



Patrick Henry Advocate

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Patrick Henry Chapter (Ch. 11, Dist. 4)
Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution



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October 2011

OCTOBER MEETING

October 15, 2011 11:00 A.M.

Texas Land & Cattle Co.

6007 N. IH 35

Austin, TX 78723

512-451-6555

Guest Speaker: Ms. Lethe C. Burns

Nathaniel Maxwell Society, CAR

We need Compatriots to help with
the following standing Committees:

Awards and Medals

Membership

Program

Publicity

Communication

September Chapter Meeting

As most of you know, twice each year, in February and September, we cancel our regular monthly meeting, and participate in a joint meeting and luncheon with the Thankful Hubbard Chapter of the DAR. In February, the event centers around George Washington's birthday, and in September, the



focus is Constitution Week. This September, the joint meeting and luncheon was held on the 17th, at the Austin Woman's Club at 710 San Antonio Street.

The speaker was Lynn Forney Young, who is a fourth generation native Houstonian and a fourth generation DAR member, having joined the Tejas Chapter in 1977. She is presently the Recording Secretary General of the NSDAR.

Mrs. Young has served in many capacities within the NSDAR, including chairman of several national committees. On the state level, she has served in numerous positions on the board, including the Texas State Regent, and she is now an Honorary State Regent.

Have you ever wondered what happened to the fifty-six men who signed the Declaration of Independence? Well, Mrs. Young gave a fascinating talk about that

very topic, much appreciated by all in attendance.



Lynn Forney Young
John Trumbull's famous painting, "Declaration of Independence," commissioned in 1817,

This Month in the Revolution

The Battle of Valcour Island

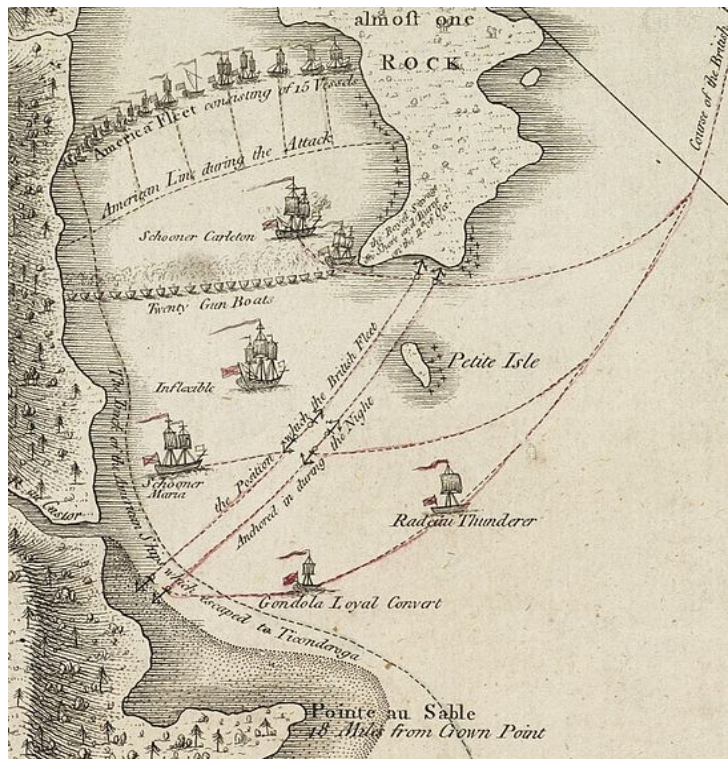
October 11, 1776



“Royal Savage” is shown run aground and burning, while British ships fire on her. (watercolor by unknown artist, ca. 1925)

The Battle of Valcour Island, also known as the Battle of Valcour Bay, was a naval engagement in Lake Champlain, a natural, freshwater lake mostly within the United States, but partially situated in Canada. The lake straddles the border between New York and Vermont, and the main action took place in a narrow strait between the New York mainland and Valcour Island.

It is generally regarded as the first naval battle fought by the U.S. Navy. Although the outcome of the battle was the destruction of most of the American ships, the overall campaign delayed the British attempt to cut the colonies in half by a year and eventually led to the British military disaster at the Battle of Saratoga in 1777.



Following the failed American invasion of Canada, the British Navy launched a counteroffensive intended to gain control of the Hudson River Valley, which extends southward from Lake Champlain. Control of the upper Hudson River would have enabled the British to link their Canadian forces with those in British-occupied New York City, dividing the American colonies of New England from those in the South and Mid-Atlantic, and potentially finishing the revolution.

Access to the river's source was protected by American strongholds at Crown Point and Fort Ticonderoga, and elimination of these defenses would require the transportation of troops and supplies from the British-controlled St. Lawrence Valley to the north.

Roads were either impassable or nonexistent, making water transport over Lake Champlain the only viable option, but the only ships on the lake were in American hands, and even though they were lightly armed, they would have made transport of troops and stores impossible for the British. The two sides therefore set about building fleets; the British at St. Johns in Quebec and the Americans at the other end of the lake in Skenesborough. The British had adequate supplies, skilled workmen, and prefabricated ships transported from England, including a 180-ton warship they disassembled and rebuilt on the lake. All told, the 30-ship British fleet, under the command of Gen. Guy Carleton, had roughly twice as many ships and twice the firepower of the Americans' 16 vessels, under the command of Brig. Gen. Benedict Arnold.



General Guy Carleton



Brigadier General Benedict Arnold



Contemporary watercolor drawing of the British line of battle by Charles Randle

The British fleet took up positions at noon around 300 yards in front of the American battle line with the small gunboats forward, and the five main ships around 50-100 yards behind the gunboats. The British then opened up a huge broadside against the American ships which continued for the next 5 hours. The battle was not going well for the Americans when the sun set.

Aware that he could not defeat the British fleet, Arnold decided to withdraw. The British fleet finally caught up to the American fleet, and Arnold was forced to burn his remaining ships and withdraw further towards Ticonderoga.



Contemporary watercolor drawing of the American line of battle by Charles Randle

Although the British had cleared the lake of American ships, establishing naval control, snow was already falling as Arnold and his men reached Ticonderoga on October 20. The British commander, Gen. Guy Carleton, had no choice but to defer the attacks on Crown Point and Fort Ticonderoga and withdraw to a winter camp in Canada by early November, a decision with profound consequences. The next year, a better-prepared American army would eventually stop the British advance at Saratoga and bring France into the war on the American side.

Our Patriot Ancestors

For most of us, not a lot has been written about the role that our particular Patriot Ancestor played in the Revolution. Often we have to settle for meager reports about units in which they served, or brief descriptions of battles they may have been involved in. Not so, for Patrick Henry Chapter member Tom Ridpath. You see, his Patriot Ancestor is well known to the entire world, someone about whom much has been written and told—namely, Benjamin Franklin.

And what role did Benjamin Franklin play in the Revolution, you ask? Perhaps this short statement says it in a nutshell:

He is the only Founding Father who is a signatory of all four of the major documents of the founding of the United States: the Declaration of Independence, the Treaty of Paris, the Treaty of Alliance with France, and the United States Constitution. Wow.



Benjamin Franklin

Tom traces his lineage as follows: Benjamin Franklin had a daughter, Sarah “Sallie” Franklin, who married Richard Bache. They had a son, Colonel Louis Franklin Bache, who had a daughter Margaret, who married Samuel Lott, and they eventually moved to Ohio, by way of New York . . . You know, just get Tom to tell you the story—he’ll do a much better job.



Richard Bache



Sarah “Sallie” Franklin

Web Sites: www.austinsar.org/
www.txssar.org/
www.sar.org/

Check out:
www.sar.org/. Once signed up you can follow your application progress.

Check out: the Compatriot Store for insignia and other things.

Our Insignia may be ordered from the store.



Item # 0390
Member Badge \$70.00

If anyone has knowledge of where the Chapter podium, magnetic signs and Plaque with past President's names, are, please let us know.

Chapter Meetings:
Third Saturday Monthly
11:00 A. M. until 1:00 P. M.

Texas Land & Cattle Co.
6007 N. IH 35 at Hwy. 290 E

**SPOUSES, FAMILY, GUESTS,
VISITORS WELCOME**



Color Guard Corner

Color Guard News

There were two Color Guard activities in September—the presentation of the colors at the DAR/SAR luncheon on the 17th at the Austin Woman's Club, and two naturalization ceremonies at the LBJ Library on the 26th. What fun to see the smiling faces of all those new citizens.

Our next activity is the Veterans Day Parade on November 11th in downtown Austin. The event kicks off at 9 AM from the Ann Richards Congress Avenue Bridge and travels up to the Capitol Building, and concludes with an 11 AM Ceremony at the South Capitol steps. Viewing is available all along Congress Avenue, with a reviewing stand at the Steven F. Austin Hotel at Congress and 7th.

We need all who can come and march. If you're interested, contact Marvin Morgan, Color Guard Commander, or Henry Shoenfelt, President.

Genealogist News

Registrar/Genealogist Dan Stauffer has received approved applications for 18 individuals. He has contacted ten of those with the good news, and those who can make it will be inducted at the October meeting. He has also received two approved supplemental applications to present. Make plans to come to the meeting to watch the ceremony and help us welcome our new members.