

Tampa Chapter
Sons of the American
Revolution



September 2024
Newsletter

In this issue:

- ◇ President's Message
 - ◇ Chapter's Summer Summary
 - ◇ September 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
Secretary: Bob Yarnell
Treasurer: Will Wagner-Hart
Registrar: Dick Young
Chaplain: Matt Balencie
Sergeant-at Arms: Darren Acosta
Historian: Bob Yarnell
Past President: Charles Klug
Color Guard Commander: Dick Young
Members-at-Large: Terry Doan,
Thomas Spangler
Newsletter: Bob Yarnell, Dick Young,
Robbie Robinson

Presidents Message:

Fellow Tampa Compatriots,

I hope each and every one of you have had a nice and enjoyable summer season. I am looking forward to seeing you all again as we start into our fall season of Tampa Chapter SAR meetings.

As you look through this newsletter, you should see that many of our chapter compatriots have been participating in several events over the past four months. In addition, we also have had some of our chapter compatriots who do not participate as a color guardsman still show up and support some of our Color Guard events. I encourage you to look at our Color Guard section to see when and where we will be supporting various activities throughout the fall timeframe and consider joining us. As those who have attended can attest, they are very much worth your time to show up and support the local community.

I have been particularly pleased with how well we have done as a chapter in supporting the National Society Sons of the American Revolution's 250th Anniversary program. I believe this program helps us focus on the reason we exist as an organization. We are rapidly approaching the timeframe when the events leading up to the actual war started becoming ever more serious, and I look forward to hearing from our

compatriots as they discuss various anniversary dates from the Revolutionary War throughout the coming months.

In addition, I recommend you read Bob Yarnell's article about the events leading to the French and Indian War, since it set the stage for all the dominos that subsequently fell, leading to the Declaration of Independence. His articles for the next few months will also provide more details of this war, which help explain some of the areas I mentioned in my presentation in April about our first president, George Washington.

I hope you can attend our meeting on September 14th, when we will be discussing the Suffolk Resolves, a document that lit the match to the fervor for independence in America.

Best Wishes to All,
Robbie



Chapter Summer Events Summary:

Our Chapter members have participated in several activities and events since our May meeting that we want to highlight.

On May 21st, Chapter President Robinson attended the Genesis Preparatory School graduation events in New Port Richey and presented Ms. Lan Nemeth with a SAR Certificate of Appreciation and a check for \$100 for the poster she submitted for the SAR Elementary School Poster Contest.



Robbie Robinson and Ms. Lan Nemeth

On May 27th, several compatriots attended the Memorial Day service held at the Tampa American Legion Post #5, and our Color Guard participated in the opening ceremony.



Tampa SAR Chapter Color Guard at the Memorial Day services, American Legion Post #5 cemetery



Tampa SAR Color Guardsmen with Memorial Day wreath at the American Legion Post #5

On June 4th, along with members of the Clearwater SAR Chapter, our Color Guard once again supported our veterans at the Honor Flight event at the St Petersburg Airport. This is always a very emotional time, seeing our veterans being welcomed by the Tampa Bay area citizens as we lead them down the corridors of the airport terminal. (See the Color Guard section for upcoming dates.)



Tampa Chapter Color Guard Commander Dick Young, Bill Swain, Robbie Robinson, and Walter Arnold at the Tampa Yacht Club



Tampa and Clearwater Color Guard at 50th Honor Flight at St Petersburg Airport

On June 14th, our Tampa Chapter Color Guard was honored to support the DeSoto DAR Chapter's Flag Day luncheon by posting the colors to open their meeting at the Tampa Yacht Club. We always welcome opportunities to work with the DAR, and enjoy being invited to their events.



Compatriots Rob Moore, Robbie Robinson, Walter Arnold, Bill Swain, and Dick Young at the DeSoto DAR Flag Day luncheon

During the 4th of July celebration throughout our nation, Color Guard members from the Tampa and

Clearwater SAR Chapters participated in the Safety Harbor Parade with the Military Vehicle Association.



Color Guard members riding in Military Vehicle Association truck before Safety Harbor parade



Bill Swain, Tim Shaner, Matt Balencie, Robbie Robinson, Walter Arnold, Will Wagner-Hart, Warren Wilson, Harry Fuller, and Terry Doan at the Safety Harbor Parade on July 4th

On the 16th and 17th of August, Chapter President Robbie Robinson and Chapter Chaplain Matt Balencie participated in a National Society

Sons of the American Revolution annual event at the Blue Licks National Park in northern Kentucky. This three-day event commemorates one of the last battles of the Revolutionary War which occurred on August 19, 1782. Robbie and Matt presented the current National Society SAR President General Dr Darryl Addington with a Tampa SAR coin, and during the memorial service, they presented a wreath on behalf of the Tampa Chapter. Many thanks to Matt for working on getting the wreath put together.



Matt Balencie and Robbie Robinson presenting the Tampa Chapter Challenge Coin to NSSAR PG Darryl Addington



SAR Color Guard members from across the country at the Blue Licks Monument



Robbie and Matt with the Tampa SAR Chapter wreath for the Blue Licks Memorial Service

September Meeting Information:

We will hold our next meeting on September 14th at our normal meeting location at the University Mall, starting at 11:30am. We have several awards to present to fellow compatriots, and following our break for lunch, Chapter President Robbie Robinson will be giving a presentation on the importance of the Suffolk Resolves which were drawn up in September 1774, which was exactly 250 years ago. This presentation will be a SAR 250th Anniversary event, so your attendance at the meeting will count towards earning one of the SAR 250th Anniversary medals.

Tampa Chapter Schedule for 2024:

-October 12th - University Mall, starting at 11:30am. Law Enforcement Awards

-Nov 9th- University Mall, starting at 1pm. Note that we will be moving the time to 1pm so that we can accommodate the Veterans Day parade which will be held at the VA facility on Bruce B. Downs, a few blocks from the University Mall

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

Color Guard Events:

We are always looking for compatriots to join us. For more details on how to join the color guard, please contact our Color Guard Commander Dick Young

Upcoming Dates:

7 Sep: DAR Fall Forum, Orlando

10 Sep: Honor Flight at St Petersburg Airport

12 Oct: Florida Society BOM, Kissimmee

22 Oct: Honor Flight at St Petersburg Airport

9 Nov: Veterans Day Parade at the Tampa VA Hospital on Bruce B. Down

Dec: Wreaths Across America at the American Legion Post #5

Revolutionary History Notes (by Bob Yarnell)

Preview to the War for Empire

This is the first in a series of columns on what Americans call The French and Indian War, Western Europeans call the Seven Years' War and what historians over the past fifty years have begun to call the War for Empire.

When teaching the US History 1 course (Columbus to the Civil War) I always viewed the start of the French and Indian War as when the course really began.

Yes, I'd spend about six class periods mostly debunking myths about Columbus, Ponce de Leon, Jamestown and Plymouth as well as talk about daily life in the English colonies. But the start of the French and Indian War gets the ball rolling since it creates the problems that led to the American War for Independence and the formation of the new nation.

Before getting to the fighting, let's take a snapshot of eastern North America in 1750. France controlled what is now Canada and the middle of what is now the USA. This included the St Lawrence River Valley, the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. They also controlled western Pennsylvania, particularly the forks of the Ohio (now Pittsburgh) where the Monongahela and the Allegheny Rivers join to form the Ohio River. The French had relatively firm control of everything north of the Ohio River and considerable influence with the native American tribes between the Appalachians and the Mississippi.

England controlled the eastern seaboard from what is now Maine south to the Georgia-Florida border and westward to the Appalachians. The English also controlled several islands in the Caribbean.

Spain controlled what is now Florida as well as Cuba and several other islands in the Caribbean.

The three countries eyed each other warily. The English colonists, in particular the Pennsylvanians and Virginians, wanted access to the interior and therefore access to the lucrative trade with the natives. The French wanted to maintain a monopoly on that trade and prevent English settlers from moving into Kentucky or Ohio. The Spanish needed to protect Florida and Cuba because of their importance to the Spanish treasure fleets taking gold and silver from Mexico and Peru to Spain. Thus, the Spanish and English navies danced an uneasy waltz among the islands.

By 1754, Virginians needed more land. Several speculated in western land (meaning the Ohio and Kentucky country). Others had received land grants from the English crown to lands in those areas. The French knew of this and realized, as did Virginia, the importance of the forks of the Ohio. This led the French to dispatch troops to the area to build a fort and thus prevent English access to the interior via the Ohio River. I'll detail next month how this led to a skirmish between the Virginia militia and some French troops and their native American allies and the start of the war.

One more bit of geography before ending this preview of the war. As the war progressed, three areas emerged as the main theatres of operations. One, of course, centered on western Pennsylvania, northwest Virginia and the

fight to control the forks of the Ohio. Fighting also occurred in the Caribbean. But the upper Hudson River Valley, Lake George and Lake Champlain in upstate New York area saw the most fighting and most "to-ing and fro-ing". The two lakes and the Hudson River form a straight line that the English could use to attack Quebec and Montreal and that the French could use to threaten Albany and other points south. To that end, both sides built forts to protect the lakes and to use them as bases from which to launch their invasions.

Next month we'll look at the fighting around the forks of the Ohio from 1754 to 1758.

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.

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.