



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



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Highlights of July Chapter Meeting

President George Dennis called the July 10th meeting to order at noon. For whatever reason (vacations, business, no speaker, et al), attendance was very poor but of high quality. This situation was the main topic of discussion. It was concluded that the most immediate help would be to obtain good meeting speakers and to advertise them boldly and early in the newsletter. It was noted that it is difficult to get exceptional speakers willing to speak to a small group and/or also very embarrassing to have a small turnout when one is obtained. Help / support is needed from the membership. Of course, the need to actively pursue new members was stressed, for example, the four prospects who attended the June meeting. -- SAR brochures were placed in the genealogy society's library room in Parkland's new library, located at University and Holmberg Road.

Only five of the meeting questionnaires mailed to local members, plus one phone call, were returned. All but the phone reply prefer that meetings continue to be held at the Tower Club and, taken as a whole, all of the suggested speaker topics were of interest except Arts & Crafts and Charities. Two possible speakers were offered and will be followed-up, with appreciation. Since those who attend / replied like the present meeting venue and there was no indication that a change would be helpful to anyone, the status quo will remain.

On the positive side, it was reported that membership was approved by national for two men this past month: Matthew Duay and Dan Dragonetti. We are awaiting receipt of their certificates from the state before offering an official welcome and induction into the society, but this is very welcome news.

President Dennis noted that the front page of latest issue of "Headquarters Dispatch", from Louisville, had a nice photo and article about the passing of our member and Former President General, Matthew Sellers. Other information highlighted from the issue: Delaware Compatriot's successful effort to save the only Revolutionary War battlefield in DE; approval of a Purple Heart commemorative 37 cent stamp and its history; Ohio Society has published a register of Revolutionary War graves sites with family history. Pres. Dennis also reviewed an article on the establishment of the Great Seal of the United States. Congress approved the design on June 20, 1782. The image of the eagle within the seal became our National "Coat of Arms".

There will be no meeting this month, our next meeting is scheduled for September 11th.



**NEXT MEETING - SEPT 11th
TOWER CLUB !!!**

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

Andy Rooney said on 60 minutes a few weeks back: (for those of you that don't know Andy Rooney, he is a 82 year old US TV commentator on CBS "60 Minutes")

"I like big cars, big boats, big motorcycles, big houses and big campfires.

I believe the money I make belongs to me and my family, not some governmental stooge with a bad comb-over who wants to give it away to crack addicts for squirting out babies.

Guns do not make you a killer. I think killing makes you a killer. You can kill someone with a baseball bat or a car, but no one is trying to ban you from driving to the ball game.

I believe they are called the Boy Scouts for a reason, that is why there are no girls allowed. Girls belong in the Girl Scouts! ARE YOU LISTENING MARTHA BURKE?

I think that if you feel homosexuality is wrong, it is not a phobia, it is an opinion.

I don't think being a minority makes you a victim of anything except numbers. The only things I can think of that are truly discriminatory are things like the United Negro College Fund, Jet Magazine, Black Entertainment Television, and Miss Black America. Try to have things like the United Caucasian College Fund, Cloud Magazine, White Entertainment Television, or Miss White America; and see what happens. Jesse Jackson will be knocking down your door.

I have the right "NOT" to be tolerant of others because they are different, weird, or tick me off.

When 70% of the people who get arrested are black, in cities where 70% of the population is black, that is not racial profiling, it is the Law of Probability.

I know what sex is, and there are not varying degrees of it. If I received sex from one of my subordinates in my office, it wouldn't be a private matter or my personal business. I would be "FIRED" immediately!

I believe that if you are selling me a milk shake, a pack of cigarettes, a newspaper or a hotel room, you must do it in English! As a matter of fact, if you want to be an American citizen, you should have to speak English!

My father and grandfather didn't die in vain so you can leave the countries you were born in to come over and disrespect ours.

I think the police should have every right to shoot your sorry self if you threaten them after they tell you to stop. If you can't understand the word "freeze" or "stop" in English, see the above lines.

I feel much safer letting a machine with no political affiliation recount votes when needed.

I know what the definition of lying is.

I don't think just because you were not born in this country, you are qualified for any special loan programs, government sponsored bank loans or tax breaks, etc., so you can open a hotel, coffee shop, trinket store, or any other business.

We did not go to the aid of certain foreign countries and risk our lives in wars to defend their freedoms, so that decades later they could come over here and tell us our constitution is a living document; and open to their interpretations.

I don't hate the rich. I don't pity the poor.

I know pro wrestling is fake, but so are movies and television. That doesn't stop you from watching them.

I believe a self-righteous liberal or conservative with a cause is more dangerous than a Hell's Angel with an attitude.

I think Bill Gates has every right to keep every penny he made and continue to make more. If it ticks you off, go and invent the next operating system that's better, and put your name on the building. Ask your buddy that invented the Internet to help you.

It doesn't take a whole village to raise a child right, but it does take a parent to stand up to the kid; and smack their little behinds when necessary, and say "NO!"

I think tattoos and piercing are fine if you want them, but please don't pretend they are a political statement. And, please, stay home until that new lip ring heals. I don't want to look at your ugly infected mouth as you serve me french fries!

I am sick of "Political Correctness." I know a lot of black people, and not a single one of them was born in Africa; so how can they be "African-Americans"? Besides, Africa is a continent. I don't go around saying I am a European-American because my great, great, great, great, great, great grandfather was from Europe. I am proud to be from America and nowhere else.

And if you don't like my point of view, tough."

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Your Ancestors' Experiences at Ellis Island

Close to the mouth of the Hudson River in New York harbor is a small island which is forever etched in our country's history. Formerly known as Oyster Island, Ellis Island was the gateway to the new land for more than 10 million immigrants between its opening in 1892 and its closing in 1954. For most of these "huddled masses yearning to breathe free," processing through Ellis Island often required several days. What was it like for these newcomers? What were their first experiences in the "new world?"

As each ship entered the Lower Bay of New York Harbor, it was diverted to a quarantine area. Here medical inspectors would board the incoming ships to check for possible contagious diseases: cholera, plague, smallpox, typhoid fever, yellow fever, scarlet fever, measles, and diphtheria. The quarantine examination conducted aboard ship was reserved for first- or second-class cabin passengers. U.S. citizens were altogether exempt from the examination, so for them this was just an aggravating pause. However, passengers in steerage had to wait for their examinations later at Ellis Island. For them, quarantine was a time of heightened frustration and ever-increasing anxiety. Ships were examined from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. This meant that any vessel arriving after 5 p.m. had to anchor for the night, yet another day's delay for the weary immigrants.

After passing medical inspection, the ships were allowed to dock in New York. Contrary to some popular beliefs, the ships did not dock at Ellis Island. In fact, Ellis Island was not properly equipped to handle ocean-going vessels. Instead, the ships all went to New York City's regular docks and then the immigrants were transported on barges to Ellis Island for processing.

Each immigrant wore a name tag with the individual's manifest number - their identifying number from the ship's passenger list - written in large figures. The immigrants were then assembled in groups of thirty, according to manifest numbers, and were crowded onto the top decks of barges while their baggage was piled onto the lower decks. Soon they arrived at Ellis Island's landing slip and were led to the main building's large reception room. Here, at last, immigrants would take the final step in their journey to freedom in America.

The huge halls at Ellis Island provided basic accommodations, dormitory-style sleeping quarters, and a large dining hall. The immigrants had to stay here for one to three days or sometimes even longer, their costs paid by the steamship company that brought them, until relatives or friends called for them. Most of the newcomers had to have a "sponsor" meet them and guarantee to pay their living expenses. Those immigrants carrying sufficient funds to prove they were self-sufficient could enter the country without a sponsor. Any unfortunate travelers with neither funds nor sponsor were sent back to the old world at the expense of the steamship company. The same was true for anyone found to have a noxious disease, as well as for those identified as idiots, lunatics, or convicts.

One myth that persists today is that many immigrants had their names changed at Ellis Island because they could not converse with English-speaking immigration officials. A close examination of government records soon dispels this American legend, however. Each immigrant carried documentation written in their native language by authorities in "the old country." These documents always listed the complete name of each immigrant, along with details of their nationality and place of origin. Any immigrant arriving without proper documentation was sent back, again at the expense of the steamship company. Having no desire to pay such expenses, all the shipping lines would verify documentation in the old country before allowing their passengers to embark.

In addition, Ellis Island hired a small army of interpreters. The interpreters spoke the required languages fluently. Most were either prior immigrants themselves or the children of immigrants who learned their mother tongue as children. In retrospect, these interpreters were the unsung heroes of the entire immigration screening process. Their patience and skill often helped save an immigrant from deportation. The average number of languages spoken by an interpreter was six, but fluency in a dozen languages (including dialects) was not uncommon. The record for a single interpreter was fifteen languages.

One interpreter was Fiorello La Guardia, who would later become famous as the mayor of New York City responsible for cleaning up the corruption of Tammany Hall. He worked at Ellis Island for an annual salary of \$1,200 from 1907 to 1910 and helped thousands of Italians and other immigrants enter the country.

These interpreters led groups through the Ellis Island processing. Immigrants were first met by a doctor at the top of a flight of stairs. As the immigrants climbed the stairs, the doctor looked for signs of lameness, heavy breathing that might indicate a heart condition, or "bewildered gazes" that might be symptomatic of a mental condition. As each immigrant passed, the doctor would examine the immigrant's face, hair, neck, and hands. The doctor wielded a piece of chalk to mark the name tags of those who were to be detained for further medical inspection. Roughly 20 percent of the immigrants had their name tags so marked.

Sometimes whole groups would be made to bathe with disinfectant solutions before being cleared - not too surprising, considering how many were unable to bathe during the crossing. Next the immigrants encountered a group of doctors known as the dreaded "eye men." They were looking for symptoms of trachoma, an eye disease that might cause blindness and even death. This disease was the reason for more than half of the medical detentions, and its discovery meant certain deportation. This inspection was over in a few seconds, as the doctor tilted the immigrant's head back and swiftly snapped back the upper eyelids using a small instrument that was actually a hook for buttoning shoes.

If immigrants had any of the diseases proscribed by the immigration laws, or were too ill or feeble-minded to earn a living, they would be deported. Sick children age 12 or older were sent back to Europe alone and were released in the port from which they had come. For children younger than 12, a parent had to accompany them on the return trip. There were many tearful scenes as families with a sick child decided who would go and who would stay.

Immigrants who passed their medical exams were now ready to take the final test from the "primary line" inspector, seated on a high stool, with the ship's manifest on a desk in front of him and an interpreter at his side. This questioning process was designed to verify the 29 items of information contained in the manifest for each passenger. Since each inspector had only about two minutes in which to decide whether each immigrant was "clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to land," nearly all of the immigrants received curt nods of approval and were handed landing cards. They were then free to leave, settle in this strange new land, and raise families. Many of us are thankful that our ancestors "passed the test."

Many thousands of would-be immigrants failed the tests and were sent back to the "old country" at the steamship line's expense. They were simply delivered to the embarkation port and turned loose. Many of them were ill; some were as young as twelve years old and most were penniless. In most cases, the stories of the non-admitted applicants have been lost in history. Many Americans are not aware of the large numbers who were turned back. After all, most of the stories we hear about Ellis Island came from those who were admitted. Many sadder tales were not passed down to the new generations of Americans.

If you want to research your ancestors' passage through Ellis Island, you will be glad to know that all the records were preserved and are available for inspection today. You do not need to visit Ellis Island to view them, however. Space on the island has always been limited; the records were removed within days of the immigrants' entry and then stored in government filing cabinets on the mainland. In later years all the records were microfilmed, and thousands of copies are available. You can probably find microfilm copies near you. If not, you can rent the reels of microfilm at very modest costs. Many of the records have also been transcribed into computer databases, and these indexes are available on the Internet. You can start at www.ellisland.org to view the indexes. Not all of the records have been transcribed, however.

The Battle for Philadelphia

Part 11 of 12 continues from last month

Caesar Rodney

These daring, somewhat helter-skelter Delaware militia, were under the command of Brigadier-General Caesar Rodney. Rodney was a signer of the Declaration of Independence who would go on to be President of Delaware from December, 1777, to November, 1781.

Like Paul Revere, Caesar Rodney is famous for a midnight ride. Rodney's ride ended up at the doorstep of Independence Hall where he cast the decisive Delaware vote for Independence. On June 30, a motion for Independence had been put forward with nine colonies voting for independence, two voting against, New York abstaining while the Delaware delegates had split their vote. Delaware delegate Thomas McKean was in favor of independence, while George Read voted against. Rodney, also a delegate from Delaware was absent during this vote. While there was technically enough support to carry the motion, the Continental Congress didn't want to go forward and declare independence without unanimous support.

Rodney had been away from Congress because his role as a Brigadier General in the Delaware militia, forced him back to Delaware to squelch a Loyalist riot. McKean got word to Rodney that his vote for independence was desperately needed in Congress. All night, as the first of July, 1776, turned into the second, Rodney rode through a thunderstorm. He covered 80 miles and arrived at Independence Hall's doorstep in time to cast his decisive vote. Years later Thomas McKean remembered meeting Rodney at the door "in his boots and spurs."

Rodney's vote decided the matter. Delaware was going to war.

Once the voting for independence concluded and debate resumed, Rodney is remembered for puncturing the self-importance of the Virginia delegates who believed they were the mighty rock on which independence rested. "Let [Virginia] be of good cheer," he said, "she has a friend in need; Delaware will take her under its protection and insure her safety."

John Adams described Rodney as "...the oddest looking man in the world; he is tall, thin and slender as a reed, pale; his face is not bigger than a large apple, yet there is sense and fire, spirit, wit and humor in this countenance." It was not an appearance to quicken the heart of a woman, however, and it is said that Rodney remained a bachelor because Molly Vining, the woman he loved, married a rector -- and soon after died.

Sir William Erskine

As a Lieutenant Colonel in the 15th Light Dragoons serving in Germany in 1762, Erskine performed exceptionally on the field at Emsdorf and was able to present George III with 16 colours captured by his regiment. For his prowess, Erskine was raised to the position of knight banneret, and thus became Sir William Erskine. He came to America in 1776, seeing action at Long Island. Erskine was second in command to Tyron during the Connecticut Coast raid in April 1777. He served in the Philadelphia campaign and then, in 1778, was made Quartermaster-General by Henry Clinton. Erskine went on to lead troops at the Battle of Monmouth and after that campaign was given command of the eastern district of Long Island. Erskine's last active duty was commanding five infantry battalions and a cavalry squadron in pursuit of the Convention Army which was thought to be moving to Virginia in November 1778. Erskine sailed for London in the 1779. Major Baurmeister commented on the void left by Erskine's departure writing, "The army will miss in him an experience and very well-liked man."

Sergeant Tucker

Tucker returned without discerning any enemy presence. This shouldn't be all that surprising. He had a lot of ground to cover on a day which started out foggy and then became quite dusty.

Sullivan would later report to John Hancock that just two members of the Light Horse had the entire front to scout. During the Battle of Brandywine, Sullivan was generally hamstrung by a lack of scouts. He had only four Light Horse with him to begin with. Over the course of the morning, two scouts were sent to Washington with messages, leaving only two for scouting.

Theodorick Bland

Bland (1742-1790) was a descendant of Pocahontas, on his mother's side. He was sent abroad for schooling and in 1763 was graduated from the University of Edinburgh as an M.D. Bland practiced medicine in Virginia from 1764 until ill-health forced him to give up being a doctor in 1771. After his retirement he became an active patriot. In June 1775, Bland, along with 23 others, helped to remove arms from the governor's palace in Williamsburg, storing them at a powder magazine.

In June 1776, Bland became a captain in the first troop of Virginia cavalry, going on to become a colonel in the 1st Continental dragoons.

At the Battle of Brandywine, Bland commanded light cavalry troops. Bland's cavalry were among the few horsemen available to Washington for scouting purposes on the day of the battle.

Some blamed the American defeat at Brandywine on Bland's poor scouting abilities. "Light-Horse" Harry Lee in particular holds Bland responsible. Lee cited Bland's failure to gain proper knowledge of Cornwallis's movements as a critical turning point.

However, to place the entire blame at Brandywine on Bland's reports is to ignore the fact that Washington had been receiving confusing and contradictory reports the entire day of the battle.

Lee's summation of his fellow Virginian: "Colonel Bland was noble, sensible, honorable, and amiable; but never intended for the department of military intelligence."

Richard Humpton

Humpton (1733-1804) was born in England. He joined the British military, and as a captain was present during the 1758-59 siege of St. Malo in the West Indies. Humpton moved to America and settled along the upper Susquahanna River in Pennsylvania. He was named Lieutenant Colonel of the Flying Camp in July 1776. The Flying Camp was intended by Washington to be a group of mobile soldiers who would be able defend widely spread out geographic areas. After the Flying Camp was disbanded, Humpton was made a colonel in the 11th PA.

In early 1776 he helped to remove boats from the creeks along the Delaware River which proved to be an invaluable service. The British chased Washington across New Jersey late in 1776 but were unable to follow him into Pennsylvania once he crossed the Delaware River -- there were not enough boats. Humpton fought at Brandywine then moved on to Paoli. At Paoli, Humpton can hardly be blamed for what happened though. In the confused swirl of events, Wayne ordered the troops of the whole division to wheel to the right to face the enemy; then a subsequent "left-face" order for retreat was misunderstood by Humpton's regiment. Being Humpton's regiment was at the tail of the column, the order to face left actually caused Humpton's men to move the wrong way -- right *in front* of the bright campfires and *toward* the British. Humpton, who commanded the 2nd Pennsylvania Brigade, was stridently critical of Wayne's performance that night. His troops took the hardest hit. Humpton fought the rest of the war and was breveted an brigadier general. After the war he retired to his farm.

Lydia Darragh

Lydia Darragh shares much in common with Betsy Ross. Both were Quaker women who supported the war effort and both were read out of their meetings because of that support. The place of both in history is challenged because there is no concrete proof of their stories -- instead, a family member brought each one's memorable act to light.

In Darragh's case, it was her daughter Ann who recounted the story years after it played out. Since Ann's telling has some information which doesn't gibe with other accounts, some historians have dismissed it outright as a concocted tale.

When the British occupied Philadelphia on September 26, 1777, Darragh was a housewife living on Second Street. The home of her neighbor John Cadwalader was occupied by General Howe for use as his headquarters during the occupation. (Cadwalader, a member of the Philadelphia Light Horse, would figure heroically in a skirmish at Whitemarsh.)

Shortly after the British arrived, Major John Andre knocked on Darragh's door and ordered her to move out of the house so that it could be used by British officers. Lydia demurred as she had two children to take care of and no place to go. She had already sent her two youngest children to stay with relatives. She decided to visit Lord Howe personally and ask for his permission to remain in her house. On the way, she met up with a British officer who serendipitously turned out to be a second cousin, Captain Barrington, from Ireland.

Due to Barrington's intervention, Darragh was allowed to stay in her home provided she kept a room available for British officers to hold meetings.

So it was, on the night of December 2, that her house served as a conference center for top British Officers. The officers listened attentively as Howe fine-tuned his plans for a major offensive against Whitemarsh on the 4th. General Howe, acting on information from his spies, heard that the Americans were moving to a new camp. He wanted to catch the Americans out in the open.

Also listening attentively was Lydia Darragh, who had positioned herself in a linen closet abutting the meeting room. Among those at Whitemarsh was Darragh's oldest son, Charles, who was serving with the 2nd Pennsylvania regiment. As the meeting was breaking up, Darragh sneaked back to bed and feigned sleep. Major John Andre knocked on the door at two different intervals, but she did not respond. On his third knock, she opened the door and acknowledged Andre who told her the officers were through with their meeting.

Lydia Darragh had two days to warn the Americans at Whitemarsh of the upcoming attack. She concocted a ruse. She went to Howe's headquarters and requested a pass from her cousin to go and get flour at a mill in Frankford. The request itself was not that unusual, as the poor were frequently given passes to purchase goods in the countryside.

Darragh set out early on the morning of the 3rd carrying an empty flour sack. She walked several miles through the snow before heading toward the Rising Sun Tavern, which was north of the city. According to her daughter, Ann, shortly before she reached the tavern she ran into Thomas Craig, a member of the Pennsylvania militia and acquaintance of her son Charles. She passed on her news of the British plans to Craig, who promised he would take it to General Washington himself.

But Elias Boudinot, Commissary of Prisoners, who was dining at the Rising Sun Tavern, told a different story. "After Dinner, a little poor looking insignificant Old Woman came in & solicited leave to go into the Country to buy some flour -- While we were asking some Questions, she walked up to me and put into my hands a dirty old needle book, with various small pockets in it." Boudinot told the woman to wait for the answer to her request, but she left in the interim. Boudinot poked through the book failing to find anything useful until he got to the last pocket where he "found a piece of paper rolled up into the form of a pipe shank. On unrolling it I found information that General Howe was coming out the next morning with 5,000 men, 13 pieces of cannon, baggage wagons, and 11 boat on wheels. On comparing this with other information, I found it true and immediately rode post to headquarters."

Boudinot's telling of the story appears in his private journal. It differs from Ann Darragh's telling of the story in many details, particularly who transferred the message to Washington. Ann's account comes with a kicker, though. It was obvious to the British that the Americans had been well-prepared for their attack and further knew when they were coming. Somebody had leaked word and the British were looking for the source. Several suspects were questioned including Lydia Darragh. On December 9th, Major Andre, the spymaster who would recruit Benedict Arnold to the British side, knocked on Darragh's door once more. Andre asked Darragh if anyone had been up on the night of the 2nd. She told Andre that everyone had been asleep early. Andre believed her. He left saying, "One thing is certain the enemy had notice of our coming, were prepared for us, and we marched back like a parcel of fools. The walls must have ears." The Quaker housewife had outwitted the British spymaster.

Morgan's Riflemen

Morgan's rifleman were a group of hand-picked sharpshooters. They were recruited by Daniel Morgan, a Pennsylvania frontiersman and first cousin of Daniel Boone. In June, 1777, Washington had authorized Morgan to raise a special corps of 500 light infantrymen who were chosen for their marksmanship. Given the official name Rangers, they came to be known as Morgan's Riflemen.

At the skirmish around Edge Hill, Morgan's rifleman were opposed by British Regulars, Hessians, Queen's Rangers, and a regiment of American Loyalists under Lieutenant Colonel, J.C. Simcoe.

Major John Andre

John Andre -- handsome, artistic, beloved by the Loyalists, admired by Washington ... a spy brave and cunning ... convinced Benedict Arnold to sell out West Point ... hanged at age 31.

John Andre was born in London in 1750 to French Protestant (Huguenot) parents. His father was a merchant, born in Geneva, Switzerland; his mother was born in France and moved to England when she was young. John Andre was sent to Geneva to be educated as a teen and returned to London in 1767, two years before his father died.

The young Andre was a charismatic and charming man whose manners and advanced education set him apart from his contemporaries in England. He was fluent in English, French, German, and Italian. He drew and painted, wrote lyric and comic verse, and played the flute.

The glamour of military life appealed to Andre, but coming from the merchant class and of limited means, he would not be able to advance in the British army, where a purchase system almost always governed promotions.

After his father's death, in 1769, Andre felt obliged to financially care for his family and entered his father's counting house.

That same year, Honora Sneyd declared her love for him -- all he had to do to obtain her guardian's approval and win her hand in marriage was to grow rich. Andre strove to succeed, but before too long Honora found that her feelings for him had cooled. Andre decided now to follow his dream and join the army.

Driven by a Broken Heart

Anna Seward, the English poet and foster sister of Honora, asserted that Andre was driven to join the army by a broken heart. Thus, he was commissioned on March 4th, 1771, and selected for special training in Germany, where he spent two years. In 1774 he went to America as lieutenant in the Royal English Fusileers traveling to Canada by way of Philadelphia and Boston.

As a British lieutenant in Canada, Andre was involved in the defense of St. Johns which was taken by American forces on November 2, 1775, after a two-month siege.

Captured...Copes

He became a prisoner of war and was transferred to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. It was not uncommon for officers who were prisoners of war to be entertained en route to their places of detention, and Andre had dinner in Haverstraw, New York, at the home of a Mr. Hays. Also present was Mr. Hays's brother-in-law, Joshua Hett Smith. Five years afterwards, Andre and Smith would meet again, apparently without recognition on either side; in 1780 it was Joshua Hett Smith who set Andre on the road to capture and death.

In Lancaster, the enlisted prisoners were kept in barracks, while captured officers were housed at their own expense in local inns. Andre was among those officers allowed to reside with a local family. He moved in with the Caleb Cope family. The Copes developed a real affection for Andre, who gave art lessons to their eldest son. Further, in this German-speaking Lancaster community, Andre's fluency added to his popularity.

At the close of 1776, as part of a prisoner exchange, Andre was returned to Howe, now wintering in New York. Andre presented Howe a memoir he had compiled from his observations in "the colonies." Impressed by the young man's abilities, Howe first gave him a captaincy in the 26th Regiment and recommended him as an aide to Major-General Charles Grey.

In August, 1777, serving under Grey, Andre was among the 17,000 British who landed at Head of Elk, Maryland, which led to the occupation of Philadelphia. Andre was present at the Battle of Brandywine, Grey's bloody night raid, known as the Paoli Massacre, the Battle of Germantown, the British occupation of Philadelphia, the Battle of Monmouth, and Grey's brutal raids of 1778 in Massachusetts and New Jersey. One of the most reliable sources for the history of the war from the British side is Andre's Journal.

During the Winter 1777-78 British occupation of Philadelphia, while Washington endured at Valley Forge, Andre wrote poetry for the Tory women, including Peggy Shippen, and took center stage in making the otherwise boring days entertaining. He planned the notorious Mischianza extravaganza of May 18, 1778, in honor of Howe's impending departure.

Looting Benjamin Franklin's House

During his nearly nine months in Philadelphia, Andre lived in Benjamin Franklin's house. While the British were preparing to evacuate the city, Andre shocked his friend Du Simitiere (a Swiss-born citizen of Philadelphia) by looting Franklin's house. Arriving to say good-bye, Du Simitiere found the young officer -- known for his courtesy -- packing books, musical instruments, scientific apparatus, and a portrait of Franklin. Andre did not respond to Du Simitiere's protests. Long afterwards, the portrait of Franklin was returned to the America by the descendants of General Grey, and today it hangs in the White House. It now seems clear that Andre looted Franklin's house under orders from Grey, explaining Andre's inability to offer his friend an explanation.

Following Grey's departure, in November 1778, Andre was awarded the rank of major and appointed deputy Adjutant General on the staff of Sir Henry Clinton, Howe's successor and the new British Commander in Chief.

General Clinton was solitary, resentful, and stubborn, and yet Andre was successful in gaining a friendship and even fondness. Clinton had confidence in Andre's resourcefulness and discretion, and he delegated to Andre the coordination of British intelligence activities. He entered enthusiastically into his new responsibilities. His journal sheds light on his competence maintaining secrecy among his network of spies, while gathering information as to which American officers might prove corruptible.

In 1778-79, Clinton's army wintered in New York (1778-79) and lost precious time waiting for reinforcements who didn't arrive until August.

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On May 10, 1779, Andre received a most historic offer. American General Benedict Arnold, commander of West Point, the fort key to control of the Hudson Valley and New England, offered to surrender the fort to the English -- for a fee. Negotiations continued for months, but bogged down over the fee. Arnold wanted 10,000 pounds, success or failure. Clinton demanded success.

In 1779, Clinton's forces headed down to Savannah to meet the French flotilla commanded by Admiral d'Estaing, where Clinton's forces easily prevailed and returned to New York.

On December 26, 1779, Andre was with Clinton for a successful amphibious assault on Charleston leading to a May 12 surrender.

On or about May 1780, Arnold reinitiated his contact with Andre, informing him that the Rochambeau's French force was on its way to Newport, Rhode Island. In response, Clinton broke off his Southern campaign, left Cornwallis in charge and returned to New York to prepare for the French assault.

Now, Benedict Arnold arranged to be made Commandant at West Point. On July 15, Arnold asked for 20,000 pounds in return for successfully ceding West Point to the enemy. Referring to Andre, Arnold wrote to Clinton, "A personal interview with an officer that you can confide in is absolutely necessary to plan matters." This arrangement was accepted.

Benedict Arnold Gives Up the Fort

On the night of September 21, Andre came ashore from the British sloop "Vulture," anchored in the Hudson just south of West Point, met with Arnold, accepted a sheaf of documents, and spent the night at the house of Joshua Hett Smith -- the man Andre broke bread with in New York, years earlier -- some miles within the American lines.

During the night, the "Vulture" was bombarded from the shore by American artillery, and withdrew down the river.

Smith, a Loyalist collaborator, escorted Andre back to the "Vulture," only to find it missing. To their consternation, they recognized that they'd need to cross overland through American-held territory.

Andre Dresses for the Trip

Because wearing his British uniform was too dangerous, Andre donned an American uniform for the treacherous trip. Smith accompanied Andre all but the last 15 miles, which were through British territory. It was in that last distance, while traveling alone and believing himself out of danger that Andre was stopped by a trio of American freelancers, dressed in British uniform. Andre commands them to give way. They reveal themselves and immediately search Andre, discovering Arnold's papers hidden in his boot. Andre is immediately arrested.

The Treachery Is Exposed

It was assumed that Andre possessed stolen papers. What followed was a sequence of improbable coincidences and near-misses that led to the recognition that Arnold was a traitor and to his escape. Arnold learned that his treason was discovered and escaped downriver to the "Vulture" at the same time that Washington was arriving unexpectedly at West Point -- and all on the very day that the fortress was to have been surrendered to the British.

Andre was imprisoned at Tappan, New York, and on September 29, 1780, he was found guilty of being behind American lines "under a feigned name and in a disguised habit." Andre was hanged as a spy at noon on October 2, 1780.

Part 12 of 12 continues next month