



Newsletter of the *Fernando de Leyba Chapter*

Sons of the American Revolution

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September 2013

Meets 2nd Monday of every month (except July and August) at
Culpepper Restaurant in St. Charles, MO

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An Important Distinction:

Democracy versus Republic

It is important to keep in mind the difference between a Democracy and a Republic, as dissimilar forms of government. Understanding the difference is essential to comprehension of the fundamentals involved. It should be noted, that use of the word Democracy as meaning merely the popular type of government that is, featuring genuinely free elections by the people periodically is not helpful in discussing, the difference between alternative and dissimilar forms of a popular government: a Democracy versus a Republic. This double meaning of Democracy a popular-type government in general, as well as a specific form of

popular government needs to be made clear in any discussion, or writing, regarding this subject, for the sake of sound understanding.

These two forms of government: Democracy and Republic, are not only dissimilar but antithetical, reflecting the sharp contrast between (a) The Majority Unlimited, in a Democracy, lacking any legal safeguard of the rights of The Individual and The Minority, and (b) The Majority Limited, in a Republic under a written Constitution safeguarding the rights of The Individual and The Minority; as we shall now see.

A Democracy

The chief characteristic and distinguishing feature of a Democracy is: ***Rule by Omnipotent Majority***. In a Democracy, The Individual, and any group of Individuals composing any Minority, and have no protection against the unlimited power of The Majority. It is a case of Majority-over-Man.

This is true whether it be a Direct Democracy, or a Representative Democracy. In the direct type, applicable only to a small number of people as in the little city-states of ancient Greece, or in a New England town-meeting, all of the electorate assemble to debate and decide all government questions, and all decisions

are reached by a majority vote (of at least half-plus-one). Decisions of The Majority in New England town meetings are, subject to the Constitutions of the State and of the United States which protect The Individual's rights; so, in this case, The Majority is not omnipotent and such a town meeting is, therefore, not an example of a true Direct Democracy. Under a Representative Democracy like Britain's parliamentary form of government, the people elect representatives to the national legislature, the elective body there being the House of Commons and it functions by a similar vote of at least half-plus-one in making all legislative decisions.

The Framing Convention's records prove that by decrying the "excesses of democracy" The Framers were, not opposing a popular type of government for the United States; their whole aim and effort was to create a sound system of this type. To contend to the contrary is to falsify history. Such a falsification not only maligns the high purpose and good character of The Framers but belittles the spirit of the truly Free Man in America. The people at large of that period who happily accepted and lived with gratification under the Constitution as their own fundamental law and under the **Republic** which it created, especially because they felt confident for the first time of the security of their liberties thereby protected against abuse by all possible violators, including The Majority momentarily in control of government. The truth is that The Framers, by their protests against the "**excesses of democracy**", were

merely making clear their sound reasons for preferring a **Republic** as the proper form of government. They well knew, in light of history, that nothing but a **Republic** could provide the best safeguards. In truth in the long run the only effective safeguards for the people's liberties which are inescapably victimized by Democracy's form and system of unlimited Government-over-Man featuring The Majority Omnipotent. They also knew that the American people would not consent to any form of government but that of a **Republic**. It is of special interest to note that Jefferson, who had been in Paris as the American Minister for several years, wrote Madison from there in March 1789 that:

"The tyranny of the Legislatures is the most formidable dread at present, and will be for long years. The abuses of the Executive will come in due time, but it will be at a remote period."

Somewhat earlier, Madison had written Jefferson about violation of the Bill of Rights by State legislatures, stating:

"Repeated violations of those parchment barriers have been committed by overbearing majorities in every State. In Virginia I have seen the bill of rights violated in every instance where it has been opposed to a popular current."

It is correct to say that in any Democracy, either a Direct or a Representative type as a form of government, which can offer no system that protects *The Individual* or *The Minority* (any or all minorities) against unlimited tyranny by The Majority. The undependable sense of self-restraint of the persons making up The Majority at any particular time offers, no protection what so ever. The “Majority Omnipotent and Unlimited” characterize this form of government. This is true, for example, of the Representative Democracy of Great Britain, because unlimited government power is possessed by the House of Lords, under an Act of Parliament of 1949 indeed, it has power to abolish anything and everything governmental in Great Britain.

Madison’s observations in *The Federalist* paper #10 are noteworthy at this point because they highlight a grave error made through the centuries regarding Democracy as a form of government. He commented as follows:

"Theoretic politicians, who have patronized this species of government, have erroneously supposed, that by reducing mankind to a perfect equality in their political rights, they would, at the same time, be perfectly equalized and assimilated in their possessions, their opinions, and their passions."

Democracy, as a form of government, is utterly repugnant and is the very antithesis of--the traditional American system: that of a *Republic*, and its underlying philosophy, as expressed in essence in the *Declaration of Independence* with primary emphasis upon the people’s forming their government so as to permit them to possess only "just powers" (limited powers) in order to make and keep secure the God-given, unalienable rights of each and every Individual and therefore of all groups of Individuals.

A Republic

A Republic, on the other hand, has a very different purpose and an entirely different form, or system, of government. *Its purpose is to control The Majority strictly*, as well as all others among the people, primarily to *protect The Individual’s God-given, unalienable rights* and therefore for the protection of the rights of The Minority, of all minorities, and the liberties of people in general. The definition of a *Republic* is: a constitutionally limited government of the representative type, created by a written Constitution--adopted by the people and changeable (from its original meaning) by them only by its amendment--with its powers divided between three separate Branches: Executive, Legislative and Judicial. Here the term "the people" means, of course, the electorate.

The people adopt the Constitution as their fundamental law by utilizing a Constitutional Convention--especially chosen by them for this express and sole purpose--to frame it for consideration and approval by them either directly or by their representatives in a Ratifying Convention, similarly chosen. Such a Constitutional Convention, for either framing or ratification, is one of America's greatest contributions, if not her greatest contribution, to the mechanics of government--of self-government through constitutionally limited government, comparable in importance to America's greatest contribution to the science of government: the formation and adoption by the sovereign people of a written Constitution as the basis for self-government. One of the earliest, if not the first, specific discussions of this new American development (a Constitutional Convention) in the historical records is an entry in June 1775 in John Adams' "Autobiography" commenting on the framing by a convention and ratification by the people as follows:

"By conventions of representatives, freely, fairly, and proportionately chosen . . . the convention may send out their project of a constitution, to the people in their several towns, counties, or districts, and the people may make the acceptance of it their own act."

The first genuine and soundly founded *Republic* in all history was the one created by the first genuine Constitution, which was adopted by the people of Massachusetts in 1780 after being framed for their consideration by a specially chosen Constitutional Convention.

This system of Constitution-making, for the purpose of establishing constitutionally limited government, is designed to put into practice the principle of the Declaration of Independence: that the people form their governments and grant to them only "just powers," limited powers, in order primarily to secure (to make and keep secure) their God-given, unalienable rights. The American philosophy and system of government thus bar equally the "snob-rule" of a governing Elite and the "mob-rule" of an Omnipotent Majority. This is designed, above all else, to preclude the existence in America of any governmental power capable of being misused so as to violate The Individual's rights to endanger the people's liberties.

Next meeting will be on Oct. 14, 2013 and we will meet at Culpeppers 6:30 PM.

Treasurer's report as of Sept 2013:

Beginning Balance = \$1,951.48– Ending Balance = \$1,964.48

As a reminder to all members Due's (\$59.00) for 2014 will be collected during the Sept., Oct., Nov., Meeting for Josiah Fog award points.

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Genealogist report as of September 2013:

New Members: Adam Schnelting, Michael Snyder, Jim Bunch, Marvin Koechig, Adam Bell, J.D. Kirtlink

At National: David Hoffman, Ron Hauser

8 New Prospects for Membership: "**FDL 46 members strong**"

- David Hoffman (State)
- Tom Buskin (State)
- Richard Dennen (State)
- Ron Hauser (State)
- Keith Morris (1 supplements)
- David Cox (2 supplements)
- Jim Bergman (2 supplements)
- Michael Snyder (1 supplement)
- Marvin Keochig (2 supplements)
- Adam Schnelting (1 supplement)

At the September 9, 2012 meeting:

Meeting Opens 6:58 pm

Introductions: James Osbourn Secretary MOSSAR, Ron Hauser, David Hoffman, Tom Buskin, Mike Stevens, Dusty Rhoads.

Veterans report: David Christian attended the National Convention and it was marvelous. NSSAR is recognizing Korean & Vietnam War Veterans all one needs is to provide DD214 Honorable Discharge to receive a Certificate from NSSAR. 2013 Annual Veterans Day Commemoration will be held at the Missouri Athletic Club Ballroom on Thursday, November 7, 2013 starting at 11:00 am. David requested that the Color Guard be made available for the Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 9, 2013. See attached scan for Registration Info.

1. Charles Lilly: 7-10 Members are needed to form a new chapter – dual Membership is allowed to reach the minimum.
2. Steve Baldwin: Has been appointed as VP General of the South Central Region. Steve offered us Greetings from National! The 2013 NSSAR Congress was received extremely well by all who attended. His focus as "VPGSC" will be on: Retention of old Memberships, Involvement with the USO at Lambert, SAR grave markings and the Center for the Advancement of American Heritage.
3. Jeff Sullivan: Awarded a Certificate for The Best MOSSAR Year Book. Congratulations to Jeff and FDL Chapter.
4. Keith Morris: Wreaths Across America will be placing Wreaths at our Veterans Grave in Jefferson Barracks on December 14, 2013 Especially remember Chapter members: Ed Morris, Rob Baldwin, Bill Beswick and James Elliot.
5. Charles Lilly: Motion to purchase Wreaths for our (4) Deceased Member whom we Dearly Miss!

6. Martin White: Barkley Cemetery marking occurred for Janie Clay Trabue. USO Volunteers are needed – See Martin White.
7. Joan Koechig: Will be needing (5) SAR Volunteers to work at the Family Arena on Sat October 5, 2013 4:30 pm.
8. John Rush: Awarded National Certificate for brining in new Members to the SAR. Congratulations John!
9. David Christian: Received his 5-Year Membership Medal.

Old Business: NASSAR 2013 Congress Email review. Battle of Fort San Carlos possibly to be recognized as a National Event – criteria needs to be submitted to National. May 4 was Fernando De Leyba's 17th anniversary as a Chapter.

New Business: Adam Schnelting was sworn in as a member of Fernando De Leyba MOSSAR.

Meeting Closed at 8:35 P.M.

Sept. 10 Program: John Wilson – Decorating Rose Bowl Parade Floats.

Oct. 14 Program: Joan Koechig – Victims Rights

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32 Members and Guest in Attendance:

David Hoffman, Ron Hauser, John Rush, James Osbourn, Steve White, Valerie White, Valerie White, Martin White, James Bunch, Evelyn Bunch, Jim Borgman, Diane Borgman, Bob Raines, Verna Raines, Keith Morris, Barbara Morris, Bill Grote, Sylvia Grote, John Wilson, David Christian, Charles Lilly, Michael Stephens, Stephen Baldwin, Adam Schnelting, Dennis Hahn, Milan Paddock, Dusty Rhoads, Jeff Sullivan, Joan Koechig, Marvin Koechig, Kim Gordon, Paul Smith

Announcements:

Pat Jefferson recently had Quadruple Bypass Surgery and is recuperating. Our prayers go out to Pat and we look forward to seeing him at the Chapter meeting with newfound Vim and Vigor.

Dennis Kraft has Passed Away – Well Done Dennis may God Bless!

Revolutionary War Quotes

"As there is a degree of depravity in mankind which requires a certain degree of circumspection and distrust: So there are other qualities in human nature, which justify a certain portion of esteem and confidence. *Government* (that of a Republic) *presupposes the existence of these qualities in a higher degree than any other form.* Were the pictures which have been drawn by the political jealousy of some among us, faithful likenesses of the human character, the inference would be that there is not sufficient virtue among men for self government; and that nothing less than the chains of despotism can restrain them from destroying and devouring one another."

James Madison





Yesterday is History. Tomorrow is Mystery?? Today is a Blessing!!!

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday...

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