



**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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President's Message

It's always interesting when a link with our American Revolution surfaces, or in this recent case, resurfaces.

That's what happened this spring on the shore of Provincetown, Massachusetts. The remains of the HMS Somerset III, which was built in 1745 and ran aground in 1778, suddenly reappeared out of the seaside sands.

The Somerset was a 64 gun vessel with a crew of 400. She was in Boston Harbor when Paul Revere made his famous midnight ride. Later she took part in the bombardment of Charleston which almost completely burned the town to the ground.

But time ran out for the much feared ship in November of 1778. She was being pursued by two French warships when she struck a Provincetown sandbar. Some of the crew drowned but most made it to shore only to be taken prisoner but the citizenry. Meanwhile, the French busied themselves shelling the Somerset, making sure it would never again pose a threat to the United States or France.

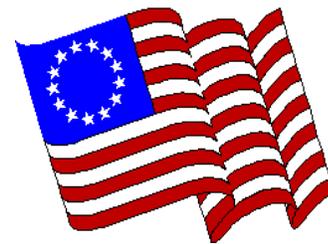
After the ship was properly looted, it just sat there, sinking into the sand and being covered by time.

Now, 232 years later, the old ship is back, or rather, what's left of her. It's generally believed that the ship will be reburied soon by the forces of nature only to reappear again at some unforeseeable future date. The last time locals saw the Somerset was about 30 years ago.

In the meantime, the old British menace is attracting plenty of attention. Hopefully parents are taking their kids to see the skeletal remains... and hopefully they are telling the story of the Revolution, a story that needs so desperately to be told, retold and understood.

This Month's Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker at the April meeting will be the Honorable Judge Jerry Pollock who will give a talk entitled "A View from the Bench". Judge Pollock has been a resident of Broward County since 1959. He has a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He received his law degree from the University of Miami Law School and spent 25 years of civil law practice including 10 years as Miramar City Attorney (until city hired a full time, in house city attorney). He has 14 years as a County Court Judge in Broward County having retired January 1, 2005. He is still called upon to serve as a Senior Judge and his presentation promises to be nothing short of fascinating.



NEXT MEETING - APRIL 17, 2010

**Colony West Country Club
6800 NW 88th Ave in Tamarac**

Future Dates:

MAY 15, 2010

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

Buffet Luncheon - \$15.00

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 954-441-8735

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

Fort Lauderdale Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
Minutes of Meeting on March 20, 2010
Held at
Colony West Country Club in Tamarac, Florida

The meeting was opened at 12:05 PM by President Charles Crowell with 10 members present. The invocation was offered by Chaplin Robert Joynt followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the SAR Pledge, each led by the President.

The President asked the officers of the Chapter to report with the following results:

Vice President: Vice President Franklin Flannery reported that he had attended the St. Patrick's Day parade in Fort Lauderdale and described the enthusiastic reception from the viewers to the presence of veterans from the Alexander Nininger Florida State Veterans Home in Pembroke Pines.

Secretary: The Secretary noted that the minutes had been distributed with the newsletter and asked that they be approved. This was moved by Jim Lohmyer, seconded by Ted Duay, and approved by a voice vote.

Treasurer/Newsletter: Treasurer and Publisher of the Chapter Newsletter Joe Motes presented the treasurers report that indicated a current balance in the operating account of \$3900.85. The President reiterated his desire that all members who wanted a hard copy of the newsletter would be given one. In a brief discussion of mailing costs Joe stated that he had bought sufficient "Forever" stamps that postage costs would not be a problem in the near term. A discussion followed concerning a State SAR report indicating the number of JROTC medals provided throughout Florida and it was apparent that those provided by our Chapter had not been reported as the annual Achievement Report was not submitted for the previous year.

Genealogist/Registrar: Ted Duay reported that John L. Tomlinson III application for membership had been approved and that an application for membership by Steve Wilkinson's nephew had been submitted. He estimated that approval would take approximately three and a half months.

Following a break for lunch the President proceeded with discussions of the following items:

- Ted Duay updated the members on the status of the trustees for the endowment fund, indicating that there were currently three (Ken Loomis, Jim Lohmyer, and George Dennis. George Dennis' term will expire in November and another member will need to be selected at that meeting;

- A short discussion was held concerning the membership roster and the Secretary was requested to edit and provide a copy for the President and any other members that desired one;

- The National SAR provides medals to recognize the military service of members. Previously the Chapter had determined which members were eligible for these and had ordered them. Joe Motes indicated that they had not been received but should be available for presentation at the next meeting;

- The National SAR also provides lapel pins for members who have been active members for various periods of time, such as 5 years, 10 years, etc. The Chapter agreed to purchase these for eligible members;

- The President updated the Chapter on the status of the recognition of William Ballenger of St. Andrew's School and the 7 year old student in Troy, New York who had been collecting funds for cancer patients. He indicated that Mr. Ballenger had accepted an invitation to address the Chapter at the May meeting. Within that line of thought, George Dennis brought up an article that appeared in the Sun-Sentinel concerning a child that had rescued her siblings from a fire and suggested that the Chapter award a heroism medal to the individual. (Secretary's Note: A Google search of the Sun-Sentinel did not provide any information. If any member of the Chapter can provide date and names so that George's information can be acted on, it would be appreciated.) ;

- There was no update available on the status of recognition for law enforcement officers that were authorized in the February meeting;

- Jim Lohmyer stated that he had attended a meeting of the Miami Chapter of the SAR, following their invitation to do so. This is an annual event and the invitation was extended at the time that he was President of our Chapter;

**Fort Lauderdale Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
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FIRST CLASS MAIL



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- There was a discussion of tools that could be used for recruiting new members and the ability to get coverage of Chapter events by the local newspapers. At the same time the President noted that we needed a collection of prayers that would be appropriate for opening and closing meetings in the absence of the Chaplin, and that the one copy available belonged to Robert Joynt. It was mentioned that the publication was currently not available but was on back order;

- The Pensacola Chapter of the SAR requested that other Chapters assist in funding their celebration of the Battle of Pensacola. After a brief discussion, the membership of our Chapter declined to do so;

There being no additional business, the President related history concerning one of his ancestors, Walter Van Rensselaer (1836-1879), an officer in the Union Army who was present at the Battle of Gettysburg. He traced a portion of the battle in which then Major Rensselaer participated and was wounded. He also provided information concerning certain memorabilia that were in Rensselaer's possession, how these were first put on what was to have been a permanent display in Kingston, NY, and later found in the possession of an individual who had no legal right to hold them. Eventually the items were donated to the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center where they are on permanent display.

The meeting was concluded at 13:40 with a benediction delivered by Robert Joynt and the SAR Recessional led by the President.

Respectfully Submitted

John Dye, Secretary