



# The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



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## Highlights of March Chapter Meeting

President George Dennis called the March 14th meeting to order and welcomed the members and guests. Business left from prior meetings was discussed. Since no one present or any others have objected to continuing to hold monthly chapter meetings at the Tower Club or advanced any other option, this matter was closed. Prior reviews of possible additional chapter activities and projects have not, so far, produced any volunteers or show of interest. All options remain open, but for now, ROTC awards and Eagle Scout recognition will be the chapter's primary community activities. Compatriot Joe Motes announced that JROTC award ceremonies will begin at local high schools soon and that he will be requesting assistance from the membership to help make awards at 19 schools.

Our chapter's newsletter is one of 12 being posted on the Florida SAR web site. Reading these is a good way to learn what other chapters are doing. An index of the available documents can be found at:  
[www.flssar.org/nlindex.htm](http://www.flssar.org/nlindex.htm).

Highlights of the "Headquarters Dispatch" newsletter from the NSSAR were reviewed. It was noted that Former President General Robert Vance, Sr. passed away January 30th. He was a well known by some members of the chapter and will be missed. He and his wife attended the chapter meeting at which Joe Rumbaugh donated \$100,000 to the SAR oration contest. The newsletter noted that the next edition of the SAR Patriot Index CD will contain pictures. If you wish to submit a photo of your patriot ancestor or his tombstone for use, it can be sent to : Douglas Little, Chairman Patriot Index Committee, 3 La Costa Court, Ormond Beach, FL 32174-3811. The picture will be scanned and, if requested, returned. Alternatively, you can scan the pictures and send it by e-mail. (If you wish to do the latter, contact [OscarK@pobox.com](mailto:OscarK@pobox.com) for detailed requirements.) A large article in the memo discussed the upsetting situation re. the New Jersey Dept. of Education's revised history standards ... "a move some critics view as political correctness at its worst". It excludes mentioning George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, the Pilgrims and the

Mayflower. It also replaces the word 'war' with 'conflict' in lessons about early settlers, colonization and expansion. Also gone are most references to inhumane treatment many American soldiers endured in wars during the 20th century, but specifically notes that students should identify with slavery, the Holocaust and modern Iraq as example examples "in which people have behaved in cruel and in humane ways". This article was reprinted from the Washington Times. The subject was in keeping with an article by Thomas Sowell that was passed out at the meeting entitled "Holiday Revisionism" (which the local newspaper refused to publish). It discussed the losses associated with no longer celebrating George Washington's Birthday. This article can be read at: [www.NewsandOpinion.com](http://www.NewsandOpinion.com).

The guest speaker, Col. Edmund Buchser, Jr. (Ret), recounted some of his Marine fighter pilot experiences during service in WWII and showed some photos depicting the brutality of combat. Prior to his commercial and test pilot careers, he also was one of the pilots with the flying aces group before they were named the "Blue Angels".

Oscar Kraehenbuehl

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**NEXT MEETING - APRIL 11th  
TOWER CLUB !!!  
\$20.00 INCL. TAX AND TIP  
11:30 SOCIAL 12:00 LUNCH  
28TH FLOOR BANK OF AMERICA  
1 FINANCIAL TOWER  
SE 3RD AVE & BROWARD BLVD  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:  
954-441-8735**

*Members living in North Broward need to dial the  
area code plus the phone number,  
or e-mail me at: [JoeMotes@aol.com](mailto:JoeMotes@aol.com)*

## *This Month's Guest Speaker*

Our speaker for this month's SAR meeting will be **Christopher R. Eck**, newly appointed Administrator, Broward County Historical Commission. Mr. Eck will speak to us about his vision for the Broward County Historical Commission. Prior to his appointment, Eck was Director, Office of Historic Preservation, Miami-Dade County office of the County Manager. In that capacity he was responsible for implementing and enforcing the county's historic preservation ordinance, and administering a budget in excess of \$1,000,000.

His agency managed the county's historic properties and valorem tax abatement program, directed archaeological research within the county, and reviewed and issued permits for work on designated archaeological and historic properties. Mr. Eck is an adjunct faculty member of the University of Miami School of Law, where he teaches "Introduction to Historic Preservation Law".

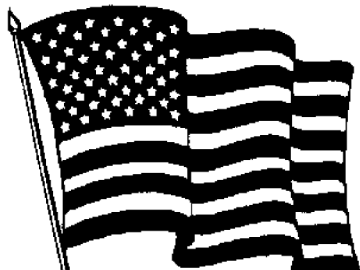
Eck earned a Bachelor of Arts in History degree from Loyola University, a Master of Arts in History and Historical Archaeology degree from the University of Massachusetts Boston, and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Miami School of Law.

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For your information, President George Dennis has a new Email Address:

**grdennis@attbi.com**

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## *SAR Patriot Index CD*

As most of Florida Members already know, the next edition of the SAR Patriot Index CD (due out sometime this summer) will contain pictures of the graves (tombstones) of Patriot Ancestors, their spouse(s) and first generation children. As a member of the Florida Society as well as Chairman of the Patriot Index Committee, I feel that we should have as many pictures of the graves of Patriots buried here in Florida as possible. To this end I have sent e-mails to all Chapters who have burial information of Florida Patriots listed on their Web page. After that I wondered how many Patriots are listed in the SAR Patriot Index who died in Florida and came up with a list of 23, which is more than are listed on Chapter Web pages. I will be glad to send this list to anyone who might be interested in finding Patriot's graves in their area and sending us a picture of it. If you want a copy send your request to [PatriotIndex@cfl.rr.com](mailto:PatriotIndex@cfl.rr.com). Please include your Chapter Name. In case you want to send a picture of your Patriot Ancestor's grave (no matter where he/she is buried) you can find the instructions at [http://www.sar.org/pat\\_idx/pics.htm](http://www.sar.org/pat_idx/pics.htm). If you would like to see what grave pictures in the upcoming Edition III of the Patriot Index will look like go to [http://www.sar.org/pat\\_idx/picsamp.htm](http://www.sar.org/pat_idx/picsamp.htm). Doug Little, Chairman, NSSAR Patriot Index Committee, Daytona-Ormond Chapter FLSSAR



*Last month guest speaker Col. Edmund Buchser, Jr. (Ret) and Compatriot Joe Motes.*

Thomas Sowell

Holiday revisionism

THE holiday we have just celebrated, now called "President's Day," was within living memory called "George Washington's Birthday." It is our loss that we no longer have any sense of this great man, who had more than anyone else to do with our being a free people today.

Part of the reason is this generation's sheer ignorance of history. Worse, it is also due to misconceptions of the world borne of that ignorance.

For many of the politically correct today, it is enough to dismiss George Washington because he was a dead white male -- as if he had anything to do with any of that. Others condemn him because he owned slaves. But the slaves were here before George Washington was born and there was nothing he could do about slavery, even when he was president. The most he could do was advocate the abolition of slavery in general and free the particular slaves he had inherited -- and he ended up doing both.

George Washington was generations ahead of his time on this issue in the Western world, and centuries ahead of his time as far as non-Western civilizations were concerned. People grossly ignorant of history -- and that includes graduates of our leading colleges and universities -- have no idea that slavery was not even a controversial issue before the 18th century, and only in Western societies beginning then. Everywhere else in the world, it was as widely accepted as it was widely practiced -- and it had been for thousands of years.

It was not slavery that was unique, it was freedom that was new and rare. George Washington was the key figure in the creation of the first major modern nation with an elected government, which was to become a model for the creation of other such governments in the centuries to come. Even now, however, free nations remain the exception, rather than the rule.

Governments with autocratic rulers were so prevalent in George Washington's day that it was assumed by many that he would become king after the American revolution succeeded. However, he said that he had not fought against George III in order to become George I. He not only threw his weight behind the creation of a constitutional republic, he set the precedent of voluntarily leaving the presidency after two terms, in order to forestall a tradition of one-man rule that has ruined so many other countries, even those with republican government.

There have been many insurrections and revolutions in history, but the American revolution was one of the few that did not end in tyranny, like the French, Russian and Chinese revolutions, for example. George Washington was a big part of the reason why American freedom not only persisted but spread, both internally and internationally.

As late as Abraham Lincoln's time, the United States was still an experiment. As Lincoln said in his Gettysburg Address, the terrible war then going on -- the bloodiest ever fought in the Western Hemisphere -- was testing whether government of the people would perish from the earth.

We cannot take for granted the hard-won blessings of this country -- created by the wisdom and character of people like George Washington, as well as the blood and deaths of the patriots who supported them -- and then also demand that their words and deeds mirror our notions today, in a time with much easier choices.

No one called the United States a superpower in George Washington's time. The big question was whether it could survive at all, in a world of bigger and more powerful nations, all on the lookout for more prey for their empires.

Putting the country together and keeping it together was the key to whatever chance it had for survival. To act as if the Constitution of the United States could have been written as if it were an exercise in abstract principles, discussed around a seminar table, is to betray both ignorance and moral hubris.

We should never forget that British troops marched through the capital of the United States in the early 19th century and set fire to the White House. But of course millions of Americans cannot forget that because they were never taught it in the first place. What they have been taught is silly political correctness about dead white males. When you lose your national memory, you risk losing what you need for understanding your own time -- and you risk losing the future as well as the past.

JWR contributor Thomas Sowell, a fellow at the Hoover Institution, is author of several books, including his latest, *The Einstein Syndrome: Bright Children Who Talk Late*.



# People of the Revolution

## George III (1738-1820)

King of Great Britain. George William Frederick ascended to the throne in 1760 at the age of twenty-two. He played a major role in the creating the terms of the Treaty of Paris of 1763 that brought an end to the Seven Years War. In 1770, the king finally gained control over the English Parliament with the installation of Lord North, as prime minister. However, the king's repressive policies towards the American colonies throughout the North ministry backfired with the American rebels' struggle for independence from English rule. In March 1782, George III finally allowed Lord North to resign as prime minister and began peace negotiations to end the American Revolution. In the fall of 1788, the king succumbed to the congenital illness that had plagued him since 1765, rendering him mad. He soon recovered and continued to rule England until 1811, when he became permanently ill after the death of his favorite daughter.

## George Germain, Lord Sackville (1716-1785)

Lord Sackville was made Commander of the British forces in Germany in 1758. His army career ended abruptly in disgrace, however, with a court martial for failure to follow orders. Dismissed from service, he spent the next sixteen years rebuilding his parliamentary career. By 1775, now using the name Germain, he was in favor with the North ministry. His tough attitude toward the colonies led to his appointment as First Lord of Trade and Secretary of State for America. During the war, Germain's actions alienated British commanders, George III, and the cabinet. Germain was forced to resign in 1782 and left public life.

## William Howe (1729-1814)

William Howe succeeded General Thomas Gage in 1775 as Commander of the British forces in the American Revolution. After the successful Battle of Long Island in 1777, he defeated Washington at Brandywine near Chadds Ford and continued his advance on Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Howe's success in Philadelphia was overshadowed by General John Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga, and Howe was criticized for not cooperating with Burgoyne during the 1777 campaign. Parliament appointed General Henry Clinton to replace Howe in 1778

## “Miss Jenny”

A French woman who spied for the British by infiltrating the American's French allies' army camps. She reported her observations to Baron Ottendorf, who in turn sent her disposition to Sir Henry Clinton. No other information is known on her.

## Lafayette, Marquis de (1754-1834)

The American Declaration of Independence inspired Lafayette to buy a ship and sail to America without official permission from France in 1777. In America, he became an unpaid volunteer on George Washington's staff. He participated in the Battle of Brandywine in 1777 and soon became a major general. While spending the winter in Valley Forge, he became close friends with Washington. He continued to have military commands in 1778, but in 1779 went back to France to advocate the American cause. He returned in 1780 bearing the news to Washington that the Comte de Rochambeau would bring French troops to assist him. Lafayette next went to Virginia, where he battled Cornwallis until Cornwallis retreated to Yorktown. After Yorktown, Lafayette was the “diplomatic aide-de-camp” to Benjamin Franklin in Paris and continued to voice American interests to the French government. Lafayette had an illustrious and tumultuous political career in France during the French Revolution, the Reign of Terror, Napoleon, and the Restoration Era, throughout which he defended his concept of liberty.

## Jonathan Odell

Rev. Jonathan Odell, graduate of Princeton and grandson of its first president, was a physician, poet, and clergyman. He went over to the British side in 1777, and patriots promptly confiscated his property in New Jersey. Odell probably helped arrange the first meeting between Benedict Arnold and Joseph Stanbury in New York in May 1779. He also translated the secret ciphers and decoded the invisible ink of the spy letters passing among John Andre, Joseph Stansbury, and Benedict Arnold.

## Baron Ottendorf

On December 5, 1776, Congress commissioned Major Nicholas Dietrich, Baron de Ottendorf, a German mercenary, to raise an independent corps in the Continental Army. Ottendorf's Corps had difficulty in completing itself properly and on June 11, 1777 Washington replaced Ottendorf with Lieutenant Colonel Armand and his French troops. Baron Ottendorf and his mercenaries later joined with the British army.

## Paul Revere (1735-1818)

Paul Revere was one of the finest American craftsmen of the late eighteenth century. He learned his trade of silversmithing from his father. Revere served as an officer in the Seven Years War and then returned to Boston to set up shop as a silversmith. He was a leader in the Bostonian Sons of Liberty and played in a major role in popularizing resistance to the Stamp Act and the Boston Massacre through his widely circulated engravings. He helped plan and carry out the Boston Tea Party in 1775. He also served as a courier between the American rebel organizations. On April 18 and 19 of 1775, he set out on horseback from Boston to warn patriot leaders John Hancock and Sam Adams in Lexington that the British were marching to seize rebel leaders and weapons. During the war he served the American cause as a manufacturer of gunpowder and as an engraver for Congress. After the war he returned to his business as a silversmith and engraver.

## Rachel Revere (1745-1813)

Rachel (Walker) Revere was the second wife of Paul Revere, the engraver and patriot. Rachel met Paul outside his shop in Boston. They were married on October 10, 1773, just five months after the death of his first wife. Their marriage was considered a love match. Paul wrote love poems to his wife on the back of his shop ledgers. Rachel and Paul had eight children in addition to Paul's eight children from his first marriage. Rachel died on June 26, 1813.

## Rochambeau, Comte de (1725-1807)

Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, the Comte de Rochambeau, joined the French Army to fight in the French and Indian Wars (1744-1746, also known as the War of the Austrian Succession). He performed with distinction in the Seven Years War and was promoted to brigadier in 1760. In 1780, when the French government decided to send troops to aid the American rebels, Rochambeau was promoted to lieutenant general and made commander of 6,000 French soldiers. By all reports, Rochambeau was skilled, experienced and diplomatic, waiting patiently for over a year as the American troops reorganized and gathered the men and funds to mount another attack on the British. Finally, in 1781, Rochambeau and Washington worked together to mislead Clinton and march to Yorktown and surround Cornwallis. Rochambeau returned to France in 1783 and narrowly escaped execution during the French Revolution's Reign of Terror.

## Joseph Stansbury

Joseph Stansbury was born in London, but he lived in Philadelphia during the Revolution. When the British occupied Philadelphia, he was in British favor. He served as the commissioner of the city watch, managed General Howe's lottery for the relief of the poor, and directed the library. He directly opposed armed resistance and independence from the British. When the British withdrew to New York in June 1778, he stayed in Philadelphia. He then served as the main intercessory between Benedict Arnold and John Andre. After Arnold approached him with overtures to the British cause, he ventured to New York specifically to meet with André about Arnold.

## Benjamin Tallmadge (1754-1835)

With Benjamin Tallmadge's leadership, was able to create a strong and successful chain of spies throughout the New York area, beginning the secret service in America. These agents, primarily the , gathered countless amounts of information for Washington, which greatly aided in winning the war. Tallmadge was born in Setauket, Long Island. He was an extremely bright boy, who went to Yale University at the age fifteen. After school he began a teaching career and soon became a headmaster of a school in Wethersfield, CT. When war broke out Tallmadge became interested and decided to join. He began his army career as 1st lieutenant in Colonel John Chester's Regiment of Wadsworth's Connecticut Brigade, and eventually rose up the ladder to become Brigade Major and then captain of a troop in the 2nd Continental Light Dragoon Regiment. In the summer of 1778 his dragoons were assigned under Brigadier General Charles Scott, who was Washington's intelligence chief. Tallmadge's new job was to recruit intelligence sources throughout Connecticut and New York area.

He contacted old friends from Long Island and New York City, gradually forming the Culper ring. When Charles Scott had to go home because of family problems in the Fall of 1778, Tallmadge was promoted once again and began to report directly to Washington. Tallmadge is now remembered as one of the founders of the first organized espionage operations in America.

After his successful career during the war, he was elected to Congress, where he served eight terms.

## Benjamin Thompson (1753-1814)

Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford, was one of America's most important early scientists. Thompson was born in the colonies in 1753. He was an avowed loyalist who may have aided Benjamin Church in his espionage against the rebel armies. Thompson left America on October 15, 1775 from Woburn, Massachusetts aboard a British warship. In March of 1776, Lord Germain (British Minister) appointed him to a position in the Colonial Office. Later he served as an officer, commanding British troops in Charleston and on Long Island. After the war, Thompson served the elector of Bavaria and was rewarded in 1791 by appointment as a count of the Holy Roman Empire. Throughout his life he continued his scientific studies regarding gunpowder, heat and light. Before leaving America, he founded a chair in physics at Harvard and established medals for physics at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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## George Washington (1732-1799)

George Washington, the first American President and Commander-in-Chief of the American forces during the American Revolutionary War, was born in Westmoreland county, Virginia in 1732. He did not have much of a formal education, but learned from nature and life, and proved to have a skill with mathematics and surveying. His first experience with war was as a commander during the French and Indian War. For a time afterwards he was a tobacco planter, but he soon learned that it did not pay. As the war with Great Britain approached, Washington, disgruntled with the British laws, entered the political and military realm and was elected one of the delegates to the First Continental Congress. Later he was elected, again, this time as Commander-in-Chief of the American army. As Commander-in-Chief, Washington built a large army, which he kept together and mobile, and prevented it from being destroyed by the British Army. As a result of his abilities during the war, Washington was unanimously elected the first president of the United States in 1789.