



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter

Next Meeting – Tower Club, in the C & S Building (Parking inside is \$ 2.00)

DATE : THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1993
TIME : SOCIAL - 11: 30 am LUNCH - 12:00 Noon
COST : \$ 11.00 per PERSON

For RESERVATIONS : Call Wally Floyd's secretary (California Federal)
by **11:00am TUESDAY**, April 6th at **566-9705**.
(Reservations can be made until 11am, Wednesday, by calling 564-2813)

PROGRAM : *MUSEUM of DISCOVERY and SCIENCE
and Blockbuster IMAX Theater*

Come hear and see what this new facility has to offer for visitors of all ages and interests. Even if you have already been to the museum, our speaker will be able to point out things you may have missed or not known. Prepare for your next visit.

NEWS :

- + Give serious consideration to attending the Florida Society SAR Annual Convention and Spring Board of Management meeting in Lakeland on May 7-9. This a good time to learn more about your society's activities and to enjoy the most social and entertaining meeting of the year. A good one for wives and lady friends to attend (but probably not both). - - See your Spring issue of "The Florida Patriot" for details.
- + It is with regret we note that our Compatriot Art Ralston has moved to Michigan. He served and assisted our Chapter and the state Society in many ways, including Chapter President in 1978. However, we will miss his friendship the most. He plans to establish dual SAR membership, retaining Florida as primary. We can hope our paths will cross again.
- + SAR Chapter membership cards will be provided to anyone requesting one from the Secretary.
- + Note that reservations are made by calling a different phone number if you wait past Tuesday at 11:00am.



Hope to see you and your guests at the meeting ..



Please make reservations so adequate seating will be available.

(Turn sheet over for a bit of history and trivia.)



"LEST WE FORGET"



Durham's Boats

Had it not been for a tangled chain of circumstances, George Washington couldn't even have attempted to cross the Delaware River in order to attack British forces in Trenton, New Jersey. He assembled about 2,400 men under his own command on Christmas Day, 1775, and prepared to embark because he had assembled a flotilla of Durham boats.

Named for Robert Durham, who first began making them about 1750, the boats were peculiar to the Delaware. Great numbers of them plied its waters, but no boats of similar design were to be found anywhere else in North America.

Discovery of iron ore in Bucks County about the turn of the century had led to erection of the Durham Iron Works in 1727. There was plenty of good ore—but it went begging because of difficulties involved in getting it to market. That's why Robert Durham designed and began building big black boats ranging from forty to sixty feet in length and designed to transport great quantities of iron ore to Philadelphia.

Most boats were about eight feet wide; all were pointed at both ends so that they could move in either direction. In spite of their size, Durham boats drew less than twenty inches of water.

Had an expert in logistics set out to design a boat capable of transporting up to fifteen tons of men, horses, and artillery, he couldn't have improved on the Durham boat. Availability of these special craft affected the course of history, for without them Washington's famous crossing of the Delaware would have been utterly impossible.