



*Tampa Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution  
September 2022*

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## **September Meeting**

The next meeting of the Tampa Chapter Sons of the American Revolution will be held on September 17th at the Innovation Partnership space at University Mall. It is located on the Second Floor of the University Mall. Drive to the backside of the mall. You will see a parking garage. Go to the 2nd floor and park. Enter through the door, walk straight until you reach a big hallway, turn right. Walk 30 or so feet and the room will be on your left.

Our speaker this month will be Rodney Kite-Powell, Director of the Touchton Map Library at the Tampa Bay History Center. He will give an overview of the history of the Tampa Bay area.

## **May Meeting**

Our last meeting before the summer recess was our annual Fire Fighter and EMS Commendation Medal and Certificate presentations. The SAR Firefighter Commendation Medal and Certificate was presented to Fire Inspector II Sharri Dufresne. The SAR EMS Commendation Medal and Certificate was presented to Battalion Chief John Shirah. Both are with Hillsborough County Fire & Rescue.

We again thank Chief Dennis Jones and Captain Kevin Kahmeyer for their assistance to our chapter in these presentations every year.



Kahmeyer, Pres Klug, Shirah, Dufresne, Cap'n Weldon

We also recognized some of our veteran compatriots with presentations of the SAR War Service and Military Service Medals. Pictured above are Compatriots Wagner-Hart, Robinson, Whipkey, Westerfield and Roosa.

## American Revolution Note

### General James Wolfe and Gray's Elogy

To begin our new meeting year, I am going to mention one poignant moment in the life of British General James Wolfe - not his death, but what he did the evening prior to the Battle on the Plains of Abraham. A moment in the life of a man who loved literature and poetry and preferred them to battle.

Commissioned in 1741, he served on active service during the War of the Austrian Succession (1740-1748), most notably participating in the Battle of Dettingen against the French in 1743. In 1746 he participated in the English invasion of Scotland to put down the Jacobite Rebellion of Bonnie Prince Charles, seeing action at both the Battle of Falkirk and the Battle of Culloden.

He was promoted to Lt. Col. in 1750 and quickly thereafter to Brigadier General. After service in North America during the opening phase of the French and Indian War, he returned to England in 1758 to recover his health. While in England he received a promotion to Major General and was given the command of the expedition to capture Quebec. The English laid siege to the Quebec during August 1759 and Wolfe made his plans to have his army scale the cliffs and surprise the French.

On the evening of Sept 12, while the men in his army were beginning to scale the cliffs, Wolfe met with his officers and recited to them, **Elogy Written in a**

**Country Churchyard** by Thomas Gray. When he had finished, he said to them, "Gentlemen, I would rather have written that poem than take Quebec tomorrow."

Most of you are familiar with the rest of the story. The British army successfully scaled the cliff and, in a battle lasting less than an hour the next morning, defeated the French. Wolfe was shot three times, with the third wound proving to be fatal.

A soldier nearby said: "They run, see how they run."

Wolfe, on the ground, opened his eyes and asked: Who runs?

"The French", came the reply.

Wolfe gave several orders, then turned on his side and said "Now, God be praised, I will die in peace", and died.

Which is the appropriate place to identify Wolfe's favorite line from the Elegy, and the one that might be most familiar to you.

"The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

Below is the entire verse where that line is found.

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of pow'r,  
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,  
Awaits alike th' inevitable hour.  
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

The description of Wolfe's death is from the early American Historian Francis Parkman.

I first read this story years ago in How to Get from January to December by Will Cuppy. It is Cuppy's entry for January 2<sup>nd</sup>, the date on which Wolfe was born in 1727.

## Program Schedule

Dates and tentative programs for the meeting year are below. As always, feel free to pass along any program/speaker suggestions to either President Charles Krug, VPs Robbie Robinson, Roger Roscoe or Sec. Bob Yarnell

Sept. 17	Rodney Kite-Powell	Overview of Tampa Bay history
Oct. 15		Law Enforcement recognition
Nov. 19		program & speaker waiting to be confirmed
Dec. 17		Wreaths Across America

## 2023

Jan. 21	Officer Installation
Feb. 18	TBD
Mar. 18	EMT/Fire Fighter recognition + speaker- TBD
April 15	ROTC recognition
May 20	tentative: program/speaker from a local history museum.

### Other Important Dates

Sep 11	9/11 Observances in multiple locations
Oct 7-8	Florida Society Board of Management (Kissimmee)
Nov 11	Veterans Day
Dec 17	Wreaths Across America
Jul 13-20	133 <sup>rd</sup> National SAR Annual Congress (Orlando)

### Color Guard Events and Opportunities

Even though the chapter took its summer recess, your chapter Color Guard was busy.

- On May 30, we Presented the Colors at the American Legion Post #5 Memorial Day Service. Also in attendance representing the SAR was Compatriot Terry Doan (also representing the American Legion), Compatriot Will Wagner-Hart who presented a wreath on behalf of the Tampa Chapter and prospects (now new members) Nicholas Jewett and his young son, Henry. The Fort Brooke Society C.A.R. was also present.
- On June 14 (Flag Day) we were once again at the St Petersburg/Clearwater airport to welcome home West Central Florida Honor Flight Mission #42. Many other patriotic organizations were present.
- On July 4 (Independence Day), we joined the local military vehicle preservation group and led them in the Safety Harbor 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.
- On August 25, we Presented the Colors at the opening of the baseball game between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Los Angeles Angels at Tropicana Field in St Petersburg.

Pictured in these various photos below are Matt Balencie, David Bryant, Joe Dato, Terry Doan, Rob Moore (Clearwater), Bill Swain and Dick Young (commander).



Memorial Day



Independence Day



Tampa Bay Rays Baseball Game



Honor Flight

The next Color Guard event is scheduled for September 20 to meet WCF Honor Flight Mission #43 at the St Petersburg/Clearwater airport. You do not need to be in uniform to attend. Please join us in the Welcome Home for these veterans.

We can never have enough Color Guardsmen. If any of you have any interest in joining the Color Guard, please contact Dick Young, Chapter Commander or any of the members of the Tampa Chapter Color Guard. If you do not want to start with the full Continental Line uniform, we can show you how to get started with a militia "uniform" for much less cost.

### **Chapter BOM report**

On Saturday August 20, the officers met in south Tampa to plan the year. Most of the meeting was devoted to discussing, identifying and firming up the programs for the year. Except for Feb 2023, the programs are scheduled, although two need to be confirmed.

It was decided to stay at the current venue until at least December, at which time a new venue may be considered.

A suggestion was made to use a larger font for the newsletter, so this month is size 14 not 12.

### **Secretary request**

Any officer or committee chairman giving a report that includes numbers or names, I would appreciate it if you could give me that information either via email prior to or after the meeting or hard copy at the meeting. During the meeting I may easily miss those details and that information will enable us to have more accurate and complete minutes. Thanks.

### **Miscellaneous Reminders**

The Facebook page for the Tampa Sons of the American Revolution is "S.A.R. Tampa Chapter." The password to add anything is American1776. Please feel free to upload pictures or comments. Invite all your friends to look.

Chapter Website—remember you can find information about the chapter and programs on the chapter website. <http://www.tampasar.org/>

One of the duties of the Chapter Chaplain is to send cards to our members that are sick. Another is to send a sympathy card to the family of a member who has passed away. If you know of anyone that should be the recipient of these cards, please mention it to the Chaplain Balencie or one of the other officers at our next meeting.