

TJ Sentinel

November 2008 .. Issue 073



November 7, 1776

Post office stays in the Franklin family

On this day in 1776, Congress chooses Richard Bache to succeed his father-in-law, Benjamin Franklin, as postmaster general. Franklin had sailed for France on behalf of the Continental Congress the previous month.

Benjamin Franklin invested nearly 40 years in the establishment of a reliable system of private communications in the American colonies. He was appointed postmaster of Philadelphia in 1737 and then as joint postmaster general of the colonies, a position he held from 1753 to 1774, when he was fired for opening and publishing Massachusetts Royal Governor Thomas Hutchinson's correspondence. While postmaster, Franklin streamlined postal delivery with properly surveyed and marked routes from Maine to Florida (this route later became Route 1), instituted overnight postal travel between the critical cities of New York and Philadelphia and created a standardized rate chart based upon weight and distance.

In 1774, Franklin's baton was passed temporarily to William Goddard, a printer. Goddard was frustrated that the royal postal service was unable to reliably deliver his *Pennsylvania Chronicle* to its readers or critical news for the paper to him. Thus, he laid out a plan when

**Next Meeting: Nov. 8th
West Dining Hall
Aldersgate Village
8:00 am <Breakfast>
8:45 am <Presentation: VA
Volunteer Services>**

For attendance at the meeting, please respond to Brian Vazquez at sarbmvsbcglobal.net ."

A collection for the VA will be taken at the November meeting. Also, please bring any extra 2009 calendars for the VA.

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In Memoriam: Jesse Michael Southard, 91, of Topeka, KS passed away September 13, 2008 at Topeka. He was a member of TJC SAR since 2000.

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to act on the plan until after the Battle of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. Benjamin Franklin promoted Goddard's plan and served as the first postmaster general under the Continental Congress beginning July 26, 1775, nearly one year before Congress declared independence from the British crown. Franklin's son-in-law, Richard Bache, took over the position on this day in 1776, after Franklin became an American emissary to France. Samuel Osgood held the postmaster general position in New York City from 1789,

TJC webpage:

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

when the U.S. Constitution came into effect, until the government moved to Philadelphia in 1791. Timothy Pickering took over then and, about a year later, the passing of the Postal Service Act gave his post greater legislative legitimacy and more effective organization. Pickering continued in the position until 1795, when he briefly served as secretary of war, before becoming the third U.S. secretary of state. The postmaster general's position was considered a plum patronage post for political allies of the president until the Postal Service was transformed into a corporation run by a board of governors in 1971. Source: www.history.com

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November 10, 1775

Birth of the U.S. Marine Corps

During the American Revolution, the Continental Congress passes a resolution stating that "two Battalions of Marines be raised" for service as landing forces for the recently formed Continental Navy. The resolution, drafted by future U.S. president John Adams and adopted in Philadelphia, created the Continental Marines and is now observed as the birth date of the United States Marine Corps.

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TJ Sentinel

Published by the Topeka Chapter of
the Kansas Society Sons of the
American Revolution
Monthly except July and August

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Guests: Marilyn Chittenden,
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 October 11, 2008. There were 12 members and 2 guests present. Following the breakfast, members and guests met in the Wesley Auditorium.

President Brian Vazquez opened the meeting and called upon Compatriot Elborn Mendenhall to give the invocation. President Vazquez then led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag and the pledge to SAR. President Vazquez then introduced the speaker, Compatriot Elborn Mendenhall, who gave a presentation on his trip to the Mormon Family History Center research library in Salt Lake City, Utah. After the presentation, Compatriot Mendenhall took questions from the members and guests. President Vazquez then presented the minutes of the September 2008, Chapter meeting.

Compatriot Jim McHenry moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded and approved by the members. President Vasquez then presented the report by the Chapter auditor, Compatriot Roger Johnson, on the cash balances, receipts and disbursements of the Chapter for the period January 1, 2007, to December 31, 2007.

Compatriot Richard Kleinschmidt then discussed the collection of 2009 dues and provided a Chapter Treasurer's report. The report noted that the Chapter had \$1,628.88 of income and \$908.31 in expenses for the period September 13, 2008, to October 11, 2008, and an ending checking account balance of \$2,995.75 at October 11, 2008. In addition the Chapter had certificates of deposit of \$3,815.34 at October 11, 2008.

Compatriot Kleinschmidt mentioned that the Great Overland Train Station had been reserved for the March 2009, State SAR annual conference and that a \$500 loan had been received from the State SAR for material to be purchased by the State Ladies Auxiliary for their quilt project, as a fund raiser for the National SAR 2013 convention. President Vazquez asked for any reports on shut-in members and Compatriot Vern Thomas mentioned that Compatriot Jess Southard passed away over the summer. President Vazquez then announced that the program for next months meeting would be on VA volunteer activities and that money would be collected for the VA. Compatriot Roger Johnson then intro-

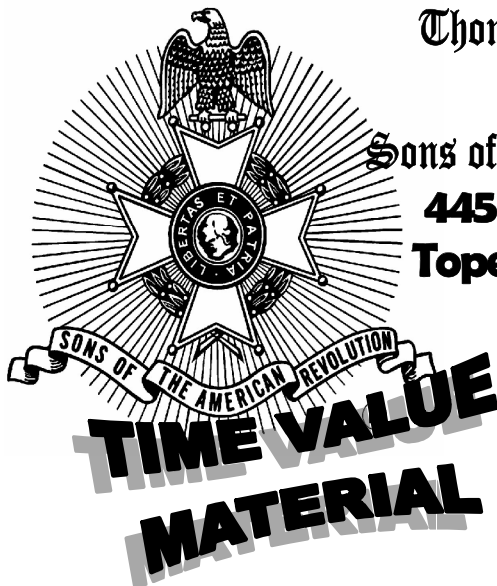
duced guests. With the conclusion of business, President Vazquez gave the SAR recessional and the meeting was adjourned.

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Birth of the U S Marine Corps (cont)

Serving on land and at sea, the original U.S. Marines distinguished themselves in a number of important operations during the Revolutionary War. The first Marine landing on a hostile shore occurred when a force of Marines under Captain Samuel Nicholas captured New Providence Island in the Bahamas from the British in March 1776. Nicholas was the first commissioned officer in the Continental Marines and is celebrated as the first Marine commandant. After American independence was achieved in 1783, the Continental Navy was demobilized and its Marines disbanded. In the next decade, however, increasing conflict at sea with Revolutionary France led the U.S. Congress to establish formally the U.S. Navy in May 1798. Two months later, on July 11, President John Adams signed the bill establishing the U.S. Marine Corps as a permanent military force under the jurisdiction of the Department of Navy. U.S. Marines saw action in the so-called Quasi-War with France and then fought against the Barbary pirates of North Africa during the first years of the 19th century. Since then, Marines have participated in all the wars of the United States and in most cases were the first soldiers to fight. In all, Marines have executed more than 300 landings on foreign shores. The motto of the service is *Semper Fidelis*, meaning "Always Faithful" in Latin.

Source: www.history.com



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