



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



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Organized November 26, 1966

AUGUST 2002

Volume 35 Number 8

## Highlights of July Chapter Meeting

President George Dennis called the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. Treasurer Richard Jones reported that the recent increase in postage plus luncheon costs next year likely will necessitate an increase in dues. This will be reviewed near year end. He also has determined that society meeting and membership notices can be placed in some of the weekly community newspapers for a nominal fee. This will be deferred until fall when more people are in the area. Registrar Joe Fordyce reported that so far he has received the names of five prospective members as a result of the NSSAR census project. The best means to pursue these leads were discussed. Suitable SAR brochures will be obtained for inclusion with letters of introduction and the prospects will be invited to attend chapter meetings. Secretary Oscar Kraehenbuehl reported he has rosters available that list all the FLSSAR officers, committees and chapter presidents as well as copies of the quarterly BOM reports and minutes. He reminded those present of the August 9-10 BOM in Ft. Myers and solicited input or requests which he could take to the meeting.

President Dennis just returned from his 70<sup>th</sup> high school reunion and reported he was able to view the results of successfully arranging to have new tombstones placed on his patriot grandfather's and grandmother's graves. The government provided the stone for his g-father as a result of his military service. George also had an SAR Patriot marker mounted on the stone. He was urged to provide a photo and comments for inclusion in the Florida Patriot magazine.

VP Joe Motes entertained the group by recounting the events and sights of his recent tour to all the Hawaiian Islands. He summarized the experience by saying it was a wonderful place to visit but too expensive a place to live there.

## *This Month's Guest Speaker*

Our speaker for the August meeting is Helen Landers, Broward County Historian, and her topic will be the history of Broward County. Ms. Landers was appointed to this position with the Broward County Historical Commission in June 1990. She has been a resident of Broward county since 1926, and graduated from Fort Lauderdale High School. Ms. Landers also graduated from Florida State University with an A.B. in American History, and Baylor University with an M.A. in American History. She is a board member and History Chair of the Broward Urban River Trails; President, of the Broward County Women's History Coalition, board member of the Tower Club Forum, and was inducted into the Broward County Women's Hall of Fame in March 1993.

*NEXT MEETING - AUG 8th  
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*

## **Little Known Facts about the American Revolutionary War**

What follows are a few little known facts about the American Revolutionary War era. Most Americans think they know all about the Revolution simply because they are Americans. In fact, the real story -- not the one in most textbooks -- is crammed with little known facts. Information has been drawn from multiple sources for this report. The main source being information compiled by Mr. Thomas Fleming, a noted historian.

### **The Americans of 1776 had the highest standard of living and the lowest taxes in the Western World!**

Farmers, lawyers and business owners in the Colonies were thriving, with some plantation owners and merchants making the equivalent of \$500,000 a year. Times were good for many others too. The British wanted a slice of the cash flow and tried to tax the Colonists. They resisted violently, convinced that their prosperity and their liberty were at stake. Virginia's Patrick Henry summed up their stance with his cry: "Give me liberty or give me death!"

### **There were two Boston tea parties!**

Everyone knows how 50 or 60 "Sons of Liberty," disguised as Mohawks, protested the 3 cents per pound British tax on tea by dumping chests of the popular drink into Boston Harbor on December 16, 1773. Fewer know that the improper Bostonians repeated the performance on March 7, 1774. The two tea parties cost the British around \$3 million in modern money.

### **Benjamin Franklin wrote the first Declaration of Independence!**

In 1775, Franklin, disgusted with the arrogance of the British and appalled by the bloodshed at Lexington and Concord, wrote a Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson was enthusiastic. But, he noted, many other delegates to the Continental Congress were "revolted at it." It would take another year of bitter conflict to persuade the Congress to vote for the Declaration of Independence written by Jefferson -- with some astute editorial suggestions by Franklin.

## **John Adams defended the British Soldiers after the Boston Massacre!**

Captain Thomas Preston led some British Soldiers to aid another British Soldier who was having things thrown at him and was also hit several times with a board. After their arrival, the people continued to pelt the soldiers and finally shots were fired and the infamous "Boston Massacre" was over. Captain Thomas Preston and eight soldiers were charged with murder. Future President John Adams took up the defense of the soldiers. He, along with Joshua Quincy, was able to get all but two acquitted by a local jury. Those two were found guilty of manslaughter, but claimed benefit of clergy. This means that they were allowed to make penance instead of being executed. To insure that they never could use benefit of clergy again they were both branded on the thumbs.

## **History's first submarine attack took place in New York Harbor in 1776!**

The Connecticut inventor David Bushnell called his submarine the Turtle because it resembled two large tortoise shells of equal size joined together. The watertight hull was made of 6-inch-thick oak timbers coated with tar. On September 6, 1776, the Turtle targeted the HMS Eagle, flagship of the British fleet. The submarine was supposed to secure a cask of gunpowder to the hull of the Eagle and sneak away before it exploded. Unfortunately, the Turtle got entangled with the Eagle's rudder bar, lost ballast and surfaced before the gunpowder could be planted.

## **Benedict Arnold was the best general in the Continental Army!**

"Without Benedict Arnold in the first three years of the war," says the historian George Neumann, "we would probably have lost the Revolution." In 1775, the future traitor came within a whisker of conquering Canada. In 1776, he built a fleet and fought a bigger British fleet to a standstill on Lake Champlain. At Saratoga in 1777, his brilliant battlefield leadership forced the British army to surrender. The victory persuaded the French to join the war on the American side. Ironically, Arnold switched sides in 1780 partly because he disapproved of the French alliance.

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**By 1779, as many as one in seven Americans in Washington’s army was black!**

At first Washington was hesitant about enlisting blacks. But when he heard they had fought well at Bunker Hill, he changed his mind. The all-black First Rhode Island Regiment -- composed of 33 freedmen and 92 slaves who were promised freedom if they served until the end of the war -- distinguished itself in the Battle of Newport. Later, they were all but wiped out in a British attack.

**There were women in the Continental Army, even a few who saw combat!**

Probably the best known is Mary Ludwig Hays, nicknamed “Molly Pitcher.” She replaced her wounded husband at his cannon during the Battle of Monmouth in 1778. Another wife of an artilleryman, Margaret Corbin, was badly wounded serving in her husband’s gun crew at the Battle of Harlem Heights in 1776. Thousands of other women served in Washington’s army as cooks and nurses.

**George Washington was the best spymaster in American History!**

He ran dozens of espionage rings in British-held New York and Philadelphia, and the man who supposedly could not tell a lie was a genius at disinformation. He constantly befuddled the British by leaking, through double agents, inflated reports on the strength of his army.

**By 1779, there were more Americans fighting with the British than with Washington!**

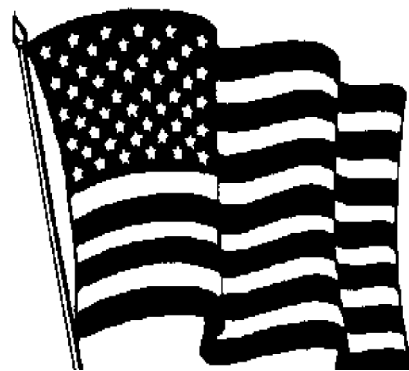
There were no less than 21 regiments (estimated to total 6,500 to 8,000 men) of loyalists in the British army. Washington reported a field army of 3,468. About a third of Americans opposed the Revolution.

**At Yorktown, the victory that won the war, Frenchman outnumbered Americans almost three to one!**

Washington had 11,000 men engaged in the battle, while the French had at least 29,000 soldiers and sailors. The 37 French ships-of-the-line played a crucial role in trapping the 8,700 strong British army and winning the engagement.

**King George almost abdicated the throne when the British lost!**

After Yorktown, George III vowed to keep fighting. When parliament demurred, the King wrote a letter of abdication -- then withdrew it. He tried to console himself with the thought that Washington would become a dictator and make the Americans long for royal rule. When he was told that Washington planned to resign his commission, the monarch gasped: “If he does that, sir, he will be the greatest man in the world.”



**Finally, someone has said what I think has been on every American's mind! This is an editorial written by an American citizen, published in a local newspaper.**

"IMMIGRANTS, NOT AMERICANS, MUST ADAPT!!" I am tired of this nation worrying about whether we are offending some individual or their culture, here in the USA. Since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, we have experienced a surge in patriotism by the majority of Americans. However, the dust from the attacks had barely settled when the "politically correct" crowd began complaining about the possibility that our patriotism was offending others. I am not against immigration, nor do I hold a grudge against anyone who is seeking a better life by coming to America. Our population is almost entirely comprised of descendants of immigrants. However, there are a few things that those who have recently come to our country, and apparently some born here, need to understand.

This idea of America, being a multi-cultural community, has served only to dilute our sovereignty and our national identity. As Americans, we have our own culture, our own society, our own language and our own lifestyle. This culture has been developed over centuries of struggles, trials, and victories by millions of men and women who have sought freedom.

We speak ENGLISH, not Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, or any other language. Therefore, if you wish to become part of our society, learn the language! ENGLISH. "In God We Trust" is our national motto. This is not some Christian, right wing, political slogan. We adopted this motto because Christian men and women, of Christian principles, founded this nation, and this is clearly documented. It is certainly appropriate to display it on the walls of our schools. If God offends you, then I suggest you consider another part of the world as your new home, because God is and always will be part of our culture.

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If the Stars and Stripes offend you, or you don't like Uncle Sam, then you should seriously consider a move to another part of this planet. We are happy with our culture and have no desire to change, and we really don't care how you did things where you came from. Remember, "Delta is ready when you are and they can have you there by nightfall".

This is OUR COUNTRY, our land, and our lifestyle. Our First Amendment gives every citizen the right to express his opinion and we will allow you every opportunity to do so. But, once you are done complaining, whining, and griping about our flag, our pledge, our national motto, or our way of life, I highly encourage you to take advantage of one other great American freedom, THE RIGHT TO LEAVE.

If you agree with this message, pass it on . If you don't agree, pass it on anyway. This is AMERICA, after all!