



Newsletter of the *Fernando de Leyba Chapter*

Sons of the American Revolution

VOL. XIII Issue 18

March 2012

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

.....

Apr 6, 1776:

Congress opens all U.S. ports to international trade

On this day in 1776, the Continental Congress takes the first step toward American independence by announcing their decision to open all American ports to international trade with any part of the world that is not under British rule.

It was the first act of independence by the Continental Congress that had so openly and publicly rejected the American Prohibitory Act passed by the British parliament in December 1775. The act was designed to punish the American colonies for the rebellion against the king and British rule, which had

begun with the Battle of Lexington and Concord in April 1775, by banning all British trade with America. It was, in essence, a declaration of economic warfare by Great Britain. For its part, the Continental Congress' decision to open all ports to any country but those ruled by Britain constituted America's declaration of economic independence.

The economic relationship between Britain and the 13 Colonies had been mercantilist-the colonies provided raw materials such as rice and tobacco to the mother country, Great Britain, and in return received manufactured goods such as textiles and ceramics or foreign goods such as tea. Under the mercantile system, all American imports and exports had to pass through Great Britain on their way to and from the colonies. Undoing this economic relationship was a necessary aspect of freeing the colonies from the control of the British Empire. Recognizing this, Britain had passed the Tea Act in 1773 in a misguided attempt to trick colonists into accepting parliamentary taxation by making legal tea imported from India through Britain cheaper than non-taxed tea smuggled into the colonies from the Netherlands. It failed; the colonists were outraged and protested vigorously, most famously in form of the Boston Tea Party. The Prohibitory Act finally cut the colonists loose from the mercantilist system, but not without repercussions: colonists lost not only the burdens of British taxes, but the benefits of British products, making it necessary for the new nation to open its ports to trade from elsewhere.

Apr 7, 1776:

U.S. Navy captures first British warship

On this day in 1776, Navy Captain John Barry, commander of the American warship *Lexington*, makes the first American naval capture of a British vessel when he takes command of the British warship HMS *Edward* off the coast of Virginia. The capture of the *Edward* and its cargo turned Captain Barry into a national hero and boosted the morale of the Continental forces.

Barry was born in the seaboard county of Wexford, Ireland, in 1745 and offered his services to the Continental Congress upon the outbreak of the American Revolution. Congress purchased Barry's ship, the *Black Prince*, which it renamed *Alfred* and placed under the command of Commodore Esek Hopkins. It was the first ship to fly the American flag, raised by John Paul Jones.

Barry served with distinction throughout the American Revolution. At sea, he had continued success with the *Lexington*. On land, he raised a volunteer force to assist General Washington in the surprisingly successful Trenton, New Jersey, campaign of 1776-77. On May 29, 1781, Barry was wounded while successfully capturing the HMS *Atlanta* and the HMS *Trepassy* while in command of a new ship, *Alliance*. He recovered and successfully concluded the final naval battle of the Revolutionary War with a victory over the HMS *Sybylle* in March 1783.

Barry's outstanding career has been memorialized on both sides of the Atlantic. A bridge bearing his name crosses the Delaware River, and Brooklyn, New York, is home to a park named for him. In addition, four U.S. Navy ships and a building at Villanova University carry his name, and statues in his honor stand in Washington D.C., Philadelphia and his birthplace, Wexford, Ireland. On September 13, 1981, President Ronald Reagan declared Commodore John Barry Day to honor a man he called one of the earliest and greatest American patriots, a man of great insight who perceived very early the need for American power on the Sea.

Next meeting will be on April 9, 2012 and we will meet at Culpeppers 6:30 PM.

Treasurer's report as of November 30, 2011:

Beginning Balance = \$2,700.88 – Ending Balance = \$2,662.38
.....

Genealogist report as of November 11, 2011:

At National:

- Pat Jefferson (2 supplements)
- John Wilson (1 supplement)
- Charles Lilly (multiple)
- Mike Dollard & Son's

At Chapter:

- Guy Young (New member approved)
- Martin White
- Steve White

At the March 12, 2011 meeting:

Meeting Opens 7:00 pm

1. Steve Baldwin: Fort San Carlos is now recognized by NSSAR. Library in Louisville will be open every 3rd Saturday of the month.
2. Charles Lilly: Battleship Arizona – 1177 men died Dec 8, 1941. A need to Honor our Brave and Fallen by Correcting the Names of service men that died on the Arizona in Pearl Harbor. Volunteers are needed to do Research for correct Names and Rank at the records building on Page Ave in St Louis.
3. David Christian: Motion Passed to form committee to Research names and Rank of service men who died on the Arizona.
4. Steve Baldwin: Motion to donate \$500.00 to NSSAR for the 2013 National Congress Convention. Motion Amended to \$10.00 dollars per 42 members of Fernando De Leyba chapter – Motion Passed.

Old Business: 122 MOSSAR Congress is April 27-28 pre registration is in effect. NASSAR 122 Congress will be in Las Vegas N.V. July 6-11.
WWW.sar2012congress.com

Josiah Fog Award – Points handed in by March 15 Deadline.

Steve Baldwin is nominated for Surgeon@ MOSSAR 2013 and also nominated for South Central District Vice President General 2013.

Jean Ehlman – nominee for “Teacher of the Year” from St Charles H.S.

New Business: SAR “War Service” medal awarded to Mike Zimmer.
SAR “Good Citizenship” medal awarded to Steve Baldwin.

Meeting Closed at 8:15 pm

Program: John Rush “Secret tips for Genealogical research” Heritage Quest – Pension File, Name, Branch, State. Cindy’s List, Family History Center, Reenactor’s Groups (Rev War Regiments), Fold3, 1940 Census released on April 2, 2012.

Program for April - Martin White

19 Members and Guest in Attendance:

Ron Hauser, Stephen Baldwin, Denise Hahn, Chuck Simms, Charles Lilly, Rita Lilly, John Rush, Bill Grote, Sylvia Grote, Dale Wiseman, Carol Wiseman, David Christian, Steven White, Martin White, John Wilson, Connie Wilson, David Hoffman, Jonathan Hunt, Charles Jefferson, Paul Smith

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

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday...

Newsletter Editor – Paul Smith: plajmsmith@charter.net

Fernando de Leyba
Chapter
15 CHASE CT.
Lake St Mo 63367

