SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

CALOOSA PATRIOT

Volume XXI Issue IV *Caloosa Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution Newsletter* April 2026

John L. Maier, Jr, Editor

"Taking On The British Navy"

Forming A Fledgling Naval Force That Would Challenge His Majesty's Fleet (250 Years Ago - Spring, 1776)



Continental Navy Frigate *USS Columbus* with the captured British Brig *Lord Lifford* off New England 1776
By William Nowland Van Powell, Naval Art Gallery, Washington Navy Yard [Used Through Public Domain]

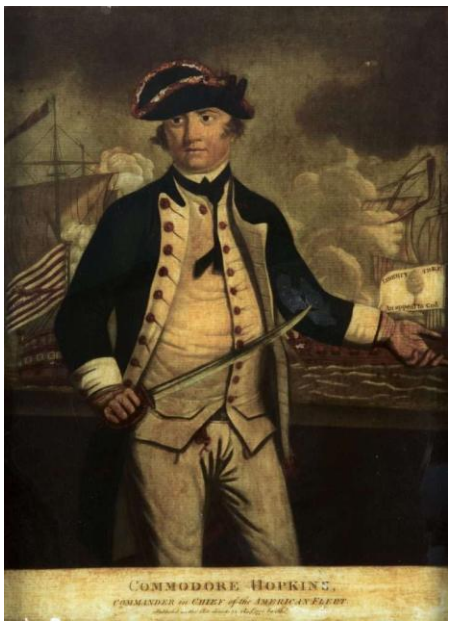
In late April and May 1776, the American naval effort-still improvised, under-resourced, and fragmented-began to take on a more coherent form during the early months of the American Revolutionary War. Though overshadowed by land campaigns, maritime operations in this period were essential to sustaining the revolutionary cause, shaping strategy, and laying the institutional groundwork for what would become the United States Navy.

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The driving force behind this naval emergence was the Second Continental Congress, where a small group of determined political leaders pushed for the creation of a fleet despite limited resources and considerable skepticism. Foremost among these persistent advocates was future President John Adams.

Adams recognized that sea power - however modest - could disrupt British logistics, protect colonial trade, and compensate for the colonies' weaknesses on land. Alongside him, John Hancock provided the political authority to issue commissions and legitimize naval actions, while Robert Morris worked behind the scenes to secure funding, arrange contracts, and manage the complex logistics of shipbuilding and supply.



By the spring of 1776, these efforts had begun to yield tangible results. The Continental Navy, though small, was operational, and its ships were at sea or preparing for further cruises. Under the overall command of Esek Hopkins, American vessels pursued a strategy of commerce raiding which consisted of targeting British merchant shipping, seizing much needed supplies, and undermining the enemy's economic strength. The earlier expedition to the Bahamas had already demonstrated the value of such operations, and by late April and May, American ships continued to range along the Atlantic seaboard and into the Caribbean. Officers such as Abraham Whipple and Dudley Saltonstall contributed to these efforts, capturing prizes and forcing Britain to divert naval resources to convoy protection.

Yet the American naval war was not fought solely on the open ocean. As British strategy shifted following their evacuation of Boston In March 1776, attention turned to the critical corridor linking Canada to the Hudson Valley. Control of this route-running through Lake Champlain and the Hudson River-offered a potential pathway for British forces to divide the colonies. Recognizing this danger, American leaders undertook a remarkable shipbuilding effort in the wilderness.



At the forefront of this northern naval campaign was Benedict Arnold, whose energy and determination were instrumental in transforming raw materials into a fighting fleet. Working at Skenesborough and Fort Ticonderoga, Arnold supervised the construction of gondolas, schooners, and other small craft. These vessels were not intended to defeat the Royal Navy outright but to delay its advance, buying time for American defenses further south. Throughout late April and May, carpenters, soldiers, and sailors labored under harsh conditions, racing against the anticipated British push from Canada.

Meanwhile, along the coast, American naval and quasi-naval forces worked to defend key harbors and maintain vital supply lines. Ports such as New London and Providence served as bases for small warships and privateers, which guarded against British raids and supported regional logistics. At New York Harbor, preparations intensified as both sides anticipated a major confrontation. Although the Continental Navy could not match the Royal Navy in firepower, American forces relied on ingenuity-deploying fire ships, fortifying shore batteries, and using smaller vessels suited to local waters.

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Sons of the American Revolution



Taking On The British Navy
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Unsung American Heroes:
Commodore John Barry
Patriot, Sea Captain & First
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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!

As we approach the summer break, I want to thank everyone for all their work in supporting the Caloosa Chapter.

Remember that our mission as Sons of the American Revolution is to promote patriotism, serving our communities and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding of our great country. More than ever, we must carry out our mission, especially as we reach our country's 250th anniversary in these turbulent and challenging times.

I believe it is appropriate to remember what our founding fathers were thinking about 250 years ago. Thomas Jefferson, writing to British politician and friend William Hamilton in 1800, said: *"I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend"* -- a very profound statement many would be wise to think about in our current social media culture.

As I know you will, as much as possible, enjoy our history this summer as you attend events, fireworks and parades. Take time to visit a museum, concert or any inspiring event.

Finally, from one of our greatest founders, Benjamin Franklin: *"Where liberty dwells, there is my country."*

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

ExCom Meetings Are Now Being Held Virtually Via "Zoom" Connection
[Notify President Parfitt at Florida4rick@gmail.com or Vice-President John Maier at jmaier@wisclaw.com and request Zoom link if you'd like to attend]

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	[TBD]
Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026	[TBD]
Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2026	11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026	[TBD]

THE NEXT CALOOSA CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 9, 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 The Induction Of Compatriot Arthur ("Art") Brostrom, P.E. As The Newest Member Of Our Caloosa Chapter FLSSAR

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.

April 11th Chapter Meeting

Inducting New Compatriots: Brian Mangan and Jeff Dedecker and Honoring Our Caloosa Chapter's Winners of the 2025-2026 SAR Americanism Youth Contests

Our April Chapter meeting was busy from start to finish. Over 40 Compatriots of the Caloosa SAR Chapter, and their guests, were asked to take their seats as soon as possible after arriving at Famous Dave's because the Agenda (and the room) was packed.

Following the prayer of Invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance, and usual order of events and welcoming comments and introductions, **President Parfitt** called our VP and Chair of the SAR Youth Contests, **John Maier** to the front in order to introduce the winners of the various contests to all in attendance. Annually, the National SAR conducts contests open to students depending upon the grade level they are currently in. Students in Grades 3-5 can choose to participate in the Poster Contest, while those in Grades 6-8 may enter the Brochure Contest. Kids in High School may enter an Essay Contest and/or an Oration Contest, and, very recently, the SAR began sponsoring a new contest: the Youth Video Contest, which is open to students 6th through 12th Grades. Participation in the Youth Contests begins at the local Chapter level, and our Caloosa Chapter had entrants in each of the contest categories. The kids had a blast, learned a lot, and were seen smiling ear to ear as their Certificates of recognition were presented as well as their winning checks for the cash awards given to 1st through 3rd place winners.



Clockwise from top left: Josh Golden, Caleb Golden, Abigail Golden (3rd Place for Battle of Yorktown Poster) and Audrey Golden (1st Place for The Boston Tea Party)

The Elementary School Poster Contest was developed to stimulate 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade students in the study of American History. The students design their own posters based on figures and events of the American Revolutionary Era. First Place Chapter Winner was **Audrey Golden**, with her sister, **Abigail Golden**, **Alasdair Peterson** and **Zion Havlykee** in the runner up positions. Audrey's poster, which depicts the Boston Tea Party has now moved on for judging at the State level, which occurs at the Spring BOM Meeting in Kissimmee in May.

The SAR Middle School Contest is to create a tri-fold brochure out of a typical 8 ½ x 11" piece of paper. The brochure must conform to the contest theme which is set each year. The brochure is judged on content, creativity and correctness. This year, **Abraham Hogsed** won 1st Place for his brochure on the Battle of Kings Mountain. Runner up was **Aya Havlykee** whose brochure highlights our United States Constitution.

The "new" SAR Youth Video Contest provides its entrants with the opportunity to share what you know about a person, battle, document or event during the American struggle for independence and do it in video format. The key is to be creative. The student's project could be filmed or animated, look like a cable news broadcast or a pretend movie trailer. It could even be a music video or a rap battle. But each entry must contain original content and based on scholarly research of the presented topic. Our 1st Place Winner was **Ezrah Hogsed** whose video spotlighted the life and Revolutionary War exploits of General Henry Knox. Ezrah's video was then judged at the State level, where she also placed first! The video entered by our runners-up, **Mary and Karl Petereson** was a shadow-box type video on the life and death of American Hero Nathan Hale. [Continued on Page 9]



L to R: VP Maier and Pres. Parfitt holding runner-up Certificates for Mary and Karl Peterson (Video Contest), Andy Peterson's poster of "The Turtle" with Grampa Andy Peterson holding Alasdair's Certificate and Poster and accepting his grandkids' awards as they could not attend personally

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Proud winners, parents and grandparents (L to R) Top row: Matt Davis, Brian Hogsed, Ari Hogsed, Tarenne Hogsed, Tom Gillaspie and Bottom row: Elysianne Davis, Abraham Hogsed, Ezrah Hogsed, and Jayma Gillaspie

Rounding out the contests, were the Essay and Oration Youth Contests which are run at the high school level. The George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest requires students to submit an original 800 to 1,200 word essay based on an event, person, philosophy or ideal association with the American Revolution, Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution. Each essay is judged based upon its historical accuracy, clarity, organization, grammar and spelling, and documentation. **Ari Hogsed** was our overall Essay Contest winner, with **Elysianne Davis** coming in second.

Ari Hogsed was not content to stop with his Essay Contest win, so he took his essay, condensed it to the required time for the Rumbaugh Oration Contest, and entered that contest as well. Both Ari and Ezrah's Chapter wins propelled them on to the State contest where they also both won 1st Place! As a real treat, Ari then presented his oration live and in person to a very impressed crowd.

Following the excitement of celebrating with the Chapter's SAR Americanism Youth Contest winners and their families, the Chapter celebrated the induction of two new members: **Brian Mangan** and **Jeff Dedecker**'s whose months-long journeys to gain approval of their respective applications, climaxed with their swearing-in ceremony. Seeing the pride in the eyes of each new member during the proceeding is always a joy as all of us join together to carry on the mission of our Patriot ancestors. Welcome to our new Compatriots!



L to R: President Parfitt, Chaplain Moody, Brian Mangan, Jeff Dedecker, Registrar Chris Jenner

Our Chapter meeting would not be complete without an America250 Moment presented by Chaplain Moody, who selected the first American naval victory as his topic, which occurred on April 7, 1776, off the coast of the Virginia, when the American brig *Lexington*, commanded by John Barry, encountered the British tender *Edward*. The *Lexington*, a converted merchant vessel serving in the Continental Navy, was on patrol when it came across the smaller but well-armed British ship. Despite the *Edward* being a Royal Navy vessel, Barry acted decisively. He closed the distance and engaged in a brisk firefight that lasted roughly an hour. The *Lexington*'s crew, though relatively inexperienced compared to British sailors, fought with determination and accuracy. Barry's leadership proved critical as he maneuvered his ship effectively to bring its guns to bear while minimizing exposure to enemy fire. The British crew resisted but was ultimately overwhelmed. The *Edward* sustained significant damage, and with mounting casualties and little chance of escape, her captain struck his colors and surrendered. Barry took possession of the vessel, making it the first American naval capture of the war. Rev. Moody concluded by instructing us that this victory had importance beyond its scale. It provided a much-needed morale boost to the Patriot cause at a time when American naval forces were still developing. It also demonstrated that the Continental Navy could successfully challenge British ships at sea. Barry's success in this engagement helped establish his reputation as one of the most capable naval officers of the Revolution and marked an early step in the emergence of American naval power. [Editor's note: see related story on Page 14]

Timeline: The Revolutionary Road To Independence

What Was Going On In April – May, 1776?

By late April and May of 1776, the American colonies stood at a tense and uncertain threshold. Open insurrection — armed revolt — had already begun more than a year earlier at Lexington and Concord, yet the question of independence still lingered unresolved in the minds of many colonial leaders. What unfolded in these spring weeks was not defined by a single decisive battle, but by a convergence of military preparation, political transformation, and a growing sense that reconciliation with Britain was slipping out of reach.

Military Situation: General George Washington, commanding the Continental Army, had recently achieved a significant strategic success: the British evacuation of Boston in March. This victory did not end the war, but it shifted its center of gravity. Washington understood that the British would not simply concede; instead, they would regroup and strike where the colonies were most vulnerable. His attention turned quickly to New York, a city of immense strategic importance due to its harbor and central location among the colonies. Throughout late April and into May, Washington moved troops into New York and began fortifying the area, anticipating a major British offensive.

At the same time, the British were preparing a massive response. Reinforcements were being assembled across the Atlantic, including thousands of German auxiliaries — often called Hessians — hired to bolster British ranks. Rumors of this buildup spread through the colonies, heightening both fear and resolve. It became increasingly clear that Britain intended not just to punish rebellion but to crush it decisively.

Meanwhile, the war extended beyond the northern colonies. In the South, British strategy aimed to rally Loyalist support and regain control. However, efforts there had recently faltered, particularly after the failed British assault on Charleston in June was already being anticipated through troop movements and defensive preparations in May. Southern patriots, aware of British intentions, strengthened their positions and organized militias, determined not to repeat earlier vulnerabilities.

The Continental Army itself faced ongoing challenges. Supplies were scarce, enlistments were short-term, and discipline remained uneven. Washington spent much of this period not only preparing defenses but also striving to maintain cohesion among his troops. He understood that the coming battles (especially the anticipated clash in New York) would test the army severely. Training, organization, and morale became as crucial as battlefield tactics.

Political Momentum Toward Independence: While armies maneuvered, political attitudes were shifting just as dramatically. The Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, had not yet declared independence, but the tone of debate was changing. Earlier hopes for reconciliation, embodied in the Olive Branch Petition of 1775, had faded after King George III refused even to consider colonial grievances and instead declared the colonies to be in open rebellion. By spring 1776, many delegates began to accept that independence might be the only viable path forward.

Local governments reflected this change in sentiment. In May 1776, Congress took a bold step by recommending that colonies form new governments independent of royal authority. This was a radical move: it effectively encouraged the dismantling of British rule at the local level. Several colonies, including Virginia, moved quickly. On May 15, Virginia instructed its delegates in Congress to propose independence, a clear sign that the political tide had turned. These actions were not merely symbolic; they represented a transfer of legitimacy from the Crown to the people of the colonies.

Influence of Revolutionary Ideas: Public opinion was also being shaped beyond the halls of Congress. Pamphlets circulated widely, none more influential than Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*, published earlier that year but still reverberating through colonial society. Its arguments for independence—once considered extreme—now felt increasingly practical. By late April and May, the idea of breaking from Britain was no longer confined to radicals; it was entering mainstream colonial thought.

In these weeks, the Revolutionary War existed in a state of anticipation. The dramatic events that would define the summer—most notably the Declaration of Independence and the Battle of Long Island—had not yet occurred, but their foundations were being laid. The colonies were transitioning from rebellion to revolution, from protest to nation-building.

Summary: Late April and May 1776 thus marked a pivotal moment: a time when military strategy aligned with political will, and when the possibility of independence transformed into an emerging reality. The decisions made, the preparations undertaken, and the shifting attitudes of both leaders and ordinary people all pointed toward an irreversible conclusion — the birth of a new nation was drawing closer, even as the war to secure it was only just beginning.

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Capt. Silas Talbot

Privateering, in particular, emerged as a crucial extension of American naval strategy. Authorized by Congress but privately owned, these vessels operated with relative independence, attacking British merchant ships and disrupting transatlantic commerce. Figures such as Silas Talbot exemplified this aggressive approach. While lacking the prestige of formal naval engagements, privateering had significant strategic impact, raising insurance rates, straining British resources, and providing captured goods that helped sustain the American war effort.

Despite these achievements, the challenges facing American naval forces in spring 1776 were formidable. There were chronic shortages of trained seamen, officers, and shipwrights; supplies of cannon, powder, and rigging were inconsistent; and coordination between Continental, state, and private forces was often uneven. Yet these very constraints fostered a culture of improvisation and adaptability. American commanders learned to exploit local geography, employ shallow-draft vessels, and pursue asymmetric tactics that offset British superiority at sea.

In retrospect, late April and May 1776 represent a formative moment in the development of American sea power. No single decisive naval battle defined the period, but the cumulative effect of these efforts was profound. Political leaders established the legal and administrative foundations of a navy; officers translated policy into action on both ocean and inland waters; and sailors, shipbuilders, and privateers created a functioning-if fragile-maritime force.

This convergence of leadership and operations ensured that, even in its infancy, the American naval effort contributed meaningfully to the broader revolutionary struggle. By disrupting British supply lines, defending critical waterways, and buying time for the Continental Army, these early naval operations helped sustain the rebellion during one of its most uncertain phases and laid the groundwork for the future United States Navy.



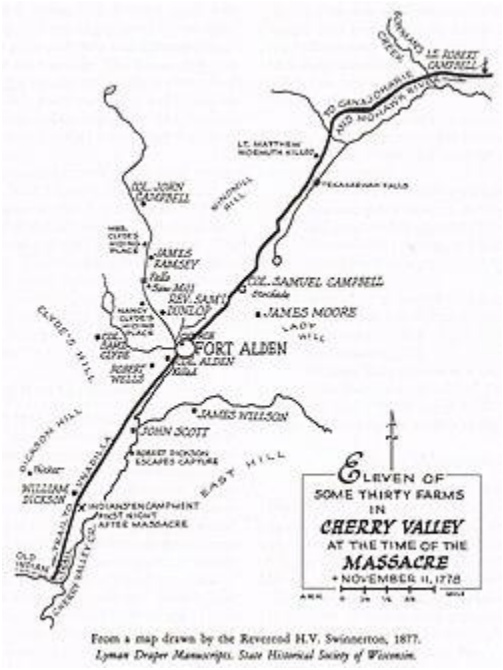
Battle of Valcour Island, Lake Champlain, October 11, 1776. Oil painting by V. Zveg [Public Domain] One of the first naval battles of the American Revolutionary War. Most of the American fleet were under the command of Benedict Arnold and were captured or destroyed by British forces. However the American defense of Lake Champlain stalled British plans to reach the upper Hudson River Valley.

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 story they wrote regarding the ordeal of Ephraim Dutton, the Patriot ancestor of our Compatriot Thomas K. Boardman.

Taken Prisoner by the Iroquois Confederation

By Compatriot Thomas K. Boardman (With Christine A. Racine and Compatriot Mark Barie)



From a map drawn by the Reverend H.V. Swinnerton, 1877.
Lyman Draper Manuscripts, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

My patriot was Ephraim Dutton. Ephraim Dutton enlisted at the Battle of Lexington and continued his service for a period of eight months. Although his service ended in December of 1775, he re-enlisted in July of 1776, this time for a period of five months.

It was his third re-enlistment, on April 4th, 1777, that would change his life and place Dutton in the middle of one of our nation's bloodiest episodes with the Iroquois nation.

The Battle of Cherry Valley, a small community less than 15 miles from Cooperstown, NY, triggered a series of events which would change American history.

Fort Alden, a rectangular-shaped structure consisting of a stockade fence and two blockhouses, was defended by a small number of American troops. The assault, led by Tory Captain Walter Butler, caught the defenders by surprise. Indeed, several dozen of the American soldiers, including their commanding officer, were outside the walls when the battle commenced. What followed was nothing short of a massacre.

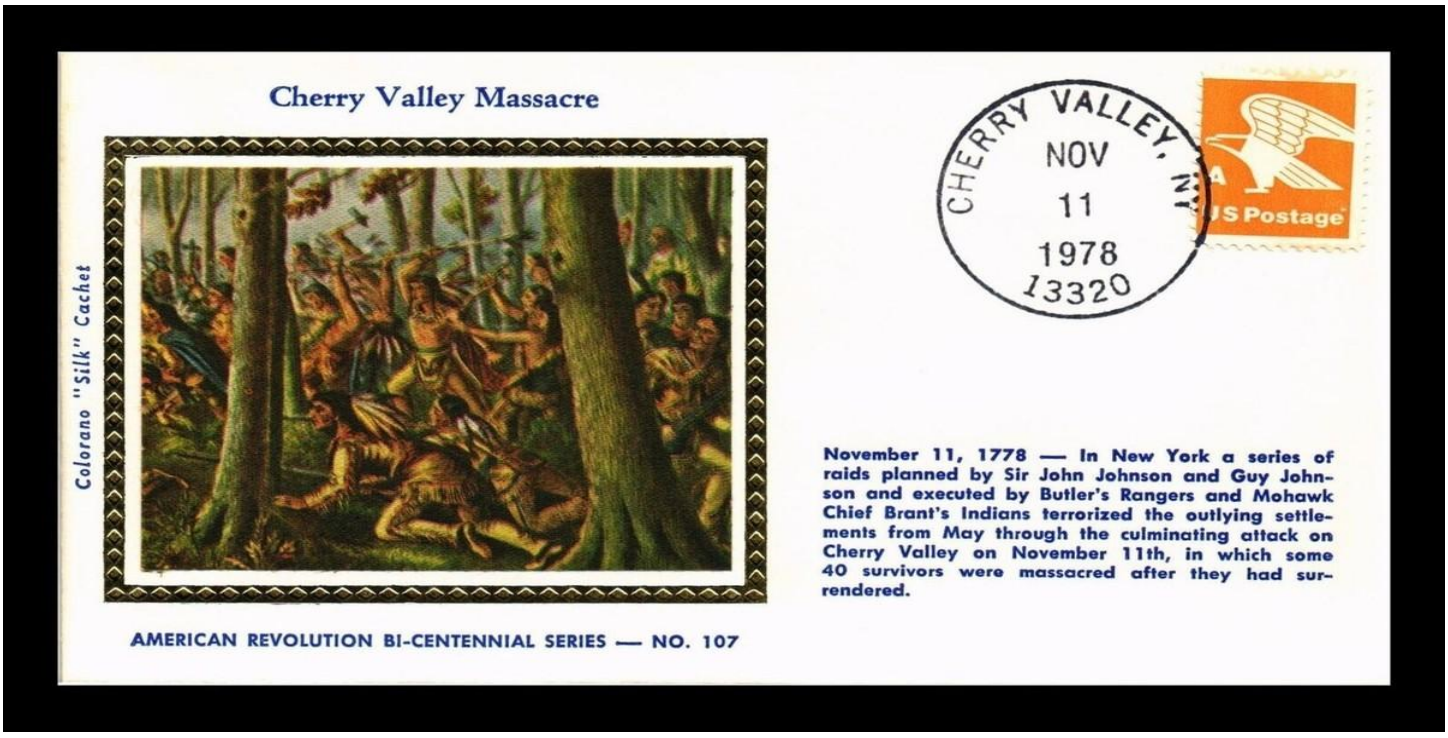

Incident at Cherry Valley - fate of Jane Wells [from the original picture by Alonzo Chappel, engraver.] Jane Wells is shown pleading for her life, and a man attempts to protect her. House behind them is being burned by Loyalists and Indians led by Maj. Walter Butler and Mohawk Chief Joseph Brant.

Captain Butler lost control of his marauding Mohawk and Senaca allies, two member tribes of the Iroquois Confederation supporting the British and Loyalists. When the battle ended, even Butler was shocked. Sixteen soldiers and thirty civilians, including women and children, were killed during the battle. Almost all of them scalped, many while still alive. The attackers also torched everything in sight. More than 200 civilians were left homeless. The Indians also took 70 prisoners. My Patriot, Ephraim Dutton, was one of them.

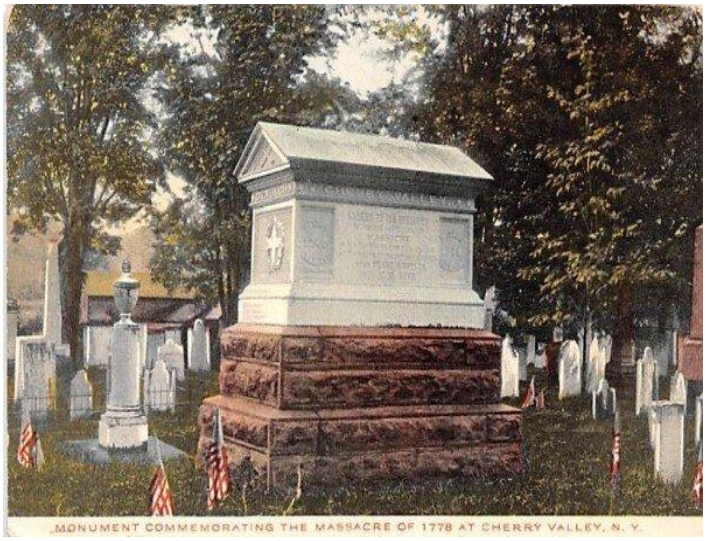
There was no evidence that Ephraim Dutton was tortured, although his pension deposition cites rheumatism and "other ailments" which left him unable to support himself. If so, Dutton was very fortunate. His captors were experts at torture. Their preferred method was fire. They would slice the prisoner's flesh and insert burning embers into the open wound.

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A favorite method of torture was to force their captives to wear a "necklace" of red-hot tomahawks. More often than not, the Indians would burn their prisoners, alive. But not every prisoner was destined to die. Children, for example, were often "adopted" to replace an Indian mother's lost child. She might also designate a male prisoner as her new husband, again to replace the man she lost in battle. If the white male substitute proved unacceptable, he would be tortured and eventually executed. And not surprisingly, female prisoners were often put to work as slaves.



My Patriot remained a prisoner of the Iroquois for almost one year. It is not clear if he escaped, was released, or simply left behind in all the confusion. By that time, the Iroquois themselves were under attack and on the run. It seems that the massacre at Cherry Valley was the last straw for George Washington. He designated General John Sullivan to conduct a massive attack on the Iroquois nation and to do more than simply “run through” the Iroquois villages. He wanted their “total ruin”. Washington also wanted their Tory leader, Walter Butler.



Cherry Valley Massacre Marker Inscription reads: "Cherry Valley Sacred to the Memory of those who died by Massacre in the destruction of the village at the hands of Indians and Tories under Brant and Butler." Erected 1877

With 4,000 men and four Brigadier Generals in tow, Sullivan did just that, destroying more than forty Iroquois towns and villages. Hundreds of Iroquois were left homeless and would perish in what was to be the worst winter in the history of the colonies. And if they didn’t freeze to death, many of the North American Indians starved to death. Sullivan also destroyed Iroquois stores and much of their foodstuffs, including 160,000 bushels of corn. With the exception of one more attack by Walter Butler, (he got away), in the following year, the Iroquois would never again be a significant fighting force. My patriot served for an additional six months after his release. Ephraim Dutton lived to the to the ripe old age of 83.

Unsung Heroes of the American Revolution
Commodore John Barry (1745 – 1803)
Sea Captain, Patriot, and First Flag Officer of the United States Navy



John Barry, often called the "Father of the American Navy," was one of the most capable and steadfast naval commanders of the American Revolutionary era. Born in 1745 in County Wexford, Ireland, Barry emigrated to Philadelphia as a young man and quickly found work in the bustling maritime trade of the American colonies. By his early twenties, he had become a skilled sea captain, earning a reputation for discipline, courage, and sound judgment—qualities that would define his wartime service.

When tensions between Great Britain and the American colonies erupted into open conflict in 1775, Barry aligned himself firmly with the Patriot cause. In 1776, he received a commission as a captain in the Continental Navy. His first command was the brig *Lexington*, aboard which he achieved the earliest American naval victory of the war. In April 1776, Barry captured the British tender *Edward*, marking a significant morale boost for the fledgling American navy.

Barry's service throughout the American Revolutionary War was marked by resilience in the face of adversity. In late 1776, while commanding the *Effingham*, he was forced to scuttle his own ship to prevent its capture by advancing British forces near Philadelphia. This difficult decision demonstrated his commitment to the broader strategic goals of the Revolution over personal pride or loss.

In 1777, Barry took command of the frigate *Raleigh*, one of the first ships built for the Continental Navy. Despite being outnumbered and outgunned during an encounter with British warships in 1778, Barry fought bravely before the *Raleigh* was captured. Even in defeat, his leadership and refusal to surrender prematurely earned him admiration.

Perhaps one of Barry's most notable contributions came during his command of the frigate *Alliance*. In 1781, he engaged and defeated two British ships, *Atalanta* and *Trepassey*. Despite having been seriously wounded during the battle, Barry reportedly continued to direct the fight from a stretcher, refusing to leave the deck until victory was secured. This episode became emblematic of his tenacity and devotion to duty.

Barry also played a crucial role in maintaining American naval presence during the later years of the war, safeguarding vital supply lines, transporting troops and diplomats, and disrupting British shipping. His leadership helped sustain the credibility of the Continental Navy during a period when it struggled to compete with the vastly superior Royal Navy.

He also played a central role in what is often regarded as the final naval engagement of the American Revolutionary War, a fight that took place even after peace negotiations were already underway. Commanding the frigate *Alliance*, Barry demonstrated the same resilience and aggressiveness that had defined his earlier service. On March 10, 1783, the *Alliance* was sailing in the Atlantic, escorting a convoy of American and French vessels carrying valuable cargo. During this voyage, Barry encountered the British warship *Sybil*, a well-armed frigate of the Royal Navy. Rather than avoid confrontation, Barry chose to engage. A sharp and determined battle followed, with both ships exchanging broadsides at close range. The *Alliance*, known for its speed and firepower, was skillfully handled under Barry's command. He maneuvered to maintain a favorable position, allowing his guns to inflict significant damage on the British vessel while protecting his convoy. After a fierce exchange, the *Sybil* was forced to withdraw, leaving Barry and the *Alliance* in control of the situation. The convoy was preserved, and Barry had effectively secured the final American naval victory of the war. Although not a large fleet action, the engagement symbolized the endurance and fighting spirit of the Continental Navy to the very end of the conflict.



After the war, Barry remained an important figure in the early United States Navy. In 1794, under President George Washington, he was appointed as the senior officer of the newly established United States Navy, effectively making him its first flag officer. In this role, he helped shape naval traditions and mentored a new generation of officers. Commodore John Barry died in 1803 in Philadelphia, the city that had become his home and the center of his life's work. His legacy endures as a symbol of perseverance, leadership, and patriotism. Though not as widely known as some of his contemporaries, Barry's contributions were vital to the success of the American naval effort during the Revolution. His courage under fire, strategic insight, and unwavering commitment to independence earned him a lasting place among the founders of American sea power.

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.



HE DID IT!

Great News! Ari Hogsed - our Chapter's entrant in the Joseph R. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest – has won 1st Place in the Florida Society SAR contest. Those of us who attended the April Chapter Meeting were treated to a "live" presentation by Ari of his speech and were all very impressed. He will also present his oration to the assembled Compatriots at the Spring BOM in Kissimmee. His oration has now moved on to the National SAR competition that will be decided this coming summer.

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.



Christine Racine and Mark Barie

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 April 11th Chapter Meeting



Ari Hogsed – 1st Place Rumbaugh Oration Award & Knight Essay Contest



Matt Davis with daughter, Elysianne, runner-up winner of the Knight Essay Contest



Jayma and Tom Gillaspie accepting granddaughter Zion Havlykee's award



Ari Hogsed Presenting His Rumbaugh Oration Speech



America250 Moment: First Naval Victory April 7, 1776



Dear Compatriot,

The SAR 1776 Campaign recognizes support of the SAR Education Center & Museum through distinctive commemorative lapel pins and museum recognition opportunities.

These lapel pins are visible symbols of dedication to preserving the legacy of the American Revolution and the future of the SAR. Worn proudly at chapter meetings, Congress, and leadership events, fellow compatriots immediately recognize the significance of these distinctions and the commitment they represent.

Many members enjoy adding each level to their SAR collection while advancing toward higher recognition within the campaign. In addition to the lapel pins, Quill-level donors receive permanent recognition within the museum.

• **Bronze Quill** — $5,328 • **Silver Quill** — $8,880
• **Gold Quill** — $17,760



Click Here to Contribute to the 1776 Campaign

Click Here to Download the 1776 Campaign Pledge Card

These quills will remain on display within the SAR Education Center & Museum as a lasting tribute to those helping preserve our nation's history for future generations. Partial donations are accepted and may be applied toward future recognition levels. Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions. I would love to speak with you!

Sincerely,

Amanda Holmquist

Amanda Holmquist
SAR Foundation Fundraising Manager
aholmquist@sar.org
502.588.6125

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 30 (FALL 2026): OCTOBER 10, 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 30
October 10, 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.