



The St. Petersburg Chapter
Florida Society
Sons of the American Revolution
CHARTERED 1928

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CHAPTER WEBSITES

www.stpetesar.org
www.jmcmullencar.org

2018 UPDATED CHAPTER MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars

October 20 – Recognition of Veterans - St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 11am

THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HISTORY

1776 – Battle of Harlem Heights; Nathan Hale captured and executed for treason by the British.

1777 – Battles of Brandywine and Paoli; British occupy Philadelphia.

1780 – Battle of Charlotte; treason of Benedict Arnold exposed.

1783 – Treaty of Paris ends the American Revolutionary War.





President's Message

Dear Compatriots:

The purpose of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution is to uphold the tenants of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. As set forth in the Preamble to the Constitution – “We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish Justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for thee common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

The two things that captured my attention during the Judge Brett Kavanaugh nomination hearing were:

1. Judge Kavanagh's frequent reference to the Constitution and the Federalist Papers. The document he was holding was The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. And it was a very dog-eared document!
2. The testimony by children. The first was a Ms. Eastmond, a survivor of the Parkland shooting. Paraphrasing, she said she was concerned that if Judge Kavanaugh were confirmed, he would strike down any assault weapons ban. She also doubted he would do enough to solve the problem of police brutality toward black and brown people. From this testimony she clearly had no idea that her concerns were legislative, not judicial. I wondered if she understood the relationship and responsibilities of the three branches: **Legislative**, **Judicial** and **Executive**.

I think part of the reason the Judiciary has become so contentious is because of the number of protected districts for a party by Gerrymandering district lines in such a way only one concept of “for the good of the people” is acceptable. This causes a polarization that limits much interest in compromise - to do the real work of the people. The messy place for hashing out big issues is the House of Representatives, but given the unchallengeable political position of many House seats, no compromise is possible, and therefore no peoples' work gets done. The fight over a Supreme Court seat is now a fight to get legislation from an obliging court.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Rogers



VP / Chaplain's Message



On Sept 11th, the St Petersburg chapter's color guard joined with the color guard from the Tampa Chapter at the St Petersburg Clearwater Airport. They were also joined by many members of the DAR from several chapters for the purpose of welcoming veterans from World War II, the Korean War and also the Vietnam War. We could easily see these veterans were enjoying themselves but we also very moved by the great welcome that they received from all the groups there, including ours. The mood in the airport was intense as it was also the anniversary of 9 - 11 - 2001. In the airport lobby a festive mood was created with the music from a look-alike group of ladies resembling the Andrews Sisters.

On a more somber note, as Chaplain I sent a letter to the family of compatriot R. Jack Nida. He passed away in late August and will surely be remembered by members of our chapter. Almighty God, may Jack Nida be at rest and in peace with his hand in yours.

We pay tribute to his memory; and we recall his sacrifice in the cause of American Liberty, and in service of his fellow man, as well as those sacrifices made by his heroic Ancestors who have valiantly served the ideals of this great nation. May God Bless Jack Nida and comfort his family, and all of us who were his SAR colleagues in Patriotism and friendship. May God Bless the Sons of the American Revolution, and may God Bless America.

Amen.

Respectfully submitted,
David Munson Chestnut

Registrar's Report



If you know of anyone who has an interest in becoming a member, please let them know that we are always willing to assist them with the application process.

If you are preparing a supplemental application, or working with a relative or friend on their application, please be sure to use the most current version of the form, or the interactive online application.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Scott



Meeting Minutes

Sons of the American Revolution St Petersburg Chapter September 15, 2018

Call to Order: The monthly meeting held at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club was called to order at 11:30 AM by President Robert Rogers and the invocation was given by John Stewart.

Guests: Thirteen DAR members from the Princess Hirrihigua chapter, including Regent Ann Ciero and honorary Regent Rebecca Stewart.

Officer Reports & Presentations

New member Jonathan Coleman was inducted into the chapter by Board Chairman Butler and President Rogers.

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Peter Ford and Will Scott for their contributions to the chapter.

The chapter was awarded an Americanism Award third place ribbon for last year by NSSAR.

Kevin Hendrick, Associate Superintendent of Pinellas County schools, addressed the meeting on issues of interest, including the teaching of American history at the high school level. He stated that American government is taught in high school now, and that he previously taught high school history before assuming his current position. Martin Luther King Day is now the only named holiday on the school calendar, so we were asked to volunteer for the calendar committee to encourage change. John Stewart requested Mr. Hendrick's help in encouraging more teachers to participate in the Knight essay contest, to which he agreed.

President Thomas Jefferson, portrayed by John Stewart, gave a very informative presentation on the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Spain had secretly conveyed the Louisiana territory to France, and a slave revolution in Haiti had occurred at the time Napoleon was coming to power, distracting him from his plans to invade Louisiana. America was worried about a potential war with Europe, and Napoleon needed funds for his impending war with England. After much negotiation and last-minute legislation, the purchase was ratified.

Election of Officers

The slate of officers for the 2018-19 year was sworn in by Board Chairman Charles Butler.

President – Robert Rogers
Vice President – David Chestnut
Treasurer & Secretary– Peter Ford
Registrar – Will Scott
Chaplain – David Chestnut
Historian – John Stewart

Benediction & Recessional

John Stewart gave the benediction, and President Rogers adjourned the meeting at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Ford, Secretary



Why My Family Immigrated to the Thirteenth Colony

A Theory

By

**Hardy W. Bryan
Great, Great, Great, Great, Great, Great, Great Grandson
of
John Adam Treutlen**

On January 26th, 1746, what was left of the Hans Michel Treutlen family departed Kurnbach (now part of Germany) and landed in Ebenezer, just west of Savannah, Georgia, then known as the Thirteenth Colony, under the rule of British King George III. Why would a successful barrel maker in the middle of a wine growing area pull up stakes and set out for the untamed, dangerous and unknown land to begin life anew?

Most of the European immigrants came to the colonies for one or more of the following reasons:

1. Underlying many situations is overpopulation. Large families could not continue to divide the land when a father died. Most districts enacted laws that awarded the land to the oldest surviving son. That left the remaining males to become priests, soldiers, merchants and tradesmen like barrel makers (coopers), wine makers, etc. Over population tended to occur when there were no diseases or wars. Female numbers were kept low due to the large number of them who died in when delivering a child.
2. A large number immigrated to escape religious persecution. Rulers determined what religion was the law of the land and sometimes forced those of a different belief to either convert or leave. Religion was a paramount factor in their daily lives. Many died defending their beliefs.
3. Many headed for the Americas in search of land and opportunities not available to them in Europe. That is why colony leaders offered large parcels of land, free of charge, to anyone who would come, settle, and cultivate the untamed wilderness.

So, why, then, did the Treutlen family leave all behind and set out to the unknown, faraway lands of the American colonies? Part of the reason is a combination of the above three major causes, but this family had even more reason to leave their civilization behind and venture to the wild lands of America.

Hans Michel Treutlen fathered 12 children. His first wife was Maria Regina, daughter of Christian Liffert, who also manufactured barrels. Hans Michel and Maria had seven children before she became ill and passed away.



That left Hans Michel with children to raise, something he was ill-equipped to do. He hired a servant, Clara Job, to keep the children and maintain the house. He fathered two sons with Clara. On April 18th, 1731, Hans Michel and Clara were married and she bore three more sons. The first, Hans Adam, died the day he was born. The second son was also named Hans Adam (**later, changed to John Adam**) and the third, Jonathan. But all was not well in Kurnbach, for several reasons. Clara was the daughter of a Hussar soldier from Hungary, a military force known for conquering lands, raping women caught in the war zones, killing, stealing food, wine and livestock, and destroying communities. The people of Kurnbach held that against her and she felt, correctly, that she was rejected and unwanted.

Worse in the Lutheran town was the fact that she was a Roman Catholic. Ever since Martin Luther nailed his demands on the church door, relations between Catholics and Protestants were volatile and often hostile. Towns became either Protestant or Catholic. These two religions could not stand each other, and to survive in peace, one had to live in the town of their chosen beliefs. Clara did renounce her Catholic beliefs and became a Lutheran, but the church and the townspeople never really accepted her as one of their own as they doubted her sincerity.

Today, the word “bastard” is used in anger and directed at an individual deemed to be obnoxious or despicable, but many who use the word are not really saying their targeted individual is born out of wedlock. But back then, a child so born always carried that stigma. Clara was known to have given birth to a daughter from a man she did not marry and she abandoned the child before meeting Hans Michel. Hans Phillip, born before the marriage, would always be known as the bastard son of Hans Michel and Clara, not just behind his back but to his face too. Love children were denied the right to own property, could not attend schools, were not worthy of marrying a decent woman, rejected by their church and could not get more than menial jobs. They lived a miserable life of rejection, even though they had no say about their parentage.

In the same year Hans Michel and Clara were married, in Salzburg, Prince-Archbishop Leopold von Firmiam, who ruled over several dioceses and, as a prince, ruled over vast tracts of land, issued The Edict of Expulsion. This order required all inhabitants not Roman Catholic to immediately depart the area within days or face severe consequences, up to and including death.

With little time to gather their possessions, they fanned out to various places in Europe but few communities could absorb a population increase at a time they were already dealing with over population. Many decided to make their way to the Americas. They formed groups, now known as Palatines, to make the arduous journey. As these groups made their way across what is now Germany, sometimes Germans joined the groups since they were organized and had a plan and a goal to begin a new life.

These journeys were difficult. Few roads existed. Much of the transportation was on river rafts. There were no hotels or restaurants, and once they left mainland Europe, they had to cross the English Channel to obtain passage to America. Few migrants arrived in England with anything of monetary value.

Hans Michel, Clara, Fredrich (born of Maria), Hans Phillip (born out of wedlock), Hans Adam, and Jonathan made it to England via Rotterdam. While in England, Hans Michel and Hans Phillip died of unspecified illnesses. Now having no monetary assets, Clara, Fredrick, Hans



Adam and Jonathan sailed aboard the ship Judith, which transported the Fourth Palatine. All four became indentured slaves in the New World. Interestingly, the ship's manifest lists only Clara and Hans Adam, but the other two sons were known to be aboard and definitely arrived in Ebenezer.

We know that Hans Michel had a successful trade, and that there was no threat of religious persecution. The area around Kurnbach experienced some over-population issues, but that, while a factor, was not paramount.

My theory is that Hans Michel wanted to escape the unhappy predicament and the nasty treatment of the townspeople towards him, Clara and Hans Philipp. This negative atmosphere affected all members of the family and probably the extended family as well. We do not know for sure what motivated Hans Michel to strike out to the unknown lands across the Atlantic Ocean, but life in Kurnbach was miserable and they needed to make a fresh start.

It is also known that Clara did not escape her reputation in the colony. Arriving as a widow, she did marry again but never got away from her background. All three boys grew into manhood and were successful. **Foremost was the achievement of Hans Adam, now known as John Adam Treutlen, who was elected the first governor of the State of Georgia.**

Who is the villain? Was it Hans Michel, Clara, or the townspeople of Kurnbach? Clara was certainly the object of scorn for many reasons, but is that fair? After all, she is blameless for her parentage (daughter of a Hussar) and for her religion. We also know that she was an object of scorn by the townspeople of Kurnbach. Was she evil, as assumed, or was she simply a woman trying her best to survive? We will never know. But we do know that having given birth to at least three illegitimate children, so she would never be selected a "Mother of the Year!"

Yet she showed character when the family was in England and Hans Michel died. She could have remained in England. That would put her past behind her. She was broke with three sons. Determined to complete the journey, she forged on and successfully completed the Atlantic voyage to a place she had no idea what she was facing. Perhaps she preferred to be with German speaking people. Who knows?

Was it Hans Michel? Certainly the sexual contact with Clara triggered the reaction of the townspeople and created a hostile environment for all members of the family. For that, he may be more the blame than Clara because of his position over her. But he gave up a relatively comfortable life in Kurnbach, aside from the rejection, to seek a new beginning for this family.

Were the people of Kurnbach the blame? By today's standards, yes. But they acted no different than would the people of any other community under the same circumstances, with the backing of the church. Basic morals have been breached, and the family paid the penalty. Hans Michel knew the risks he and Clara took and the local population reacted accordingly.

Some blame can be assigned to Hans Michel, Clara and the villagers. Still, I believe no one is really a villain, just the circumstances and the age when it happened.



The author, on April 4th, 2018, visited Kurnbach along with his wife Zenaida. Because the birthplace of John Adam was not established until the year 2000, Hardy was the first ancestor to visit the boyhood home. The Treutlen family continues to reside in the home where John Adam was born. We were well received by the people of Kurnbach and the Treutlen family, of which I am proud to be a member.

The majority of the people who landed in Ebenezer were from Salzburg. Therefore, a historical society was formed to ensure knowledge of the legacy lives on. Hardy is a member of the Society. An interesting observation of the restored town is that it seems the immigrants did not copy the architecture of their homeland, nor did many of them continue their former occupations. I believe that most came as indentured slaves, most of these worked off their servitude on farms, and it was there they learned to farm.



Board Chairman Charles Butler, new member Jonathan Coleman, and President Bob Rogers





President Jefferson (John Stewart) and Princess Hirrihigua Regent Ann Ciero.





Members of the St. Petersburg and Tampa SAR chapters' Color Guards and DAR members welcome Honor Flight veterans on September 11.

