



Newsletter of the *Fernando de Leyba Chapter*

Sons of the American Revolution

VOL. XIII Issue 14

November 2011

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

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December 9, 1775:

Patriots Gain Control of Virginia.

On This Day...

The Virginia and North Carolina militias defeat 800 slaves and 200 redcoats serving John Murray, earl of Dunmore and governor of Virginia, at Great Bridge outside Norfolk, ending British royal control of Virginia. The Tory survivors retreated first to Norfolk then to Dunmore's ship, the *Otter*, where the majority died of smallpox.

Governor Dunmore had removed to the Tory stronghold of Norfolk after Patriots drove him from the

capitol, Williamsburg, in June 1775. On November 7, 1775, he offered emancipation to any slave of a Patriot master willing to join his forces. By November 30, Dunmore's ranks had swelled and he was convinced of his ability to regain control of the colony. George Washington feared Dunmore was correct and wrote to the Continental Congress from New England, warning them that they needed to see to it that Dunmore was instantly crushed. When Dunmore's forces won a resounding victory at Kemp's Landing, it looked like Dunmore's troops, dubbed the Ethiopian Regiment, would ensure continued British rule in Virginia, despite a backlash against him among slaveholders on both sides of the conflict who were angry over the precedent Dunmore's move might be setting.

Dunmore was determined to defend Great Bridge, building a stockade, dismantling the main bridge and defending the smaller bridges with cannon. Having taken these precautions, Dunmore then squandered his efforts by underestimating the strength of the Patriot militias. His decision to offer emancipation had incited at least 150 men from across the Carolinas to march north to help drive Dunmore from the state. By contrast, the overconfident Dunmore sent only a few sailors and sixty townsmen from Norfolk to meet them. They got within 15 feet of the Patriots before being shot dead. Within thirty minutes, 150 Loyalists fell. There was only one Patriot fatality. Three hundred of the 800 Black Loyalists survived their enlistment in the Ethiopian Regiment only to confront smallpox on the *Otter*.

Next meeting will be on Dec. 12, 2011 and we will meet at Culpeppers 6:30 PM.

Treasurer’s report as of October 31, 2011:

Beginning Balance = \$2,383.90 – Ending Balance = \$2,655.90

Genealogist report as of November 11, 2011:

- Pat Jefferson (supplement)
- John Wilson (supplement)
- Charles Lilly (5 supplements)

At the November 11, 2011 meeting:

1. Jerry Cook: To head up “Teacher of the Year” survey’s and application process.
2. Keith Morris: Volunteered to coordinate Wreath donations to Jefferson Barracks.
3. Charles Lilly: Issued JROTC awards that need to be distributed to there High School programs.
4. Motion passed: To reimburse Diane Borgman for Membership Registry.
5. Program:
“American Gold Star Mothers” Was presented by two past National Presidents: Mrs. Francis Turley and Mrs. Mary Kiepe.

26 Members and Guest in Attendance:

Chuck Simms, Charles Lilly, Paul Smith, Bill Grote, Sylvia Grote, Dale Wiseman, Carol Wiseman, Bob Raines, Verna Raines, David Christian, Mary Jane Kiepe, Francis Jean Turley, Jerry Cook, Jim Borgman, Diane Borgman, Keith Morris, Barbra Morris, Jan Baldwin, Caleb Baldwin, Charles Jefferson, Mary White, John Wilson, Connie Wilson, Steven White, Mike Zimmer, Jeff Sullivan.

Reminder to all - Submit Annual Dues (\$59.00) to Jim Borgman at this coming meeting **Dec. 12, 2011**

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday...

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