



CANNONEER



Newsletter of the *Fernando de Leyba Chapter*

*Sons of the American Revolution*

VOL. XI5 Issue 09

April 2014

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 MAY 8, 1871

## ***American Revolution in Florida***

On the hills overlooking the downtown area of Pensacola Florida, was fought one of the most significant battles of the American Revolution.

Many Americans of today do not realize that our country's war for independence evolved into an international conflict by the time it ended. France and Spain both entered the war in support of the fledgling American nation. The involvement of the latter nation led to a major campaign along the Gulf Coast that culminated at the Battle of Pensacola in 1781.

The British had gained possession of Florida in 1763 as a result of the negotiations that ended the French and Indian War. Taking control of Pensacola, they fortified the city by building a series of forts, stockades and redoubts. The downtown area was enclosed by a stout stockade, the Royal Navy Redoubt was built on the site of today's Fort Barrancas and Fort George was built on the hill just north of and overlooking Pensacola.

A strong bastioned work, Fort George was exposed to fire from another slightly taller nearby hill; so two smaller forts - the Queen's Redoubt and the Prince of Wales Redoubt - were built to provide extra protection.

British fears of an attack on the city proved well founded. Having just occupied New Orleans, Natchez and Baton Rouge, Spanish General Don Bernardo de Galvez began a move against Pensacola in 1780.

Accompanied by a small party of American volunteers, Galvez led a massive Spanish land and sea force west along the Gulf of Mexico to Mobile Bay. There he laid siege to and captured Fort Charlotte (formerly Fort Conde) on the site of the modern city of Mobile, Alabama. Garrisoning the fort with Spanish troops and building a second fort across Mobile Bay at what is now Old Spanish Fort, he regrouped and prepared to move on Pensacola.

Sending some of his troops overland from Mobile Bay, Galvez boarded a ship and led the Spanish fleet to Pensacola. The vessels arrived off the entrance to the bay on March 9, 1781.

The first attempt to enter the bay ended when the Spanish flagship ran aground and the naval officers expressed wariness about making a second try. An aggressive general, Galvez sailed into the bay on his own aboard the brig *Galveston* on March 18, 1781.

Most of April was spent preparing for the siege, although several small skirmishes were fought. Then, at the end of April, Galvez opened a battery on a hill within range of Fort George and opened fire. The British replied and the Battle of Pensacola began in earnest.

Using trenches and earthwork batteries they moved forward during the nights, the Spanish closed in on the British defenses. The British retaliated, overrunning and destroying one of the batteries, but the siege continued.

Finally, on May 8, 1781, after days of heavy bombardment, a Spanish shell struck the powder magazine in the Queen's Redoubt. The fort was destroyed and nearly 100 British soldiers killed. Spanish troops rushed forward and occupied the ruins of the redoubt. Placing cannon of their own at the site, they opened fire on Fort George itself from short range.

Finding his position untenable, General John Campbell ran up the white flag. Pensacola surrendered on May 10, 1781 and would remain a Spanish possession for the next 40 years.

Next meeting will be on May 12, 2014 and we will meet at Culpeppers 6:30 PM.

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**Treasurer's report as of February 2014:**

**Beginning Balance = \$2,537.80 – Ending Balance = \$3,033.72**

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**Minutes from Fernando De Leyba meeting 14 April 2014**

Nathan Futrell Society report

23 members

Focus on making connections with other members

Learn about American history

Busy year, activity every month

Adopted WWII vet

Contest results

Our teacher won at state and will compete at national

Our essayist won at state and will compete at national

Our Eagle Scout did not win but the MOSSAR winner from Jefferson City did win at national

New MOSSAR officers

Pres-Charles Lilly

2nd VP-Dennis Hahn

Historian-Milan Paddock

New MOSSAR website- check it out

Fogg update: We have a few more points this year than in 2011 when we won. Just have to wait and see.

Submitted application to NSSAR for Americanism award. Same as Josiah Fogg Award only on a national level rather than a state level.

Flag Day retirement ceremonies on Flag Day. Get rid of worn out flags properly. Contact Dave Christian or Dale Wiseman for more details.

Increased support of Nathan Futrell Society from \$50 annually to \$100 annually.

Budget committee established:

Charles Lilly  
Dennis Hahn  
Jim Borgman  
Marvin Koechig  
Steve Baldwin

Discussion of creating bylaws:

Jim Borgman sworn in as treasurer  
Rich Denning sworn in as new member  
Jim Borgman received supplemental  
Keith Morris received supplemental and 10 year pin

Genealogist report:

New member applications:

Tom Busken - received by national, awaiting approval  
Michael Shea - approved at chapter, sent to state  
Benjamin Shea - approved at chapter, sent to state  
Chase Zancanata - possible chapter approval by next meeting

Supplemental:

Michael Snyder-received by national, awaiting approval  
Pat Jefferson-4 supplemental approved at chapter, sent to state  
Pat Jefferson- 4 additional supplementals submitted to chapter at meeting  
GO PAT GO!!!

Chapter is still in good health and growing. Well past 50 members at this point.  
Maybe we can hit 60 soon. Keep recruiting family and friends.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Rush

**Thank You! John**

May 12 2014, Program: 1SG Hakes and 2 MMA Cadets from the Missouri Military Academy will be our program for May 12.

## Revolutionary War Quotes

**"It's not tyranny we desire; it's a just, limited, federal government."**

***Alexander Hamilton***

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

**"CARPE-DIEM"**

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday...

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*Fernando de Leyba*

*Chapter*

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