



The Florida Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution
Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter
website: www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html



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Ft. Lauderdale Society SAR Minutes meeting 25 March 2006

by Ed Spencer

The meeting was called to order by society President Ted Duay. As registrar, President Ted Duay announced that we have had four new members approved and that the society has grown significantly enough that we should now establish standing committees. The committees that were suggested were Awards committee, Membership and Public Relations.

For the awards committee, Compatriot Joe Motes announced that he has already presented the SAR ROTC award at one school and that more schools are scheduling their awards banquet at this time. He also stated that on top of the 27 schools that are currently operating ROTC programs, two new schools are being build in the school district that also plan on having ROTC programs. Being that there may be schedule conflicts with the award banquets, Compatriot Joe Motes requested for volunteers to list their contact information to be called as needed to present the SAR awards at the local schools.

In the area of Public Relations, Compatriot Ed Spencer reported that, last month, the SAR has been represented at the Deerfield Beach Founders day parade and at the Estahakee Chapter DAR George Washington Tea in Boca Raton. President Ted Duay also stated that pictures from the tea have been posted on the Society's web site and that the event was enjoyed by all that had attended.

In looking to the future events, Compatriot Ted Duay announced that the Lighthouse Chapter DAR has invited the Ft. Lauderdale SAR to join them in December for a joint meeting.

continued on Page 2



Chapter President Ted Duay presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Lynne Bever for her outstanding presentation during our March chapter meeting.

Our Guest Speaker for April

Col. Leo R. Gray has made significant contributions to the welfare of his county throughout his military and civilian careers. Col Gray joined the Army Air Corps and began his aviation cadet training in 1943. Little more than a year later he graduated from the Tuskegee Army Air Field Flying School as a single Engine Pilot. While in Italy as a fighter pilot, Gray flew 15 combat missions in P-51's for a total of 750 hours flying time. He left active duty in 1946 but remained in the USAF Reserves until 1984. During his 41 years in military service, Col Gray earned a coveted Air Medal with one oak leaf and a Presidential Unit Citation.

NEXT MEETING - APRIL 22th

"Flaming Pit"

*1150 N. Federal Hwy., Pompano Beach
(11 blocks north of Atlantic Blvd.)*

Time: 11:30AM social gathering; Lunch at noon

Buffet luncheon - \$12.00

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:

954-441-8735

or e-mail Joe Motes at: joemotes@aol.com

continued from page 1

On old business, Compatriot Ed Sullivan presented the society President and Treasurer with copies of the state tax exemption form. He stated that getting the tax exemption for the society had been difficult and that in fact had taken over several years of work with the state to convince them that the Sons of the American Revolution was in fact a non-profit organization.

The treasurer's report and the meeting minutes were submitted and approved.

There being no further business before the chapter, President Ted Duay introduced our guest speaker, Lynne M Bever.

Lynne Bever enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1978 shortly after graduating from High School in Altamont Springs Florida. While on active duty, she was assigned to the U.S. Navy Cryptography School, graduating two months early from the self paced study program, she was assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor, where she served her enlistment.

Shortly before the end of her enlistment, the station career councilor asked her if she would consider trying for the Navy's BOOST (Broadened Opportunities for Officer Selection Training) program, which she took up. While in the program, Lynne studied hard and was ranked second out of 250 in her class. Upon graduating from the BOOST program she received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy.

While at Annapolis, where she studied Ocean Engineering, Lynne took up the extra curricular sport of Crew. Being a light weight individual, she was placed as the boat coxswain where she became an inspiration to the other team member. In her senior year, Lynne was presented with the Laura Stegman Inspiration Award. The Award is presented to "the member whose spirit, effort and determination most inspired them to excel".

As part of her naval training at Annapolis, she was required to spend time with the fleet. For her assignment, Lynn was sent to the Coast Guard in the Bearing Sea and assigned to Territorial Fishing rights enforcement duty where she boarded fishing vessels and "counted fish" to ensure that the fishermen were not violating the fishing laws. This, as she stated constituted her entire sea duty.

Upon graduation and commissioning as Ensign, she was assigned to Balboa Naval Hospital, San Diego as Officer in Charge (OIC) of Construction where she attained the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade. She was then transferred to Rota, Spain serving as the Public Works Activity Civil Engineer & Division Officer for the Seabees, the Naval Construction Battalion (CB) where she once again received a promotion to Lieutenant. Afterward, Lynn was transferred to Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana near Norfolk, Virginia where she served as OIC Construction Battalion Unit 415.

Shortly after Lynne's transfer to NAS Oceana, Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and her unit was deployed to Saudi Arabia as part of Operation Desert Shield to setup a modular Hospital unit. During her 7 ½ month deployment, Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm earning her the Liberation of Kuwait Medal and she became pre-selected to the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Following her Gulf War service, Lynne resigned from the Naval Service and perused her Master's degree in Finance from the Wharton School of Business, followed up with a successful career by becoming a Senior Director at the world headquarters of the Arby's roast beef restaurant chain. She is now working as a consultant in a firm that she recently founded.

During her presentation, Lynne was kind enough to allow us to view some pictures from her service, her Officer's Dress sward, an Iraqi Dinar note (money) and her Liberation Medal, which many eligible service members waited years to acquire. President Ted Duay Adjourned the meeting.

The Story of Valley Forge

continued from last month

April 1768 After the ringing of the Bell, merchants of Philadelphia held a gripe session condemning regressive Parliamentary measures which included a prohibition on the manufacture of steel in the Province of Pennsylvania as well as a ban on hat making.

Sep. 1770 It tolled after a resolution claiming that Parliament's latest taxation schemes were subversive of Pennsylvanian's constitutional rights.

Feb. 1771 It was rung to call the Assembly together to petition the King for a repeal of tea duties.

1772 People living in the vicinity of State House petitioned the Assembly to stop ringing the bell so often, complaining that they were "incommoded and distressed" by the constant "ringing of the great Bell in the Steeple."

Dec. 25, 1773 Shortly after the Boston Tea Party (12/16/1773), the Bell rung the news that the ship Polly was bringing "monopoly" tea into Philadelphia. At this time the Assembly resolved that Captain Ayres of the Polly would neither be allowed to land nor bring his tea to the custom house.

1774 It was noted that the steeple in the State House was in need of repair.

June 1774 A muffled tolling announced the Intolerable Acts which included the closure of the Port of Boston.

It tolled for a town meeting wherein the citizens of Philadelphia pledged over 4,000 pounds in aid for the suffering residents of Boston.

April 1775 It pealed to announce the Battle of Lexington and Concord.

July 4 1776 The Liberty Bell did not ring on July 4, 1776 for the Declaration of Independence. The reason? The Declaration is dated July 4, 1776, but on that day, the Declaration was sent to the printer. See next.

July 8 1776 The first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. Bells tolled throughout the city on that day. Tradition holds that the Liberty Bell rang out this day. However, the steeple was in bad condition and historians today doubt the likelihood of the story.

Sep. 1777 War came to the Philadelphia region. The British had won the Battle of Brandywine on September 11 and were poised to move into Philadelphia. Philadelphians tried to remove anything the British could make use of, including bells. Bells could be melted down and recast into cannon. On September 23, the State House Bell was taken down and shipped inland. A member of the Carpenters' Company was put in charge of the physical removal. The bell was hidden in the basement of the Zion Reformed Church in Allentown (where you can visit today). On its journey, the Bell was guarded by Colonel William Polk of North Carolina who was in command of 200 North Carolina and Virginia militiaman.

June 27 1778 The Bell was brought back to Philadelphia but not rehung. The rotten steeple didn't allow it. The Bell was put into storage for seven years. Some believe the Bell was stored in one of the munitions sheds that flanked the State House.

1781 The State House steeple was torn down.

1785 The Bell was rehung in the rebuilt State House steeple.

1787 The Bell was rung upon ratification of the Constitution.

1789 It was rung throughout the year to call students of the University of Pennsylvania to classes at nearby Philosophical Hall.

1790 Tolled at death of Franklin.

March 1797 Rung during the inauguration of John Adams.

Dec. 1799 Tolled at the death of Washington.

1799 Pennsylvania's state capital moved to Lancaster. The Bell remained in Philadelphia and was used to call voters, to celebrate patriotic occasions, and to toll on the deaths of famous Americans.

July 1804 Tolled at the death of Hamilton.

1816 The state of Pennsylvania announced its intention of selling the State House and yard. When it was learned that the yard was going to be subdivided for building lots, the city of Philadelphia was scandalized. It responded by purchasing the building and yard from the state for \$70,000.

1821 Philadelphia City Councils (there were two at the time) bought a new bell to be used for the clocks on the State House. The Liberty Bell would remain on the fourth floor of the brick part of the tower. Sep. 1824 Bell rung for Lafayette's triumphant return to Philadelphia.

A letter to the Philadelphia Public Ledger on May 4, 1915 (nearly 100 years after the event) claimed that the Bell cracked on this occasion. There was no mention in the contemporary press that the bell cracked at that time, however.

July 1826 Tolloed at the deaths of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson (both of whom died on July 4).

1828 Philadelphia decided to reconstruct the State House steeple. Council also decided to replace the State House clock with a new one in the steeple. It was decided the new clock should have a new bell.

A foundry owner named John Wilbank cast a 4,000 pound bell. In December, Wilbank's bell took the place of the old State House Bell, and the Liberty Bell was moved to a different part of the new tower. The bell that was installed as a clock bell in 1821

disappeared -- It's assumed that Wilbank took it as part of his payment. Wilbank was also supposed to haul away the Liberty Bell at that time.

The city sued Wilbank for breach of contract -- because he did not take the Liberty Bell with him. Wilbank argued that draying (hauling) costs exceeded the \$400 the Bell was assessed at. They haggled in court before a judge ordered a compromise: Wilbank would pay court costs; the City had to keep the Bell, which was technically considered "on loan" from Wilbank.

Over the years, Wilbank's heirs have agitated the city of Philadelphia to give them the Bell which they considered rightfully theirs. In a 1915 agreement, the family agreed to keep the bell on loan as long as it hung in Independence Hall.

In 1984, an heir of Wilbank named James McCloskey claimed the Bell for himself, noting that it had moved to a pavilion a block north of Independence Hall. He claimed that he wanted to display it in his hometown of Baltimore, or barring that, melt the Bell down "and make seven million rings -- all cracked -- and sell them for \$39.95 each." Rung to celebrate the Catholic Emancipation Act. A newspaper article from 1914 claims the Bell cracked on this occasion. Again, the story was written nearly 100 years after the event. There was no mention in the contemporary press that the bell cracked at that time, however.

1831 City Councils agree to let the youths of the city ring "the old State House Bell" on July 4th. Feb. 1832 Rang for the Centennial birthday celebration for George Washington.

July 1834 Tolloed at the death of Lafayette
 1835 In an interview in the Sunday New York Times of July 16, 1911, one Emmanuel Rauch claims that when he was a boy of 10, he was walking through the State House Square on Washington's Birthday when the steeple-keeper, Major Jack Downing, called him over. Rauch, along with several other boys were asked whether they wanted to ring the Bell in honor of Washington's Birthday.

Continued with next month issue

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