

The Governor's Chronicle



A Newsletter Offering of the *Tho^s Nelson Jr.* Chapter, Virginia Society,



Sons of the American Revolution



March 2010 Edition

Minutes of Our Last Meeting

January 9th, 2010

The first meeting in 2010 of the Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter was held on January 9, 2010 in conjunction with the Williamsburg Chapter at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Williamsburg, VA. The meeting purpose served not only to induct the 2010 officers for each Chapter, but Williamsburg had several awards to present as well a presentation by the Revolutionary period author Tony Williams. There were 41 members and guests in attendance from both Chapters.

Williamsburg Chapter President Ben Fegan called the meeting to order and our own Chapter President, Jim Swords led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Compatriot Fegan led the group by having the members introduce themselves, describe their patriot ancestors and the guests in attendance.

The Williamsburg Chapter handed out 3 awards that evening. Compatriot Dick Ludwig presented the Teacher of the Year award to Mrs. Jennifer Berry. Chapter President Ben Fegan presented the Eagle Scout Medal to Mr. Reed Pongonis for his most recent achievement of obtaining Boy Scouting's highest award. Finally Compatriot Fegan presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Compatriot Tom Campbell.

The guest speaker, an author who has written several books on events during the nation's revolutionary period, including the book "Hurricane of

Independence: The Untold Story of the Deadly Storm at the Moment of the American Revolution" A second book about a smallpox outbreak during the war is scheduled to be release in April. Tony Williams' speech, titled "Pillars of Happiness: Religion, Virtue and the American Founding" laid the beliefs of many of our founding fathers beliefs of how religion and virtue were directly related to the founding of American Freedom.

There were a number of quotations from George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, John and Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry and many others. Mr. Williams was kind enough to take time to answer several questions from the attendees.

Following Mr. Williams speech, the Installation of the 2010 Officers of the Thomas Nelson Jr. And Williamsburg Chapters took place. Chapter President Jim Swords, Secretary Michael McCarthy, Treasurer Rick Elofson, Registrar Jim Sample and Chaplain Dan Warren took part in the ceremony.

The evening concluded with Williamsburg Chapter President Ben Fegan thanking those in attendances for coming and supporting the recognition efforts of the Chapters' guests. Thomas Nelson Jr. President Jim Swords led the SAR recessional and our Chaplain, Dan Warren, gave the Benediction.

Our Next Meeting

March 16th, 2010, 7:00pm

Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter
Eagle Scout Scholarship Award
Competition Winner
Alan P. Booth

Point Plaza Suites
950 J. Clyde Morris Blvd.
Newport News, VA 23601

Meal Cost: \$25.00 Per Person

Guest Speaker:
Colonel Dennis D. McSweeney
US Army (Ret.)

"Getting Personal With the Day
to Day Challenges of the
Revolutionary War
Soldier/Patriot"



RSVP By:
Friday, March 12th 2010
Rick Elofson at
fnccpa@msn.com or 757-596-6825
Compatriots' Ladies Encouraged
To Attend

The SAR Afield

Upcoming Events in Our Region
& Beyond

MARCH 3rd, 2010

Battle of Guilford Courthouse
Greensboro, NC – 10:00am

APRIL 10th, 2010

Halifax Resolves Day
Halifax, NC – 2:00pm

APRIL 13th, 2010

Thomas Jefferson's Birthday
Jefferson Memorial, DC - 11:00am

APRIL 17th - 18th, 2010

Battle of Petersburg
Petersburg, VA – Times TBA

APRIL 28th, 2010

James Monroe's Birthday
Richmond, VA – 11:00am

May 7th – 8th, 2010

Raid on Martin's Station
Ewing, VA – Times TBA



Chapter Officers

President	Jim Swords
Vice-President	Gerry Runyan
2 nd Vice President	Jeff Brown
Secretary	Michael McCarthy
Treasurer	Rick Elofson
Registrar	Jim Sample
Chaplain	Dr. Dan Warren
Surgeon	Dr. Tom Sale

Committee Chairmen

Citizenship	Walter Neville
DAR/CAR	Vacant
Eagle Scout	Bruce Meyer
Flag	Robert Coleman
Graves	Vacant
Newsletter	Rick Elofson
Public Safety	Jeff Brown
ROTC/JROTC	Tom Nelson
Veteran's Affairs	Robert Coleman

Perpetuate the Memory

by Compatriot Sam Endicott



Andrzej Tadeusz Bonawentura Kościuszko (February 4, 1746 – October 15, 1817) is a national hero in Poland and the United States. The Anglicized spelling of Kościuszko's name is Thaddeus Kosciusko. He was General Washington's top combat engineer.

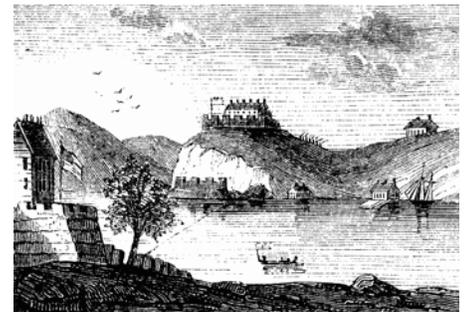
Kościuszko was the youngest child of a noble family in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. In 1765 he studied military engineering at Warsaw's School of Knights. In 1769 he received a scholarship to study in Paris at the Academy of Fine Arts. Finding that art was not in his blood, he returned to Poland, but could not find a position in the peacetime army. In late 1775 Kościuszko returned to Paris. There he was informed of the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War, in which the British colonies in North America started the fight for independence. The first American successes were well publicized in France and the cause of the revolutionaries was openly supported by the French people, whose government also supported the Americans.

Kościuszko came to America on his own, and initially served as a volunteer, but on October 18, 1776, Congress commissioned him a Colonel of Engineers in the Continental Army. At the recommendation of General Charles Lee, Kościuszko was named head engineer of the Continental Army.

He was sent to Pennsylvania to work with the Continental Army. Shortly after arriving, he read the United States Declaration of Independence. Kościuszko was moved by the document that he decided to meet Thomas Jefferson, the principal author of the Declaration. The two met in Virginia a few months later. After spending the day discussing philosophy and other things they shared in common, they became very close

friends. Kościuszko was a guest at Monticello on many occasions, and spent prolonged visits there.

Kościuszko's first task in America was the fortification of Philadelphia. In the spring of 1777 he was attached to the Northern Army under Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates where he directed the construction of several forts and fortified military camps along the Canadian border. Kościuszko's work at Saratoga received great praise from Gen. Gates, who later told his friend Dr. Benjamin Rush "...the great tacticians of the campaign were hills and forests, which a young Polish engineer was skillful enough to select for my encampment".



West Point, New York

Thereafter, Kościuszko was regarded as one of the best engineers in American service. General George Washington took immediate notice, tasking him with the command of improving defensive works at the stronghold in West Point. Here he was posted until being granted his request for transfer to the Southern Army in August of 1780. It was Kościuszko's defenses at West Point that General Benedict Arnold attempted to pass to the British.

In December, 1780, Kościuszko was attached to General Greene in the southern theatre. Over the course of this

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The Center For Advancing America's Heritage

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is The Center for Advancing America's Heritage?

It is an educational center focused on the Revolutionary War and the early history of the United States. The Center includes SAR's own collection of historic artifacts, exhibits and genealogical library. The Center will also include important traveling exhibits and programming specific to approved history and civics curricula. It also includes large, open learning areas for education seminars and private meetings or events; spacious permanent and traveling exhibit gallery areas and offices of the National Headquarters of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Why is The Center important for SAR?

The SAR's recent goal has been to help fill the ever-increasing gap in history and civics education within our school systems. The Center will provide a much needed extension to our country's social, civic and history education. The Center will provide expanded space for exhibits, speakers, workshops, summer camps and school programs, plus improved conditions for the genealogical library and more efficient space for administrative offices to accommodate the growth in membership and demand for its services.

Who will use The Center?

Scholars, historians, authors, teachers, students, families and individuals who are interested in researching and learning more about our country's beginnings and the principles upon which it was founded. It will be open to SAR members and non-members.

Where will it be located and what will it look like?

The Center is located on Louisville's historic West Main Street where it sits among a number of other historic buildings being used as museums and centers as well. The Center is actually two buildings melded together to make

one. Its exterior is being restored to complement the other iron front facades along the street. A color palette of brick red, forest green and a natural stone color date it to its original 1840's construction. Inside, will be an open gallery atrium and inviting reception area. SAR National Headquarters will be located on the second floor. The Genealogical Library will be a significant part of the west wing of the building. A rooftop garden will overlook the majestic Ohio River.

Are there other Center's like The Center for Advancing America's Heritage nearby or elsewhere in the Country?

While there are other history museums and interpretive centers throughout the country, there are very few that focus on the founding principles history of our country in order to help fill the void in history and civics education that exists in our schools today. There are no other museums like The Center for Advancing America's Heritage near Louisville, KY. The new location for The Center is easily accessible by three major interstates, 71, 65 and 64, and sits within a day's drive of more than half the population of the United States.

What will The Center cost to build?

Current projections to renovate and furnish the 40,000 square foot historic site are \$8 million. This includes a lower level, first floor and second floor rooftop, as well as an attractive front entrance and back parking area and entrance way.

Who will be asked to contribute to the Capital Campaign to build The Center?

SAR members, private foundations, corporations, businesses, local, state and federal grants, community leadership and the public-at-large will all be invited to participate in Advance: Campaign for New Generations.

Perpetuate the Memory

(continued from Page 2)

In December, 1780, Kościuszko was attached to General Greene in the southern theatre. Over the course of this campaign, he was placed in charge of constructing bateaux, siting camps, scouting river crossings, fortifying positions, and developing intelligence contacts. Many of his contributions were instrumental in preventing the destruction of the Southern Army. This was especially true during the famous "Race to the Dan", where Cornwallis and his exhausted troops chased Greene through 200 miles of rough backcountry terrain in the dead of winter. Thanks largely to a combination of Greene's tactics, and Kościuszko's bateaux and accurate scouting of the rivers ahead of the main body, the Continentals safely crossed each one in its path, including the Dan River. Cornwallis, having no boats of his own, and finding no way to cross the swollen Dan, finally gave up the chase and withdrew back into North Carolina, while the Continentals regrouped south of Halifax, VA, where Kościuszko had earlier established a fortified depot at Greene's request.



After seven years of faithful and uninterrupted service to the American cause, on October 13, 1783, Kościuszko was promoted by Congress to the rank of Brigadier General. He also received American citizenship, a grant of land near present day Columbus, OH, and was admitted to both the prestigious Society of the Cincinnati and the American Philosophical Society.

Eagle Scout Scholarship Winners Announced

The Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter has selected **ALAN P. BOOTH**, a member of Troop 411 in Newport News, VA. as the local winner of the 2009 Arthur M. and Brenda King Eagle Scout Scholarship contest. Alan has been in Scouting for 4.5 years and earned his Eagle in June, 2009. Other honors include serving as President of the National Junior Honor Society at Trinity Lutheran School, earning highest Honors-Head of School for all academic years, and lettering in cross country for two years. His essay discussed Robert Trevis, Jr. a Patriot Ancestor, who served throughout the Revolutionary War and declined compensation for his efforts. Alan Booth's award will be presented at our March 16th Chapter Meeting.

Other applicants were selected as alternates: Four of these alternates were subsequently selected to represent other chapters in the state level competition.

Frank A. Miller

Troop 84, Hampton, VA.
Fincastle Resolution Chapter

Austin J. Pierce

Troop 28, Poquoson, VA
Dan River Chapter

Martin W. Terwilliger

Troop 3, Smithfield, VA
Fort Harrison Chapter

Caleb J. Kitchen

Troop 36, Carrollton, VA
Thomas Jefferson Chapter

We extend hearty congratulations to these exceptional young men and our sincere appreciation to Bruce Meyer who made this competition a notable success.

March 16th Guest Speaker

DENNIS D. MCSWEENEY
COLONEL (Retired), US ARMY



Denny McSweeney served as a Commissioned Officer in various command and staff military assignments during his 29 years in the United States Army. As a combat arms officer, he commanded units in Europe and South East Asia (South Vietnam) and served in numerous staff positions both overseas and in the United States. He spent his last 14 years of military service assigned to high level staff assignments in the Pentagon, Washington, DC, working for the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Defense. His military awards include The Defense Superior Service and Meritorious Service Medals, the Bronze Star Medal for heroism and the Purple Heart.

After retiring from the military in 1993, Denny continued his public service as a senior level Civil Service employee in the Department of Defense's Inspector General's Office, the Pentagon. He was appointed as a supervising investigator in the Pentagon's effort to investigate allegations of waste, fraud and abuse by senior Government Officials.

Upon retiring from the Pentagon Inspector General assignment, Denny and his wife moved to the Williamsburg area in 1998 where he has served as An Executive Partner in the School of Business, College of William and Mary and as a Museum Program Assistant, On-site Education, Jamestown Yorktown Foundation.

Denny holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting, Gannon University, Erie, Pennsylvania, and a Masters Degree in Business Education, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Announcements

All Things in the
Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter



VA Hospital, Hampton, Building 148

April 5th, 2010, 7:00pm

Still Need Help

Meet at the Domiciliary at 6:30pm to set up for the games and refreshments. Bingo starts at 7:00pm and plays for one hour or until our money (\$50) is gone, whichever comes first. We clean up and leave by 8:15pm. To do a respectable job takes a minimum crew of four, but the more volunteers, the higher our Stark score. If you can arrive earlier and/or stay later to visit with the long-term patients in Bldg. 146, that's even better!

If those receiving a copy of this newsletter by USPS have an email account, please reply via email to:
Jim Swords (james.swords@cox.net)
or by phone at (757-870-7850)

There are a number of vacant Committee Chairmanships. If interested, please let a Chapter Officer know and they can provide details.

"Battle of the Capes"

John Quarstein
at the

Richmond American Revolution
Roundtable

Wednesday, March 17th, 5:30 pm

Heilman Dining Center

University of Richmond, Richmond, VA

<http://arrrt-richmond.org/>

804-755-1809 or 804-323-1759