

Tampa Chapter  
Sons of the American  
Revolution



February 2025 Newsletter

In this issue

- ◆ President's Message
  - ◆ January's Meeting Summary
  - ◆ February Meeting Information
  - ◆ Upcoming Schedule for 2025
  - ◆ Revolutionary War History note
  - ◆ Color Guard Events & Opportunities
  - ◆ Other Reminders and Information
- .....

Tampa SAR  
Officers 2025

President: Roger Roscoe  
1st Vice President: Will Wagner-Hart  
2nd Vice President: Joe Dato  
Treasurer: Greg Holder  
Secretary: Bob Yarnell  
Sergeant-at Arms: Bill Swain  
Registrar: Dick Young  
Chaplain: Matt Balencie  
Historian: Bob Yarnell  
Past President: Robbie Robinson  
Color Guard Commander: Dick Young  
ROTC/JROTC: Terry Doan

## President's Message:

Fellow Tampa Compatriots,

I want to tell you all it was a great honor to be your Chapter President for the past two years, and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you on all the things we have done, from Color Guard events to civic programs supporting the local community. WE have a great chapter and you have made my job very enjoyable.

That said, I was excited to see our new slate of officers being sworn in at the January induction luncheon. Due to schedule conflicts, Roger was not able to be at that meeting, so we will induct him as our president at the start of the February meeting, when he will officially take the reins.

As you read through this newsletter, you will see many opportunities to support Roger, as well as the chapter and our state level SAR organization at upcoming events, including the George Washington Dinner celebration, to Honor Flights and other activities in the Tampa Bay area. Your participation in these events is greatly appreciated.

And, as we are now in a new year, 2025, we are approaching many more Revolutionary War events that we can celebrate as part of the Nation's 250th Anniversary. As a chapter, we have focused on The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution's request to support their 250th Anniversary program, and many of you have earned various SAR 250th Anniversary medals as a result. Keep it up. I expect that we will see a considerable number of local, state, and national events scheduled over the next two years, and I encourage you to plan on supporting as many of these as you can. As one example, the Massachusetts SAR is planning a big event to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Lexington and Concord. See more information about this in the Color Guard section.

I look forward to working with you on many of these activities in the coming months.

Very Respectfully,  
Robbie Robinson



# January Meeting Summary:

President Robbie Robinson called the meeting to order at 11:30am at the Bahama Breeze Restaurant. Chaplain Balencie gave the invocation followed by the pledge of allegiance and the SAR pledge.

After introductions and welcoming remarks, President Robinson gave the following compatriots the following awards. Dick Young received the Distinguished Service Medal for his many years of outstanding service to the Tampa President and the Tampa Chapter.

Will Wagner-Hart, Bob Yarnell, Terry Doan, and Matt Balencie each received the Roger Sherman Medal for their outstanding service as Chapter officers for more than three years.



Will Wagner-Hart with Roger Sherman Medal



Dick Young receiving Distinguished Service Medal



Bob Yarnell with Roger Sherman Medal



Terry Doan and his Roger Sherman Medal

Kathy Robinson received the Lydia Darragh Medal for her significant service to the President during his term.



Kathy Robinson with the Lydia Darragh Medal



Matt Balencie awarded the Roger Sherman Medal

President Robinson then awarded Matt Balencie the SAR Gold 250th Anniversary Medal and Past President Charles Klug the SAR Bronze 250th Anniversary medal. In addition, he awarded Will Wagner-Hart the Lafayette Volunteer Medal on behalf of the National Society for his countless hours of transcribing documents into the NSSAR database.



Matt Balencie with SAR Gold 250th Medal



Will Wagner-Hart and Lafayette Medal



Charles Klug receiving SAR Bronze 250 Medal

President Robinson then awarded Dwight Hamborsky his SAR Life Membership Certificate, and Chris Meredith was awarded two Military Service Medals.

Dick Young, our Color Guard Commander, then awarded Robbie Robinson and Bill Swain their SAR Silver Color Guard medals on behalf of the Florida Society for serving for over three years while supporting SAR District and National events.



Dwight Hamborsky with Life Membership Certificate



Bill Swain, Dick Young, and Robbie Robinson with SAR Silver CG Medals



Chris Meredith receiving Military Service Certificate

After the awards were presented, President Robinson called Parks Honeywell, the FLSSAR Regional Vice President to come forward and induct the new officers for 2025.



RVP Honeywell inducting new Tampa SAR Chapter officers for 2025

After the induction, new 1st VP Will Wagner-Hart introduced compatriot Chris Meredith, who gave us a presentation on the St Augustine area and its significance to the Revolutionary War.

## February Meeting:

The next meeting of the Tampa Chapter Sons of the American Revolution will be held on Saturday February 8th at the Arthenia Joyner University Area Library located at 13619 N. 22nd St, in Tampa, starting at 11:30AM. We have had to move our location from the University Mall due to new businesses taking occupancy of the room where we met in September and November 2024. This location is about a mile from the University Mall and has easy access to the meeting room. The library has very good free parking as well.

The meeting agenda will follow our normal routine except that we will not break for lunch since there is no available food court or restaurant. Therefore, we plan to have our meeting conclude after about an hour or so, which will give you time to have your lunch at a location of your choosing.

The speaker for the February meeting will be our former chapter president, Charles Klug, who will give us a presentation on Alexander Hamilton.



Chris Meredith discussing St Augustine and Revolutionary War

Following the presentation, closing remarks were made and the meeting was adjourned.

## Upcoming Schedule for 2025:

February 22: George Washington's Dinner at the St Petersburg Yacht Club. Please be sure to sign up before February 17th so that we can have an accurate count of attendees. See flyer for reservation information.

*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  
\*Text: 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*

March 8th: Monthly meeting at a Hillsborough County library

April 12th: Monthly meeting at a Hillsborough County library

May 10th: Monthly meeting at a Hillsborough County library

May 16-17: FLSSAR BOM in Kissimmee

## American Revolution Notes:

Upper Hudson Valley & Quebec 1759-1763

Last month we discussed the “to-ing” and “fro-ing” of the British and French forces in the upper Hudson River valley. By the end of 1758 the British had positioned themselves to launch a new campaign in 1759.

In London, William Pitt the Younger had taken command of the British war efforts. He planned a two-pronged attack against the French. First, he directed General Amherst to renew the British offensive against the forts on Lake George and Lake Champlain. He then gave General Wolfe command of the combined naval and land forces assigned to go up the St Lawrence River and capture Quebec.

Because the British had been so successful in severing the French



supply lines in 1758, the French forts on the lakes could not be held. The overall French commander in North America, General Montcalm, ordered their garrisons to evacuate the forts and retreat to Quebec or Montreal. Thus, Fort Ticonderoga and Fort Niagara fell to the British with little effort required. The British occupied Ticonderoga in June 1759 and Niagara in July 1759. With the Upper Hudson Valley clear of French troops, Amherst went into winter quarters to plan the assault on Montreal in the spring of 1760.

Wolfe planned his assault up the St Lawrence to take Quebec from the fortress of Louisburg on Nova Scotia, which the British had captured the previous year. Capturing Quebec would not be easy. The fortress stood on the bluffs overlooking the river. It would be necessary to scale the bluffs before any attack could be launched. General Wolfe's flotilla arrived off Quebec in late July. He first tried to land downriver from the city. That didn't work and he continued searching for a suitable place to land. Finally in early September, the British found a suitable place upriver from the city. On Sept 12, Lt. Col. William Howe<sup>1</sup>

led an assault that secured a beachhead and a place from which the British soldiers could follow a narrow path up the cliff.

On the evening of Sept 12, while the men in his army began to scale the cliff, Wolfe met with his senior officers and recited to them, **Elegy 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."<sup>2</sup>

On the morning of Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, General Montcalm woke to the sight of the British army lined up on the plain outside the walls of Quebec. Rather than withstand a siege which he knew the city could not survive, Montcalm led his troops out to face the British. He had fewer regular troops than Wolfe and his militia could not be counted on. Nevertheless, Montcalm ordered an assault on the British lines. His militia began firing when well out of range and when the distance closed and the British returned fire, the French broke and ran. When the smoke cleared Montcalm and Wolfe both lay dead on the field. General

Wolfe was shot three times, with the third wound proving to be fatal.

The early American historian Francis Parkman described his death. 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. It is worth wondering if in his dying moments Wolfe recited to himself his favorite line from the Elegy, which may be the line most familiar to you. "The paths of glory lead but to the grave."<sup>3</sup>

In the spring of 1760, a French force from Montreal laid siege to Quebec but a British relief force arrived forcing the French to retreat. With the threat eliminated, Amherst began his long-anticipated march to Montreal. By September 6th he had surrounded Montreal and prepared to lay siege to the city. The French commander planned to fight to the end, but the civilian population and French

Governor persuaded him to surrender.

With the fall of Montreal on September 7th, the North American phase of the Seven Year's War came to an end and the conflict we know better as the French and Indian War ended.

Next month: So what? The impact and consequences of the war.

Notes:

- 1 Yes, that William Howe. We know him better as the British commander in North America during the early stages of the war for independence. See also the column in the Nov 2022 newsletter on Howe.
- 2 See the column in the Sept 2022 newsletter.
- 3 Here 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."

# Color Guard Events & Opportunities:

- Feb 21: Genesis Preparatory School, New Port Richey
- Feb 22: George Washington Dinner, St Petersburg
- Mar 5: Last Naval Battle, Merritt Island
- Mar 29: Battle of Thomas Creek - Commemoration – Jacksonville
- Mar 29: Vietnam War Veterans Day, Mission BBQ Tampa
- Apr 15: Honor Flight Welcome Home – St. Pete/Clearwater Airport
- Apr 18-22: Lexington & Concord Events; see notes for more details
- May- Galvez Day and Battle of Pensacola Commemoration – Pensacola
- May 16-17: Florida SAR BOM & Annual Meeting – Kissimmee
- May 26 - Memorial Day
- Jul 4: Independence Day parade at Safety Harbor

**NOTE:** The Massachusetts Society and New England District for the Commemoration of the Battle of Lexington and Concord will be hosting several events from Friday, April 18th through Saturday, April 21st. More information can be found at the following address:

<https://massar.org/250th/>. Registration will open on March 1st, but you may want to make room reservations before that date at the Burlington Marriott. For more information, please contact Ed Hoak at [edhoak.sar@comcast.net](mailto:edhoak.sar@comcast.net)

Other events will be identified for the Tampa SAR Color Guard as they become known. Please see future newsletters for updates to this schedule.

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.

