

TJ Sentinel

September 2008 .. Issue 071



Mark Your Calendars: The 2009 State SAR meeting will be 20-21 March in Topeka at the Ramada Inn. TJC is the host chapter. Orval Knodel is in charge of planning and would like your suggestions for program and entertainment ideas. Also volunteers are needed to help. Plan now to attend.

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TJC Life Membership: At the January 2008 meeting, the new TJC Life Membership plan was approved. Those members who are currently State and National Life Members should seriously consider also becoming a TJC Life Member this fall. The new form is included with this newsletter and will need to be submitted with payment before October 31, 2008—the due date for all 2009 dues. Chapter Life Member dues are \$159 from age 18 to 40, then decline \$3 per year of age to \$12 at age 89. Members age 90 and older are already LM of the TJC.

For those members who have been paying dues annually, you may wish to consider becoming a national, state and chapter Life Member (LM). You must be a national LM to become a state LM and a state LM to become a TJC LM. All three applications with a check for the total amount due may be submitted at the same time. Contact any officer or the editor for more information.

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In Memoriam:

- Donald Gale Banning: 7 May 2008
- Lloyd W. Scott Jr.: 30 June 2008
- Joseph M. Marshall: 8 July 2008

Next Meeting: Sept 13th
 Breakfast @ 8am
 West Dining Hall
 Aldersgate Village
 ~ 8:45 am <Update on the SAR National Convention>, Martin Klotzbach

"Please note this address for Brian - zebrasrs@sbcglobal.net .
 For attendance at the meeting, please respond to Brian Vazquez at sarbmy@sbcglobal.net ."

September 3, 1777 The Stars and Stripes flies

The American flag was flown in battle for the first time on this day in 1777, during a Revolutionary War skirmish at Cooch's Bridge, Maryland. Patriot General William Maxwell ordered the "Stars and Stripes" banner raised as a detachment of his infantry and cavalry met an advance guard of British and Hessian troops. The rebels were defeated and forced to retreat to Brandywine Creek in Pennsylvania, where they joined General George Washington's main force.

Three months earlier, on June 14, the Continental Congress had adopted a resolution stating that "the flag of the United States be thirteen alternate stripes red and white" and that "the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."

The national flag, which became

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

known as the Stars and Stripes, was based on the Grand Union flag, a banner carried by the Continental Army in 1776 that also consisted of 13 red and white stripes. According to legend, Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross designed the new canton, which consisted of a circle of 13 stars on a blue background, at the request of General George Washington. Historians have been unable to conclusively prove or disprove this legend.

With the entrance of new states into the Union after independence, new stripes and stars were added to represent the new additions. In 1818, however, Congress enacted a law stipulating that the 13 original stripes be restored and that only stars be added to represent new states.

On June 14, 1877, the first Flag Day observance was held on the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the flag. As instructed by Congress, the U.S. flag was flown from all public buildings across the country. In the years after the first Flag Day, several states continued to observe the anniversary, and, in 1949, Congress officially designated June 14 as Flag Day, a national day of observance. (www.history.com)

Grand Union Flag



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Richard L. McReynolds, Editor
4600 SW Alexander Ct.
Topeka, KS 66610
785-267-4017
tjchptrtopekaks@cox.net
President: Brian Vazquez

September 7, 1776

World's first submarine attack

On this day in 1776, during the Revolutionary War, the American submersible craft *Turtle* attempts to attach a time bomb to the hull of British Admiral Richard Howe's flagship *Eagle* in New York Harbor. It was the first use of a submarine in warfare.

Submarines were first built by Dutch inventor Cornelius van Drebel in the early 17th century, but it was not until 150 years later that they were first used in naval combat. David Bushnell, an American inventor, began building underwater mines while a student at Yale University. submersible that was christened the *Turtle* for its shape. Large enough to accommodate one operator, the submarine was

accommodate one operator, the submarine was entirely hand-powered. Lead ballast kept the craft balanced.

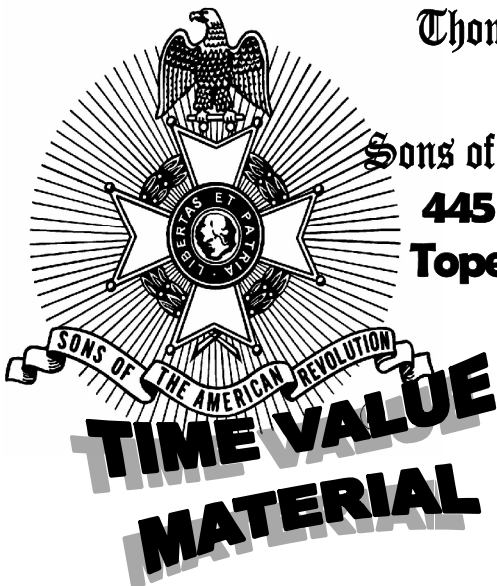
Deciding that a submarine would be the best means of delivering his mines in warfare, he built an eight-foot-long wooden rine would be the best means of delivering his mines in warfare, he built an eight-foot-long wooden submersible that was christened the *Turtle* for its shape. Large enough to accommodate one operator, the submarine was entirely hand-powered. Lead ballast kept the craft balanced.

Donated to the Patriot cause after the outbreak of war with Britain in 1775, Ezra Lee piloted the craft unnoticed out to the 64-gun HMS *Eagle* in New York Harbor on September 7, 1776. As Lee worked to anchor a time bomb to the hull, he could see British seamen on the deck above, but they failed to notice the strange craft below the surface. Lee had almost secured the bomb when his boring tools failed to penetrate a layer of iron sheathing. He retreated, and the bomb exploded nearby, causing no harm to either the *Eagle* or the *Turtle*.

During the next week, the *Turtle* made several more attempts to sink British ships on the Hudson River, but each time it failed, owing to the

operator's lack of skill. Only Bushnell was really able to competently execute the submarine's complicated functions, but because of his physical frailty he was unable to pilot the *Turtle* in any of its combat missions. During the Battle of Fort Lee, the *Turtle* was lost when the American sloop transporting it was sunk by the British.

Despite the failures of the *Turtle*, General George Washington gave Bushnell a commission as an Army engineer, and the drifting mines he constructed destroyed the British frigate *Cereberus* and wreaked havoc against other British ships. After the war, he became commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stationed at West Point. (www.history.com; www.wikipedia.com)



**Thomas Jefferson Chapter
Kansas Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
445 N.W. Valencia Rd
Topeka, KS 66615-9635**