

TJ Sentinel

June 2007 .. Issue 060



President's Note—As in real estate, the Revolutionary War followed the principles of “location, location, location.”

In June 1776, a British fleet, commanded by Admiral Peter Parker and loaded with troops commanded by General Henry Clinton, made an appearance off Charleston, South Carolina. The city, feverishly preparing for an attack, had partially completed Fort Sullivan, Charleston's key defensive position. The 30-gun fort was hastily constructed from the abundant materials available, palmetto logs and sand. The garrison, commanded by Colonel William Moultrie, contained over 400 men including 22 artillerymen and the 2d South Carolina Provincial Regiment. Because of a sand bar the British delayed their attack on Charleston until 28 June 1776 while they lightened the ships. Clinton's 2,000 British soldiers, landing on adjacent Long Island, were unable to cross an estuary to join in the attack.

The fleet began its bombardment at a range of about 400 yards. Low on powder, Moultrie directed his men to fire slowly and accurately in reply. During the engagement a shell struck the flagpole, and the blue South Carolina banner fell outside the fort. Sergeant William Jasper retrieved it and, oblivious to British fire, secured the flag to

a makeshift staff. The falling shells, absorbed by the soft palmetto logs and sand, caused little damage to the fort and few casualties. Even shells that did enter the fort buried themselves in the swampy parade ground. The wooden frigates on the other hand were riddled with shot. Finally, after more than ten hours of firing, the British fleet withdrew and later sailed for New York. For several years following the defeat at Charleston the British fleets were to

**Next Meeting: June 9
Breakfast @ 8am
West Dining Hall
Aldersgate Village
~ 8:45 am <Brian Vazquez,
<President, TJC SAR >
The Drafting of the Declaration
of Independence**

leave the South relatively unscathed. If I can get the computer to cooperate, it will be a computer and graphic assisted presentation

TJC webpage:

http://members.cox.net/tjchptrtopekaks/TJC_SAR.htm

TJC e-mail address:

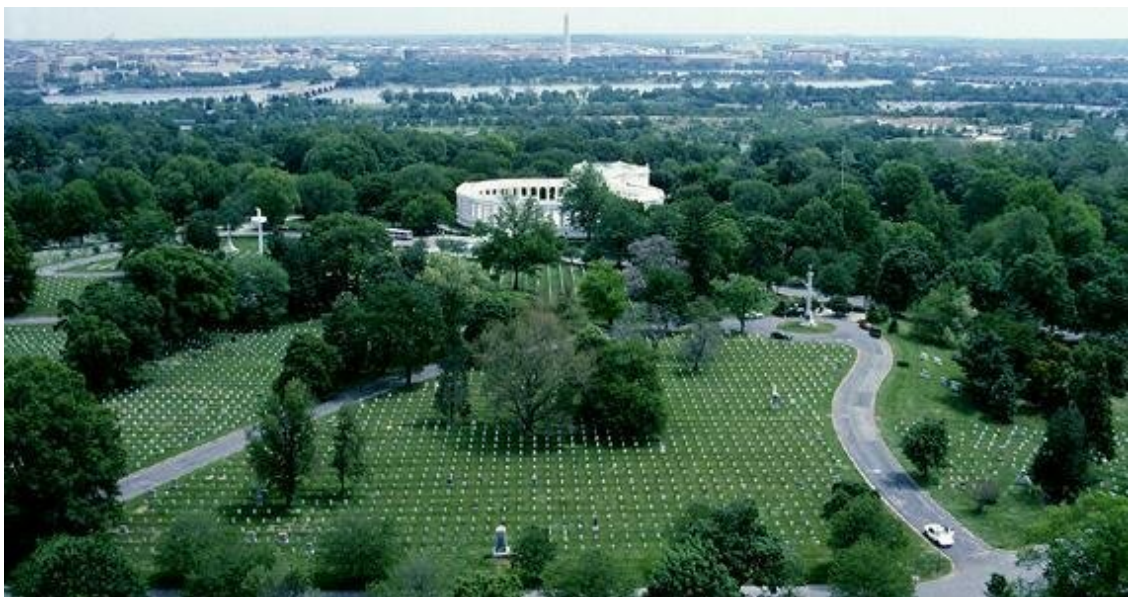
tjchptrtopekaks@cox.net

with copies of the hand-written drafts of these early documents.

As before, please use the computer address at sarbmva@aol.com to provide notice of your attendance.

Arlington National Cemetery.

View is facing east towards the Capitol. Over 260,000 persons are buried there with an average of 20 burials and inurnments occurring daily. Arlington is the second largest of the 130 national cemeteries. The largest is Calverton National Cemetery on Long Island in New York. Two of the national cemeteries are in Leavenworth Kansas—the only city with two.



Guests: Valerie Merrow, Wayne Wasson

Minutes-Members and guests of the Thomas Jefferson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution met for breakfast in the west-dining hall at Aldersgate on May 12, 2007. There were 14 members and 2 guests present. Following the breakfast, members and guests met in the Wesley Auditorium.

President Brian Vasquez opened the meeting and gave the invocation. President Vasquez then led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag and the pledge to SAR. President Vasquez introduced Valerie Merrow, CARE Senior Manager, who gave a presentation on mental health issues and resources available to seniors. Compatriot Roger Johnson then distributed minutes of the last meeting and introduced guests.

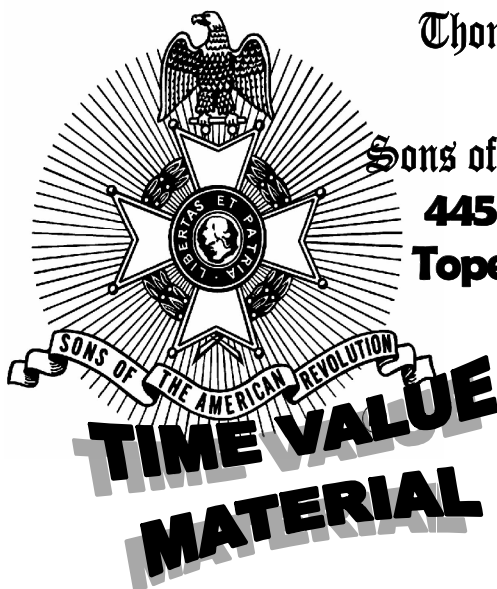
Treasurer Richard Kleinschmidt reported that the Chapter had \$1,399 in income and \$1,732.20 in expenses for the period December 9, 2006 to May 12, 2007 and an ending checking account balance of \$1,655.02 at May 12, 2007. In addition the Chapter had cer-

tificates of deposit of \$3,691.47 at May 12, 2007.

Under committee reports, President Vasquez mentioned membership in the State SAR Ladies Auxiliary and that a new e-mail account had been set-up for Chapter meeting reservations.

Under new business, State SAR President Peter Grassl gave a report on State SAR activities and State SAR Ladies Auxiliary activities. Compatriot Martin Klotzbach then gave a

report on the last State SAR BOG meeting held in Emporia on May 5, 2007. Items noted from the BOG meeting were the need for a new State Chaplain, the results of the orations contest and that the next State DAR meeting would be in Topeka. Compatriot Klotzbach also noted the State SAR Kessler Book Fund would be donating books for the Seneca school library and that the our Chapter presented medals to Topeka high school Junior ROTC members last month. The National SAR library appeal was then discussed by the members, including additional contributions by our Chapter. Compatriot Richard Kleinschmidt mentioned that the State SAR annual dues would be increasing from \$7 to \$10. Under old business President Vasquez reported that he had ordered from the National SAR office 50 new pledge to SAR cards and a CD for preparing membership cards. With the conclusion of business, President Vasquez gave the SAR recessional and the meeting was adjourned.



**Thomas Jefferson Chapter
Kansas Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
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