



CANNONEER



Newsletter of the *Fernando de Leyba Chapter*

Sons of the American Revolution

VOL. XI5 Issue 10

May 2014

MEETS 2ND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH (EXCEPT JULY
AND AUGUST) AT CULPEPPER RESTAURANT IN ST.
CHARLES, MO

ON THIS DAY REVOLUTIONARY WAR
JUNE 13, 1783

THE 1ST RHODE ISLAND REGIMENT IS DISBANDED.

THE 1ST RHODE ISLAND REGIMENT IS DISBANDED ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY, JUNE 13, 1783. THE 1ST RHODE ISLAND REGIMENT WAS THE REVOLUTION'S ONLY REGIMENT TO HAVE UNITS MADE UP ENTIRELY OF AFRICAN AMERICANS. THE REGIMENT WAS NOT ALL MADE UP OF BLACKS. THOUGH WAS AT ONE POINT AT LEAST $\frac{3}{4}$ BLACK. THE REGIMENT HAD WHITE OFFICERS AND OTHER WHITE, INDIAN AND MULATTO MEMBERS, BUT IT WAS UNIQUE IN THAT IT HAD ENTIRE UNITS MADE UP OF FORMER SLAVES, WHILE OTHER REGIMENTS WITH BLACKS WERE MORE INTEGRATED.

THE USE OF SLAVES OR FORMER SLAVES IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION WAS CONTROVERSIAL. MANY WHITES DID NOT LIKE THE IDEA OF ARMING SLAVES BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT IT MIGHT ENCOURAGE A REBELLION. UNDER DIRECTION OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, **GEORGE WASHINGTON** ISSUED AN ORDER EARLY ON FORBIDDING THE SERVICE OF BLACKS IN THE CONTINENTAL ARMY.



THIS PICTURE SHOWS THE UNIFORM OF THE
1ST RHODE ISLAND REGIMENT

NEARLY SIMULTANEOUSLY, GOVERNOR MURRAY OF VIRGINIA ISSUED AN ORDER GRANTING FREEDOM TO ANY SLAVES THAT WOULD LEAVE THEIR MASTERS AND JOIN THE ROYAL ARMY. AS THE WAR PROGRESSED AND THE STATES FOUND IT HARD TO FILL THEIR QUOTAS OF SOLDIERS, VOICES BEGAN TO RISE ADVOCATING THE USE OF SLAVES AND FREE BLACKS. BY EARLY 1776, WASHINGTON HAD CHANGED THE ORDER TO ALLOW FREE BLACKS WITH FORMER MILITARY EXPERIENCE. THE IN 1778 RHODE ISLAND'S CAPITAL NEWPORT WAS OCCUPIED BY THE BRITISH. THE REBEL LEGISLATURE COULD NOT FILL ITS QUOTA OF SOLDIERS ASKED FOR BY CONGRESS. RHODE ISLAND BRIGADIER GENERAL **JAMES MITCHELL VARNUM** RECOMMENDED TO GENERAL WASHINGTON THAT SLAVES BE TAKEN INTO THE RANKS. WASHINGTON SENT THE REQUEST TO GOVERNOR **NICHOLAS COOKE**. IN FEBRUARY, THE RHODE ISLAND ASSEMBLY VOTED TO ALLOW ALL SLAVES TO JOIN THE 1ST RHODE ISLAND REGIMENT. THEY WERE TO BE GRANTED THEIR FREEDOM FOR THEIR SERVICE AND THEIR OWNERS WOULD BE COMPENSATED FOR BY THE GOVERNMENT.

AROUND 200 BLACKS EVENTUALLY JOINED THE REGIMENT, WHICH SAW ITS FIRST CELEBRATED ACTION AT THE **BATTLE OF RHODE ISLAND** IN AUGUST. THE GREEN AFRICAN AMERICAN REGIMENT FOUGHT VALIANTLY IN AN EFFORT THAT ALLOWED THE BESIEGED AMERICAN TROOPS TO RETREAT WITH FEW CASUALTIES, WHILE INFLICTING SERIOUS CASUALTIES ON THEIR ATTACKERS.

COLONEL CHRISTOPHER GREENE, A COUSIN OF GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE, AS IT WAS CALLED COMMANDED THE BLACK REGIMENT. LOYALISTS NEAR GROTON, NEW YORK KILLED COLONEL GREENE AND MANY OF HIS BLACK SOLDIERS IN 1781. THE REGIMENT DID NOT SEE A LOT OF ACTION SINCE THE MAIN THEATER OF THE WAR SHIFTED TO THE SOUTH, BUT THEY DID PLAY A ROLE IN THE **BATTLE OF YORKTOWN**. THE REGIMENT WAS DISBANDED AT SARATOGA ON JUNE 13, 1783, HAVING SERVED FOR FIVE YEARS OF THE WAR.FOLLOWING YEAR HE ALLOWED ALL FREE BLACKS TO JOIN IN.



**1st Rhode Island Regiment
at the Battle of Bloody Run Brook**

By David Wagner

Next meeting will be on June 09, 2014 and we will meet at Culpeppers 6:30 PM.

Treasurer's report as of April 30, 2014:

Beginning Balance = \$2,854.00 – Ending Balance = \$3,092.28

.....

Genealogist report as of March 2014:

New Members: Richard Denning, David Hoffman, Ron Hauser, Adam Schnelting, Jim Bunch, Marvin Koechig, Adam Bell, J.D. Kirtlink

“FDL “52” members strong”

Genealogist report:

New member applications:

Tom Busken - received by national, awaiting approval
Michael Shea - approved at chapter, sent to state
Benjamin Shea - approved at chapter, sent to state
Chase Zancanata - possible chapter approval by next meeting

Supplemental:

Michael Snyder-received by national, awaiting approval
Pat Jefferson-4 supplemental approved at chapter, sent to state
Pat Jefferson- 4 additional supplementals submitted to chapter at meeting
GO PAT GO!!!

At the May 12, 2014 meeting:

Meeting Opens 6:58 pm

Introductions: Jill Christian, 1st Sergeant Alan R. Hakes, Cadet Jose R. Camillo, and Cadet Roel Rodriguez.

Veterans: David Christian

Flag Day May 17 - Proper Flag retirement (See Dale Wiseman). Beaumont High School JROTC to end. St Francis Borgia starting Navy JROTC.

Color Guard: Bill Grote

April 19 Christopher Casey Chapter.

April 23 Honor Guard William Jackson.

May 9 Dedication Plaque @ Jefferson City.

May 25 Fort San Carlos / Lee Auditorium.

May 31 Cold Water Creek Cemetery.

Meeting Actions:

1. Steve Baldwin: Reviewed the New Chapter Meeting held in Troy Feb 15, 2014.
2. Dennis Hahn: FDL Chapter Celebrates 17th Anniversary.
3. Charles Lilly: USS Arizona project – Still Pending. Establishing Chapter budget committee.
Charles Lilly, Dennis Hahn, Jim Borgman, Marvin Koechig, Bob Raines

Old Business:

National Congress will be the weekend of July 18 – July 24.

New Business:

Received 5 Awards at State Convention:

1. Year Book Award for the Second Year Running. Congratulations Jeff Sullivan and FDL.
2. Large Chapter Award for Josiah Fogg Competition.
3. Teacher of the Year Award MOSSAR.
4. Knight Essay Award MOSSAR.
5. 2013 Americanism Award MOSSAR.
6. Milan Paddock, Charles Lilly, Dennis Hahn, Received Rojer Mills Medal.
7. Milan Paddock, Charles Lilly, Dennis Hahn, Elected to State Offices.

Meeting Closed at 9:08 PM

April 14, Program: 1st Sergeant Alan R. Hakes – Missouri Military Academy

31 Members and Guest in Attendance:

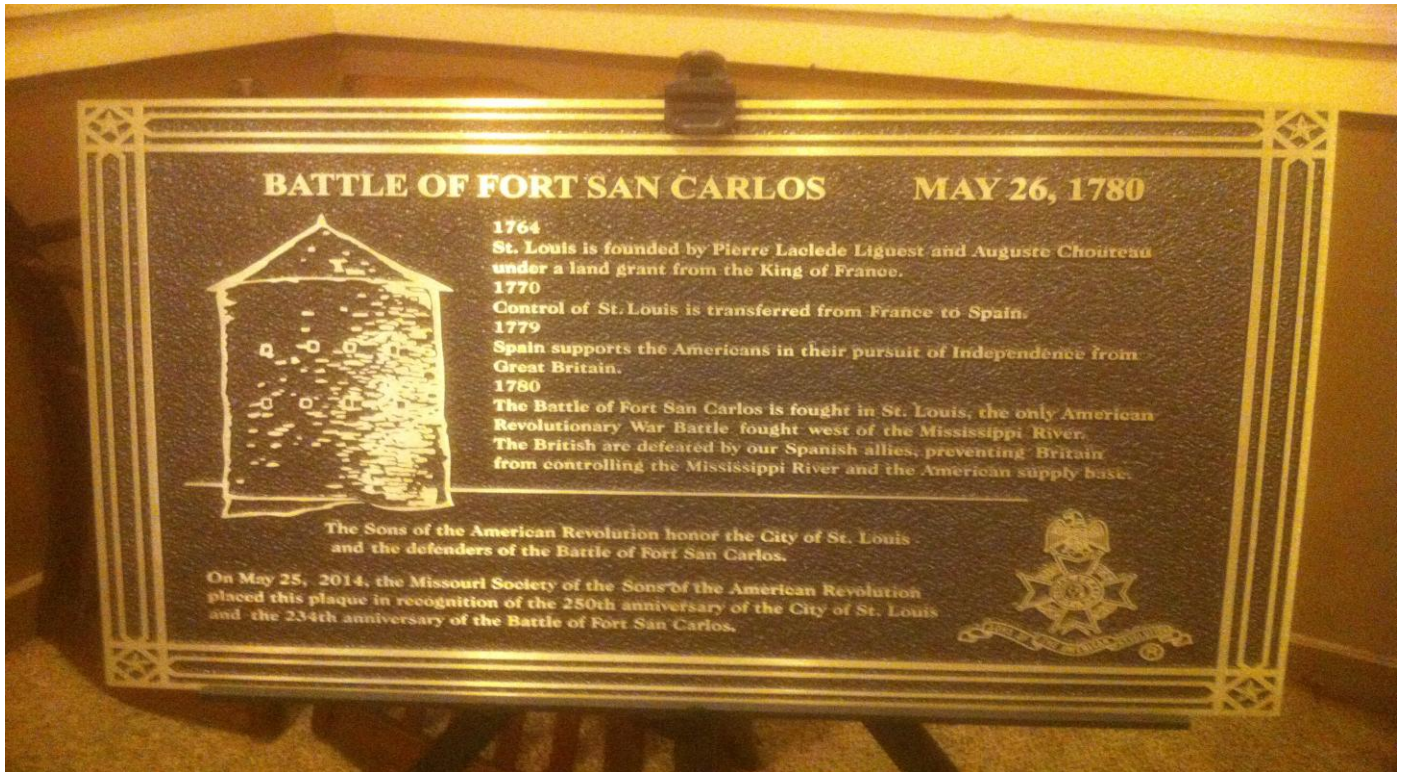
Jeff Sullivan, Dennis Hahn, Charles Lilly, Doug Neff, Bob Raines, Vera Raines, Marty White, Mimi White, Steve Stegen, Jim Borgman, Diane Borgman, James Bunch, Evelyn Bunch, Dusty C Rhoads, David Christian, Jill Christian, Bill Grote, Ron Hauser, David Hoffman, Charles “Pat” Jefferson, Dale Wiseman, Carol Wiseman, John Rush, Jan A Beardsley, John Wilson, Marvin Koechig, Joan Koechig, Richard Denning, 1st Sergeant Alan R. Hakes, Cadet Jose R. Camillo, Cadet Roel Rodriguez, Paul Smith

Announcements:

Compatriot Bill Jackson passed away on April 19, 2014. Well Done Bill may God Bless

May 09 2014, Program: David Christian





Revolutionary War Quotes

*"The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army. Our cruel and unrelenting enemy leaves us only the choice of **brave resistance**, or the most **abject submission**."*

"We have, therefore resolved, to conquer or die."

George Washington

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

"CARPE-DIEM"

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday...

Newsletter Editor – Paul Smith: plajmsmith@charter.net

Fernando de Leyba

Chapter

15 CHASE CT.

LAKE ST LOUIS MO

63367