

Tampa Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



January 2024 Newsletter

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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,

As we approach the New Year, we will also have a new slate of officers who will be inducted at our January 11th meeting. I look forward to seeing everyone there at the luncheon as our Regional Vice President Parks Honeywell conducts the installation ceremony. Please more details in this newsletter.

December has been a very busy month for most of us, which included the FLSSAR Board of Management meeting on the 6th and 7th, the Safety Harbor Christmas Parade on the 7th, the DeSoto DAR Christmas luncheon on the 13th, and the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony at the American Legion cemetery on the 14th. I want to personally thank each and every compatriot and their family members who showed up to support these events.

With regard to the Sons of the American Revolution as an organization, I wanted to let everyone know that National SAR has established a new policy that our chapter meetings should include a new mission statement:

"The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country."

Even though the mission statement may be new, I am particularly proud to note that our chapter has been focused on all of the key aspects of this mission statement--promoting patriotism, serving our community, and educating and inspiring our future generations. Whether through our Color Guard during parades and ceremonies, our J/ROTC program at local high schools and universities, our educational programs for children, or through our efforts to raise funds for charities such as the Fisher Houses, the Tampa Chapter has been focused on doing as much as we can to support this mission statement. My thanks to each and every one of you for all that you have done in this regard.

I have been very pleased at how our chapter has also supported 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 now well into the timeframe of events that led to the actual war starting, and it was great to hear that the State of Florida is now starting to plan on various celebrations in the coming months.

Happy New Year to All,
Robbie



December Events Summary:

Chapter events started on December 7th at Safety Harbor, where members of our Color Guard marched in the annual Safety Harbor Christmas Parade. Many thanks to Terry Doan who led the team while our Chapter officers were attending the FLSSAR BOM in Kissimmee which was rescheduled after the hurricanes in October. Our chapter has supported this parade for several years now and we are becoming a regular part of this event.



Terry Doan, Joe Dato, Warren Wilson, Matt Balencie, Harry Fuller, and Bill Swain at Safety Harbor

The December meeting was held at the Tampa Post #5 of the American Legion on 14 December, where our Color Guard supported the Wreaths Across America ceremony that was held at the American Legion's cemetery. We had a great turnout of compatriots and family members who helped lay the wreaths at the headstones of each and every veteran who is interred there.



Tampa SAR Chapter Color Guard at the Wreaths Across America services, American Legion cemetery on 14 December: Dick Young, Bill Swain, Joe Dato, Matt Balencie, Dwight Hamborsky, Robbie Robinson, and Will Wagner-Hart

One of our Tampa Chapter compatriots, Matthew Garcia, was in Arlington, VA on 14 December and laid a wreath at Arlington Cemetery. Many thanks to his mother for sending this to us.



Tampa SAR compatriot Matthew Garcia at Arlington National Cemetery, 14 December

Our Color Guard was also asked to post the Colors at the DeSoto DAR Chapter's Christmas luncheon on December 13th at the Tampa Yacht Club.



Tampa Chapter Color Guard Bill Swain, Robbie Robinson, Walter Arnold, Will Wagner-Hart, Color Guard Commander Dick Young, and drummer Rob Moore at the Tampa Yacht Club

January Meeting Information:

We will hold our next meeting on January 11th at the Bahama Breeze restaurant located 3045 N Rocky Point Dr East in Tampa. Please see the

attached flyer with more details of the luncheon and how to make your reservation.



Please make plans to join us
Tampa Chapter Installation & Awards Luncheon
Saturday, Jan 11, 2025 11:30-1:30
Bahama Breeze 3045 N Rocky Point Dr East
Tampa 33607 813-459-8953
Dress: Business Attire Guests Welcome

House Salad
Entrée Selections (pick one on day of the event)
*Jerk Chicken Pasta

*Grilled Chicken Cilantro Creama

*Tequila Glazed Salmon

*Coconut Shrimp

\$40 pp includes tip
Checks payable to Tampa SAR
Please mail payment to Will Wagner-Hart
39441 Pattie Rd. Zephyrhills, FL 33540
Zelle: tampasar.tres@gmail.com

The meeting will include the induction of the following officers who will take over their responsibilities after the induction ceremony by our FLSSAR Regional Vice President Parks Honeywell:

President - Roger Roscoe
1st VP - Will Wagner-Hart
2nd VP - Joe Dato
Secretary - Bob Yarnell
Treasurer - Greg Holder
Registrar - Dick Young
Sergeant-at-Arms - Bill Swain
Chaplain - Matt Balencie
Member at large - Terry Doan

Upcoming Dates for 2025:

Note: We are currently looking for a new location to hold our monthly meetings. We will let you know when we find a place that is suitable.

11 Jan: Annual Meeting and Induction of Officers at the Bahama Breeze Restaurant

8 Feb: Monthly Chapter Meeting

22 Feb: George Washington Birthday Gala at the St Petersburg Yacht Club

8 Mar: Monthly Chapter Meeting

12 Apr: Monthly Chapter Meeting

10 May: Monthly Chapter Meeting

George Washington Birthday Gala


Once again this year, the Tampa Chapter will be hosting the George Washington Birthday Gala at the St Petersburg Yacht Club on 22 February, which will be his actual birthday this year. We have many outstanding door prizes, raffle items, and some silent auction items this year, and we have increased the menu to include both soup and salad, a main course, and dessert. In addition, complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served during the social time before the dinner officially starts. We will once again have SAR compatriot Bill Elder and his wife

join us as they come in their outstanding George and Martha Washington outfits from the Revolutionary War period.




Roger Roscoe with "George and Martha" at Birthday Gala last year

Please see the flyer below for more details.



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



\$70 pp includes 4 course dinner & covered parking

Checks payable to Tampa SAR
*Mail to Will Wagner-Hart
39441 Pattie Rd. Zephyrhills, FL 33540
* Zelle: tampasar.tres@gmail.com

Coat & Tie, Formal, Period Attire
The popular raffle returns with more great items.
Tickets: 5 / \$10 10 / \$15 15 / \$20
Vegetarian/Vegan option
Cash Bar

Proceeds benefit charity

Revolutionary History

Notes (by Bob Yarnell)

The French and Indian War in the Upper Hudson Valley.

As we did when we looked at the war in Western Pennsylvania, we'll first go through a brief geography overview. The Hudson River and adjacent waterways provided both sides with an avenue of advance upon the other. The British could use the Hudson, Lake George and Lake Champlain to launch expeditions north to Montreal and it could allow the French a straight shot at Albany.

Leaving Albany and heading north, the first feature of importance is Lake George. Continuing north, you encounter the vast expanse that is Lake Champlain. Whoever controlled the lakes would control the upper Hudson Valley.

Recognizing this, the British began building Ft. William Henry in 1755 near the southern end of Lake George. The French sent an expedition to stop construction of the fort. On Sept 8, 1755, what is now known as the Battle of Lake George took place. The French attacked in the morning, pushing the British and colonial troops back. By midday the British line had stabilized and repulsed a French attack. In the afternoon and following day, British forces swept the French from the area thus clearing the

way to finish the construction of Ft. William Henry.

A year later, in Aug. 1756, another French expedition, under the new commander of French forces in North America, Gen. Montcalm, captured Ft. Oswego, located at the northern end of Lake Ontario and Ft. Niagara located between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

Buoyed by his success, Montcalm launched an attack on Ft. William Henry in March 1757, but the British successfully defended the position. Not to be deterred, Montcalm launched a siege operation against Ft. William Henry in Aug. 1757. Within days the Fort's walls had been breached and the British had suffered many casualties, including many camp followers. Montcalm sent a flag of truce and negotiations for the surrender of the Fort and offered generous terms which the British Commander Col. Munro accepted. The British evacuated to Ft. Edwards, 14 miles east. The French destroyed what remained of Ft. Henry and moved to Ft. Ticonderoga at the southern end of Lake Champlain. *

In July 1758, the British launched a large-scale assault on the French in Ft. Ticonderoga. The British commander, Gen. Abercrombie, has been generously described as negligent and incompetent. The British attack failed miserably.

However, as was the case on the Ohio frontier, things changed in England's

favor later in the summer of 1758. Changes in leadership and strategic thinking led to British successes. First, the British captured Ft. Frontenac located at the northeast tip of Lake Ontario where the lake drains into the St. Lawrence. As you'll recall from our discussion of war on the Ohio frontier, this effectively severed all communication and supply lines to French forces in Pennsylvania and Ohio, as well as opening a possible new axis of advance on Montreal, along the St. Lawrence.

Second, in October 1758, England secured a peace treaty with the Iroquois, Shawnee and Delaware Indians, thus effectively taking them out of the war. Knowing that the French in upper New York now had no native allies, the British made plans for a new assault on the Upper Hudson and the lakes in 1759.

We'll turn our attention to that next month.

*The "massacre" at Ft. William Henry.

There is still considerable controversy over what happened after Montcalm and Munro signed the surrender and the British evacuated Ft. William Henry. What can be verified is that after the British evacuated, France's native American allies went into the fort, looted it and killed some wounded British soldiers under the protection of French doctors.

What is also probable, perhaps closer to truth than fiction, is that Native Americans attacked stragglers near the end of the British column and looted some supply wagons.

What is closer to fiction than truth is the way James Fenimore Cooper described the massacre of British troops in column on the way to Ft. Edwards in his book "The Last of the Mohicans."

What is not true is the way it is depicted in the movie "Last of the Mohicans" starring Daniel Day-Lewis. The Native Americans did not ambush the main British column and massacre the soldiers.

So, what can we say about the activities of the Native Americans after the surrender? Looting/burning the fort—yes. Killing remaining British wounded—yes.

Looting wagons at the end of the British column—more probable than not.

Mostly capturing, with minimal killing, camp followers and stragglers at the end of the column—more probable than not.

Ambushing and massacring British soldiers at the front of the column—no.

Personal note. Over the years while attending various conferences, seminars etc. I have met some interesting people. One was a middle school history teacher from Illinois who moonlighted in the summer as an extra in movies needing

people with authentic uniforms who knew enough to be “in character.” He was contacted by the producer of the "Last of the Mohicans" and asked if he would be a British soldier in the ambush massacre scenes. He said, “sure.” In addition to whatever the regular daily pay was, the “British” extras got an additional \$50.00 if they were “killed” on film and that footage made it into the end product. He told me he managed to get “killed” five times that day on film, three of which made it into the final film. He also told me not everyone, British or Native American, stayed strictly on script. At the end of day there were quite a few bumps, bruises, sprained ankles and several broken arms, legs, and collar bones. He credited his experience to limiting his injuries to just some bruised ribs.

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.