

ORDER OF THE FOUNDERS OF NORTH AMERICA
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 16, 2015
GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS, AT SEA

A special meeting of the Order of Founders of North America, 1492-1692 (OFNA) was convened by Grand Viscount General Stephen Renouf at 9:30 AM in Conference Room A of the Royal Caribbean *Grandeur of the Seas*, while off the coast of North Carolina. Billie Brock served as Parliamentarian. Members in attendance included: Grand Viscount General Stephen Renouf, Immediate Past Grand Viscount General Edward Butler, Deputy Viscount General – Eastern USA Lindsey Brock, Parliamentarian General Billie Brock, John Barlow, Nancy Barlow, Joe Conger, Roger Coursey, and John Thornhill. Guests present included Mike Tomme and Cilla Leed Tomme. Grand Viscount General Renouf declared a quorum.

Grand Viscount General Renouf discussed the April Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, where several bylaws changes were made: Annual Meeting changed to June/July, terms increased to two years, supplementals are now accepted and a new officer (Genealogista General-Supplementals), and adopting a provision for OFNA state/district societies. There are two new committees – Compliance (Jane Power, David Grinnell), and Insurance (David Grinnell, Cheryl Rios, and James Jones) – which will report to the Order in June 2015. We are now working on a scholarship essay contest for high school students.

At the new Annual Meeting on June 28, 2015 in Louisville, Kentucky, we will address adopting a budget, a proposal by Don Stone for an insignia ribbon bar, and sign the charters for the Texas Society (01), the California Society (02), and the South Atlantic District (03).

Grand Viscount General Renouf presented the history of the Bahamas during OFNA's time frame 1492-1692. On October 12, 1492, Spanish Admiral Christopher Columbus re-discovered America for Europe, and the Spanish were the first Europeans to set foot in North America in almost 500 years. Columbus landed at San Salvador Island (believed to be Watling Island). He discovered many of the Bahamian Islands prior to discovering the larger islands of Cuba and Hispaniola. The many cays and shoals made navigation in the Bahamian archipelago dangerous, and they were largely ignored by the Spanish in favor of the larger Caribbean Islands. By 1520, the Spanish had forcibly relocated all the Lucayan natives of the Bahamas to other islands, leaving them uninhabited. The French made two unsuccessful attempts to settle Abaco Island in 1565 and 1625. In 1648, English Puritans from Bermuda led by William Sayle settled on Eleuthera Island, which they named after the Greek word *eleutheria*, meaning "freedom." In 1666, colonists from Bermuda settled on New

Providence Island (which we were about to visit), which became the first successful colony in the Bahamas. In 1670, the proprietors of Carolina were granted a patent to rule the Bahamas, but their governors had scant luck ruling the independent islanders. British and other European pirates began preying on the Spanish treasure fleets from the British settlements in the Bahamas. In 1684, the Spanish retaliated by burning the English settlements of New Providence and Eleuthera, and they were temporarily abandoned. In 1686, colonists from Jamaica resettled New Providence Island, leading to effective British control of the archipelago. The Bahamas played an early role in the settlement of North America, and it was a fitting tribute that our first OFNA trip was to Nassau on New Providence Island.

Grand Viscount General Renouf received unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 9:50AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Renouf
Grand Viscount General