



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



DEC 2014

website: □

Fort Lauderdale Chapter chartered December 8, 1966

Volume 47 Number 8

President's Message

Compatriots:

Our December Meeting, as it has been in recent years, is the participation in Wreaths Across America up in Palm Beach. Our meeting in November featured Compatriot Raymond Wess of the Palm Beach Chapter and an officer of the State Society. Also, at the meeting we voted on the full slate of Officers for 2015. They will be sworn in at our January meeting.

Our January 17th meeting will feature a speaker from the JROTC from the Hollywood Hills High School Military Academy.

Our February 21st meeting will be an exceptional experience. We will be hosting First Person Interpreters George and Martha Washington. The presentation is entitled "Washington Lives". This will be a timely event as it coincides with Washington's Birthday.

So mark your calendars. I look forward to seeing you there. Fraternaly,

William W. Zimmer
954 783 0887
Email: wwz2620@gamil.com



Compatriots:

The following is the slate of candidates for Chapter Office. We will vote at the November Meeting. Installation of 2015 Officers will take place at the January 2015 meeting.

President—William W. Zimmer
Vice President—Charles S. Crowell
Registrar/Genealogist-- David H. Kramer
Secretary—James W. Lohmeyer
Treasurer/Sgt. at Arms/Editor—Joseph M. Motes
Chancellor—Edward Sullivan Esq.
Chaplain—David H. Kramer
Historian—George Dennis

Fraternaly, William W. Zimmer



Guest speaker Larry Johnson for our May meeting is awarded a Certificate of Appreciation.



Guest speaker Ray Wess for our November meeting is awarded a Certificate of Appreciation.

NEXT MEETING - DECEMBER 20, 2014

Primavera Restaurant
830 E. Oakland Park Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334
954-564-6363

Future Dates:

Saturday, 01/17/15
Saturday, 02/21/15

Time: 11:30AM social gathering; Lunch at noon
Luncheon - \$30.00

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: **954-559-3202**
or e-mail **Joe Motes at: joemotes@aol.com**



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Sons of the American Revolution presented the S.A.R. Good Citizenship Medal to a cadet from the Pembroke Pines - Miramar Civil Air Patrol Squadron at their annual award.

S.A.R. Ft. Lauderdale Chapter Minutes for Nov. 15, 2014

Opening

1. Call to order by President Bill Zimmer
2. Invocation by Chaplin David Kramer
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America by all members.
4. SAR pledge recited by the membership.

Meeting

5. Members, new members, and guest introduced themselves.
6. Minutes in last newsletter. No additions or corrections, approved as submitted.

Presidents Report. Noted speakers for coming year. Received certificate for Chapter Distinguished Service. Presented slate of officers (all noted in Oct. Newsletter) No additions from floor. Approved and will be installed Jan 2015.

7. Treasurer report. JROTC medals to be reimbursed by state SAR. Finances in good order.
8. Secretary, no report.
9. Speaker Ray Wess, SAR Regional VP for S.E. Region State of Florida.

Ray spoke about the many things done in W.P.B. chapter to increase membership and enhance attendance for their chapter (i.e. work with Fire and Police departments, get young people involved, get relationship active, father son, grandson, brother-in-law, be friendly etc..)

President Bill Zimmer presented Ray Wess a certificate of Appreciation.

10. Motion to adjourn by Ed Sullivan.
11. SAR recessional by all members.
12. Benediction by Chaplin David Kramer

Jim Lohmeyer, Secretary

2015 Dues Notice.

Greetings Compatriot !

Your SAR dues notice and membership card for 2015 are now due. Please mail your check no later than December 14th. This timing is required to meet the new deadlines established by the state and national organizations. If circumstances may delay your payment, call or e-mail the Treasurer (954-441-8735 or joemotes@aol.com)

NOTE: Anyone who has not been heard from by 12/14/14 must be reported as dropped from membership.

Reinstatement can be made at a later date but this will require processing a special application and the payment of \$5 in addition to the regular dues. These delays also may cause some issues of the newsletter and magazine to be missed. – Of course, it is hoped that everyone will renew but it also is very important that your response be timely.

CHAPTER TRUST FUND

The Fort Lauderdale Chapter SAR Trust Fund was established in 1991 and has grown to its current balance of approx \$16,297.45. The stated purpose of this fund is to assist in the operation of the Chapter, including its projects and expenses. Only the earnings of the Trust may be utilized, never the principal. Including extra dollars in your check for the trust fund will be very helpful and appreciated.

Thank you and have a happy holiday season.....

Battles of the American Revolution The Battle of Yorktown, Part 2

There was briefly a dispute as to who should lead the attack on redoubt #10, Lafayette named his aide, the Chevalier de Gimat, to lead the attack, but Hamilton protested, saying that he was the senior officer. Washington concurred with Hamilton and gave him command of the attack.

At 6:30 pm, gunfire announced the diversionary attack on the Fusiliers redoubt. At other places in the line, movements were made as if preparing for an assault on Yorktown itself, which caused the British to panic. With bayonets fixed, the Americans marched towards redoubt #10. Hamilton sent John Laurens around to the rear of the redoubt to prevent the British from escaping. The Americans reached the redoubt and began chopping through the British wooden defenses with their axes. A British sentry called a challenge, and then fired at the Americans. The Americans responded by charging with their bayonets towards the redoubt. They hacked through the abatis, crossed a ditch and climbed the parapet into the redoubt. The Americans forced their way into the redoubt falling into giant shell holes from the bombardment of the redoubts. The British fire was heavy, but the Americans overwhelmed them. Someone in the front shouted "Rush on boys! The fort's ours!" The British threw hand

grenades at the Americans with little effect. Men in the trench stood on the shoulders of their comrades to climb into the redoubt. The bayonet fight cleared the British out of the redoubt and almost the entire garrison was captured, including the commander of the redoubt, Major Campbell. In the assault, the Americans lost 9 dead and 25 wounded.

The French assault began at the same time, but they were halted by the abatis which was undamaged by the artillery fire. The French began to hack at the abatis and a Hessian sentry came out and asked who was there. When there was no response, the sentry opened fire as did other Hessians on the parapet. The French soldiers fired back, and then charged the redoubt. The Germans charged the Frenchmen climbing over the walls but the French fired a volley, driving them back. The Germans then took a defensive position behind some barrels, but when the French prepared a bayonet charge, the Hessians threw down their arms and surrendered.

With the capture of redoubts 9 and 10, Washington was able to have his artillery shell the town from three directions and the allies moved some of their artillery into the redoubts. On the October 15, Cornwallis turned all of his guns onto the nearest allied position. He then ordered a storming party of 350 British troops under the command of Colonel Robert Abercromby to attack the allied lines in order to spike the American and French cannons. The allies were sleeping and unprepared. As the British charged, Abercromby shouted "Push on my brave boys, and skin the bastards!" The British party spiked several cannons in the parallel and then spiked the guns on an unfinished redoubt. However, a French party came and drove them out of the allied lines and back to Yorktown. The British had been able to spike six guns, but by the morning they were all repaired. The bombardment resumed, with the American and French troops engaged in friendly competition to see who could do the most damage to the enemy defenses.

On the morning of October 16, more allied guns were in line and the fire intensified. In desperation, Cornwallis attempted to evacuate his troops across the York River to Gloucester Point. At Gloucester point the troops could break through the allied lines and escape into Virginia and then march to New York. One wave of boats made it across, but when they returned to take more soldiers across, a squall hit, making the evacuation impossible.

The fire on Yorktown from the allies was heavier than ever as new artillery pieces joined the line. Cornwallis talked with his officers that day and they agreed that their situation was hopeless.

On the morning of October 17, a drummer appeared followed by an officer waving a white handkerchief. The bombardment ceased, and the officer was blindfolded and led behind the Allied lines. Negotiations began on October 18, between two British officers, lieutenant Colonel Thomas Dundas and Major Alexander Ross and Colonel John Laurens, who represented the Americans, and the Marquis de Noailles, who represented the French. In order to make sure that nothing fell apart between the allies at the last minute, Washington ordered that the French be given an equal share in every step of the surrender process.

The Articles of Capitulation were signed on October 19, 1781. Cornwallis' British men were declared prisoners of war, promised good treatment in American camps, and officers were permitted to return home after taking their parole. At 2:00 pm the allied army entered the British positions, with the French on the left and the Americans on the right. The British and Hessian troops marched between them, while according to legend the British drummers and fifers played to the tune of "The World Turn'd Upside Down". The British soldiers had been issued with new uniforms hours before the surrender and until prevented by General O'Hara some threw down their muskets with the apparent intention of smashing them.

Others wept or appeared to be drunk. 8,000 troops, 214 artillery pieces, thousands of muskets, 24 transport ships, wagons and horses were captured.

Cornwallis refused to meet formally with Washington, and also refused to come to the ceremony of surrender, claiming illness. Instead, Brigadier General Charles O'Hara presented the sword of surrender to Rochambeau. Rochambeau shook his head and pointed to Washington.[60] O'Hara offered it to Washington, but he refused to accept it, and motioned to his second in command, Benjamin Lincoln, who had been humiliated by the British at Charleston, to accept it. The British soldiers marched out and laid down their arms in between the French and American armies, while many civilians watched. At this time, the troops on the other side of the river in Gloucester also surrendered.

Battles of the American Revolution

The Battle of Saratoga (Freedom's Farm)

Continued from October issue

But in another part the attack had been more successful. A body of the Americans, under Colonel Brooke, forced their way in through a part of the horse-shoe entrenchments on the extreme right, which was defended by the Hessian reserve under Colonel Breyman. The Germans resisted well, and Breyman died in defense of his post. But the Americans made good the ground which they had won and captured baggage, tents, artillery, and a store of ammunition, which they were greatly in need of.

They had, by establishing themselves on this point, acquired the means of completely turning the right flank of the British, and gaining their rear.

To prevent this calamity, Burgoyne effected during the night an entire change of position. With great skill he removed his whole army to some heights near the river, a little northward of the former camp, and he there drew up his men, expected to be attacked on the following day.

But Gates was resolved not to risk the certain triumph which his success had already secured for him. He harassed the English with skirmishes, but attempted no regular attack.

Meanwhile he detached bodies of troops on both sides of the Hudson to prevent the British from re-crossing that river, and to bar their retreat.

When night fell it became absolutely necessary for Burgoyne to retire again, and accordingly the troops were marched through a stormy and rainy night towards Saratoga, abandoning their sick and wounded, and the greater part of their baggage, to the enemy.

Before the rear-guard quitted the camp, the last sad honors were paid to the brave General Frazer, who expired on the day after the action.

He had, almost with his last breath, expressed a wish to be buried in the redoubt which had formed the part of the British lines where he had been stationed but which had now been abandoned by the English, and was within full range of the cannon which the advancing Americans were rapidly placing in position to bear upon Burgoyne's force.

Burgoyne resolved, nevertheless to comply with the dying wish of his comrade and the interment took place under circumstances the most affecting that have ever marked a soldier's funeral.

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Sons of the American Revolution
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Still more interesting is the narrative of Lady Ackland's passage from the British to the American camp, after the battle, to share the captivity and alleviate the sufferings of her husband, who had been severely wounded, and left in the enemy's power.

The American historian Lossing, has described both these touching episodes of the campaign, in a spirit that does honor to the writer as well as to his subject. After narrating the death of General Frazer on the 8th of October, he says that "It was just at sunset, on that calm October evening, that the corpse of General Frazer was carried up the hill to the place of burial within the 'great redoubt'. It was attended only by the military members of his family and Mr. Brudenell, the chaplain. Yet the eyes of hundreds of both armies followed the solemn procession, while the Americans, ignorant of its true character, kept up a constant cannonade upon the redoubt.

The chaplain, unawed by the danger to which he was exposed, as the cannon balls that struck the hill threw the loose soil over him, pronounced the impressive funeral service of the Church of England with an unflinching voice. The growing darkness added solemnity to the scene.

Suddenly the irregular firing ceased, and the solemn voice of a single cannon, at measured intervals, boomed along the valley, and awakened the responses of the hills.

It was a minute gun fired by the Americans in honor of the gallant dead. The moment the information was given that the gathering at the redoubt was a funeral company, fulfilling, at imminent peril, the last breathed wishes of the noble Frazer, orders were issued to withhold the cannonade with balls, and to render military homage to the fallen brave.

The case of Major Ackland and his heroic wife presents kindred features. He belonged to the grenadiers, and was an accomplished soldier. His wife accompanied him to Canada in 1776 and during the whole campaign of that year, and until his return to England after the surrender of Burgoyne, in the autumn of 1777, endured all the hardships, dangers, and privations of an active campaign in an enemy's country.

At Chambly, on the Sorel, she attended him in illness, in a miserable hut and when he was wounded in the Battle of Hubbardton, Vermont, she hastened to him at Henesborough from Montreal, where she had been persuaded to remain, and resolved to follow the army hereafter.

Just before crossing the Hudson, she and her husband had had a narrow escape from losing their lives in consequence of their tent accidentally taking fire.

During the terrible engagement of the 7th October, she heard all the tumult and dreadful thunder of the battle in which her husband was engaged. And when on the morning of the 8th the British fell back in confusion to their new position, she with the other women, was obliged to take refuge among the dead and dying, for the tents were all struck, and hardly a shed was left standing.

Her husband was wounded and a prisoner in the American camp. That gallant officer was shot through both legs. When Poor and Leonard's troops assaulted the grenadiers and artillery on the British left, on the afternoon of the 7th, Wilkinson, Gates' adjutant-general, while pursuing the flying enemy when they abandoned their battery, heard a feeble voice exclaim 'Protect me, sir, against that boy.'

He turned and saw a lad with a musket taking deliberate aim at a wounded British officer, lying in a corner of a low fence. Wilkinson ordered the boy to desist, and discovered the wounded man to be Major Ackland. He had him conveyed to the quarters of General Poor (now the residence of Mr. Neilson) on the heights, where every attention was paid to his wants.

When the intelligence that he was wounded and a prisoner reached his wife, she was greatly distressed, and by the advice of her friend, Baroness Reidesel, resolved to visit the American camp, and implore the favor of a personal attendance upon her husband. On the 9th she sent a message to Burgoyne by Lord Petersham, his aide-de-camp, asking permission to depart.

"Though I was ready to believe" says Burgoyne, "that patience and fortitude, in a supreme degree, were to be found, as well as every other virtue, under the most tender forms, I was astonished at this proposal. After so long an agitation of spirits, exhausted not only for want of rest, but absolutely want of food, drenched in rains for twelve hours together, that a woman should be capable of such an undertaking as delivering herself to an enemy, probably in the night, and uncertain of what hands she might fall into, appeared an effort above human nature. The assistance I was able to give was small indeed. I had not even a cup of wine to offer her. All I could furnish her with was an open boat, and a few lines, written upon dirty wet paper, to General Gates, recommending her to his protection."



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