

Tampa Chapter  
Sons of the American  
Revolution



November 2024  
Newsletter

In this issue

- ◇ President's Message
  - ◇ November Meeting Information
  - ◇ Upcoming Schedule for 2024
  - ◇ Revolutionary War History note
  - ◇ Color Guard Events & Opportunities
  - ◇ Other Reminders and Information
- .....

Tampa SAR  
Officers 2024

President: Robbie Robinson  
1st Vice President: Roger Roscoe  
Treasurer: Will Wagner-hart  
Secretary: Bob Yarnell  
Sergeant-at Arms: Darren Acosta  
Registrar: Dick Young  
Chaplain: Matt Balencie  
Historian: Bob Yarnell  
Past President: Charles Klug  
Color Guard Commander: Dick Young  
ROTC/JROTC: Terry Doan

## President's Message:

Compatriots,

As you all know, we cancelled our October meeting due to the unfortunate circumstances of having two hurricanes back-to-back which was more than we have encountered since I moved to Tampa over seven years ago. I certainly hope that everyone is now mostly recovered from the destruction caused by the high winds and localized flooding. If you are still in need of help, please let me know since we have several of our fellow SAR compatriots who have volunteered their time to assist and I will be glad to coordinate things in this regard.

With regard to the agenda items we had scheduled for October, we will deal with them on an individual basis. We had planned to present Law Enforcement Officers with medals as we normally do each year, but since they were very busy handling hurricane relief operations, we will plan on presenting these medals at a later date, most likely at their work location. For our presentation from

the CAR, we will look for a future date for this information to be provided to all of you.

Since the FLSSAR BOM was also cancelled for October, it is now scheduled for the first weekend in December, so those of you who would like to attend this meeting in Kissimmee, you now should be able to do that.

For our November meeting, I want to highlight the fact that it will start at 1pm instead of our normal meeting time of 11:30am. This is to allow our Color Guard members to march in the Veterans Day parade at the VA Hospital on Bruce B. Downs (not far from the Mall) which is scheduled to start at 10am.

I also want to remind everyone that we will be voting on our new Tampa Chapter officers at this meeting, so I would appreciate having as many compatriots attend as possible.

Very Respectfully,  
Robbie Robinson

# November Meeting Information:

The next meeting of the Tampa Chapter Sons of the American Revolution will be held on Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup> at the University Mall, located on the first floor meeting room where we met in September. (Drive to the backside of the mall, and enter through the glass doors on the first floor, walk straight until you reach the main hallway and turn left. The meeting room is the first area on the left side. Here is a photo that shows what you should see when you park near the glass doors on backside of the Mall.)



We will start our meeting at 1pm. After we have the officer reports, we will have Scott Deitche, a published

author, give us a presentation on the Yber City mafia.

Following the presentation, we will have our election of chapter officers.



**SCOTT M. DEITCHE**

AUTHOR

#### PROFILE

Scott M. Deitche is an author specializing in organized crime. His books include *Cigar City Mafia: A Complete History of the Tampa Underworld and Garden State Gangland: The Rise of the Mob in New Jersey*. He has written articles on organized crime for local and national magazines and newspapers. Scott has been featured on The Discovery Channel, The History Channel, American Heroes Channel, A&E, C-SPAN, Oxygen as well as over 50 national and international news and radio shows. He is a member of The Mob Museum's Advisory Council. Scott also runs the Tampa Mafia Tours at [tampamafia.com](http://tampamafia.com). Scott lives in St. Petersburg, FL.

#### CONTACT

EMAIL:  
[sdeitche@gmail.com](mailto:sdeitche@gmail.com)

WEBSITE:  
[www.scottdeitche.com](http://www.scottdeitche.com)

#### BOOKS

**Hitmen: The Mafia, Drugs, and the East Harlem Purple Gang**  
Rowman & Littlefield: Maryland, May 2022  
**Garden State Gangland: The Rise of the Mob In New Jersey.**  
Rowman & Littlefield: Maryland, December 2017  
**Cocktail Noir: From Gangsters and Gin Joints to Gumshoes and Gimmets.** Reservoir Square: New York, 2015.  
**Balls: The Life of Eddie Trasscher, Gentleman Gangster** (with Ken Sanz). Ft. Lee: Barricade Books, 2009.  
**The Everything Mafia Book (revised edition).** New York: Adams Media, 2009.  
**The Silent Don: The Criminal Underworld of Santo Trafficante Jr.** Ft. Lee: Barricade Books, 2007.  
**Cigar City Mafia: A Complete History of the Tampa Underworld.** Ft. Lee: Barricade Books, 2004.

#### SELECTED ARTICLES

"Organized Crime, Waste, and Environmental crimes in Naples, Italy." *Sustainable Planet, Issues and Solutions for Our Environment's Future*, ABC-CLIO, 2021  
Various articles- The Mob Museum website blog, 2015 - present  
"Scott Deitche's Libation Lounge." *Cigar City Magazine*, regular column, Feb 2012- 2014  
"Charlie Williams, Bolita Kingpin of St. Pete." *Cigar City Magazine*, Feb/March 2012  
"Al Capone's Tampa Bay Connection." *Cigar City Magazine*, November 2011  
"Havana Dreams." *Cigar City Magazine*, February 2011  
"Tampa's Mob Spots." *Cigar City Magazine*, December 2010  
"Overlords of the Underworld: International." *High Society*, February 2009  
"The Bonnanos in Brooklyn." *Mob Candy*, January 2009  
"The Genovesi in South Florida." *Mob Candy*, May 2008  
"Analyze This." *Weekly Planet*, July 31, 2002.

#### SELECTED MEDIA

##### Documentaries

*You Belong to Me: Sex, Race, and Murder in the South* (2014)  
*Charlie Wall: The Documentary* (2010)

##### TV

A&E Biography (*Santo Trafficante*)  
The History Channel (*Godfathers of Havana*)  
The Discovery Channel (*Mob Scenes*)  
Oxygen Network (*Killer Post*)  
American Heroes Channel (*Mafia's Greatest Hits*)  
Nat Geo (*Inside the Mafia*)

# Upcoming Schedule for 2024:

6-7 December: FLSSAR BOM at  
Kissimmee

7 December: Safety Harbor parade

13 December: DeSoto DAR  
Luncheon

14 December: Wreaths Across  
America at the American Legion  
Post #5

## Other Important Dates

-Jan 11: January Meeting-Induction  
of Chapter Officers

-Feb 22: February Meeting/George  
Washington Birthday Dinner at St  
Petersburg Yacht Club

-Mar 8: Tampa Chapter Meeting at  
University Mall

-Apr 12: Tampa Chapter Meeting at  
University Mall

*The Tampa SAR invites you to the  
2nd Annual George Washington Birthday Gala  
February 22, 2025  
St. Petersburg Yacht Club 11 Central Ave.  
5:30 Raffle & Social 7 pm Dinner*



*\$70 pp includes 4 course dinner & covered parking*

*Checks payable to the Tampa SAR*

*\*Mail to: Will Wagner-Hart  
39441 Pattie Rd. Zephyrhills, FL 33540*

*\*Zelle: tampasar.tres@gmail.com*

*Optional Vegetarian/Vegan - Cash Bar*

*Dress: Coat & Tie, Formal, Period Attire*

*The popular raffle returns with more great items!*

*Tickets: 5/\$10 10/\$15 15/\$20 cash & cc*

*Please make plans to help us celebrate*

*our founding father.*

*Proceeds benefit charity.*

# American Revolution

## Notes:

Western Pennsylvania in 1758:  
The British (finally) capture Ft. Duquesne.

During the period between Braddock's defeat in 1755 and the beginning of 1758, the British suffered setbacks on all fronts. The bad war news influenced British politics. In 1756, because of pressure from the population as well as Parliament, William Pitt, the elder, became prime minister.

He spent 1757 reorganizing the government and carefully planning the next phase of the war. His meticulous planning and strong leadership resulted in two important victories in 1758, both of which had an impact on the final campaign to take Ft. Duquesne.

On July 25, 1758, British forces captured Louisburg, a French fort on Cape Breton Island. This gave the British control of the mouth of the St. Lawrence and effectively cut off Quebec and Montreal from receiving any aid from France.

Just over a month later the British captured Fort Frontenac on Lake Ontario. This cut the supply line from Canada to the French forces at Ft. Duquesne and in the Ohio country.

With the French forces in Western Pennsylvania now isolated, Pitt gave the order for another attempt to capture the Forks of the Ohio. To command the expedition, he chose Gen. John Forbes and gave him two superb assistants, Col. James Burd and Col. Henry Bouquet. The selection of Burd and Bouquet proved to be the key to the success of the expedition. Before the expedition had even begun, Forbes began a year-long losing battle with dysentery. Aside from providing leadership and a steady hand, he took no part in the expedition. He had to stay well behind in a hospital wagon.

Getting to Ft. Duquesne by going across Pennsylvania without using the same road Washington and Braddock had used, required building a new road across Western Pennsylvania. This is where Burd and Bouquet proved the merit of their selection.

As they proceeded west, they built fortifications to protect the road and the men working on it. Burd provided the expertise and leadership to build the road from Ft. Loudon (Carlisle) to Ft. Bedford.

From there, Bouquet took over, advancing the road from Bedford to Ft. Ligonier, just east of Ft. Duquesne. To plan for the final assault on the French, Bouquet sent out a reconnaissance in force, under the command of Major James Grant, to get intelligence on the size and disposition of the French forces in and around Ft. Duquesne.

Grant, sensing an opportunity for glory and advancement, decided to take the fort. He divided his force hoping to provoke an attack on one part with other part then ambushing and defeating the French. Instead, the French ambushed his forces and defeated the British at the Battle of Ft. Duquesne on Sept. 14, 1758.

The French followed up their victory with an attack on Ft. Ligonier. The French commander hoped to get some supplies as well as delay the British advance. After some tense

moments at the outset of the battle, the British repelled the attack.

With supplies dwindling and his native American allies deserting him, the French commander burned and abandoned Ft. Duquesne. On Nov. 25, 1758, an advanced party of British soldiers entered the ruins. The British hustled Gen. Forbes to the front so he could be carried into the ruins of the fort and claim his victory.

The rest of the story:  
Forbes died in Philadelphia from dysentery in early 1759.

James Grant received quite a bit of criticism for his actions during the American War for Independence. To his credit, he planned Howe's attack on Brooklyn which resulted in an overwhelming British victory. However, Howe gave Grant command of the British left and he halted the attack on Brooklyn Heights when he met his objective, which was according to plan, but this allowed many of Washington's troops to escape. Also on the negative side, he commanded the British force at the Battle of Barren Hill. Lafayette handled his force superbly, escaping the trap and

embarrassing Grant. (For more on the Battle of Barren Hill and Lafayette's escape, see the column on Barren Hill in the May 2020 newsletter.) Following the debacle at Barren Hill, the British government transferred Grant to the West Indies.

Finally, Forbes Field. In 1903, the owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates wanted a larger ballpark. He bought land in what would become the Oakland section of Pittsburgh. When completed, he named it Forbes Field after Gen. Forbes. The Pirates abandoned Forbes Field in 1970 to move into the (at that time) "modern" Three Rivers Stadium.

Next month our look at the French and Indian War continues with "to-ing and fro-ing" in the Hudson River Valley 1754-1759.

## Color Guard Events & Opportunities:

- Nov 8 - Big Cypress DAR America 250 Plaque event in Naples

- Nov 9 - Veterans Day Parade -VA Hospital Complex, Bruce B. Downs, starting at 9:30am

- Nov 11 - Veterans Day Ceremony – Mission BBQ

- Nov 11 - Holly Hill Merci Train event

- Dec 7 - FLSSAR BOM Banquet

- Dec 7 - Safety Harbor Christmas Parade

- Dec 13 - DeSoto DAR Christmas luncheon

- Dec 14 - Wreaths Across America, American Legion Post #5

We can never have enough Color Guardsmen. If 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.

---

## **Miscellaneous Reminders:**

The face book page for the Tampa Sons of the American Revolution is Tampa Sar. The password to add anything is American1776.

Please feel free to upload pictures or comments. Invite all your friends to look.

Websites—remember you can find information about the chapter and programs on the chapter website: <http://www.tampasar.org>, and that you can find information related to Florida SAR at [FLSSAR.org](http://FLSSAR.org).

## **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.

## **Chaplain Comments:**

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 or one of the other officers at our next meeting.



