



QUILL & BUGLE

Saramana Chapter, FLSSAR

Stand Ready to Defend Your Constitution and Your Country

President's Message



SAR to Germany Trip

47 Compatriots visited with the current Duke and paid tribute to his ancestors, who led the Zweibrücken (aka, Deux Ponts) Regiments under General Rochambeau in 1777-1781. right: Burial place of Count Christian de Forbach.



An open letter to all Saramana Compatriots

*This editorial is reprinted from a newsletter sent to the members of the Captain Matthew Mead Branch #11, CTSSAR in 1999. Not much has changed, I guess. I was the Editor of that newsletter, then, and am the editor of this newsletter, now. We are still looking for **VOLUNTEERS** to help with the SAR work. Will you be one? Contact me or Harold Crapo. By the way, the Town of Greenwich, CT, has held a Flag Raising with songs and speeches at Town Hall every 4th of July since this editorial was published. I wasn't wrong.*

Yesterday, I told a man that I didn't want our Branch to lead the fight to bring Fort Stamford into the public eye. Maybe I was wrong.

This gentleman is working hard to tell Americans about the efforts of the French during our Revolutionary period. Not just that they supported our endeavor, but to the extent that it, along with their other endeavors, brought them to the brink of total bankruptcy which certainly was a major cause of the French Revolution. He serves as Advisor to the Governor on Francophile activities and is a leader in the movement for recognition of the Washington/Rochambeau Revolutionary Route.

Why should I back away from recognizing our sworn responsibility to educate and inform the public about one of the last remaining sites of the Revolution? I am concerned for my lifestyle and myself. I am self-interested. I feel that with few exceptions, no one in our Branch is willing to put himself on the line to do what we should do to give to our children and unknowing friends in our community the information that might give them insight into the spirit of our founding fathers. No, I don't mean George Washington or Thomas Jefferson. I mean Thomas Smith and Thomas Hobby and the many others who gave up their

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lives and their farms to seek Liberty and Justice from the oppressive form of government under which they found themselves living.

Was I wrong? Are we willing to do something together to preserve this treasure? Do we want to stand by and sniff as another symbol of our national heritage is lost or forgotten? I learned, and am ashamed to tell you, that our Town of Greenwich leaders do not have a flag raising ceremony on the 4th of July. What? Well, we do have fireworks, don't we? Not that fireworks should replace a reprise of the Declaration of Independence or a talk on the history of our Town during the Revolution. Our late Charter Member, Town Historian, and friend, Bill Finch, would be proud of us if we would get together for such an event. We, as a Branch, have not participated in a single holiday parade or even attended, as a group, those sponsored by the DAR or other patriotic organizations. Yes, I am wrong. And, so are you.

Where is our national spirit? Are we concerned that we might stick out in this world of self-interest and nay saying? Are we just too old for this sort of thing? Well, Warren Dennison at age 97 came to Fort Stamford on July 6th and gave the audience a prayer for our country and those patriots who have lost their lives defending our right to forget them all. He was one of the first to arrive and was the last to leave. Where were you?

Perhaps I am not wrong, just disheartened by the lack of interest and support the Society is being given. I am concerned that if we take on this responsibility or any responsibility dealing with historical education, I will be expected to do it all myself. Yes, I am selfish. I want some help. Our society and our community need your help. You are the only ones who can do it. You are the offspring and descendants of those who fought for the right to call themselves Americans. It is not sufficient to sit back in our homes and complain about the immigrants and their lack of American values. How in the world do we expect them to learn if we are too selfish to help teach them?

Am I being offensive? I hope so. Perhaps, some of you – if you have read this far – will get mad enough at me to offer to do something to help your country. Or, perhaps, like some of our more important ancestors, we would like to have someone else serve in our place. Boy, am I ever glad that George Washington or Nathanael Greene didn't pay someone to serve in his stead. In order to gain admittance to this small group of descendants, someone had to prove that your ancestor served in some capacity during the fight for freedom. That, in itself, was sufficient to be jailed, or worse, if we lost the insurrection. Have you got the stomach to stand up and tell someone about those times and the pride that comes with the knowledge that there were those few who really did something for their posterity? What are you doing to carry on that tradition?

Yes, I was wrong. I think we all are wrong. No one in the school system is to blame. They are doing what they think is important in today's society to prepare our children and grandchildren for the future. A future, which does not rely on the teachings of the past, but only the knowledge of the future. Like religion, it is our duty to teach children and immigrants about our country. We must not rely on government or others. We must take the bull by the horns and volunteer to do something good and lasting in this fight, or surrender to those who would disclaim George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and others as not worthy of the title, Fathers of our country, because they held slaves, or thought women inferior. Who gave us the opportunity to seek a better life and a more just system of rights and privileges? Those men and their compatriots.

I have these thoughts: We should try to protect Fort Stamford by making it a visible sign of the Revolution with appropriate signage and keep it cleaned up. The City of Stamford will do whatever the citizens demand. This is not a beach or picnic area. I would like us to take the lead in a 4th of July celebration, with readings and speeches, and a flag raising, at Town Hall. I would hope that we would, as a group, want to participate in those scheduled events, like the Washington Birthday event held at Putnam Cottage by the DAR.

If I have made you want to do something, please let me know by your actions. I want our membership to say that they want to organize something and follow through with that effort. I await your responses.



The American Revolution Month-by-Month: July – Sept 1775

by Compatriot Andrew "Andy" Stough

*Editor's Note: This article was reprinted by Permission of the Gold Country Chapter No. 7 of the CASSAR.
It has been lightly edited by the Sons of Liberty Chapter of the CASSAR.*

Let us regress and fill in some important details that were not included in previous articles and continue with the current month's installment:

JULY – The loosely assembled troops around Boston, now titled the “New England Army,” were responsible only to their own state for leadership and supply. Temporary leadership was provided by the acceptance of General Artemas Ward, by the onsite Generals, as their leader. What was needed was a central authority to direct, lead, and supply the needs of what now was an army surrounding Boston.

Congress now found itself in the situation of taking responsibility for the army around Boston, which it did formally on June 14, 1775, creating the “Continental Army” based on the same principles as the British Army. From this army evolved the present day United States Army and its birth date of June 14, 1775.

The creation of an army required a leader directed by, and responsible to, Congress but not to the individual colonies or states, as they now saw themselves. On June 15, 1775 the Congress selected a Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. The appointment process was stormy at first, as each state wanted one of its own generals appointed. Compromising, they chose Colonel George Washington of the Virginia Militia and a member of the Continental Congress, to be the first Commander-in-Chief of the newly created army. Now Congress had an army, but only on paper. The troops around Boston were enlisted by their home state, with their enlistment expiration date usually December 31st.

Washington now had to build an army from scratch, but retaining as many as possible from the New England Army. Congress proposed a new end of enlistment date of December 31st, 1776. Neither Congress nor London anticipated a long war, therefore the thinking, by both sides, was for a short war ending no later than December of 1776.

Congress previously had made overtures to Canada to either become the 14th state or a nation divorced from Britain, but had never received a reply. Having settled in their mind the problems of a Continental army, Congress turned its attention to eliminating Canada as a British stronghold to the north – one which could be used as a base to launch an attack down the lakes and to the Hudson River Valley dividing the colonies into two separate divisions. To this end, they had in June of 1775 instructed Major General Phillip Schuyler of New York to raise an army and take possession of Canada using the approach from the Hudson River Valley to Montreal. The force was to be raised and placed under the command of Brigadier General Richard Montgomery. Along with this Northern army Washington was to send a force under Colonel Benedict Arnold to proceed across Maine, joining Montgomery at Quebec.

Reference: U.S.Army Historical Series *American Military History, Volume I*

AUGUST – The idea of conquering Canada was not new to the Congress in August of 1775. Detailed plans to conquer Canada had been advanced in the spring of that year as separate plans by Benedict Arnold and Ethan Allen. Congress had held off, in the vain hope that Canada would join the rebellion. Once again Congress had disregarded the advice of military leaders for its own plans.

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Canada had been locked in by agreement with the London Government at the time of the transfer of authority from France to England. The Quebec Act was merely a formalization of that agreement by which Canada was allowed to retain its French culture, the French language, and its Catholic faith, as well as a guarantee that the Ohio and Illinois territories would be reserved for the Canadians. Union with the colonies would give them but one vote among fourteen, as well as discrimination against its Catholic religion by all but Catholic Maryland. They also had tasted the military ability of the English colonies during the wars between England and France and feared military action against them, without the protection of Great Britain.

Having wasted the spring and summer when an army would enjoy the most favorable conditions for combat, Congress now compounded that error by giving command of what would become the Northern Army to General Philip Schuyler, a former militia supply officer. He was a good enough militia officer but was lacking the dash and fire of a general leading troops in such a large operation as the Canadian expedition. This was particularly true since an expedition equipping in August would have to not only fight the enemy but the devastating forces of winter.

Reference: Robert Leckie's *George Washington's War*

SEPTEMBER – September 1775 found the Continental Army under Washington still besieging the British in Boston. The forces, originally organized as the Department of New York under General Philip Schuyler, had been re-designated as the Northern Army stationed at Ticonderoga and Crown Point. It was a small army that was now on its way north toward Montreal. Meanwhile Arnold and his men detached by Washington fought their way through the wilds of Maine on their way to Quebec.

With a two-pronged expedition to free Canada underway and the siege of Boston in good order there was a false but popular belief that it would be a short war. Even Washington expected a short campaign. Short campaign or not, it still left the problem of maintaining morale and effectiveness of an army based on the present system of short enlistments. Washington believed that even if it turned out to be a short campaign, he could not be assured of a successful army based on militia rules. What he needed was an army committed for the duration of the war. However what is needed and necessary is not always what you get. Washington had no choice but to use the existing system of militia while he worked toward longer enlistments or enlistments for the duration of the war.

The Continental Army had been designated by Congress, but designation alone did not create an effective army. The army was lacking in many ways, especially its dependence on militia and their rather loose definition of military duties. During the month of September Congress visited the encampment around Boston, emerging with a plan of organization for the army, modeled on the tables of organization of the British Army.

Washington had early seen that many changes must be made and had already instituted reforms. New England troops in particular were a problem as they considered every man equal regardless of rank. Since every man was equal, they might or might not have sufficient regard for their officers and their orders to allow for an effective administration of military activities. To correct this defect Washington distanced Officers from the Non-Commissioned Officers and the Enlisted ranks. He made discipline more rigorous, and punishment for infractions more severe, achieving greater respect for officers and the importance of strictly obeying orders.

Despite all of the problems of holding an army together, Washington must maintain the siege of Boston. To fail to do so would mean that Britain would be free to exact their form of justice against

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each and every man who had ever served in the army around Boston and in the Congress, which authorized that army and siege. Every man involved would be held responsible, singularly or severally. There was no going back. To withdraw or be defeated at this point would result in heavy retribution by the Crown. There would be, if the siege was lifted, hangings and in some cases the burning of towns. I believe that it was Ben Franklin who coined the adage, "We must hang together or surely we will hang separately." During the duration of the war such punishment by British commanders came true for lesser offenses than authorizing the siege of Boston or being a participant in the siege.

We leave Washington with a much, improved army but one that would disappear when enlistments expired on December 31st. One of the immediate problems was to raise a new army in the intervening months. Immediately Washington must find means to not only keep the men warm in the ramshackle huts that surrounded Boston but to find wood for fires. Even now in September the nights seemed to grow colder each passing day. Soon there would be the cold fall rains followed by snow and the harsh winds of winter. He must find a better way to house the troops.

References: Robert Leckie's *George Washington's War*; U.S. Army Historical Series *American Military History, Vol. I*; Don Higginbotham's *The War of American Independence*; John Alden's *A History Of The American Revolution*.

March 20, 2012
 Mr. Phillip H. Tarpley, Senior Vice President
 Sons of the American Revolution
 Saramana Chapter Chairman Wounded Warrior Project

Dear Mr. Tarpley,

I am writing to tell you how much I enjoyed learning about the Sons of the American Revolution organization at the Annual George Washington Birthday luncheon on Saturday, Feb. 25. The event was one of the most humbling experiences of my life, and knowing the many hours that you and others devoted to the wounded warrior project, I say, "Thank you very much!"



It was so touching to see, up close and personal, the men and women who put their lives on the line to protect and defend this Country's freedom. They are truly American heroes, and they deserve the recognition as well as our respect and appreciation. At some point that Saturday, my daughter, Tamara, became more than just "my little girl."

As I looked at the faces of those who served from World War II through today, I felt tremendous gratitude. I also felt that each of them knows something I cannot even begin to image, but can only be thankful for. Please convey my sincere appreciation to the members of the Saramana Chapter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for all you did to make Saturday, February 25, 2012 a day I will never forget. Everything about it was wonderful. God's peace be with you always.

Pamela Becker
 Proud Mother of Specialist Tamara Becker, US Army



Editor's note – As I have been out of the country for the past three months, quite a few items have been placed in my “in box” for future action. I am impressed with the quantity and quality of these letters, suggestions, and deadlines for action. Rather than give you a point by point recitation of them, let me just list a brief heading for each and ask you to let me know if you wish more information on some or all of them. Don't be afraid to ask. I won't put you on a committee to help with one or another of these activities *unless you also volunteer*.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Format of Q&B • History Lessons in Q&B? • Keyhole to History – in all schools • 1776, the Musical at the Asolo Theatre in November • Wreaths Across America – December • Blue Water Patriots – US Navy and US Marines SAR chapter • Article on family history – of interest to other Compatriots? • Invitation from Knights of Columbus to speak • Luncheon venues for 2013 • Format of Luncheons • Your photo in the next Q&B? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History Fairs in Sarasota and Manatee Counties • Scottish Festival 2013 • Boxes for our Military personnel overseas • Habitat for Humanity • Sarasota National Cemetery volunteers • 9/11 Twin Towers Beam dedication in Veterans Park, Venice • Values thru History program • Reports of Officers for our Annual Yearbook and Historian files • Community Projects not already listed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burials in Florida of Revolutionary Veterans • Eagle Scout Project suggestions • C.A.R. projects and meeting attendance • Membership Drive of SnowBirds, new FL homesteaders and members of other heritage organizations • Poster Contest for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade school children in our area • American History Teacher of the Year suggestions • Are we doing too much community work and not enough Historical and Commemorative things? • Volunteers? |
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So, now you have a touch of what crosses my email desk. I need some suggestions and – YES – some assistance in addressing these items. **Will you help?**

Dates for your calendar

SEPTEMBER

- **September 2nd** – VJ Day (lest we forget)
- **September 11th** – Dedication of the steel beam taken from the Twin Towers as a reminder of the event, Patriots Park, Venice
- **September 17th** – Constitution Day (don't miss the joint SAR/DAR luncheon on 9/15; see Page 7 for details)
- **September 19th** – BOG Meeting, 2 pm Church of the Redeemer (all members invited to attend)
- **September 28-29th** – Fall Leadership Conference, Louisville, KY (all members invited to attend)

OCTOBER

- **October 12th** – Luncheon Meeting, Holiday Inn Lido Beach (report of the Nominating Committee)
- **October 14-15th** – FLSSAR Fall BOM, Kissimmee, FL
- **October 17th** – BOG Meeting, 2 pm Church of the Redeemer (all members invited to attend)



**National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
Saramana Chapter, Florida Society**

**September Luncheon honoring the Constitution
Hosted by the Allapattah Chapter, FLDAR**

**Saturday, September 15, 2012
University Country Club, 7671 Park Blvd., Manatee FL**

Uniform of the day:

**SAR Members – Class A uniform if you have one. If not, please wear Class B uniform
(gray slacks, white shirt, red tie, and blue blazer)**

Arrive by 11:15–11:30 am. Cocktails available from cash bar.

Meal choices (all of which include dessert of Brownie à la Mode):

1. Herb-crusted Macadamia Chicken, with Mandarin Orange and Berry Chutney, Rice, and Asparagus
2. Grilled Salmon with Citrus Glaze, with Rice and Asparagus
3. Vegetarian Plate: Penne with Mushrooms, with Julienne Red and Green Peppers, Broccoli Florets, and Snow Peas

All reservations are \$25.00 per person. Mail reservations, check, and menu selection **by September 7, 2012**, to: Carolyn Brooks, Treasurer, 5624 Monte Rosso Road, Sarasota FL 34243-5239.

Questions? Please call Yvonne D. Zoll, Allapattah Regent, on (941) 953-4262 or Jean Batten, Vice-Regent, on (941) 371-0611.

In Memorium

Editor – Reported late, as this news was only recently sent to me.

Basil I. Lancaster died April 4, 2012, in Bradenton.

James L.P. McMaster died June 12, 2012, in Bradenton.

Robert B.N. Peck died June 23, 2012, at The Inn, Freedom Village, Bradenton. *Information received from his daughter, Joanne Healy, (916) 203-3817*

Gerald L. Munn died June 26, 2012. His obituary appeared in the Herald-Tribune.

RIP



YOUR OFFICERS FOR 2012 (email addresses included)

- President & Editor Q&B.....**Charles Riegler – criegle@verizon.net
- Vice President.....**Harold Crapo – hbcejc@tampabay.rr.com
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- Registrar/Genealogist.....**Richard Mahaffey – DM57GM@gmail.com
- Captain of the Color Guard...Phillip Tarpley –** mp18pht@verizon.net

IMPORTANT WEBSITE ADDRESSES

- Chapter –** <http://www.saramanasar.org>
- FLSSAR –** <http://www.flssar.org>
- NSSAR –** <http://www.sar.org>
- DAR –** <http://www.dar.org>
- C.A.R. –** <http://www.nscar.org>

EDITOR, QUILL & BUGLE

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Happy September Birthdays to:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Alvin A. Abbott | Billy C. Franklin Sr. |
| James G. Barrett | Jerry N. Hess |
| Bruce E. Baxter | Jeffrey A. Pearce |
| Stanley O. Bennett | Walter J. Test |
| Donald E. Campbell | |
| Burton R. Corbus, Jr. | <i>If your birthday is not listed, please contact the Editor.</i> |
| M. John Dyrud | |
| Foster G. Finley | |



As a free people, we must never forget that those innocent victims of the September 11th attack on America did not die in vain.