



The Bermuda Gunpowder Plot

August 14, 1775

The SAR, DAR and C.A.R. have joined forces to bring attention to Bermuda's role in the American Revolution with a limited-edition commemorative pin and a series of events over a three-year period. Bermuda is a British territory located 640 miles off Cape Hatteras. It was settled in 1609 when a storm drove the Jamestown-bound *Sea Venture* onto the reefs around its 181 islands.

The Bermuda Gunpowder Plot pin commemorates a little-known event in the struggle for independence and honors the service of Bermuda-born Patriots Thomas Tudor Tucker of South Carolina and St. George Tucker of Virginia. The Tuckers were younger sons of Henry Tucker Sr., a prominent Bermuda trader and a member of the Governor's Council. As tensions between the colonies and Great Britain increased, the brothers separately advised American leaders that desperately needed gunpowder could be found in the unguarded magazine at St. George's, Bermuda. Meanwhile, their father traveled to Philadelphia to negotiate with Benjamin Franklin for an exemption from the trade embargo imposed on loyalist colonies by the Continental Congress. Franklin suggested that such an exemption could be arranged – in exchange for the gunpowder.

On the night of August 14, 1775, a group of Bermudians, led by Henry Tucker Sr., "borrowed" about 100 barrels from the magazine and rolled them down a hill toward Tobacco Bay. There small boats took the barrels to two waiting American schooners – the *Lady Catherine* and the *Packet*. St. George Tucker was in the town of St. George at the time, but as a known rebel he spent the night strolling with Bermuda's chief justice to establish an alibi. The *Lady Catherine* brought its precious cargo of gunpowder to Philadelphia while the *Packet* went to Charleston. Some of the *Packet's* gunpowder was used in the defense of Sullivan's Island by patriot forces (led by Colonel William Moultrie) on June 28, 1776. The successful defense of Sullivan's Island prevented the British from occupying Charleston for nearly four years until 1780.

Pin sale proceeds will establish a fund for the **Children of the American Revolution** to prepare for the 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary Era (2023-2031) and support Bermuda charities selected by the Somers Isles Chapter of the **Daughters of the American Revolution** – partial compensation for the gunpowder "borrowed" nearly 240 years ago.

Tentative Schedule of Bermuda Gunpowder Plot Events

March 25, 2013

Wreath Laying at Tucker House Museum with the Governor of Bermuda and the Bermuda National Trust, St. George's, Bermuda

November 2, 2013

Marking of the Grave of St. George Tucker
Warminster, Nelson County, VA

May 31, 2014

Marking of the Grave of Thomas Tudor Tucker
Congressional Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

October 18, 2014

Wreath Laying at the Home of St. George Tucker
Colonial Williamsburg, VA

Spring 2015

Wreath Laying honoring Thomas Tudor Tucker
at Fort Moultrie, Sullivan's Island, SC

July 2015

Commemoration of the Negotiations Between
Benjamin Franklin and Henry Tucker Sr.
Philadelphia, PA

August 2015

Dedication of Marker near the birthplace of St. George and Thomas Tudor Tucker
Southampton Parish, Bermuda



**Sponsored by the Virginia, District of Columbia, South Carolina and Pennsylvania Societies
of the Sons of the American Revolution;
the Virginia Society of the Children of the American Revolution;
the Virginia and District of Columbia Daughters of the American Revolution;
and the Somers Isles Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Hamilton, Bermuda.**

* * * * *

For more information or to purchase pins, contact Michael J. Elston at elston.sar@gmail.com or 703-915-9396.