SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

CALOOSA PATRIOT

Volume XXI Issue III *Caloosa Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution Newsletter* March 2026

John L. Maier, Jr, Editor

"Boston Celebrates Evacuation Day"

British Gen. William Howe And His Army Flee The City: March 17, 1776



"Lord Howe Evacuating Boston," c. 1861. Hand-colored print by British printmaker John Godfrey (1817–1889) after a watercolor (now lost) by British artist Michael Angelo Wageman (c.1820–1898). Image: American Revolution Institute.

The evacuation of Boston on March 17, 1776—celebrated ever since as Evacuation Day—was not a chaotic flight, but a complex, carefully managed military withdrawal shaped by negotiation, logistics, and mutual restraint. While the dramatic seizure of Dorchester Heights forced the decision, the actual evacuation unfolded over nearly two weeks and involved thousands of troops, civilians, and a large fleet of vessels.

When George Washington successfully fortified Dorchester Heights on the night of March 4–5, 1776, the British position in Boston became untenable almost overnight. General William Howe understood that American artillery placed there could not only bombard the city but also destroy the British fleet anchored in the harbor—cutting off any escape. [Continued on Page 2]

[Continued from Page 1]
Howe initially prepared for a direct assault on the heights, much like the costly attack at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Troops were assembled, transports readied, and orders issued. But a fierce storm—snow, wind, and rough seas—intervened, delaying the attack. By the time conditions improved, Howe had reconsidered. The heights were now too strongly fortified, and a frontal assault risked devastating losses.

The Question of Destruction: Burn or Withdraw? At this moment, the British still had options. Boston had been under military occupation for nearly a year, and the British army could, in theory, destroy the city before departing. Fires had already broken out during the siege, and many feared a deliberate act of retribution.

Rumors spread rapidly through both camps. Would the British burn Boston as they left? Would they loot it? Washington himself took the threat seriously. He prepared contingency plans to attack if the British attempted large-scale destruction.

However, a tacit understanding—never formalized in a signed document but widely acknowledged—emerged between the two sides. Through intermediaries, including local civilians and possibly indirect communication, an agreement took shape: the British would evacuate peacefully, and the Americans would not fire on their ships during departure.

Washington later alluded to this delicate balance. In correspondence, he noted the British hesitation and wrote of their situation: ***"They are now in a situation where they must either fight or quit the town."*** At the same time, he remained cautious, ensuring American forces were ready to respond instantly if Boston were threatened.

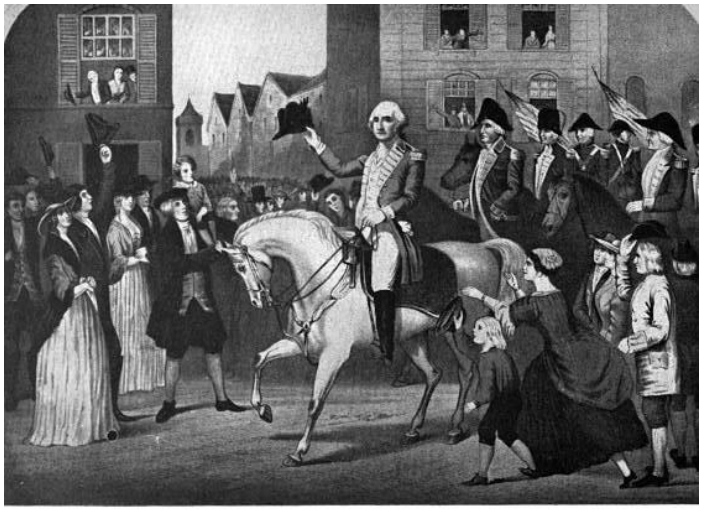
Lord Howe Organizes the Evacuation. The British evacuation required immense coordination. Boston Harbor filled with ships—Royal Navy warships, troop transports, supply vessels, and commandeered civilian craft. Estimates vary, but roughly 120 to 150 vessels were involved in the operation. Over the course of several days, beginning around March 10 and culminating on March 17, British troops, Loyalist civilians, and supplies were systematically loaded onto these ships.

Who was evacuated?

- Approximately 9,000 British soldiers
- Around 1,000–1,500 Loyalists (American colonists loyal to the Crown)
- Several hundred women and children connected to military families
- Enslaved people who had sought refuge with the British under promises of freedom

The Loyalists faced an especially uncertain future. Many had supported British rule openly and feared retribution if left behind. For them, evacuation meant exile—often permanent.

Destination: Halifax, Nova Scotia. The British fleet's destination was Halifax, Nova Scotia, a secure British naval base in Canada. Halifax offered a defensible harbor, established infrastructure, and a loyal population. But the voyage north was not easy. Overcrowded ships, limited provisions, and harsh weather made the journey difficult, particularly for civilians. Upon arrival, Halifax struggled to absorb the sudden influx of refugees. Housing shortages, food scarcity, and disease created hardship for many Loyalists, who would spend months or even years displaced. For the British army, Halifax was only planned to be a temporary refuge. General Howe and his forces would soon redeploy, shifting the focus of the war to New York later in 1776.



GENERAL WASHINGTON'S ENTRANCE INTO BOSTON, FOLLOWING ITS EVACUATION BY BRITISH TROOPS UNDER GENERAL HOWE, MARCH 17, 1776.

The Final Departure, March 17, 1776: "Evacuation Day". On the morning of March 17, the evacuation reached its climax. British troops completed their embarkation and began sailing out of Boston Harbor. The fleet moved deliberately, taking advantage of favorable winds and tides.

American forces watched closely but did not fire, honoring the informal agreement. Washington, ever cautious, delayed immediate entry into Boston, concerned that traps or destruction might still be planned. Only after the last British ships had cleared the harbor did Washington allow Continental troops to march into the city. They were greeted not with resistance, but with relief and celebration from the remaining inhabitants. [Continued on Page 14]

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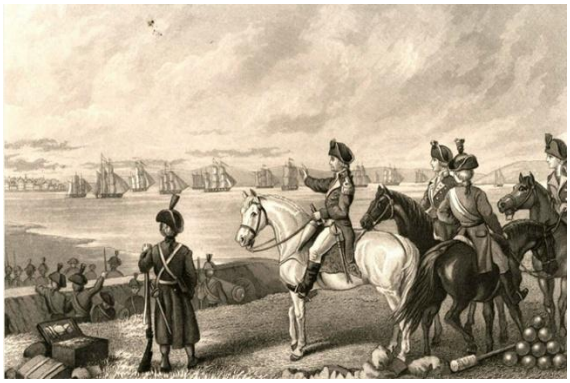
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Sons of the American Revolution



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Anne Hester and Rachel Michel
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Chapter Officers for 2026



Immediate Past President
and Treasurer
Jeffrey F. Brunelle



President
Richard "Rick" Parfitt



Vice-President
John L. Maier, Jr.



Dr. Ron Peck
Genealogist



Tom Gillaspie
Sergeant-At-Arms



Mike Buff
Color Guard Commander



Jonathan Hunt
Member-At-Large



Rev. Dr.. Randy Moody
Chaplain



Chris Jenner
Registrar

A Message From Our President



Greetings Compatriots!

We're approaching our summer break, and most will be busy with vacations, staycations and some seasonal members heading back north for the summer, but there will be events locally and nationally honoring our country's 250th anniversary and hopefully you will be able to participate in some of them, and we will pass information on as we get it.

At our March meeting we presented our chapter's *Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher of the Year Awards* to Lehigh Middle school teacher, Rachel Michel and East Lee County High School teacher Anne Hester. Ms. Michel went on to be awarded 1st place in the Florida SAR award, and we learned just before our meeting that she was awarded 3rd place in the national SAR teacher of the year competition. It was great to hear that our history teachers are instilling patriotism in our youth in their lessons.

Due to some personal conflicts our chapter Secretary and Historian had to resign. Compatriot Bill Jenks has done a stellar job as Secretary for the past year and a half, and our Historian, Hugh Myers, has been very active in that role since taking over, concentrating his efforts on assisting with the SAR Americanism Youth Contest for the current academic year.

Both positions are now vacant and are important to our mission. We're looking for individuals who are willing to offer their time and talents to volunteer. Know that the entire Executive Committee works very closely with each other, so you would be surrounded by compatriots who have held those positions. Please let any of us know if you're interested.

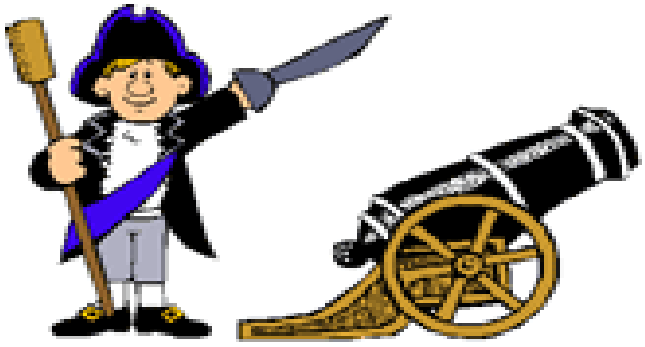
Looking forward to seeing you at our April meeting.

Rick Parfitt

Rick Parfitt

President, Caloosa Chapter FLSSAR

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!
Caloosa Chapter SAR 2026 Meeting Schedule



[Unless Otherwise Indicated]
Chapter Meetings Are Held At Famous Dave's
12148 South Cleveland Ave. Fort Myers, FL 33903

Chapter Meetings		ExCom Meetings	
Wednesday Jan. 14, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026	11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026	11:30a.m.
Wednesday, Mar. 11, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Mar. 3, 2026	11:30 a.m.
Saturday, April 11, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Mar. 31, 2026	11:30 a.m.
Saturday, May 9, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Apr. 28, 2026	11:30a.m.

Summer Break: No Chapter Meetings June through September
ExCom Meetings Will Begin Again In October

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026	11:30 a.m.
Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026	11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026	11:30a.m.

THE NEXT CALOOSA CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026 AT: FAMOUS DAVE'S BBQ RESTAURANT

12148 South Cleveland Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33903
(At the Intersection of Cleveland Ave. and Crystal Drive)



Lunch Program Will Include Presentation Of Awards To Our Chapter's Winners Of The Youth Essay, Video and Oration Contests:

Ari Hogsed – 1st Place Caloosa Chapter, Essay and Oration Contests
Elysianne Davis – 2nd Place Caloosa Chapter, Essay Contest
Ezrah Hogsed – 1st Place Caloosa Chapter, Video Contest
Mary and Karl Peterson – 2nd Place Caloosa Chapter, Video Contest

Lunch Buffet Menu:
St. Louis Style Spareribs, Roast Chicken, Garlic Red-Skin Mashed Potatoes, Creamy Cole Slaw, Corn Muffins, and Beverage (Soft Drink or Iced Tea)
Anyone needing a special meal (i. e., Vegetarian, other) let us know

The meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m.

Cost for the lunch is $25.00 per person paid at the link below by PayPal or Credit Card

Please RSVP to: https://caloosasar.org/our-chapter/meetings/

REMEMBER! If you make a reservation, we have to pay for your meal !

Our meetings are open to all interested persons, and we particularly welcome Compatriots from other parts of the country who are visiting our area. Please note that wives, friends, and guests are welcome to attend.

March 11th Chapter Meeting
Welcoming Our New Compatriot: Philip J. Snyderburn, Jr. and Honoring Our Caloosa Chapter's Winners of the Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher of the Year Award

Our March meeting was busy from start to finish. The Compatriots of the Caloosa SAR Chapter were asked to take their seats as soon as possible after arriving at Famous Dave's because the Agenda was packed.

Following the prayer of Invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance, and usual order of events and welcoming comments and introductions, President Parfitt called Philip J. Snyderburn, Jr. to the front. "Captain Phil" hails from Bokeelia, and became our newest SAR Compatriot after his petition for membership received final approval from the National SAR in February this year. Compatriot Snyderburn's Patriot Ancestor was Benjamin Register, who served as a soldier in the Wilmington District of North Carolina during the Revolutionary War. Hopefully, we can soon put together an article about Patriot Register for our "Compatriots Corner" section of the Newsletter. It is always almost as exciting for "us" (as existing Caloosa SAR members) to see a new Compatriot getting sworn in and being presented with the Certificate you see Phil holding in the photo, as it is for the new member himself. This is because you never forget how much pride you felt yourself when you were sworn in to join the ranks of those who "keep the faith" and promise to help our fellow Americans to honor those who fought successfully to establish the country we now call home, and to inspire future generations about the founding principles of our country. Welcome Captain Phil!



(Left to Right) Our newest Compatriot, Philip Snyderburn, following his induction by President Rick Parfitt



Centered in front of the Stars and Stripes is the Manager of Famous Dave's, after having been formally recognized and honored by the DAR for "flying the US Flag" prooudly in front of the restaurant. She is surrounded (L to R) by DAR members: Anne Peck (top left) , Jan Myles-Brunelle, Tia Pontiff (new Regent for the Caloosahatchee Chapter, DAR), Lee Moody, Dinah Osborn, and Rachel Michel. [Not pictured is DAR member Terri Maier because she was taking the photo!]

[Continued on Page 9]

It wouldn't have been an "official" Caloosa Chapter meeting without the Rev. Dr. Randy Moody presenting his SAR America250 moment, and he did not disappoint. Following in his usual manner of selecting events taking place roughly 250 years ago, he first asked all in attendance whether anyone was familiar with the "Battle of the Rice Boats" which took place in March, 1776. No one raised their hand – not even the American history teachers in attendance. But by the time Randy finished, we learned about the minor, but regionally important, fight that we will now remember forever.

In the early days of March 1776, Randy began, the quiet waters of the Savannah River suddenly became the stage for Georgia's first real clash of the Revolution.

British warships had anchored near the town, hungry for supplies to feed their besieged troops in Boston. Their eyes fell on a small fleet of merchant vessels loaded with rice—the lifeblood of the colony. Patriot leaders in Savannah saw the danger immediately. If the British carried off the rice, they would not only strengthen their army but also starve the colony into submission. Colonel Lachlan McIntosh rallied local militia and positioned artillery along the riverbanks, determined to block the British advance.

[Continued from Page 8]



Compatriot Moody presenting his America250 moment: Battle of the Rice Boats, Mar. 2-3, 1776

Before dawn on March 2, British sailors moved upriver to seize the rice boats. Cannon fire cracked across the water as Patriots opened up from the bluffs. Smoke drifted over the river as some of the rice boats were set ablaze by their own defenders rather than allowed to fall into British hands. Others drifted loose, captured in the confusion.

The next day brought more skirmishing. A Patriot fireship—packed with combustibles and set afire—floated toward the British line, but the attempt failed. Still, the constant pressure from shore batteries and militia fire made it clear the British could not safely load or escort the rice downstream.

By the end of March 3, the British commanders recognized the stalemate. They withdrew to Tybee Island, battered and empty-handed. Governor James Wright, who had briefly been held by the Patriots, escaped to a British ship and sailed away—symbolizing the collapse of royal authority in Georgia.

Rev Moody concluded by reporting that while the battle had been relatively small in scale, it resulted in large consequences. The Patriots had denied the British their provisions, driven the royal government from the colony, and shown that even Georgia—long the most hesitant of the colonies—was now firmly in the fight for independence. And now, with a smile, he said (borrowing from Parul Harvey): "You know the rest of the story."

Our meeting proceeded with the recognition of our honored guests: American History Teachers Anne Hester of East Lee High School, and Rachel Michel of Lehigh Acres Middle School. Anne was accompanied by her Principal, Tony A. Allen. Rachel's table mates included Rachel's parents -- a couple familiar to us – our Chapter Chaplain, Randy Moody and his wife, Lee Moody. While the parental "connection" had to be kept quiet while the competition was ongoing, the contest was over with by the time of our Chapter meeting, and the Moodys were beaming with pride at the recognition their daughter had received.

Caloosa SAR Vice-President John Maier explained that the annually the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution invites all American History teachers, whose approved curriculum teaches students about the American Revolutionary Era (1750-1800), to apply for the Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Grant. The Grant recognizes educators who distinguish themselves in teaching the history of the American Revolution. Anne and Rachel had been named our Chapter winners, with Anne winning at the High School level, and Rachel winning at the Middle School level. A teacher who is selected as a winner at a chapter level (like Caloosa) then competes at the state level and the winner of the state contest will be a finalist for the national grant. Cash prizes are awarded at each level.



(L to R) Anne Hester and Rachel Michel American History Teachers of the Year!

A couple of weeks prior to the Chapter Meeting, we all learned that Rachel Michel had been named the 1st Place Winner at the FLSSAR (State of Florida) competition, and the day before the March meeting, we learned that Rachel had placed 3rd in the entire nation by the National SAR!

We are so proud of both our Chapter winners. Both Anne and Rachel are exemplary teachers, and we are fortunate that they both teach in our Lee County schools, and look forward to working with both of them on into the future. Our Chapter is going to work toward an ever increasing participation in the Youth Contests which are open to all our Lee County school students, including those who attend public and parochial schools as well as to students who are homeschooled. The excitement will continue in April when our Youth winners will receive their awards at the April 11th Chapter Meeting. Please join us!

Remarks Given By Anne Hester On The Honor Of Teaching American History And Especially The American Revolution



Good morning, everyone. My name is Anne Hester, and I have had the privilege of teaching history for 21 years. Throughout my career, my classroom has been more than just a place to memorize dates; it has been a laboratory for understanding how the ideas of the past shape the reality of our present. Being here today, as part of the SAR Dr. Tom and Betty Lawrence American History Teacher award, is a deeply humbling recognition of that mission.

The Importance of the American Revolution

Why do we still teach the American Revolution? Because it is the foundational narrative of our democratic experiment. When I stand before my students, I am not just teaching them about battles at Saratoga or the ink on a parchment. I am teaching them about the messy, human, and courageous process of challenging the status quo.

We explore the Revolution to show students that history is not a static set of facts, but a series of choices made by people who were just as uncertain about the future as we are today. By analyzing these turning points, students learn to weigh conflicting perspectives, evaluate the cost of liberty, and understand the profound responsibility that comes with citizenship.

Reflecting on the Contest

Participating in this contest, and specifically this opportunity, means a great deal to me. It represents a partnership between educators and organizations like yours, dedicated to preserving our collective memory. For me, this has been a bridge—a way to bring history to life beyond the textbook, and a way to show my students their roles as custodians of this country and our political and historical legacy. It allows me to elevate the curriculum and ensure that the 'Spirit of '76' remains a living, breathing subject for my students.

Conclusion

Thank you for your time, your dedication to our shared history, and for this incredible opportunity. I look forward to continuing the work of teaching the next generation to value, question, and appreciate the foundations of our nation.



A 'full house' honoring Anne Hester as she steps forward to receive her award

On Teaching the American Revolution by Rachel Michel

Teaching the American Revolution is far more than a required unit in my curriculum; it is one of the most meaningful opportunities I have to shape students' understanding of citizenship, freedom, and responsibility. As an American history and civics teacher, I believe the Revolution is the foundation upon which all later discussions of government, rights, and civic participation are built. Because of its importance, I intentionally design lessons that move beyond memorization and instead immerse students in the experiences, conflicts, and choices faced by the colonists.

One of my most effective and innovative teaching techniques is a hands-on simulation that teaches British taxation policies through the use of paperclips. In this lesson, students become colonists and are "taxed" for arbitrary reasons beyond their control, such as eye color, hair color, or the first letter of their last name. Additional taxes are imposed for everyday actions like eating breakfast, eating lunch, or brushing their teeth. Each paperclip taken represents a tax levied by the British government. As the activity progresses and taxes increase, students visibly experience frustration and confusion, mirroring the colonial response to acts such as the Stamp Act, Townshend Acts, and Tea Act. The lesson culminates in protest, as students demand "no taxation without representation," leading to a powerful discussion of colonial resistance and the Boston Tea Party. This tangible experience allows students to emotionally connect with history, developing empathy and a deeper understanding of why the Revolution occurred.

In addition to simulations, I incorporate creative, student-centered projects that allow learners to demonstrate understanding in diverse ways. Students write letters to King George III from the perspective of colonists, articulating grievances and proposing solutions. Others complete "I Am" poems in which they embody colonists and describe daily life, fears, and hopes during the revolutionary era. These projects integrate literacy skills with historical thinking and encourage students to analyze perspective, context, and cause-and-effect relationships.

Through discussion, collaboration, and reflection, students actively construct meaning rather than passively receive information.

Teaching the American Revolution is essential because it introduces students to the origins of democratic ideals such as liberty, representation, and self-government. The choices made by ordinary people during this period illustrate how civic action can challenge injustice and shape the future. When students understand the sacrifices and debates of the Revolutionary era, they are better prepared to engage thoughtfully in their own civic responsibilities. The Revolution also provides a framework for discussing multiple perspectives, conflict resolution, and the ongoing struggle to live up to democratic principles.



(L to R) Rev. Dr. Randy Moody, Rachel Michel, Lee Moody, Philip Moody

Compatriots Corner

The purpose of the "Compatriots Corner" page is to promote the mission and goals of the SAR by recounting our respective patriot ancestor's participation in the War for Independence. Award winning author Mark Barie, and his wife, Christine Racine, have been writing these vignettes now for some time, and we thank both of them for continuing to help getting our patriots' stories down on paper. Just see Page 17 of this issue for more information. Each of our Patriot ancestors' contributions combined to bring about the birth of the United States of America. Mark and Christine enjoy writing about the Revolutionary War exploits of our own Patriot ancestors! And what great stories they are indeed. What follows is the reprise of the story they wrote on the Patriot ancestor of our current Sgt.-At-Arms, Tom Gillaspie, who is the proud grampa of Ezrah, Abraham and Ari Hogsed, Zion Havlykke, and Elysianne Davis, each of whom have happily participated successfully in the SAR Americanism Youth Contests for this academic year.

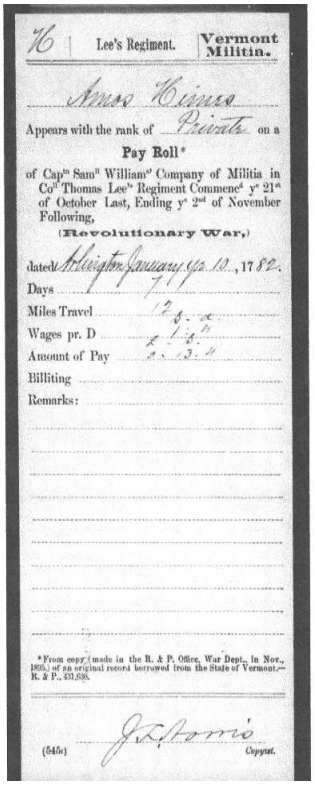
Amos Himes, Private With Vermont's Sixth Militia Unit

By Compatriot Tom Gillaspie (With Christine A. Racine and Compatriot Mark Barie)

My patriot is Amos Himes, born circa 1748 in Rhode Island. Amos was a member of Vermont's sixth militia unit. At that time, members of the militia were called to duty, but only when needed and often, for short periods of time. They would be paid accordingly.

Amos Himes was on the government payroll for only seven days, from October 21 until November 2, 1781. Despite the surrender of General Cornwallis at Yorktown on September 28, 1781, the Revolutionary War was ongoing and would continue for two more years. In fact, Himes and his Vermont colleagues did not receive word of the victory at Yorktown until mid-November, two months after the fact. And while there were no major battles after Yorktown, there were plenty of historically insignificant skirmishes. In Himes' backyard, (upstate New York and Vermont), the spying, looting, and burning of buildings by the British, continued until the end of the revolution.

All of which begs the question. Why would Himes have been summoned by his militia unit and why was he required for so short a period of time? Indeed, why was my patriot "called to arms" at all?



16 | Lee's Regiment. | Vermont Militia.

Amos Himes

Appears with the rank of Private on a

Pay Roll*

of Cap^n Sam^l William^s Company of Militia in Co^l Thomas Lee^s Regiment Commenc^d y^e 21^st of October Last, Ending y^e 2^nd of November Following,

(Revolutionary War.)

dated Arlington January Cy. 10, 1782.

Days 7 1

Miles Travel 12 0

Wages pr. D £ 1 5

Amount of Pay £ 2 3 4

Billiting

Remarks:

*From copy (made in the R. & P. Office, War Dept., in Nov., 1905,) of an original record borrowed from the State of Vermont.—R. & P., 493,698.

J. L. Homis

(5455) Copyist.

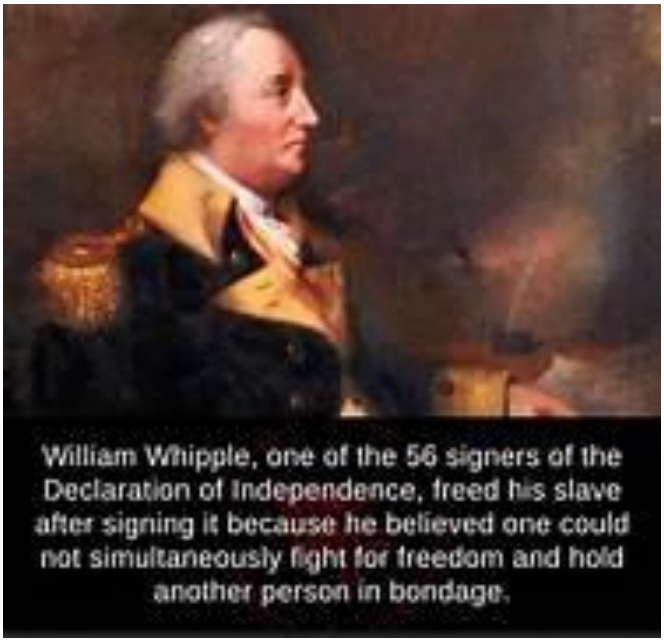
The answer may be found in the annals of American history that few of us have read. In October of 1781, a red-hot dispute between the state of New Hampshire and the then, independent commonwealth of Vermont, took place. Each state claimed jurisdiction over the same territory. The territory included several towns. In Vermont, the towns were "located" in Washington County. In New Hampshire, the very same towns were "located" in Cheshire County. And each county had its own sheriff. When the Vermont sheriff arrested two "residents" of New Hampshire, the situation very nearly came to blows. In fact, both states called out their militia units in preparation for a military response. They did this at the precise time that Amos Himes was told to report for duty.

Governor Chittenden, of Vermont sought advice from a good friend of his, who recently took office as the country's first president of the United States. George Washington advised Chittenden to back off and cede to New Hampshire all claims to any territory which lay east of the Connecticut river.

Chittenden agreed and the crisis was over. And my patriot never had to fire a shot.

Unsung Heroes of the American Revolution
William Whipple (1730 – 1785)

Merchant, Patriot, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, and a Man of Conscience



The life of William Whipple offers a compelling portrait of the American Revolution's moral and political complexity. A successful merchant turned revolutionary leader, Whipple played a significant role in the fight for independence—as a signer of the Declaration, a military officer, and a statesman. Yet perhaps his most enduring legacy lies in a deeply personal act: freeing the man he had once enslaved, reflecting the contradiction between the ideals of liberty and the realities of the era.

William Whipple was born in 1730 in Kittery, then part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. As a young man, he went to sea, eventually becoming a ship captain engaged in Atlantic trade. Like many New England merchants of the time, his business interests were tied to the broader commercial networks of the British Empire—including, at times, the slave trade.

By the 1760s, Whipple had settled in Portsmouth, where he established himself as a prominent and wealthy merchant. His success brought him into the upper ranks of colonial society, but it also exposed him to growing tensions between the colonies and Great Britain. As British policies such as the Stamp Act and Townshend duties stirred colonial resistance, Whipple emerged as a supporter of American rights. By the early 1770s, he was actively involved in local politics and revolutionary organizing. In 1775, Whipple was elected as a delegate to the Continental Congress. There, he joined figures such as John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin in debating the future of the colonies.

Whipple ultimately cast his vote for independence and signed the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776. This act was one of profound personal risk; as a signer, he was committing treason against the British Crown, punishable by death.

Whipple did not limit his contributions to political leadership. He also served actively in the military during the American Revolutionary War. Commissioned as a brigadier general in the New Hampshire militia, Whipple participated in key operations in the northern theater. Most notably, he served under Horatio Gates during the Saratoga Campaign—a turning point in the war that resulted in the surrender of British General John Burgoyne. There, Whipple played a role in negotiating and supervising the surrender of British forces. The American victory at Saratoga helped secure French support for the revolutionary cause, dramatically shifting the war's trajectory.

One of the most significant—and often discussed—aspects of William Whipple's life is his relationship with Prince Whipple, an enslaved man who lived in his household. Prince Whipple accompanied William during the war and is believed to have participated in the campaign at Saratoga. According to long-standing tradition, Prince confronted his master with a powerful question: how could Whipple fight for liberty while denying it to others? Whether apocryphal or not, the story reflects a broader truth about the contradictions of the Revolution. At some point during or after the war, William Whipple emancipated Prince—making him one of the few Founding Fathers to free an enslaved person.

Prince Whipple went on to live as a free man in New Hampshire, reportedly becoming a respected member of the community. His life stands as a testament to both the limitations and possibilities of the Revolutionary era. After the war, Whipple continued to serve his state and nation. He returned to the Continental Congress and later held judicial positions, including serving as a justice of the New Hampshire Superior Court. Whipple's health declined in the 1780s. He died in 1785 in Portsmouth at the age of 55.

William Whipple's legacy is layered and, in many ways, emblematic of the American founding itself. He was a man of courage and conviction, willing to risk everything for independence. His service in Congress and on the battlefield placed him among the key contributors to the nation's birth. Yet his life also reveals the moral tensions of the era. Like many revolutionaries, he benefited from a system that contradicted the very principles he championed. His decision to free Prince Whipple suggests an evolution in his thinking—an acknowledgment, however partial, of the universal nature of liberty.

Today, William Whipple is remembered not only as a signer of the Declaration of Independence but also as a figure whose personal journey reflects the broader struggle to reconcile freedom with justice in the early United States.

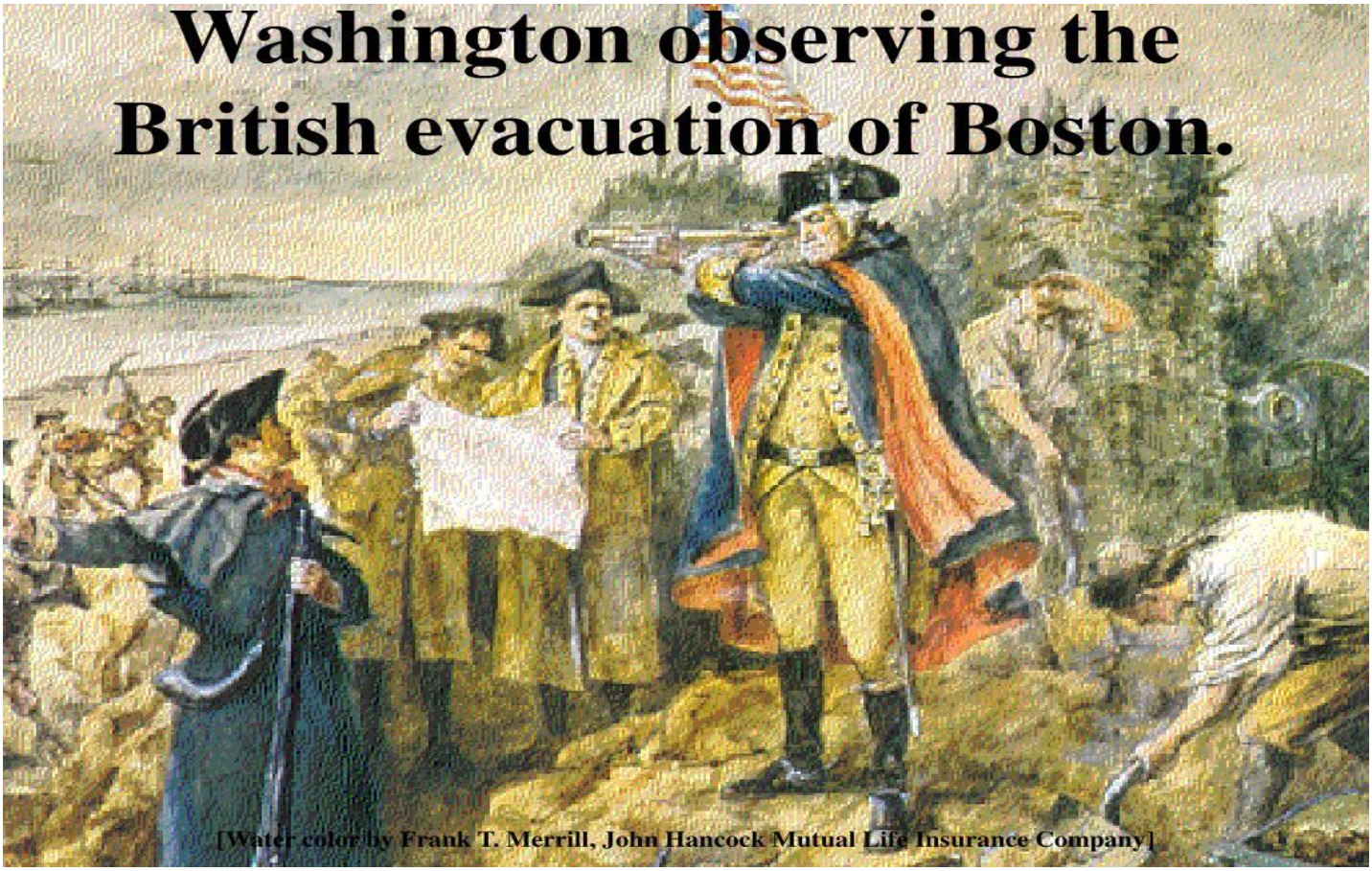
[Continued from Page 2]
Gen. Washington's Perspective. Washington understood the magnitude of the moment but remained measured in his response. In a letter to the Continental Congress, he wrote: ***"I have the pleasure to inform you that on Sunday last the 17th instant… the Ministerial army evacuated the town of Boston, without destroying it."*** Analysis of his phrasing reflects both satisfaction and relief—victory had been achieved without the catastrophic loss of the city.

Washington also recognized the broader implications. The success at Boston demonstrated that the Continental Army, though inexperienced and often undersupplied, could outmaneuver British forces through strategy and positioning rather than direct confrontation.

Why the British Left Without Burning Boston. Several factors explain why Boston was spared:

1. Mutual Deterrence – The Americans were in position to inflict heavy damage if the British attempted destruction.
2. Logistical Constraints – Organizing a large-scale burning while evacuating thousands of people would have been chaotic and risky.
3. Strategic Priorities – Howe needed to preserve his army for future campaigns, not expend it in a final act of vengeance.
4. Implicit Agreement – The understanding with Washington ensured a safer withdrawal.

The Human Dimension. For Loyalists, the evacuation was a tragedy. Families were divided, property abandoned, and lives uprooted. Many would never return to Massachusetts. Their departure marked one of the earliest waves of Loyalist exile during the Revolution. For Patriots, the moment was triumphant. After months of uncertainty, the British had been forced out—not by direct assault, but by strategic pressure.



Conclusion. The evacuation of Boston was more than a military maneuver; it was a turning point shaped by diplomacy, restraint, and logistics. The image of British ships filling the harbor, carrying away an army and thousands of refugees, symbolized the collapse of royal authority in New England. Washington's success lay not in a dramatic battlefield victory, but in forcing the enemy into an impossible position. By seizing Dorchester Heights and holding firm, he compelled the British to abandon Boston—intact and unburned. In doing so, the Continental Army achieved its first great strategic triumph, setting the stage for the long and uncertain war that lay ahead.

Calling for Volunteers to Step Forward and Become Caloosa Chapter Color Guard Members

The Light Horse Harry Lee Camp #15 Color Guard is made up of Caloosa Chapter SAR members who come to meetings and events properly uniformed as either Continental Soldiers or Militiamen or attired as Revolution era clergymen. Our Color Guard is available for participation in community events locally, as well as Regional and National celebrations. We are always looking for additional Color Guard members, according to our current Chapter President, Rick Parfitt.



Caloosa Chapter SAR Color Guard Members: Mike Buff, Tom Thompson, and Ron Peck at the Honor Flight Welcome Home Ceremony (April 29, 2023)

There are typically one or two requests for our Color Guard per month and are most often within driving distance and do not include overnight stays. The Guardsmen who volunteer arrive at the site early enough so that Color Guard Commander Mike Buff is able to run through the plan for what their participation at the event will consist of.

There is no need to be concerned, according to Commander Mike Buff, about complicated marches or ceremonies. "If there is a need for any training," he said, "we provide it, and no one needs to be afraid that they will be unprepared."

There are currently six to eight Caloosa Color Guardsmen who serve, but as with any organization, people come and go so there is a constant need for new recruits. "The personal rewards for volunteering come immediately," said President Brunelle. "The looks on the faces of young and old when they see us in our Revolutionary War attire bring a lot of joy and satisfaction to each of us.

If you are interested in joining the Color Guard, or have questions about it, contact our Caloosa Chapter SAR President Rick Parfitt at: **Florida4rick@gmail.com** to help us to carry our mission forward.



(L to R) Mike Buff, Ron Peck, Andy Petrson and Jeff Brunelle at the Vietnam War 50th Commemoration (March 29, 2024)



(L to R) Andy Peterson, Ron Peck, Mike Buff Posting the Colors at the Constitution Week Luncheon (September 21, 2024)

Light Horse Harry Lee Camp #15



The Caloosa Chapter Color Guard is named in honor of Henry Lee III, a Virginia patrician (and father of Confederate General Robert E. Lee) who became a captain in a Virginia dragoon detachment at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. In 1778, he was promoted to Major and given command of a mixed corps of cavalry and infantry known as Lee's Legion. During this period, he earned the sobriquet of "**Light Horse Harry**" for his horsemanship.



This unit became one of the best-known in the Continental Army's history, and in 1780 Lee was given authorization to form a formal Legionary Corps. Many of the best soldiers from other units either volunteered or were specially invited to join its ranks. In 1780, Lee was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and on January 1, 1781, the Legion was re-designated as the 2nd Partisan Corps, organized with 3 troops of horse and 3 troops of infantry. It was assigned to General Nathaniel Greene for service in the southern theater.



One of his most legendary victories occurred on February 25, 1781 in North Carolina, when he and his force were mistaken for British cavalrymen by Loyalist John Pyle. Lee caught on and rode directly into the midst of the Loyalist ranks and ordered his men to fire. When the smoke had cleared, Lee and his men were seen to have killed or injured most of the enemy militia, while suffering no loss of life of their own. Lee went on to participate in many more Revolutionary War battles and was present at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. After the War, he served as: (a) a delegate to the Confederation Congress; (b) a three-term governor of Virginia: (c) a Major General, appointed by George Washington to put down the tax protest known as the 'Whiskey Rebellion' in Pennsylvania; and (d) a member of the U.S. House of Representatives representing Virginia.

Compatriot John C. Jones wrote a full biography of Harry Lee III when he served as our Newsletter Editor. If you go to our Caloosa SAR Web Page, you can read it if you "click on" the July 2020 Edition of the SAR Patriot.

SHE DID IT!



Meet the researcher, writer, producer, narrator, director, and film editor, of the 1st Place Winning Video in the State of Florida SAR Youth Video Contest – our own Caloosa Chapter Entrant, Ezrah Hogsed.

Ezrah's winning video: *The Life of Henry Knox: Visionary General of the American Revolution* has won 1st Place in the State of Florida, and the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution have now sent it on to the nationwide competition conducted by the National SAR.

The video is a summary of General Knox' role in the American Revolution, and highlights his daring winter expedition to transport captured British artillery from Fort Ticonderoga in upstate New York 300 miles south to Boston.

You can meet Ezrah in person, together with many of our other Youth Contest winners, at the upcoming meeting of our Caloosa Chapter on Saturday, April 11, 2026.

Please come to meet and congratulate all our Youth Contest participants, and wish them continued good luck in the final stages of the competition.

A Continuing Offer to You From Christine Racine and Mark Barie Christine Racine and Mark Barie

So, are you having some difficulty getting a "kick-start" on fleshing-out more of the detail on the life of your patriot ancestor? Or do you need help in getting started on taking the information you already have gathered together and putting it down in storybook fashion? We need your stories for the Compatriot Corner section of our monthly newsletter, and now there is a way to help you out with your research and writing. Our Compatriot Mark Barie, an award-winning author, and his wife, Christine Racine, an expert genealogist (both pictured below), have offered to assist any member of our Caloosa Chapter SAR with the research and written summary of your patriot ancestor's biography. These mini biographies will then be published in our monthly newsletter, as space allows. And there is no fee for this service! You can't get a better deal than that! If you are interested, please feel free to contact Compatriot Barie directly at his email address: **Authormarkbarie@gmail.com**.



Caloosa Chapter SAR Announcements

President Parfitt has announced that: (a) volunteers are needed to serve on the Chapter's Color Guard; and (b) Chapter volunteers are needed to assist with future SAR Americanism Youth Contests which all begin at the Chapter level, with winners then advanced to the FLSSAR and National SAR levels; and (c) due to unexpected resignations, we are in need of Compatriots to act as Secretary and Historian for our Chapter. Many hands make light work, as the adage goes, and we can use your help. The work is not complicated, and we will be happy to show you the ropes, and provide as much guidance as necessary. If you'd like to volunteer, just let any one of our Officers know and he'll point you in the right direction.

More Photos from our March 11th Chapter Meeting



The Three Amigos – Rick Parfitt, Jonn Maier and Jeff Brunelle



John Maier with Anne Hester's Principal Tony A. Allen



Best in the State of Florida; Third in the USA!



Who looks the happiest here? Hard to tell but we'll give it to Rachel



Overflow Crowd to Celebrate Our Winning American History Teachers – Anne Hester and Rachel Michel

[Special thanks to our Compatriots from the Myers Family – Albert, Forrest and Camden – for all the photos! Your work is much appreciated. J. Maier]

Education Center and Museum Liberty Tree Campaign

We will all soon celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Is there a more fitting tribute to those who secured the liberties we enjoy than to share their story? Help ensure that the SAR Education Center and Museum is completed in time for the celebration.

The SAR Foundation, Inc. asks you to support the SAR Education Center and Museum through ***The Liberty Tree Campaign.*** While few of us can make a $1,000 gift without pause, you could, budget monthly support of $25 save American's history? Think of it as a utility bill, but instead of water, gas, or cable TV, you will be helping the SAR.

The Liberty Tree Campaign has four levels.

Bronze – A one-time gift of $1,250 (or $25 monthly until total is reached)

Silver- A one-time gift of $2,500 (or $50 monthly until total is reached)

Gold – A one-time gift of $25,000 (or $500 monthly until the total is reached)

Diamond – Please contact the SAR Foundation to arrange for a $250,000 gift



Donors receive a lapel pin like the one pictured above. Donors at the Gold and Diamond Levels will also be recognized with an appropriate naming opportunity in the SAR Education Center and Museum. Call **Phil Bloyd** in the SAR Foundation Office at **(502) 315-1777** to pledge to the Liberty Tree Campaign today! For those who need to hold onto their cash, the Founders Circle allows Compatriots to remember the SAR in their estate. Call Phil Bloyd or email him at pbloyd@sar.org for assistance.

The SAR 1776 Campaign, started in 2015, is also available and recognizes donations in the amount of $1,776 and fractions and multiples thereof. The SAR has a story to tell, and your continued support will allow the SAR to champion our rich heritage for all to appreciate by building The SAR Education Center and Museum.

"Yankee Doodle": The Mocking Tune That Became a Revolutionary Anthem
Here's The Story Behind The Song



Long before it echoed across American battlefields, *Yankee Doodle* was a wandering European melody with no fixed identity. It drifted through taverns, fairs, and military camps across the continent, carrying with it a jumble of nonsense syllables and playful refrains. In the Netherlands, versions of the tune appeared in the 1500s as rustic harvest songs. In England and Ireland, it surfaced in folk dances and drinking rounds. Nothing about it suggested destiny. It was simply a catchy, slightly ridiculous, tune—easy to whistle, easy to remember, and easy to adapt.

But by the mid-18th century, that very simplicity made it a perfect vehicle for mockery. And the British Army, with its long tradition of musical satire, found in the tune an ideal way to belittle the people they saw as their colonial inferiors.

A British Joke at America's Expense. The transformation of *Yankee Doodle* into an insult began during the French and Indian War (1754–1763), when British regulars fought alongside colonial militia. To the professional soldiers of His Majesty's Army, the colonists were an endless source of amusement. They saw them as undisciplined, poorly dressed, and laughably provincial. Their clothing was mismatched, their marching uneven, and their military etiquette—by British standards—nonexistent.

According to tradition, a British Army physician named Dr. Richard Shuckburgh penned the earliest satirical American-focused lyrics around 1755. Watching the colonial troops muster near Albany, he supposedly set new words to the familiar tune, lampooning their appearance and manners. The colonists, he joked, were so ignorant of fashion that they believed sticking a feather in a cap made them a "dandy"—a fashionable gentleman.

The term *"Yankee"* itself was already a slur, used by the British to describe colonists in a tone that blended condescension with contempt. "Doodle," drawn from German words meaning fool or simpleton, added another layer of ridicule. Put together, *Yankee Doodle* painted Americans as laughable country bumpkins pretending at sophistication.

To British officers, the joke was irresistible. They sang it in camp, hummed it on the march, and used it to amuse themselves at the expense of their colonial allies. The tune became a musical shorthand for colonial incompetence. The colonists, for their part, tolerated the mockery. They needed British support in the war, and many were unaware of the full insult embedded in the lyrics. But the tune lingered in their ears, waiting for its moment.

The "Macaroni" Craze and the Deepening Insult. By the 1770s, the insult sharpened thanks to a bizarre British fashion trend. Young aristocrats known as *"macaronis"*—named after the exotic Italian pasta—wore flamboyant clothing, towering wigs, and extravagant accessories. They were the height of London fashion, and the butt of endless jokes. Calling an American a "Yankee Doodle Dandy" implied he was a ridiculous imitation of these fashionable elites. The colonists, in British eyes, were not only unfashionable—they were too ignorant to even understand what fashion was. The feather-in-the-cap line became a punchline about colonial pretensions.

By the eve of the American Revolution, *Yankee Doodle* was firmly established as a British musical insult. British troops played it to amuse themselves whenever colonial militia appeared. The tune was a sonic smirk. But history has a way of turning insults inside out.

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The Revolution Begins—and the Song Changes Hands. When the first shots of the Revolution rang out at Lexington and Concord in April 1775, the relationship between colonists and British regulars changed overnight. The colonists were no longer allies—they were rebels. And the tune that had once mocked them suddenly took on a new meaning.

As British troops retreated from Concord under fire from hundreds of militia, the colonists began singing *Yankee Doodle* back at them. What had been a British joke became an act of defiance. The colonists embraced the tune with a kind of mischievous pride. If the British thought they were simple country folk, so be it—they would beat the empire with their own "doodle" spirit.
This was the beginning of the song's transformation. The colonists didn't just adopt *Yankee Doodle*; they weaponized it. They added new verses mocking British officers, celebrating American victories, and turning the tune into a musical taunt. The British had meant the song to belittle Americans. Instead, it became a badge of honor.

The Continental Army Makes It Their Own. As the war intensified, *Yankee Doodle* spread rapidly through the ranks of the Continental Army. Fife-and-drum corps played it during marches, encampments, and celebrations. Its simple melody was perfect for fifes, which carried sound over long distances and through the chaos of battle.

More importantly, the song captured the spirit of the American cause. It was irreverent, energetic, and defiantly proud. It allowed soldiers to laugh at the British, at themselves, and at the absurdity of war. It became a unifying force—a tune every soldier knew, regardless of colony or background. It was the British officers that first noticed the shift. What had once been their mocking tune now echoed from American lines with triumphant enthusiasm. The joke had turned around completely.
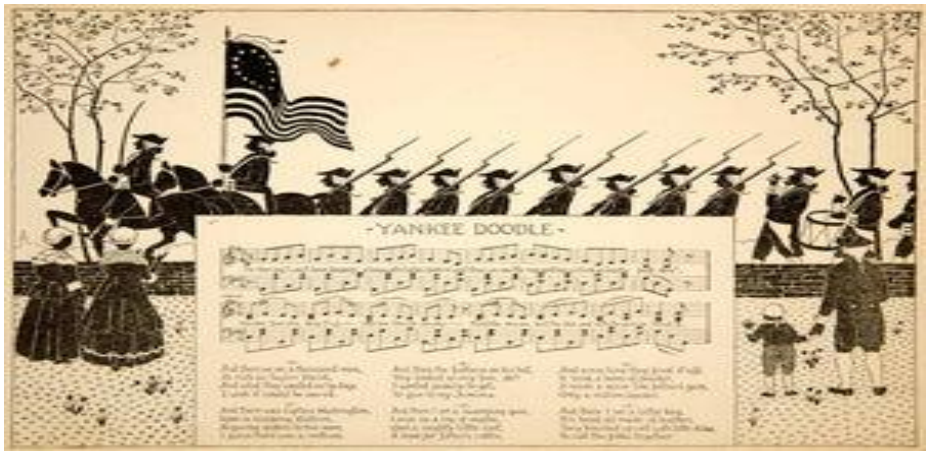
Saratoga, Monmouth, and the Growing Legend. Throughout the war, *Yankee Doodle* became a soundtrack to American resilience. After the stunning American victory at Saratoga in 1777, the tune was played repeatedly as British prisoners marched past. At Monmouth in 1778, American musicians used it to rally troops in the sweltering heat. Each time it played, the song's meaning deepened. It was no longer just a taunt—it was a declaration. The Americans were not the fools the British had imagined. They were a people forging a new identity, and *Yankee Doodle* became part of that identity.

Yorktown: The Ultimate Turnabout. The symbolic climax of the song's journey came in 1781 at Yorktown, where British General Cornwallis surrendered to the combined American and French forces. According to one enduring account, the British troops marched out to the tune of "The World Turned Upside Down," a somber acknowledgment of their defeat.

But the Americans had their own musical message. As the British left the field, Marquis d' Lafayette ordered the American musicians to strike up *Yankee Doodle*. The tune that had once mocked colonial incompetence now marked the triumph of the very people it had ridiculed. It was a moment of poetic justice—history set to music. Whether every detail of the story is literally true matters less than the symbolism. By war's end, *Yankee Doodle* had become inseparable from the American victory.

From Insult to Anthem. By the time peace was declared, *Yankee Doodle* had completed one of the most remarkable transformations in musical history. It had gone from a British sneer to a patriotic anthem embraced by soldiers and civilians alike. It captured the American knack for turning adversity into strength, mockery into pride, and simplicity into power.

In the decades that followed, the song became a staple of American culture. Children learned it in school. Parades featured it. Military bands played it. It became a symbol of national character—playful, resilient, and unpretentious.
The British had meant to belittle the colonists. Instead, they gave them a song that helped define a nation.



Chapter Web Site



Compatriot Lawrence J. Hughes has now taken over duties as the Caloosa Chapter Webmaster, and the website is available at https://caloosasar.org/. It is also available through a link on the Florida Society web page. (www.flssar.org) where you would click on the "Chapters" tab, then "Caloosa." You may also be interested in visiting the National Society Sons of the American Revolution webpage: www.sar.org which includes a "members only" section and access to the SAR Merchandise Store.

Larry is anxious to hear from you and would be grateful for any suggestions you might have to help him continue the fine tradition established by the prior Webmasters and make the Webpage everything you would like it to be. His email address is: lawrencejhughes@gmail.com.

Chapter Facebook Page

Many thanks to our Compatriot Albert Myers for keeping our Facebook page up to date with current activities in the last few years. Newsletter Editor John Maier has volunteered to take over these duties. The following link to the page can be entered into your web browser's navigation bar (some recipients of the newsletter may be able to click on the link):

https://www.facebook.com/CaloosaChapteroftheSAR

The Caloosa SAR Facebook page strives to provide the most current and timely information and images covering Chapter programs and local happenings. If members have items of interest, John Maier welcomes email submission of photos and information. Send it to jmaier@wisclaw.com.

Our mission is to transport local Veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit those memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifice. We were established on September 25th, 2013 to bring this program to the Collier and Lee County areas in Southwest Florida. Six short weeks after forming, a remarkably successful inaugural flight (Mission 1) took place on November 9th, 2013. To date we have transported over 1200 WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans on this deeply emotional and well-deserved trip. Support for these trips is provided by volunteers and is at no cost to the veterans. Top priority is given to our most senior heroes.

DATE FOR MISSION 29 (SPRING 2026): APRIL 25, 2026



We would love to hear from you. Please contact us using the information provided below for any questions about signing up, volunteering or anything else.

PO Box 8001
Naples, FL 34101
(239) 777-9295
info@collierhonorflight.org

Next Flight: Mission 29
Was Rescheduled From October 18, 2025 to April 25, 2026
If You Or Your Vet Are Interested In Being Part Of This Next (Or Future) Missions
As An Honored Participant, Or As A Guardian Or Volunteer
See Our Website And Sign Up Now!

The SAR Mission Statement

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, educating, and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

The SAR Pledge

We, the descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifice, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.

Recessional

Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men.