



Newsletter of the *Fernando de Leyba Chapter*

*Sons of the American Revolution*

VOL. XI4 Issue 01

June 2012

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month (except July and August) at  
Culpepper Restaurant in St. Charles, MO

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**On This Day: July 2, 1776**

## **Continental Congress Votes to Declare Independence From Britain**

On July 2, 1776, a day John Adams called America's "most memorable," the Second Continental Congress passed the Lee Resolution, severing the Colonies' ties with Britain.



Library of Congress/Historical Society of Pennsylvania  
"Congress Voting the Declaration of Independence," a 1776 painting by Edward Savage and/or Robert Edge Pine.

## **Second Continental Congress Approves Declaration of Independence**

In May 1776, little over a year after the first shots of the Revolutionary War were fired, the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia and debated whether the American Colonies should declare independence from Britain.

On June 7, 1776, Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee presented the resolution of independence, or the Lee Resolution, which proposed declaring independence, forming foreign alliances and forming a confederation.

The first part of the resolution stated, “Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.”

Voting on the resolution was arranged for July 2, so that delegates could discuss the proposals with the governments of their colonies. Five members—John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert R. Livingston and Roger Sherman—were assigned to prepare a document explaining the reasons for independence. This document, written primarily by Jefferson, would be the Declaration of Independence.

When the Congress reconvened in July, 12 of the 13 colonies voted to pass the first stipulation of the Lee Resolution, with the New York delegation—which had

not received approval from the New York Convention—abstaining. Two days later, the Declaration of Independence was published.

Adams, in a letter to his wife Abigail on July 3, wrote, ***“The Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epochal, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty.”***

## **Background: The Continental Congress**

The Continental Congress, an assembly of delegates from the 13 Colonies, served as America’s de facto government from 1774 to 1789, when it was replaced by the United States Congress.

The First Continental Congress, consisting of approximately 50 delegates from 12 colonies (Georgia was absent), met for the first time in Philadelphia on Sept. 5, 1774, in response to Britain passing the Intolerable Acts. The delegates, under the leadership of Virginia’s Peyton Randolph, called for a boycott of British products and agreed to meet again in the spring.

The Second Continental Congress, with representatives from every colony, met on May 10, 1775, less than three weeks after the battles of Lexington and Concord signaled the start of the Revolutionary War.

The delegates engaged in serious debate on whether to pursue the war for independence or to seek reconciliation. On June 14, it formed the Continental Army under the command of Virginia delegate George Washington. It also printed money and negotiated with foreign countries for financial or military support.

As fighting continued, hope of reconciliation waned and support for declaring independence grew. On May 10, 1776, the Congress issued a resolution ordering Colonies to form their own governments. John Adams added a preamble to this resolution that was ***“designed to encourage the suppression of royal government in the colonies,”*** explains the Massachusetts Historical Society.

After declaring independence in July 1776, the Second Continental Congress continued to meet during the war, organizing the war effort and establishing diplomatic relations with other countries. The Second Continental Congress was replaced in 1781 by: The Congress of the Confederation,

following the ratification of the Articles of Confederation.

Next meeting will be on Sept. 10, 2012 and we will meet at Culpeppers 6:30 PM.

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Treasurer’s report as of April 30, 2012:

Beginning Balance = \$2,292.38 – Ending Balance = \$2,238.39

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Genealogist report as of June 11, 2012:

At National:

9 New Prospects for Membership:

- Pat Jefferson (2 supplements)
- John Wilson (1 supplement)
- Charles Lilly (1 more supplement)
- Mike Dollard & Son’s

At Chapter:

- Guy Young (New member)
- John Lincoln Post (New member)
- Martin White
- Steve White

Meeting Closed at 9:15 pm

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At the June 12, 2012 meeting:

Meeting Opens 7:00 pm

Introductions: John Soucy, George Smith, Wanda Smith, Bill Tucker, Milan Paddock.

1. **Fernando de Leyba Chapter** received \$50.00 and Card from DAR for Color Guard services.
2. Steve Baldwin: "John J Pershing Fund" - Build up to increase scholarships – Donations Requested.
3. Charles Lilly: - Donation of property in Kansas valued at \$135,000 - \$100,000 in John J Pershing Fund. Flag Pole Dedication at Willow's. David Cox promoted to Commander of a Nuclear Submarine.
4. Dennis Hahn: Pat Jefferson's wife is wanting to Donate (2) model ships for auction.
5. Keith Morris: WWI featured at the Missouri History Museum.
6. David Christian: September Speaker Michele Nicosia on Physical Therapy.
7. Ron Hauser: Painting of the Revolution.

Old Business: NASSAR 122 Congress will be in Las Vegas N.V. July 6-11.  
[WWW.sar2012congress.com](http://WWW.sar2012congress.com)

New Business: Charles Lilly – Motion for new Flag Pole - PASSED

23 Members and Guest in Attendance:

Jim Borgman, Diane Borgman, Dale Wiseman, Carol Wiseman, Keith Morris, Barb Morris, David Christian, Milan Paddock, Wanda Smith, George Smith, John Wilson, Pat Jefferson, Dennis Hahn, Shirley Hahn, Ron Hauser, David Hoffman, Steve Baldwin, Jeff Sullivan, Martin White, Mike Zimmer, Nora Zimmer, John Soucy, Paul Smith,

Program: Paul Smith – "Underwater Reefs of Cozumel".

Yesterday is History. Tomorrow is Mystery?? Today is a Blessing!!!

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday...

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*Fernando de Leyba*  
*Chapter*

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