



Newsletter of the *Fernando de Leyba Chapter*
Sons of the American Revolution

VOL. XI6 Issue 06

December 2014

MEETS 2ND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH (EXCEPT
JULY AND AUGUST) AT CULPEPPER RESTAURANT
IN ST. CHARLES, MO

On this day in history, January 9, 1787

James Armistead, America's slave spy gets his freedom.

Very little is known about the early life of an enslaved man named James from New Kent County, Virginia. He is believed to have been born between 1748 and 1760, and was owned by William Armistead. In 1781, General George Washington, commander in chief of the Continental army, sent the twenty-four-year-old French general, the Marquis de Lafayette, to Virginia in an effort to stop the British forces headed by General Charles Cornwallis, *Earl Cornwallis*. Shortly after Lafayette arrived in New Kent, his activities caught the attention of James, who asked his owner, William Armistead, to allow him to serve Lafayette in his efforts against the British. His master agreed and James began what would become an important and lengthy relationship with the general that would change the course of his life forever.

In his attempt to learn as much as he could about Cornwallis's activities and movements, Lafayette had sent an enslaved man, James, who successfully infiltrated the camp of Benedict Arnold, providing information that nearly resulted in Arnold's capture. After Arnold and his men left the area, James focused his efforts on infiltrating the camp of General Cornwallis. He gained access to the camp of General Cornwallis by July 7, 1781, and

within a short while, entered Cornwallis's service as a waiter. In that capacity James was constantly in the general's presence, serving food and drinks to Cornwallis and his officers, and listening to their conversations about military strategy. Through the months of July and August, James provided the American forces with critical information on the number of British gunboats and the amount of supplies. In a letter to George Washington dated August 25, 1781, Lafayette credited James with finding out that British forces were fortifying at Yorktown and that they had sixty vessels sailing on the York River. By early in September American and French forces positioned the French navy on the Chesapeake Bay, bottling up the York River. Meanwhile Washington and his troops had marched south to Williamsburg to join Lafayette, preparing to rout the British by land and sea. With large French siege cannons in position by early in October, the combined American and French forces began shelling the British position. After ten days of the barrage, Cornwallis surrendered on October 19, 1781. Their strategy was successful in ultimately forcing the British to surrender, thus ending the Revolutionary War and winning recognition of the new nation's independence.

After being awarded his freedom by the Virginia General Assembly in 1786 for his service during the American Revolution, James, now using the surname Lafayette, returned to New Kent County, Virginia. In 1816 Lafayette was living with his wife, son, and three slaves on forty acres of land. Just two years later, however, Lafayette appealed again to the Virginia General Assembly, this time requesting financial relief. In response to his claim of being now "poor and unable to help himself," the body granted him \$60 and placed Lafayette on the Commonwealth's regular pension list, guaranteeing the veteran an additional \$40 each year for the rest of his life.

Some years later, in 1824, the Marquis de Lafayette and James Lafayette met once more. In that year, the Marquis returned to the United States for a celebratory tour. In Richmond, the Marquis was to be feted in grand style. While riding through the streets of Richmond, the Marquis de Lafayette recognized James Lafayette, halted the procession, and warmly greeted his former comrade, embracing him on the street. The danger and honor they had shared at Yorktown years before had not been tarnished by the passage

of time, nor as it turns out, by American racial etiquette. James Lafayette died a few years later in August 1830.



It is to certify that the Person by the Name of James
Has done Meritorious Services to me while I had the Honorable
Command in this State. His Intelligence from the Enemy's
Camp were industriously collected and most faithfully delivered
He perfectly acquitted Himself with some important Commissions
I gave him and appears to me entitled to every Reward his
Situation can admit of. Done under my Hand, Richmond
November 21st 1781
Lafayette

Treasurer's report as of November 10, 2014:

Beginning Balance = \$4,275.17– Ending Balance = \$4,580.28

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Genealogist report as of December 8, 2014:

New Members:

Michael Shea, Benjamin Shea, Thomas Robertsen

“FDL “55” members strong”

Genealogist report:

Approved at National
Pat Jefferson 1 supplemental
Thomas Robertsen

At national
Pat Jefferson 1 supplemental ended

At state
Jim Borgman 4 supp
Pat Jefferson 2 supp

At chapter
John Wilson 4 supp
William Winham new member
Richard Morton new member

Veterans: David Christian

Fernando De Leyba was represented at Nationalization Ceremony,
Judge John Ross presiding and received certificate of appreciation from FDL.
Russ De Vinney is running for National Registrar. Need to have someone to take
Russ's place as ROTC Coordinator, Medals and Awards Chairman.

Color Guard: Bill Grote

Wreaths across America December 13, 2014 11:00 am.

At the December 8, 2014 meeting:

Meeting Opens 7:02 pm

Introductions: Jonathan Hunt, Tom Robertsen, Wiley Martin, Richard Morton, Shawn Nickell.

Meeting Actions:

1. John Rush: Motion to approve Minutes as Amended. Regular Order Suspended.
2. David Christian: Motion to approve Minutes as Amended by single Vote of the Chapter Secretary. Motion Passed by Majority Vote.
3. John Rush: Motion to approve Minutes as Amended by single vote of the Chapter Secretary. Motion Passed by Solitary Vote.
4. Dennis Hahn: Keith Morris invitation to attend Wreaths across America December 13, 2014 at 11:00 AM.
5. Dennis Hahn: Reminder to members to review SAR GOALS designed by President General Lindsey C. Brock.
6. Ron Hauser: Robert Burns Dinner a Free Mason event will be held @ STL Cathedral January 24, 2015.
7. Dennis Hahn: Motion to approve Treasury Report.
8. Charles Lilly: Motion to approve slat of new chapter Officers as presented by Jim Borgman Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Motion Passed.
Officers Nominating Committee (Jim Borgman, Marvin Koechig, Paul Smith)
President - Dennis Hahn
V President – Marty White
Secretary – Michael Shea
Historian – Jeff Sullivan
Genealogist – John Rush
Treasurer – Jim Borgman
Sergeant at Arms – Bill Grote
9. Joan Koechig: Family Arena dates for January will be 9 and 23.
10. Jim Borgman: Motion to gift waitress \$25.00 for Christmas. Motion Passed.

11. Bob Raines: The Budget Committee recommended that we add 3 more Wreaths to our Budget for Private Richard Gentry, Major Russell Bissell, and Colonel Thomas Hunt. Motion to approve. Motion Passed.
12. Bob Raines: The Budget Committee recommended that we include monetary awards of \$100.00 to the 2015 Budget for JROTC, Naval Sea Cadets, and Marine Corp League. Jonathan Hunt pledged to match all new awards for the Private Jonathan Hunt Fund.
13. Bob Raines: Motion to approve Budget Committee recommendations. Motion Passed (with one vote abstained Jonathan Hunt).

Old Business:

Name the Museum Contest.

Family Arena assets for 2014 total 1,022.76

Need Proper Flag Display Applicants.

Certificate Award Applicants needed for: EMS, Law Enforcement, Fire Safety, Teachers of the Year, Knight Essay by Dec 15, 2014, MOSSAR by Jan 4, 2015 Eagle Scout by Jan 20, 2015.

New Business:

1. Tom Robertsen - New Member Certificate awarded for Patriot Anthony Crum Sr.
2. Doug Neff - Supplemental Awarded for Patriot Adam Faust.
3. Pat Jefferson - (7) Supplementals Awarded to for William Jennings Sr & 6 others.
4. Jonathan Hunt - Awarded Certificate of Appreciation.
5. Joan Koechig - Awarded Martha Washington Award.
6. Michael Shea – Military Service Award.
7. Steve Stegen - Military Service Award.
8. Tom Buskin - Military Service Award.

Meeting Closed at 9:28 PM

Program for December 8 was postponed: Steve White – “Revolutionary Trivia”

32 Members and Guest in Attendance:

Ron Hauser Pennington, Bob Raines, Vera Raines, Tom Buskin, Jim Bunch, Evelyn Bunch, Jim Borgman, Diane Borgman, Charles “Pat” Jefferson, Bill Grote, Sylvia Grote, Steve White, Doug Neff, Milly Neff, J.D. Kirtlink, Pat Kirtlink, Richard Morton, John Wilson, Shawn Nickell, Jonathan Hunt, Dennis Hahn, Adam Schnelting, Marvin Koechig, Joan Koechig, Steve Baldwin, Michael Shea, Charles Lilly, Wiley Martin, Tom Robertsen, David Christian, Steve Stegen, Paul Smith

Announcements:

Dale Wiseman will be having Surgery on December 8.
Martin White will be having Surgery on December 5.
Barbara Morris Hemorrhagic Stroke
Milan Paddock Stroke
David Hoffman Hernia Surgery

January Program: Mr. Alfred Katzenberger is the American Legion, Liaison with Jefferson Barracks National Chapel, Cemetery and Expansion.





Revolutionary War Quotes

" Our properties within our own territories should not be taxed or regulated by any power on earth but our own. "

Thomas Jefferson

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

"CARPE-DIEM"

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday...

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