



Newsletter of the *Fernando de Leyba Chapter*

Sons of the American Revolution

VOL. XIII Issue 16

January 2011

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

On This DAY Feb 8, 1777:

Former POW Timothy Bigelow is named colonel

Just six months after his release as a prisoner-of-war, Major Timothy Bigelow becomes colonel of the 15th Massachusetts Colonial Line of the Continental Army on this day in 1777.

Bigelow, a blacksmith who was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, on August 12, 1739, began his Patriot involvement when he, upon learning of the Battle of Lexington, took a body of Minutemen to Cambridge. Later, he was one of two majors to march with Benedict

Arnold and his freezing, starving, ailing men through Maine to Canada. In December 1775, the British captured Bigelow and took him prisoner at the Battle of Quebec. He remained in British captivity until August 1776.

After his promotion to colonel, Bigelow fought valiantly in some of the most important battles of the Revolutionary War , including the Battle of Saratoga in October 1777, the Battle of Monmouth in June 1778 and the Battle of Yorktown in October 1781.

After leaving his command in the army, Bigelow returned home to Worcester, Massachusetts, where he fell into financial ruin and was jailed for failure to repay his debts. Bigelow died in prison on March 31, 1790; he was survived by a wife and five children.

Bigelow's death in debtors' prison remains a mystery, as his wife was the heiress to a large fortune and Bigelow himself had garnered title to 23,000 acres in Vermont for his military service. However, his wife and namesake son had moved to Groton, Connecticut , before his death. The son, a Harvard graduate, became an acclaimed attorney, Freemason and Federalist politician.

A monument dedicated to Bigelow is located at Worcester Common in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Next meeting will be on February 13, 2012 and we will meet at Culpeppers 6:30 PM.

Treasurer's report as of November 30, 2011:

Beginning Balance = \$2,707.88 – Ending Balance = \$2,700.88

Genealogist report as of November 11, 2011:

At National:

- Pat Jefferson (2 supplements)
- John Wilson (1 supplement)
- Guy Young – New Member

Heading to State:

- Charles Lilly (1 supplement)
- Martin White
- Steve White

At Chapter:

- Charles Lilly (multiple supplements)
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At the January 12, 2011 meeting:

1. Jerry Cook: To head up "Teacher of the Year" survey's and application program.
2. David Christian: MIA Report
3. Induction of New Officers for 2012:

Dennis Hahn - President

Chuck Simms - Vice President:

Paul Smith - Secretary

John Rush - Genealogist

John Wilson – Chaplain

Jeff Sullivan – Historian

William Grote – Sergeant at Arms

Program: February - John Rush

March – OPEN "Minute Man Volunteer Needed"

April - Martin White

20 Members and Guest in Attendance:

Denise Hahn, Shirley Hahn, Chuck Simms, Charles Lilly, Paul Smith, John Rush, Bill Grote, Sylvia Grote, Dale Wiseman, David Christian, Jim Borgman, Diane Borgman, Steven White, Martin White, John Wilson, Connie Wilson, David Hoffman, Jonathan Hunt, Charles Jefferson, Rachael Thomas.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday...

Newsletter Editor – Paul Smith: plajmsmith@charter.net

Fernando de Leyba
Chapter

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