



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



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Organized November 26, 1966

DEC 2004

Volume 37 Number 9

Highlights of November Chapter Meeting

President George Dennis called the November 20th meeting to order at noon in the Flaming Pit restaurant. The speaker (more later) and Betty Sullivan were welcome guests. It was announced and regrets expressed for loss of a member of Jim Lohmeyer's family.

Treasurer Richard Jones reported that 2005 dues were being received in a timely fashion and reminded that December 2nd is the deadline. Contributions to the chapter's trust fund also are gratifying, with about \$400 received to date. Rich noted that he will be turning over the treasury responsibilities to the incoming Treasurer, Ed Spencer, in a few days and that future financial business should be conducted with him.

Registrar Ted Duay reported that membership application activity is brisk. Research and data for three applications are proceeding well and several others have expressed interest.

Secretary Oscar Kraehenbuehl asked for permission to dispose of old (1981 – 1992) chapter bank statements, monthly treasury reports and dues receipts that have been saved but not used since their inception. Newsletters since 1990 and Annual Reports since 1971 will be retained and turned over to the incoming Secretary. – Ed Sullivan moved this request be accepted and it passed unanimously.

Compatriot John Tomlinson was inducted into the society by President Dennis who presented his membership certificate. Registrar Duay attached a SAR rosette and all members welcomed him with applause. Membership of James R. Dennis, who lives in Maryland and is the son of Pres. Dennis, also was approved. His certificate was given to his father to convey.

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Chapter President George Dennis presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Phil Miholich for his outstanding presentation at our November chapter meeting.

Special Note Re. December 18th Meeting

The 2005 officers will be inducted and outgoing officers recognized for their service. It is hoped as many members possible will attend to show support and appreciation. For this meeting, there will be a served luncheon (rather than buffet). Your choice of entrée will be given to the waiter at that time (fish, chicken, ground sirloin, meatloaf, London broil) plus salad, potato, vegetable, dessert and beverage. All for the price of \$11.00, inclusive. – Making reservations will help insure we get a good room, however, come anyway if you have a last minute opportunity. – Bring your friends !!

NEXT MEETING - DECEMBER 18th

"Flaming Pit"

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

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

Buffet luncheon - \$11.00

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:

954-441-8735

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

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President Dennis announced the following slate for 2005 chapter officers:

President – Joe Motes

Vice Pres. – George Dennis

Secy / Treas – Ed Spencer

Registrar / Gene – Ted Duay

Chancellor – Edward Sullivan

Chaplain – Jim Lohmeyer

Sgt-at-Arms – Rich Jones

Editor – Joe Motes

A request was made for additional nominations from the floor. Hearing none, it was moved that the nominations be closed and that the slated be elected by acclamation. It was so moved and passed unanimously. – These officers will be inducted during the December chapter meeting.

Certificates of Recognition will be presented by President Dennis to two new Eagle scouts in the next few days. Scouts Geoffrey Landau and Grant B. Chambers will be commended for achieving this rank which indicates their outstanding leadership and citizenship.

Compatriot Edward Sullivan, who was the scheduled speaker, announced that he would be able to speak about the Mayflower Society and turkeys at most anytime, however this was a rare opportunity for the group to hear from Phil Miholich, Betty's Uncle. He is visiting in order to participate in the annual Sullivan family cruise during the coming week. Phil then regaled the group with his exciting WWII MIA (Missing In Action) experience when he was Lt. Miholich, Army Air Force pilot. In 1944 he was stationed in Italy. While flying a P-47 Thunderbolt on a search-and-destroy mission in Yugoslavia, his engine caught fire and he bailed out into the cold Adriatic. He wouldn't have made it to shore had not some men rowed out to pick him up. When it was learned that Phil's parents had come from Yugoslavia, the men assured him he would be taken to Partisan Headquarters and kept out of the hands of the Germans, who were hunting for him. He recounted the hardships, dangers and scary situations as he and two guides traipsed through the cold mountains for the next three weeks before he was able to reach the 12th AF Headquarters in Italy and return to his Squadron. There was much more to his story (short capture by the Germans and rescue; AF headquarters wiped out my eruption of Mt. Vesuvius; family surprised when he arrived home unannounced, et al), and those present were appreciative of his service and story.

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An old but true summary of reality worth repeating:

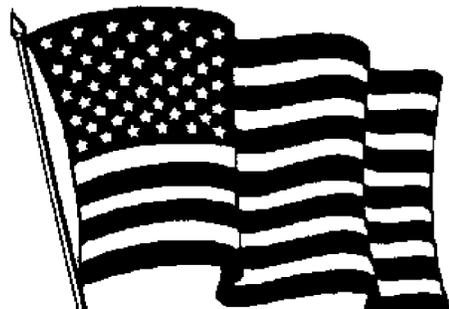
There are four kinds of Bones in every organization:

1. The Wishbones spend their time wishing someone else would do the work.
2. The Jawbones do all the talking but little else
3. The Knucklebones knock everything that anyone else tried to do.
4. The Backbones get under the load and GET THE JOB DONE.

What kind of Bone are you ???



Ed Sullivan providing a dynamic introduction of the speaker

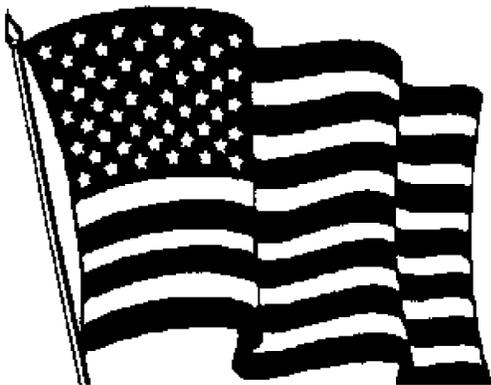




John Tomlinson receives his SAR membership certificate from Pres. George Dennis.



Registrar Ted Duav pinning SAR rosette on John Tomlinson



SPY SYSTEM 1777

By the 18th he was notifying Washington that "about 5000 of the enemy" ---these numbers were nearer 3,000 under the command of Lord Cornwallis --- "crossed (the Schuylkill) from Philadelphia, at the middle ferry (now the Market Street Bridge); they are on the Chester road, encamped a few miles from Chester. They have a great many baggage wagons, and a number of field pieces." British soldiers of whom inquiries were made by local inhabitants "say they are going to cross the Delaware." The British, joined by General Wilson's reinforcements from the enemy transports, making Cornwallis's column in excess of 5,000, "completed their embarkation about sun-set" on the 18th, their objective the capture of Fort Mercer at Red Bank, which was presently accomplished.

This heavy detachment from the enemy forces in Philadelphia induced Clark to write hurriedly to Washington on the 22nd that "one of my spies has this moment come to me from Philadelphia" with intelligence that might make the moment propitious for the Americans to attack the city. The spy, after again delivering false dispatches concerning the American Army to Sir William Howe, was again able to go "through his army" taking notes that might be of prime use to Washington. The British troops "remaining at Philadelphia do not exceed five thousand," numbers critically low should the Americans attack. Should such an event be contemplated, Clark forwarded the latest information concerning British dispositions in the city. "Their redoubts have from two to three field-pieces in front, at the distance of seventy yards. They have abatis from the Schuylkill to the Delaware...The Hessians are encamped on the right" of the enemy defense line north of the city, "the Grenadiers on the left, Light Infantry and Scotch in the centre. A few Hessians and one battalion of the seventy-first)British infantry) lie near the middle ferry." After giving further, more detailed specifics, he suggestively noted, "the enemy in the city are afraid of an attack; this you may rely on."

Again, in an express sent to Washington on the same day, Clark included a memorandum that since Cornwallis's column "from Jersey have not returned," and that "there is not above 4 or 5000 troops, at most, remaining with Howe," perhaps something could be done against the city. But Washington himself had denuded his army of many troops by ordering a column commanded by Nathaniel Greene across the Delaware to oppose Cornwallis in New Jersey in an unsuccessful attempt to succor Fort Mercer. These troops too had not yet returned, thereby crippling the American Army from any offensive maneuvers. By the time Greene rejoined Washington at Whitemarsh, Cornwallis was back in Philadelphia, and the situation so altered as to obviate any American enterprise against the city.

With the return of Cornwallis reported by Clark, Washington wrote to his correspondent, "As I have now got the necessary information" which he had requested of Clark on the 25th, "as to the Enemy's Works, position, &c.," the Commander-in-Chief desired Clark's spies to turn their attention to discovering any further enemy intentions. "Whether to sit down in quarters for the Winter, or to seek this Army. Some late accounts look as if a War in Europe" between France and England "is not far distant. Persons yesterday from the City" -- Clark's spies were not the only source of Washington's intelligence-- "mentioned that they heard it talked of among the (British) Officers; desire your friends to inquire particularly into this Matter." Hostilities between France and England, however, were some months distant.

To these inquiries Clark replied on December 1, that "Tis the prevailing opinion" in Philadelphia that the British Army "will endeavor to rest quietly in winter quarters," and there was "no talk of war with France." On the other hand, Clark could report that "A person from the city says that on Friday evening," November 28, "orders were given to the Troops to hold themselves in readiness to march," and that "They either mean to attempt to surprise your army or prevent your making an attack on them." Clark was sending a spy into the city in an attempt to ascertain the enemy's "secret intention." On the 3rd Clark could report, "The enemy are in Motion; have a number of flat bottomed boats and carriages and scantling, and are busy pressing horses and wagons.

No person permitted to come out" from the city, "except those upon whom they can depend." In a second express of the same date Clark notified Washington that his spy had talked to a British sergeant who had "assured him the Troops had received orders to hold themselves in readiness when called for, and to draw two days provisions...Should the enemy move, it will be sudden and rapid."

The British advanced against the American camp at Whitemarsh on the night of December 4th, appearing at Chestnut Hill on the right of the American front on the morning of the 5th. Two days of mutual watchfulness and skirmishing resulted as General Howe sparred for an opening that never appeared, then withdrew to Philadelphia on the 8th without accomplishing anything material. Concerning these action, Washington wrote to Clark on the 9th, "I fancy your intelligence is mistaken as to the number of (enemy) wounded"-- Clark's letter estimating these seems non-extant; apparently his estimate was higher than Washington judged proper; "but they had a pretty warm brush with Morgan's Corps" at the so-called Battle of Edge Hill, "in which he thinks he killed and wounded a good many." Actually the losses on both sides were relatively light.

On December 16 Washington, in reply to an inquiry from Clark, wrote from his brief encampment at Gulph Mills, "Altho' I would not grant permission to all those who want to go into Philad. to get paid" by the British "for what they are plundered of" by enemy foraging parties, "you may allow it to those on whom you can depend and from whom you expect any intelligence in return. I have directed that all passes granted by you shall be sufficient for the purposes you want them." Washington also permitted Clark to send in spies in the guise of traders with the enemy, bearing supplies to the British, though this method of obtaining intelligence caused Clark some difficulty with the American militia, who had orders to stop all such trading with the enemy.

Clark's spies had failed to apprise him of Cornwallis's foraging expedition into Lower Merion Township on December 11-12 which nearly brought on a clash with Washington's vanguard as it marched from Whitemarsh towards Gulph Mills.

however, with rumor prevalent in the city that the enemy were again apparently intending to move, and with the failure to notify Washington of Cornwallis's recent march in mind, Clark hastily "despatched several spies into the city, to endeavour to find the intended form of the enemy's march," only to discover that there was "no talk at present of their moving," though "their light horse were reconnoitering on Marshall's Road" in Darby Township west of the city, "and very inquisitive." The only apparent enemy activity was "cutting and hauling wood from this side the Schuylkill to the other without any annoyance; my spy says he thinks they might be easily caught" by light parties of Americans. Clark again protested that "the country people carry in provisions constantly" to the enemy. "I hope an example will be made to deter" this intercourse. Clark was desperately in need of a horse to substitute for his won, which had broken down with hard service, as he was "obliged to ride from 20 to 60 miles a day to meet" his spies coming from Philadelphia "to prevent suspicion" that might be engendered by constantly meeting them at one place. Loyalist spies were often about, and not every apparent Patriot could be trusted.

On the 20th, the day after the Continental Army marched from Gulph Mills to Valley Forge, Clark notified Washington, that near one thousand of the enemy crossed over to Jersey yesterday, with six field-pieces from four to six pounders, with design to let the country people" come in to trade with the enemy. "This day about thirty wagons, escorted by one hundred Hessians, went a foraging party towards Derby, and returned loaded with Hay and Rye straw, without interruption. I was reconnoitering" -- Washington had directed General Potter to furnish Clark with a new horse -- "and got notice of it, but it was too late to inform you." Clark then warned that the enemy "intend to make another foraging excursion...and then pull up and destroy the bridge" at the Middle Ferry "and remained quiet in winter quarters, for the remainder of the season." If the latter information was correct, Washington could be reassured that the enemy had little or no intention of attacking his ragged, starving army at Valley Forge. Nevertheless, he would have to remain very watchful.

By the 21st Clark could notify Washington more specifically that a spy "confirms the account of the enemy's intentions to plunder. They intend to visit Derby, Marple, and Springfield townships this week...I am informed Morgan's corps is in this neighborhood; should the enemy make any sudden move I will give the Col. notice, and every thing in my power shall be exerted to secure you the most instant intelligence of" the enemy's motions. His spies "say that we may expect a much larger foraging party this week than last." The enemy intentions in New Jersey had been accomplished, and the troops had returned to Philadelphia "loaded with beef, corn &c." He also noted that "The enemy are busy turning the inhabitants of Philadelphia "out of their houses, and quartering troops in them. Many of the citizens are obliged to live in their kitchens, and permit those tyrants to occupy their houses."

A major enemy forage towards Chester commenced on the 22nd. "I have just returned from Springfield," Clark immediately wrote to Washington, "having met one of my spies on the road; he informs me that Gen. Sir Wm. Howe and Sir Wm. Erskine, and a number of other generals, are with the army at Derby...they have a very formidable body with them...intelligence from another (spy) says they have 300 wagons with them...I have alarmed Gen. (Sic Colonel) Morgan...If a corps were thrown instantly toward the Middle Ferry," the enemy's "retreat is inevitably cut off." Washington, upon this notification, attempted to assemble a division under Major General Lord Stirling to oppose the enemy forage, but, because of the debilitated condition of his troops, was only able to muster a few men capable of sustaining such a march; far too few to effectively resist Howe's powerful corps, which consisted of the greater part of the British Army.

On the 23rd Clark was able to give Washington an intimate account of the location and units of the British foragers, who, he had learned, "intent to forage all" the country between Philadelphia and Chester, "burn the farms, plunder the inhabitants, and then return" to the city. Clark "fell in with a party of Lee's dragoons," with which he attempted to capture "a party of the enemy, in number about 30," but was unsuccessful. Indeed, Clark himself was almost captured, but since he "knew the road" better than the enemy he got off unscathed.

Skirmishing between small parties of the Americans and British occurred, and the Americans were driven off. "The wretched situation of the (American) Troops," Clark wrote to Washington, "is much to be lamented; no provisions provided for them, ill clothed, many of them no shoes, and they are scattered...about the neighbourhood; in short, they had better be called away," since of little use in opposing the enemy. "If we had at this time 200 Light Dragoons in this quarter, we might catch the enemy by dozens...but as matters are at present in this quarter, the enemy will do what they please, almost unmolested."

The strength of the British column protecting the foragers had again denuded Philadelphia of most of its defenders, and Clark again hopefully wrote to Washington on the 26th, "My spy from the city has just arrived, and informs me General Knyphausen commands in the city, and has but very few troops with him, chiefly Hessians, one Regt. of English," but the Continental Army was in no condition to take advantage of this enemy weakness.

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He also reported, "At Gray's Ferry" the enemy "having a very good Bridge of Boats, and chief of the hay" gathered by the foragers "is taken over it" across the Schuylkill to the city; and as the enemy had "nearly completed their business, I imagine they'll return this evening...The country people are carrying in their produce" to Philadelphia "through fear of being plundered as the enemy returns."

The enemy, however, did not begin to retire to Philadelphia until the 27th, when a spy, in the evening, notified Clark that "Sir Wm. Howe had just arrived" in the city when the spy left it, "and the van of his army got over Schuylkill," the balance of the enemy troops following over the river on the 28th. On the 30th Clark informed Washington that all the enemy troops were over the Schuylkill "except a guard at the middle ferry. They have taken up their Bridge at Gray's, and say that as soon as they have hauled their wood from this side" of the river, "will take up that at middle ferry also, and continue boats" to transport supplies purchased from "the market people" across the river.

The balance of Clark's December 30 letter was concerned with "a set of gentry that infest the public roads between this (place) and Schuylkill; and call themselves 'volunteers'; they are under no authority, and pay no respect to persons having passes or not, and indeed are no better than so many highway robbers, and unless they are speedily removed will make many enemies of those who are now our friends...These people rob, steal, and plunder persons without distinction, and lay it on the army, and 'tis believed" by the victims "they've orders for doing so; nay, they threatened the lives of the inhabitants if they go" to the authorities "to complain." Several of Clark's spies had been accosted by these "gentry," thereby preventing his full access to information from Philadelphia.

But Clark, a sick and exhausted man, was now near the end of his immediate services to Washington. "As the armies are both gone into winter quarters," he closed this letter to the Commander-in-Chief, "I presume nothing further will be wanting in my department, therefore," as Washington had previously promised verbally, "beg your permission to visit Mrs. Clark" at York. "I shall also be much obliged to you for a letter to the President," Henry Laurens, "and Congress, with such character as you think I may deserve...the bearer will bring them (sic) to me. So soon as he returns I shall set off."

Continued next month