



CALOOSA PATRIOT

Volume XIII Issue II

April 2014

The Shot Heard Round the World



The situation had been deteriorating for quite some time. The “Boston Massacre” had taken place in 1770, the Tea Party in 1773. Colonists had become increasingly overt in expressing their displeasure with the government in Great Britain. Then, three weeks after Patrick Henry’s “Give me liberty or give me death” speech the first shots of the American Revolution were fired. On April 19, 1775 a deadly clash between Massachusetts militia and British regulars broke out on the village green at Lexington. Described by Ralph Wald Emerson as “the shot heard round the world”, the Provincial Congress in Watertown summoned 23 year old Israel Bissell to ride from Springfield south to New York City spreading the news of the British invasion. He carried this missive to each Committee of Safety to obtain their signature:

To all friends of American Liberty: let it be known that this morning before break of day a British brigade consisting of about 1000 or 1200 men landed at Phips farm at Cambridge and marched to Lexington where they found a company of our colony militia in arms, upon whom they fired without any provocation and killed six men and wounded four others. By an express from Boston we find another brigade are now upon march from Boston supposed to be about 1000. The bearer, Israel Bissel, is charged to alarm the country, and all persons are desired to furnish him with fresh horses, as they may be needed. I have spoken to several who have seen the dead and wounded...¹

As the British regulars’ advance guard under Major John Pitcairn entered Lexington at sunrise on April 19, 1775, about 80 Lexington militiamen led by Captain John Parker emerged from Buckman Tavern to make a show of political and military determination. Fully one quarter of the men were related to Captain Parker in some way, and Parker was not prepared to sacrifice his men for no purpose. He knew that most of the Colonists powder and military supplies at Concord had already been hidden. Many years later, one of the participants recalled Parker’s words as being what is now engraved in stone at the site of the battle: “Stand your ground; don’t fire unless fired upon, but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here.

And so it did...

¹ Extracted from *A Sincere Passion from Liberty* Published by the Museum of the American Revolution, with thanks to Compatriot Albert Myers for sharing.

From the President



Greetings Compatriots and Friends,

We are fast approaching the end of this season of meetings. We shortly will be in summer recess. I have several things to tell you about.

Our March meeting was held on Saturday the 22nd. This Saturday meeting was scheduled to accommodate our Junior members and Regular members who cannot attend the regular Wednesday meetings because of work or school commitments. The meeting program was “The Flags of the American Revolution”. It was very informative and educational. One of the Junior Members, Daniel Wood, asked for a copy of the program which he presented to his Boy Scout troop. I received an email from his mother, Mrs. Linda Wood, with photos attached showing him doing the presentation. I am pleased to see Junior members who show an interest in the Chapter. After all, they are the future leaders of the SAR.

We had a very special and well attended April meeting. Our program featured Nola Theiss who presented a program regarding the Human Trafficking and Slavery as it involves Southern Florida. I believe that everyone present was surprised at how extensive the problem is. In recognition for her work, the Chapter awarded her the Silver Good Citizenship Medal. This was approved by the State Awards and Medals Committee.

On April 15th, Compatriots Albert Myers, Bob McGuire, Tom Veal and I attended the Lee County Commissioners meeting. Here we received a Resolution recognizing the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution and designating April 30th the Sons of the American Revolution Day in Lee County. Compatriot Commissioner Frank Mann is a member of our chapter and he introduced the Resolution.

I am also pleased to report that our Registrar Bob McGuire has been selected to serve on the state society Veterans Affairs committee. On May 2nd and 3rd I and several other Chapter members will attend the Annual Meeting of the FLSSAR in Orlando. This is a particularly important meeting as there will be the election and installation of state officers for 2014-2015 year. In conjunction, the meeting of the South Atlantic District will also be held there.

Lee Matson, President

From Our Newsletter Editor

I am pleased to have the opportunity to continue the efforts of Compatriot John Jones, whose work on this missive has set high standards for me to emulate. Please give me ongoing comments on how to make additional improvements and submit your items of interest for inclusion in the future. My email address is: rmcguire@slvx.com.

Bob McGuire

Chapter Facebook Page



Compatriot Albert Myers keeps our Facebook page up-to-date with current activities. He also reports that the hits on our page have increased and is encouraged with this flurry of activity. It means that more people are taking a look at us. If you are not already registered with Facebook (yes, there are still some people not engaged in social media) you will need to do so and set up a profile before getting access to the Caloosa SAR Chapter page. The following link to the page can be entered into your web browser's navigation bar (some recipients of the newsletter may be able to click on the link). <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152396845983338.1073741832.78806383337&type=1> .

The Facebook page provides the most current and timely information and images covering Chapter programs and local happenings. Often there are updates posted by Compatriot Albert before the end of the day of an event. If members have items of interest, he also welcomes email submission of photos and information. Send it to aemyers.net/contact.

New Web Page



Compatriot Robert McGuire has recently developed a new web page for the Chapter and it is now available to be seen through a link on the Florida Society web page. (<http://flssar.org/Host/Caloosa/Index.htm>). We will soon be hosting our own homepage on the Web and will let you know when you can go to it directly without going through the Florida Society webpage. You may also be interested in visiting the National Society Sons of the American Revolution webpage: www.sar.org which includes a “members only” section and access to the SAR Merchandise Store.

SAR 125th



As you know the 125th Anniversary of the Sons of the American Revolution will be celebrated on April 30, 2014. On December 4, 1783, nine days after the last British soldiers left American soil, George Washington invited the officers of the Continental Army to join him in the Long Room of Fraunces Tavern at 54 Pearl St in New York so he could say farewell. On March 7, 1889, William Osborn McDowell and others formed the

New Jersey Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The first National Congress was held in the Long Room of Fraunces Tavern on April 30, 1889. The New York State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution owns the building today with a museum on the upper floors and leases out the tavern operation on the first floor.

Highlights of April EXCOM Meeting

Technically known as the “Executive Committee” or “EC”, but commonly referred to as the ExCom, this committee is established in accordance with the Chapter Bylaws. It handles the logistics of the organization and allows membership meetings to be held without extensive administrative matters to be dealt with. It provides for the planning, organizing, and coordinating activities that are essential to the effective conduct of programs and the accomplishment of the goals of the Chapter. Membership of the ExCom consists of the elected officers plus the immediate past-president. Any member of the Chapter is welcome to attend meetings of the ExCom and may address its members. Meetings are generally held on the Monday prior to the membership meeting. The next ExCom meeting is scheduled for May 12th. The meeting time and location remain TBD, and will be communicated to ExCom members by President Matson when established.

The last ExCom meeting was held on 7 April 2014 at lunch time at the Perkins Restaurant, Cleveland Avenue, Fort Myers. The following matters were noteworthy:

- Lee County Commissioners will issue a resolution on 15 April 2014 marking the 125th anniversary of the NSSAR.
- Compatriot Daniel Wood presented a flag program in his Boy Scout Troop.
- Secretary’s Report – Minutes of February meeting approved.
- Treasurer’s Report – Resolution to change signatures on Vanguard Account (Trust Fund) to Albert Myers, John Jones, and Roy Wasson approved.
- Registrar’s Report – Compatriot Richard Geib’s application has been approved by NSSAR. He will be inducted in the May meeting.
- Awards Committee Report – Committee chairman Moody named those who are to receive awards at the April Meeting:
 - EMS Commendation Medal – Captain/Paramedic John Griffith, Firefighter Tony Fontaine, Firefighter/EMT Ron Ritchie
 - Law Enforcement Commendation Medal – Officer John Smith
- 14 JROTC presentations are being arranged for May 18th.
- Historian’s Report – Compatriot Theiss reports progress on assembling and digitizing the archives.
- Webmaster Report – Compatriot McGuire has coordinated with FLSSAR for an interim solution to post the Chapter website to the FLSSAR website with a link. Transition to our own domain (www.CaloosaSAR.org) is proceeding.
- Memorial books honoring deceased Compatriots Guy Walton and Orville May are to be presented to the new library in Fort Myers.
- A motion was made and adopted to provide one “free” meal to prospective members. Arrangements should be made with Compatriots Russ Radcliffe and John Jones.
- President Matson appointed Compatriots Jones, McGuire, and Radcliffe to serve as an ad hoc committee to review Chapter By-Laws and Standing Rules. Members with suggestions should contact any committee member.
- There was discussion of a mid-summer meeting, perhaps on a Saturday, which could involve Junior Members and others. Members with thoughts or suggestions should contact any ExCom member.
- It was agreed to continue the Helm Club as our meeting location for the next year.
- The FLSSAR Annual Meeting will be held on 2-4 May 2014 in Orlando. Elections of officers of the State Society will be at 3:00 pm on Saturday 3 May. Any member of FLSSAR may attend and vote, even if not attending the other BOM activities.

Our Calendar of Events

Helm Club at the Landings Yacht Golf and Tennis Club
4420 Flagship Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33919
(off McGregor Blvd first light South of College Pkwy)



Follow this link to get a map to the Landings
<http://mapq.st/1bYbmwa>

Wednesday May 14, 2014

The gathering will begin at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon.
Cost for the lunch is \$20.00 per person paid at the door.

Since we started meeting at the Helm Club in the Fall of 2013, the kitchen and wait staff have consistently presented delicious meals at our meetings in an attractive and comfortable setting. Meetings are also an opportunity to spend time with an interesting group of men who share a common bond as descendants of patriots of the American Revolution. While a majority of our members reside in Lee County, other parts of Florida and at least 15 other States are represented as well.

Our meetings are open to all interested persons, and we particularly welcome Compatriots from other parts of the country who are visiting our area.

May Program: President Lee Matson will present a program featuring his patriot ancestor, and the campaigns and skirmishes that he participated in.

*Please RSVP for meetings to: Compatriot VP Russell Radcliffe at
russradcliffe@gmail.com, call (239) 949-6620 or mail*

20455 Wildcat Run Drive, Estero FL 33928

This will be our last meeting before our summer recess

New Members, Prospective Members, & “Supplementals” Approved

Compatriot Ansel Moore was inducted by President Lee Matson at the March meeting. His application process was lengthy and his perseverance (and that of his wife Elizabeth) is to be commended. Ansel is the 8th generation descendant of Private Abner Crocker whose service was in Massachusetts, but whose descendants removed to Maine where they remained until well into the 20th century.



Left to right: Compatriot Richard Geib, Registrar Bob McGuire, and prospective member James Record at the April meeting. Geib, whose application was recently approved by NSSAR, will be inducted at the May meeting. Rich is the 6th generation descendant of Private Abisha Packard who joined the Continental Army as a fifer in Massachusetts.



James Record is working on establishing his lineage from Captain John Wall who served in the Pennsylvania militia.

Other new members, photos not available, include:

Joseph Ian Michel – January 2014 (Patriot: Soldier Joshua “Belitha” Tillman of North Carolina)

Galen Reid Simpson – January 2014 (Patriot: PVT Archelous Craft of North Carolina)

Robert N White IV – February 2014 (Patriot: PVT Thomas Phillips White of Connecticut)

Wesley M Morris Jr. – February 2014 (Patriot: PVT James Herbert of New Jersey)

“Supplementals” approved in 2014 to date:

Dr. Randy Moody – Amos Hix & Barbara Cook Hester who provided material aid in Virginia, and PVT John Underwood who provided service to South Carolina

Phillip Moody – Amos Hix

Dr. Albert Myers – PVT David Dunbar Sr. who provided service in Massachusetts

Guy Thomas Sicilia Jr. – PVT Samuel Slocum who provided service in Rhode Island

Robert McGuire – PVT Jedediah Lathrop & LT Elias West, both of whom provided service in Connecticut

George Alexander Pasquel - PVT Samuel Slocum

Chapter Luncheon Happenings



Chapter President Lee Matson presented Nola Theiss with the Silver Good Citizenship Award for her many years of leadership in public service

The Sons of the American Revolution and the Caloosa Chapter, FLSSAR carry out programs that support its objectives. One which is titled AMERICANISM promotes principles of freedom and liberty for all Americans.

Nola Theiss epitomizes this program. Nola, wife of Compatriot Hal Theiss, is the Executive Director and founder of Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships, Inc (HTAP). Her presentation at the April meeting of the Caloosa Chapter raised our level of awareness of the different aspects of human trafficking around the world, but most especially here in Southwest Florida. She provided examples of these crimes that are prevalent in major economic sectors such as the agriculture and hospitality industries. She provided *TIPS* for recognizing traffickers and victims, and shared “best practices” for preventing trafficking and taking action when it is observed.



The Caloosa Chapter recognized the service of three Sanibel Firefighter and one police officer who were instrumental in saving the life of a man who collapsed while playing tennis at an island resort. The EMS Commendation & Medal were presented to Captain/Paramedic John Griffith, Firefighter/Paramedic Tony Fontaine, and Firefighter/EMT Ron Ritchie. The Law Enforcement Commendation & Medal was presented to Officer John Smith.



Bethany and Jenny Namoor were guests of the Chapter. Bethany won the Chapter oratorical contest. Her mother Jenny was presented the Bronze Good Citizenship Award for providing contestants for the award across recent years.



Vice President General / Color Guard Commander Rev. Dr. Randy Moody presents streamers for the Chapter flag to Chapter President Lee Matson.

Where's Randy???

Usually immersed in nearly all of the many programs and activities of the Caloosa Chapter, Vice President General Rev. Dr. Randy Moody has been a man on the go on the national stage since his installation as VPG last July in Kansas City. The hectic schedule he has maintained has taken him away from participation in some local activities, prompting some (including Compatriot County Commissioner Frank Mann) to ask “Where’s Randy?”

Early February found VPG Moody marching with the NSSAR Color Guard in the parade commemorating the Battle of Kettle Creek in Washington, GA. He brought greetings at the battle site and presented the District wreath as part of the ceremony.



March was a busy month, beginning at Louisville at the NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting. On March 8th he marched with the NSSAR Color Guard at Merritt Island, FL to commemorate the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution, and presented the South Atlantic District wreath to honor those who fought in the battle.



On March 15th VPG Moody participated in the ceremony to commemorate the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in Greensboro, NC. Here he forms up with the NSSAR Color Guard as they prepare to march to the battlefield. President General Joe Dooley brought greetings to the crowd and presented the NSSAR wreath. Dooley was followed by VPG Moody also bringing greetings and presenting a wreath.

On March 22nd VPG Moody was obligated to accompany President General Joe Dooley in attending a dinner held by the St. Petersburg Chapter in PG Dooley’s honor. Attending the dinner were FLSSAR officers, FSSDAR officers, and local NSCAR, NSDAR, and NSSAR members. Shown to the right are VPG Moody and PG Dooley in the receiving line prior to the dinner greeting FLSSAR Chaplain Richard Hagerman and FLSSAR Sergeant-at-Arms Joseph Hill.



In addition to these events, VPG Moody attended the South Carolina Society Annual Meeting April 5-6 giving greetings and installing new State Officers. VPG Moody’s schedule will remain busy until he completes his office at the conclusion of the 2014 SAR Congress in Greenville, SC.

We do hope to see him at our Chapter meeting in May however.

The Board of County Commissioners

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was organized and established on April 30, 1889; and

Whereas, through patriotic, historical, and educational activities, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution perpetuates the memory of the Patriots of the American Revolutionary War who achieved the independence of the United States; and

Whereas, the activities of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution are designed to inspire the descendants of the Patriots of the American Revolution and the people of the United States with respect and reverence for the principles of government that were established by those Patriots; and

Whereas, during the past 125 years more than 180,000 members have joined the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, including 16 Presidents of the United States, Senators, Members of Congress, Supreme Court Justices, generals, admirals, ambassadors, veterans, serving members of the armed forces, small businessmen, doctors, lawyers, ministers, professors, school teachers, farmers, accounts, other elected officials, and members of every profession and calling, all of whom have had a deep affection for America its heritage and institutions; and

Whereas, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution celebrates its 125th anniversary in 2014;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Board of County Commissioners of Lee County, Florida does hereby proclaim April 30, 2014 as

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION DAY

in Lee County and we call upon all citizens of Lee County to observe this day by celebrating the contributions made by the Sons of the American Revolution with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Duly executed this 15th day of April 2014.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Lee Matson

Chairman

Events and Happenings

Lee County Commissioners presented this resolution designating April 30, 2014 as the Sons of the American Revolution Day in Lee County in honor of the 125th anniversary of the Society's founding. The resolution was presented by Compatriot Commissioner Frank Mann, long a member of the Caloosa Chapter, and was received by President Lee Matson. Also representing the Chapter at the ceremony were Compatriots Rev Dr Albert Myers, Tom Veal, and Bob McGuire.



Following the reading of the proclamation at the Board of County Commissioners Chambers, Compatriots Mattson, Myers, Veal and McGuire visited the new Lee County Library in Fort Myers. There, we met Compatriot Guy Walton's widow and his daughter before participating in a presentation ceremony in the "Tree Room" just outside the Genealogy Section. The room takes its name from the conference table which was constructed from the ancient Fort Myers oak tree which was cut down for safety reasons.

Compatriot Matson presented a book about Commodore Abraham Whipple of the Continental Navy by Dr. Sheldon S. Cohen in memory of Compatriot Walton, and a new National Geographic book about our Founding Fathers in memory of Compatriot Orville May. Each book will have a book plate honoring Compatriots Walton and May respectively. They will be retained as reference materials in the Genealogy Section.



Left to right: Reference Librarian Bryan Mulcahy, President Lee Matson, and Mrs. Jeanette Walton.



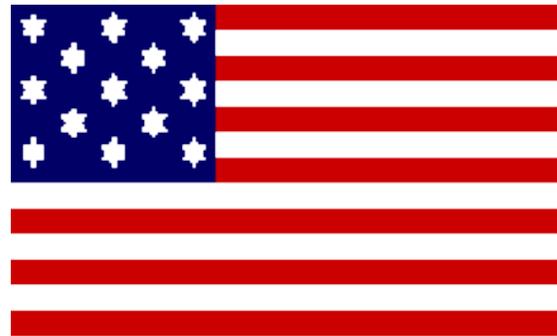
1. Taunton Flag 1774



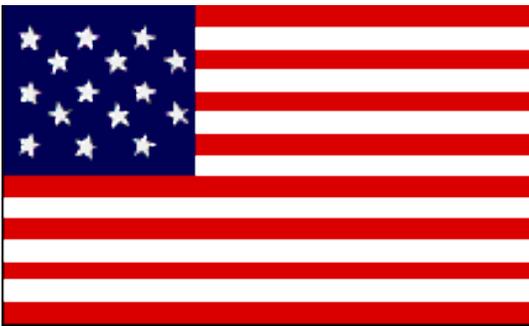
2. Washington's Cruisers Flag 1775



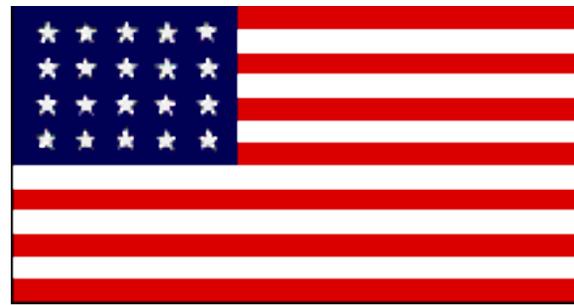
3. The Gadsden Flag 1776



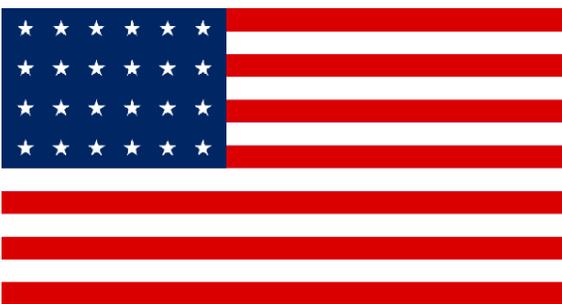
4. The First Official US Flag 1777



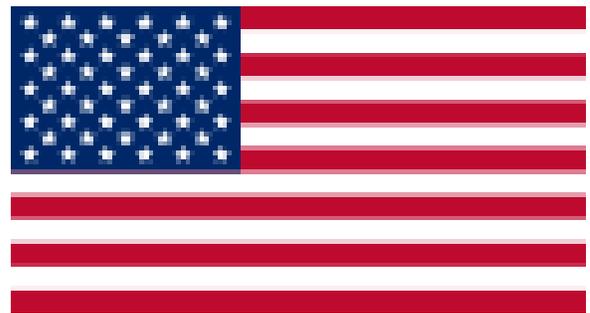
5. Star-Spangled Banner
1795



6. The Twenty Star Flag 1818



7. "Old Glory" 1822



8. The USA Flag 1960