

The Pensacola Patriot

Pensacola Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution
Chartered March 14, 1896

December 2023

Chapter Officers

2023-2024

President	Chris Washler
Vice Pres.	Bill Nobles
Secretary	Bob Canavello
Treasurer	Bill Lies
Registrar	Ray Judd
Genealogist	Carl Judson
Chaplain	John Matthews
Sergeant-at-Arms	Jeremy Findley
Historian	Chris Washler
Member-at-large	John Matthews



President's Message

Here we are at the end of the year! 2023 has been a great year for the Pensacola Chapter, and I am definitely looking forward to 2024, but we aren't quite done with 2023 just yet!

Coming up in just a few days is the Wreaths Across America event! First off, I want to congratulate the chapter on exceeding our Wreath goal this year **for the first time ever!!** We set a goal to sponsor 100 wreaths through our sponsorship page, and due in large part to the generosity of all of you, we beat that goal and sponsored 101 wreaths this year! That is almost double what we have done on our best years up to this point. Even though it's too late to sponsor wreaths for this year, we aren't done with Wreaths Across America just yet. The Wreaths Across America day this year is coming up this weekend on Saturday, December 16th. Wreath placement starts at 7:30 am! To volunteer or sponsor a wreath, go see our sponsorship page at www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/17945.

On the membership front, we have definitely had a strong year! While we did have a few members who have not renewed their dues for 2024, the chapter has added several new members this year, and it looks like we will end the year with net growth, or right at even for the year. For those compatriots who may not have sent in their 2024 dues, you can still renew, but we will have to go through the "reinstatement" process for you right after the first of the year. More important than the raw numbers, we have seen meeting attendance growing throughout the year, and we have had newer members who are stepping forward to help with projects as well as help us do more out in the community to recruit more members! **(continued on page 2)**

President's Message (continued from p. 1)

Speaking of being out in the community and recruiting new members... I want to again thank those that came out on Veterans Day to help with our booth at Veterans Memorial Park. We had great community turnout, and a number of people stopped by to find out more about the Sons of the American Revolution. As a result of that event, the board has approved purchasing a pop-up canopy and a permanent table cover for the chapter to use at similar events. I'm excited for us to find more opportunities to use these throughout the community.

The table cover is going to emphasize the theme of "Where Does Your American Story Begin?" that the NSSAR is starting to use on much of their publicity. I think that is an outstanding way for the SAR to "sell" itself in the community. Every family has an American Story...let us help you find where yours begins!

Lastly, I want to recommend a podcast to everyone in addition to the NSSAR's podcast "Revolutionary War Rarities." I just finished listening to season one of "Mission History." This first season focused on the soldiers who fought in the Battle of Camden and the efforts that just recently culminated in the burial of 13 American Revolutionary War Soldiers in Camden earlier this year. The podcast is very well done, and definitely worth a listen.

That's it for this month's column! I hope to see everyone at the December chapter meeting. This month's program will be a presentation by Tyler McKee—"Historical Archaeology on Fort George and the Siege of Pensacola"!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (850) 380-1329

Yours in Patriotism,

Chris

Pensacola SAR on the Internet

Chapter Website: www.pensacolasar.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/PensacolaSAR

Instagram: [sarpensacola](https://www.instagram.com/sarpensacola)

Did You Know?

Did you know that the National Society Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR) has a podcast?

"Revolutionary War Rarities" is a production of the NSSAR and they are short 10 minute podcasts that discuss little known facts about the Revolution. Check it out on Facebook and wherever you listen to podcasts!

Chapter Meetings

Meeting Date: The chapter meeting is on the **Third Monday of the Month.**

Meeting Location: We are meeting at Calvert's in the Heights (670 Scenic Highway)

Committee Members Needed

We are in need of committee members for the following committees. The time commitments aren't huge, and you would be helping to put the SAR out in front of our community.

- Youth Programs (Knight Essay Contest, Poster Contest, History Fair, etc) (Chair and members)
- 250 by the 250th—Flag Recognition (Members needed)
- Eagle Scout Program (members needed)

Please contact any member of the Executive Board if you are interested in helping with these projects!

America 250—This month in the American Revolution



December 16th marks the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party.

On December 16, 1773 In Boston Harbor, a group of Massachusetts colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians board three British tea ships and dump 342 chests of tea into the harbor.

The midnight raid, popularly known as the “Boston Tea Party,” was in protest of the British Parliament’s Tea Act of 1773, a bill designed to save the faltering East India Company by greatly lowering its tea tax and granting it a virtual monopoly on the American tea trade.

The low tax allowed the East India Company to undercut even tea smuggled into America by Dutch traders, and many colonists viewed the act as another example of taxation tyranny.

When three tea ships, the Dartmouth, the Eleanor, and the Beaver, arrived in Boston Harbor, the colonists demanded that the tea be returned to England. After Massachusetts Governor Thomas Hutchinson refused, Patriot leader Samuel Adams organized the “tea party” with about 60 members of the Sons of Liberty, his underground resistance group. The British tea dumped in Boston Harbor on the night of December 16 was valued at some \$18,000.



250 by the 250th

The 250 by the 250th program is going strong! As of this writing, we are still just slightly over 50 nominations, and we definitely need more!

Just a few examples of some of our nominations are Olive Baptist Church (pictured below), Pensacola Yacht Club, multiple homes out at Perdido Bay Country Club, Pensacola Police Department, the City of Pensacola (City Hall specifically). And these are just a few!

We will be taking nominations from now until July 1, 2026, and anyone (even non-compatriots) can nominate and individual, business, or organization. Presentations will be done on a rolling basis, and can be scheduled at any time that is convenient for the recipient. If a compatriot wants to be part of the presentation, please just let the committee know!

Nominations can be emailed to flags@pensacolasar.org or through the form on the chapter website at <https://pensacolasar.org/250-by-the-250th/>.

In addition to nominations, the committee needs assistance in presenting certificates to businesses. Currently, we are mailing all of the residential certificates directly to the recipients, but we are trying to do presentations to businesses in person. If you are interested in helping out with this project, please reach out to either John Matthews (johnmatthews@cox.net) or Chris Washler (cwashler@cox.net) and we will tell you what all is involved!

Color Guard - Nathan Hale Camp

Efforts are underway to reactivate Pensacola's Color Guard unit, the Nathan Hale Camp (this is the name that our unit is known by as part of the Florida Society's Florida Sons of Liberty Brigade).

The Color Guard is one of the most visible and effective public relations tools available to the SAR. Every time an SAR Color Guard makes a public appearance, the members are fulfilling all three objectives of the SAR - Historical, Patriotic, and Educational. Just a few examples of where our Color Guard can make public appearances include sporting events (maybe even a Blue Wahoos game?), new citizen swearing in

ceremonies, City or County Government meetings, historical events such as the Galvez Day event, and even ceremonies for the re-internment of POW/MIAs who have been identified by the Army Casualty Office.

The requirements for reactivation of our camp are relatively easy, and with the recent growth of our chapter, we should easily be able to achieve these! A Color Guard unit can consist of a minimum of 3 members, but the ideal minimum is 4. One compatriot is designated as the Commander of the unit.

Individual compatriots are responsible for obtaining their uniform. There are typically two types of uniforms - Continental or Militia. The Continental uniform is the most recognizable as it is the uniform identified with the soldiers of the regular army during the Revolution. The militia uniform has no specific set requirements because this is what would have been worn by the average citizen when he was called to militia duty. Each Color Guardsman can choose which type of uniform they would like to wear, and the Nathan Hale Camp, once reactivated, will likely consist of both types of uniforms.

Member Anniversaries

These are the Pensacola Compatriots who have SAR anniversaries in December.

Ray Lantz—18 years

Charles Williamson—20 years

New Compatriots

Please welcome these new Compatriots who have joined the Pensacola Chapter in 2023!

<i>Compatriot</i>	<i>Month Approved:</i>	<i>Patriot:</i>
David Hillsman	January (transfer)	Humphrey Hardy (North Carolina)
Lonnie Jones	January (transfer)	Multiple!!
Carl Black	February (transfer)	Charles Gary (Virginia)
Charles Cather	February	James Shelburne (Virginia)
Ben Findley	July (transfer)	Thomas Nuzum
Chadwick Rome	November	James Alger (Massachusetts)

Patriot Ancestor Biography - Captain Gershom Hewitt

NSSAR Patriot # 33897

Captain Hewitt is the Patriotic ancestor of our Registrar, Ray Judd. He was born on 16 May 1743 in Stonington, New London Co. Connecticut to Walter and Hepsibah Hewitt. Gershon began his military career in 1760 in the Stonington Militia during the French and Indian War. He was in Captain Christopher Palmer's Company in Colonel Fitch's Regiment. In 1764 Gershon moved from Stonington to Canaan, Litchfield County in northwestern Connecticut. In 1769 he and his brother Benjamin went to Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania looking for a place to settle along the Susquehanna River. Unable to find what they were looking for they returned to Canaan. When the Revolutionary War began he was a Captain in the Green Mountain Boys under the command of Colonel Ethan Allen. During the capture of Ft Ticonderoga by the Vermont troops Gershon led a daring infiltration assault party. During 1778 he served as a Lieutenant in the First Connecticut Regiment under Captain David Beebee. The unit was engaged in battle at White Plains in July 1778, at Fort Arnold in August 1778 and First Clinton in September 1778. In May 1779 he was appointed Captain of the 1st Company of the Connecticut 4th Regiment. Then in 1780 he was posted as Captain of the 2nd Regiment of the Connecticut Line. After the war her returned to Canaan and in 1818, he applied for a military pension but was refused. He reapplied in 1832 and was granted the pension. He died on 11 Sep 1834 at the age of 91. He was buried in Lower Mountain View Cemetery in Canaan.

Congratulations to Compatriot Ben Findley!

On November 14, Pensacola SAR Compatriot, Ben Findley was inducted into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame for his service and lifetime contributions to the State of Florida, the Nation, and his community.

The State of Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame recognizes and honors veterans who, through their lifetime contributions during and after military service, have made significant contributions through civic, business, public service, and other pursuits. It is not a military hall of fame, as it focuses on post military contributions to the State of Florida and our nation. Most importantly, honorees have all made a significant impact on the lives of others and to those in their communities and nation.

Congratulations, Ben!!



Upcoming Events

December 18 Chapter Meeting
Program: Historical Archaeology on
Fort George and Siege of Pensacola"
Tyler McKee

January 15 Chapter Meeting
Program TBD

February 19 Chapter Meeting
Program TBD

March 18 Chapter Meeting
Program TBD



Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution

Pensacola Chapter

"Florida's First"

Celebrating 125 years

1896 - 2021