



Newsletter of the *Fernando de Leyba Chapter*

Sons of the American Revolution

VOL. XIII Issue 12

September 2011

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

Remembering an American Patriot

Nathan Hale was a lieutenant in the Continental Army. In his early twenties, Hale had worked as a schoolteacher before the Revolution. In late September 1776 he volunteered to cross the British lines and travel to Long Island in order to gather intelligence. Unfortunately, his mission was soon discovered and the British captured him. Taken to General Howe's headquarters (commander of the British forces) in New York, the young spy was interrogated and executed on September 22. Word of the execution was brought to General Washington's headquarters shortly after by a British officer carrying a flag of truce. Captain William Hull of the Continental Army was present and recalled the event:

"In a few days an officer came to our camp, under a flag of truce, and informed Hamilton, then a captain of artillery, but afterwards the aid of General Washington, that Captain Hale had been

arrested within the British lines condemned as a spy, and executed that morning.

I learned the melancholy particulars from this officer, who was present at his execution and seemed touched by the circumstances attending it.

He said that Captain Hale had passed through their army, both of Long Island and York Island. That he had procured sketches of the fortifications, and made memoranda of their number and different positions. When apprehended, he was taken before Sir William Howe, and these papers, found concealed about his person, betrayed his intentions. He at once declared his name, rank in the American army, and his object in coming within the British lines.



The execution of Nathan Hale

Sir William Howe, without the form of a trial, gave orders for his execution the following morning. He was placed in the custody of the Provost Marshal, who was a refugee and hardened to human suffering and every softening sentiment of the heart. Captain Hale, alone, without sympathy or support, save that from above, on the near approach of death asked

for a clergyman to attend him. It was refused. He then requested a Bible; and his inhuman jailer too refused that.

'On the morning of his execution,' continued the officer, 'my station was near the fatal spot, and I requested the Provost Marshal to permit the prisoner to sit in my marquee, while he was making the necessary preparations. Captain Hale entered: he was calm, and bore himself with gentle dignity, in the consciousness of rectitude and high intentions. He asked for writing materials, which I furnished him: he wrote two letters, one to his mother and one to a brother officer.' He was shortly after summoned to the gallows. But for a few persons that were around him, his characteristic dying words were remembered.

"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Next meeting will be on Oct. 10, 2011 and we will meet at Culpeppers 6:30 PM.

Treasurer's report as of May 31, 2011:

Beginning Balance = \$1,543.95 – Ending Balance = \$1,543.95

Genealogist report as of September 09, 2011:

- Guy Young & Son's application
- Richard Horn's application

At the September 12, 2011 meeting:

Motions Passed:

1. To present Martha Washington Medal to Mrs. White
2. Certificate of Appreciation to Color Guard
3. Medal of Appreciation for DAR members help in the graveside Commemoration of Chuck Simms compatriot ancestor.
4. To seek out identify and Honor WWII Veterans where ever possible

Steve Baldwin: Serving as Chairman of the Library and Archive Committee.

Ancestry.com has digital records of all SAR applications up to 1970.

Reminder to all - Submit Annual Dues (\$59.00) to Jim Borgman at this coming meeting **Oct. 10, 2011**

On that blessed day when we are called to Our Lord and Eternal Joy stretches out before us. We leave the toil, strife and grief of this world to those whom we Love, and those who wait for us to be together.

God Bless You and God Bless America!!!

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday...

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