapter. Luke also reported on the status of other prospects.

Allen Bell gave a brief update on the color guard. Three members are ready to go and the first outing will be Friday, March 3rd at the state CAR meeting where the unit will provide the color guard. The group also hopes to participate in the Lutz 4th of July parade.

In new business, the secretary reported on the plans for this year's JROTC presentations and luncheon. The units will be sending us the dates of their awards ceremonies and the secretary offered to pass these along to members that wished to present the medal at a particular school.

Don Weir talked about an idea to provide a small booklet containing the Constitution and amendments to middle and high school students. The membership very much liked the idea. There was some discussion of how best to proceed. Having a member, in uniform, pass out the booklets as part of some presentation would be a possible avenue to pursue. This might be especially effective in the middle school. Ken suggested that the information in the booklets might be made available on our website. This would eliminate the cost of purchasing the printed booklets. The JROTC students are another potential audience.

Several members shared books on revolutionary war people that the others might enjoy.

President Neugaard, in honor of George Washington, read a brief biography of our first president.

The meeting recessed for lunch.

President Neugaard introduced Vice President Bell who introduced our speaker Floyd Bell the owner of Head's Flags. He began his remarks by recounting how he came to be in the flag business. It began in a bit of an accidental way at an auction and a realization that there was no place in Tampa to purchase current or historical flags other than an American or Canadian flag.

Mr. Head then showed several flags from the revolutionary war era and recounted various stories about each. One was the "Sons of Liberty" flag adopted by the colonist who participated in the Boston tea party. It is solely made of red and white stripes. Another is considered the oldest "American" flag. He has detailed information on this flag available at his store for those who stop in. The flags and interesting stories continued as Mr. Head emptied a box of flags for the benefit of the members. His last flags were the "Tampa" and "Hillsborough" flags and he explained the symbolism contained in each. Mr. Head ended with an original poem

President Neugaard thanked Mr. Head for his presentation.

Kevin won the 50/50 drawing. The treasury was thus enriched by $7.00.

President Neugaard led the recessional. Chaplain Lloyd offered the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Yarnell
Chapter Secretary

Correspondence *(continued from page 1)*

In the letters John received, which Abigail had written in February, she bemoaned not only the difficulty of correspondence during war, but also of the lack of military fervor demonstrated by the New Englanders around her. She wrote that she awaited greater patriotism, greater prosperity and future correspondence from her beloved husband to his devoted "Portia." (Portia, Adams' nickname for his wife was likely a reference to the intelligent and devoted heroine of Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice.)

Five letters pass between Abigail and John Adams. (2007). The History Channel website. Retrieved 11:16, Mar 10, 2007, from http://www.history.com/tdih.do?action=tdihArticleCategory&id=303.

Mr. Floyd Head, founder of Head's Flags, gave a wonderful presentation of American flag history at our February meeting. Floyd is a very captivating speaker, and he treated the audience to his original poetry.

A Message from Our President

The February meeting was President Ed's first. It was a very humbling experience. Dwight and Jack's shoes are indeed hard to fill.

Compatriot Alan Bell is to be commended for setting up a very interesting and informative program. Mr. Floyd Head, founder and owner of Head's Flags, spoke about the different American flags, from Colonial times up to the present. He showed each one and explained its history and significance.

Compatriot Luke Lloyd had good news in regard to recruiting new members. Several new applications are in the works and hopeful, more will be in the offing. Let's all try to "talk up" the SAR whenever we can and see if we can get a few more applications in the pipeline.

Almost all hereditary and fraternal societies and organizations are steadily losing members. It is becoming more and more difficult to recruit younger members. They just don't seem to have the time or interest. We have been fortunate in maintaining a fairly strong membership. Let's keep up the good work!

God Bless,

Ed Neugaard
President

Chapter Ambassadors Needed

In an effort to generate interest and increase our membership, we are producing a number of additional newsletters each month which are sent out to prospective members. This worthy activity comes at some additional cost which is a financial burden on the chapter. We are looking for one member per issue to donate $25 to this cause. This person will be designated a "Chapter Ambassador" and will receive recognition in that month's newsletter. If you wish to contribute, please see Kevin, Ken or any chapter officer.

"Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence."

– John Quincy Adams

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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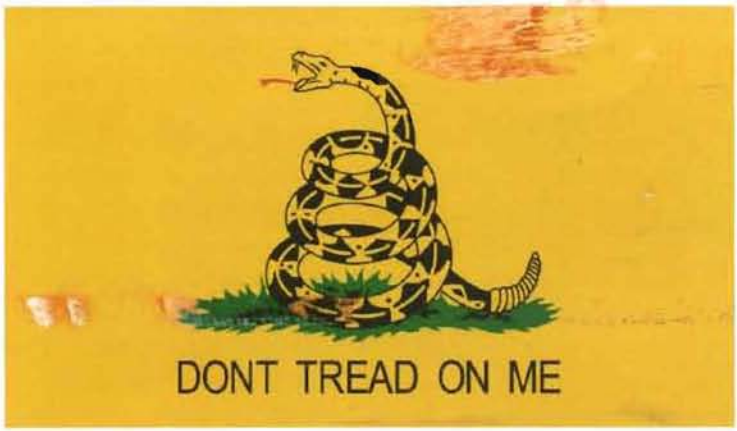

MARCH SAR NEWS INSIDE!

Chapter Ambassador

Special Thanks to
Walter W. Lane, Jr., MD

The Gadsden Flag

"Col. Gadsden presented to the Congress an elegant standard, such as is to be used by the commander in chief of the American navy; being a yellow field, with a lively representation of a rattle-snake in the middle, in the attitude of going to strike, and these words underneath, 'Don't Tread on Me!'"

—recorded in the South Carolina congressional journals

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 March 17, 2007 and April 21, 2007 – please mark your calendars.