



Central Florida
SAR Chapter

Chartered on
May 8, 1961



Meeting Location:

The Mayflower

1720 Mayflower
Court
Winter Park, FL
32792



The Minuteman

Volume 57, Issue 11

February 2018

Chapter Meeting February 10, 2018

At this meeting, our speaker will be Compatriot Richard Hoffman. His presentation is titled "Flintlocks and Various Weapons of the American Revolution."

This meeting will be held in the Duxbury Hall of the Mayflower Retirement Community Center located at 1620 Mayflower Court in Winter Park, Florida. A time of socializing will begin at 11:30 am with lunch being served at noon. The cost of the lunch is \$18.00.

The entrée choices are: Beef Brisket, Herb Grilled Chicken, Fish of the Day, or Salad Plate. Note that each meal comes with an assortment of vegetables, starch, salad or soup, and a dessert. Coffee and tea is also served with the meal.

Please make your reservation to attend this meeting by 2/7/2018 by contacting Compatriot Dan Stebbins via phone at 407-830-6946 or via e-mail at catears@centurylink.net. Your participation is greatly appreciated in responding with your RSVP before the deadline date. Please plan to attend.

Dates to Remember!

Chapter Meeting - March 10, 2018: John Marshal: Virginian, Revolutionary Soldier, & Judicial Craftsman of the American Revolution.

Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution Celebration- March 10, 2018: This event will take place at the MI Veterans Center in Merritt Island, FL.

241st Anniversary of the Battle of Thomas Creek - April 7, 2018: This event will be held in Jacksonville, Florida. More information will be announced once the event is more finalized.

Chapter Meeting: Patriot's Luncheon - April 14, 2018.

FLSSAR Spring Board of Management/ Annual Meeting - May 18 thru 20, 2018: This event will be held at the Embassy Suites Orlando - Lake Buena Vista South located at 4955 Kyngs Heath Rd, Kissimmee, FL 34746. Note that this meeting will be a two day meeting.

Ancestor Biographies

At this time, the chapter would like to encourage members to consider submitting an article about your ancestor. It can include information about the unit they served in or if you have a family story about them, it is also welcome. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Membership in the Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies' Auxiliary Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is open to wives as well as female blood relatives (mothers, daughters, grand-daughters, aunts, nieces) of the SAR member. The Ladies' Auxiliary supports the SAR in its historical, patriotic and educational objectives. The Ladies' Auxiliary raises funds to award (on a smaller scale) the same students that the Florida Society SAR awards. Dues for the LAFLSSAR are \$5 per year; the application form is available at: <http://www.flssar.org/FLSSAR/DOCS/LadyAuxDocs/LaAuxMemApp.pdf>. Please encourage the ladies in your life to join and support us in our efforts.

Color Guard Update

If anyone is interested in participating in the Color Guard, whether it is presenting the colors at the meeting, or participating at various public events, please let the chapter know.

The Chaplain's Message

By W. Maynard Pittendreigh, Chaplain

"Separation of church and state" is a phrase that is common in our culture. The phrase does not appear in our Constitution, but the principle is certainly present in the First Amendment's, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

A few years after the adoption of the First Amendment, Thomas Jefferson wrote a letter addressed to the Danbury Baptist Association in Connecticut, in which he said, "I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should 'make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or pro-

hibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus building a wall of separation between Church & State."

Many would say that the church and state must be completely separated, while others would say that this wall of separation is a protection to the church and does not prohibit the church's ability to influence the state. Indeed, many of our founding fathers were guided in their work by their own, often unique, spiritual beliefs.

St. Paul would have had a good direction to give to modern Americans. In his First Epistle to Timothy, Paul wrote, that all Christians should pray for those in authority over us, "*that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.*"

Good advice for us today. Prayer for presidents, governors and legislatures is not dependent on our being in agreement or providing political support of our elected officials. Our prayers should be out of concern for our nation and community so that we may, in Paul's words, lead a quiet and peaceful life."

February brings, among other things, President's Day. Originally, this day was a commemoration of the birth of President George Washington. It is now commonly accepted as a day to honor all of our presidents.

In this time of deep division in our nation, now is a good time for us to be praying for the president and for all others in authority. Such prayers might best be expressed in prayers that these individuals would be able to set aside selfishness in favor of selfless service, vain ambition in favor of the best interest of all citizens, and the interests of one's party in favor of the interests of a united nation.

Happy Birthday

The Central Florida SAR Chapter would like to wish the following Compatriots a Happy Birthday. They are as follows:

- 5 Brownell, Patricia
- 17 Worsham, Raleigh
- 20 Roe, Celina
- 22 Stebbins, Daniel
- 26 Daniel, Meredith
- 26 Lane, Richard
- 28 Little, John



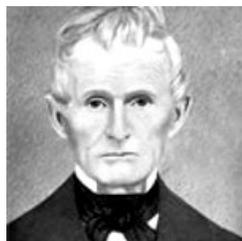
Knight Essay Contest Update

At the February meeting, the chapter will here the essay that was submitted by Taylor Coffman. This is a yearly contest in which students submit an essay on an American Revolutionary topic. The chapter winner is then submitted to the Florida Society Sons of American Revolution to participate in the State level contest.

ROTC/JROTC Contest Update

At this time, the Central Florida SAR Chapter would like to thank John Lynch for serving as the Committee Chair for the ROTC/JROTC Awards Committee for the past several years. For the upcoming 2018 awards, Phil Markoe will be serving as the committee chair and will be looking for volunteers to present medals and certificates at the various high schools within the Counties of Orange, Osceola, Seminole, & Volusia.

Isaac Sears (1730-1786) Patriot Leader & Privateer



Isaac Sears was one of the most important rebel leaders during the first months of the revolution, when he held New York City for the patriot cause. Born in Massachusetts, he grew up in Norwich, CT. He sailed as a privateer during the Seven Year War and afterwards he moved to New York City where he set up business as a shipmaster and

sailor. Sears led popular resistance from the earliest days of Anti-British agitation in New York and the New England Colonies.

He was the principal leader of the Sons of Liberty in New York & was known as “King” Sears because of his control of the mob. He served on virtually every patriot committee from the mid-1760s onward.

In 1774, he personally headed a mob that refused to allow tea to land in New York harbor and destroyed part of the cargo. He also proposed in the same year that delegates meet to discuss resistance, a notion that led directly to the first Continental Congress. He was arrested in New York by the British authorities a few days before Lexington & Concord, but was freed by a mob before he reached jail. With the outbreak of hostilities in Massachusetts, Sears organized a force of 350 irregulars in New York, seized the city’s arms arsenal, closed the port to British shipping & took control under virtual martial law.

He and his followers raised & trained troops; as well as, harassed & seized loyalist throughout the New York area. He turned over control of the city to George Washington in 1776 when the Continental Army moved in to defend the city. When the Americans were defeated & the British occupied New York City for the rest of the war, Sears moved his operations to Boston and became a privateer.

After the conclusion of the peace in 1783, he returned to New York, and his shipping business. He died while on a trip in China in 1786.

The Enduring Significance of the American Revolution

By Chandler Joseph Burke

The historical and enduring significance of the American Revolution is not found on the battlefield. While no one can diminish the heroism of the many patriots

who fought in the American Revolution, their military success over time has been overshadowed by their philosophical victory. War without reason is little more than organized murder. It is the reason, then, that transforms war from an appalling loss of human life into a justifiable defense of freedom. The particular battles of the American Revolution, while interesting and necessary, are secondary to the reasons motivating the patriots to fight. What the patriots fought for is more important than the fight itself.

Thomas Jefferson meticulously spelled out the justification for the American Revolution in the Declaration of Independence. In it, he highlighted three of the core guiding principles for the new nation: “all men are created equal”, the government “derives its power from the consent of the governed”, and each man are “endowed by his creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”. (1) Thomas Jefferson drew from other enlightenment thinkers, such as John Locke in his *Second Treatise of Civil Government* (2); as well as, other English revolutionaries who protected their freedoms with the Bill of Rights of 1669. (3) Yet, the resulting document and principles were uniquely American and served as the founding charter of our nation. Thomas Jefferson himself wrote that the objective of the Declaration was “neither aiming at originality of principle or sentiment, nor yet copied from any particular and previous writing, it was intended to be an expression of the American mind, and to give to that expression the proper tone and spirit called for by the occasion.” (4) This expression of the rights of man, the blanket that swaddled the nascent republic, has remained indelibly etched into the fabric of the nation ever since.

The American Revolution began long before the famous “shot heard round the world”. Instead, the American Revolution started whenever a colonist of the British Empire embraced the guiding principles expounded in the Declaration of Independence. John Adams said it best in 1818: “The Revolution was affected before the War commenced. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people; a change in their religious sentiments of their duties and obliga-

tions. This radical change in the principles, opinions, sentiments, and affections of the people, was the real American Revolution.” (5)

The American Revolution, thus, created not only a new country, but also a new way of life and beacon for our country’s government. The history books claim that the American Revolution ended with the Treaty of Paris of 1783, but a war that did not begin with a bullet cannot end with a treaty. The American Revolution was won, one patriot at a time, and lives on in the “hearts and minds” of the people, American or not, who embrace the ideals espoused in the Declaration of Independence.

Footnotes:

1. Jefferson, Thomas. *Declaration of Independence*. Philadelphia: July 4, 1776.
2. Grush, Rick. University of California; San Diego. http://mind.ucsd.edu/syllabi/99_00/Empiricism/Readings/Encyc_Phil/Locke.html.
3. Bill of Rights. 1669.
4. Bernstein, R. B. *Thomas Jefferson*. (New York: Oxford University Press. 2003), 33.
5. Bailey, Cohen, and Kennedy. “The American Pageant” (Massachusetts: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010), 126.

Works Cited:

- Bailey, Cohen, and Kennedy, “The American Pageant”. Massachusetts: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010.
- Bernstein, R. B. *Thomas Jefferson*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Bill of Rights. 1669
- Boyd, Julian P. ed. *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson 32 volumes*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1950 – [2011].
- Grush, Rick. University of California: San Diego. http://mind.ucsd.edu/syllabi/99_00/Empiricism/Readings/Encyc_Phil/Locke.html.
- Hamilton, Madison, and Jay. *The Federalist*. New York: October 1787 to August 1788.
- Jefferson, Thomas. *Declaration of Independence*. Philadelphia: July 4, 1776.
- Locke, John. *Second Treatise of Civil Government*. 1690.