



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



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Organized November 26, 1966

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Volume 36 Number 2

Highlights of Installation Banquet

by Oscar Krahenbuehl

The chapter's annual meeting and banquet was held at the Sea Watch Restaurant on December 2nd. This was the 36th anniversary of the Chapter, it being chartered in December 1966. Attendance was good and the private room was attractively decorated for the occasion. The event was enhanced by the presence of many wives, family members and guests including DAR members Alice Carlson, Regent of DAR Fontenada Chapter, Former Regent Barbara Gay, and Mary Elizabeth Cox. Our President George Dennis and the other duly elected chapter officers were inducted for the year 2003 by NSSAR Former President General Mathew Sellers.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the following Compatriots for their contributions to the Chapter and Society:

+ Richard Jones: Treasurer for 2 years, Sgt. of Arms since 1997, director of the essay contest for several years.

+ Gib Buckbee: Chaplain since 1998 except for a year as Secretary.... again. President 1993

+ Oscar Krahenbuehl: Secretary, and other jobs since 1993

+ George Dennis: President, preceded by several years as Registrar.

A Certificate of Distinguished Service was presented to Joe Motes for his continuing service as Vice President, Former President, editor of the newsletter for 7 years and the prime coordinator and presenter of JROTC awards for the past 7 years.

A Certificate of Commendation was given to Associate Ken Loomis to present to the Fred Hunters Funeral Home in Davie for their exemplary

display of the American Flag. A flag has been flown proudly at that location for 28 years and, after 9/11, they moved the flagpole to a more visible location. They have received numerous complements for this display.

The evening ended with entertainment (?) consisting of a recitation of many humorous, informative and strange topics extracted from the Internet by Oscar Krahenbuehl.



Our 2003 Officers during the installation, from left are: Joseph Motes, Oscar Krahenbuehl, President George Dennis, Matthew Sellers, Richard Jones, Gib Buckbee.

NEXT MEETING - FEBRUARY 13th 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



President George Dennis received a Certificate of Appreciation from Compatriot Oscar Krahenbuehl.



Joe Motes received a Distinguished Service Certificate from President George Dennis.



Gib Buckbee received a Certificate of Appreciation from President George Dennis.



Ken Loomis received a Flag Certificate of Commendation from President George Dennis.



Oscar Krahenbuehl received a Certificate of Appreciation from President George Dennis.



Richard Jones received a Certificate of Appreciation from President George Dennis.

DAR - SAR January Meeting

Chapter members and guests attended the January 11th meeting of the Fontenada Chapter DAR at the invitation of Regent Alice Carlson. The Deer Creek Country Club provided an excellent setting for the event which was highlighted by an excellent presentation by Mrs. Guy Wright on American patriotism and our flags history .

Membership Status

Annual dues collections have been completed and it is with regret that ten members have dropped from active membership. They can reinstate by submitting the form that has been provided and paying all dues plus a \$5 fee. If for some reason any of the following have overlooked their two mailings on this subject or need further information, contact Secretary Oscar Kraehenbuehl at (561) 488-5585 or OscarK@pobox.com.

Joseph Dorsey, Robert Fordham, Howard Griffin
Gregory King, Thomas King, Roland N. Price III
Gerald R. Smith, Robert D. Spencer

Information from Headquarters

A recent newsletter from NSSAR headquarters in Louisville, KY, contained the following information that may be of interest.

+ President General Rice Aston discussed the SARs undertaking to distribute throughout the United States classroom ready American heritage teaching and testing materials for school teachers. Much of this subject is missing in our children education today. Financial support also was sought for the \$3 million project to construct the Center for Advancing Americas Heritage in Louisville. Over half of this amount has been collected or pledged.

+ A new National Life Membership Fee Schedule is available that reflects the 2002 annual dues increase from \$20 to \$25. Contact the Chapter Secretary if you want a copy of this schedule.

+ Census Project Progress: About 3000 qualified SAR prospect have been reported by about 1000 of the 27,000 SAR members. It is hoped that many more members will provide the names of their relations that are potential applicants. Forms and instructions for submission can be obtained from the chapter secretary and at the web site:

GENERAL HOWE'S LETTER

July 1777

Tune: Derry Down Midi

*As to kidnap the Congress has long been my aim,
I lately resolved to accomplish the same;
And that none in the glory might want his due share,
All the troops were to Brunswick desired to repair,
Derry down, down, down Derry down.*

*There I met them in person and took the command,
When I instantly told them the job upon hand;
I did not detain them with long-winded stuff,
But made a short speech and each soldier looked bluff.*

*With this omen elated, towards Quibbletown,
I led them concluding the day was our own;
For, till we went thither, the coast was quite clear,
But Putnam and Washington, damn them, were there!*

*I own I was staggered to see with what skill,
The rogues were intrenched on the brow of the hill;
With a view to dismay them, I showed my whole force,
But they kept their position, and cared not a curse.*

*There were then but two ways-- to retreat or attack,
And to me it seemed wisest by far to go back;
For I thought if I rashly got into a fray,
There might both be the Devil and Piper to pay.*

*Then, to lose no more time by parading in vain,
I determined elsewhere to transfer the campaign;
So just as we went, we returned to this place,
With no other difference -- than mending our pace.*

*Where next we proceed is not yet very clear,
But when we get there, be assured you shall hear;
I'll settle that point when I meet with my brother,
Meanwhile, we're embarking for some place or other.*

*Having briefly, my lord, told you how the land lies,
I hope there's enough for a word to the wise;
'Tis a good horse, they say, that never will stumble,
But fighting or flying, I'm your very humble.
Derry down.*

The Battle for Philadelphia

Part 5 of 12 continues from our last issue

The Battle of Brandywine:

The Second American Defense

The Americans rallied the scattered regiments into a second defensive line about 800 yards southwest of the initial encounter. Fierce fighting resumed.

What excessive fatigue. A rapid march from four o'clock in the morning till four in the eve, when we were engaged. Till dark we fought. Describe that battle. 'Twas not like those at Covent Garden or Drury Lane...There was the most infernal Fire of cannon and musquetry. Most incessant shouting, 'Incline to the right! Incline to the left! Halt! Charge!' etc. The balls ploughing up the ground. The trees cracking over one's head. The branches riven by the artillery. The leaves falling as in autumn by the grapeshot...A ball glanced about my ankle and contused it. For some days I was lifted on horseback in men's arms.

-British captain

General Howe rode to Birmingham Hill from Osborne Hill, and directed the battle from the newly-taken eminence. The British launched a new line of attack.

The fighting here was the fiercest of the entire battle. The American line gave way five times, ever re-forming pushed farther back. The officers "exerted themselves beyond description to keep up" the troops morale," recalled Sullivan. "Five times did the enemy drive our troops from the hill, and as often was it regained, the summit often disputed muzzle to muzzle."

[Read in detail about Battle Hill]

Where's Washington?

Washington had been receiving frantic messages from Sullivan concerning this new attack. Yet, Washington was skeptical -- he still believed that only a fragment of the overall British force was attacking to the north. In the second of his required daily dispatches to Congress Washington explained that a "severe cannonade" was taking place to his north. "I suppose we shall have a very hot evening," he continued. But he was curiously absent. He still believed the main British force was with Knyphausen.

"Push Along, Old Man, Push On!"

At about 5 P.M., the noise of the cannon from the north combined with Kynphausen's relative inactivity on the west side of the creek, finally convinced Washington that the main British force was indeed at Birmingham. He pressed a reluctant elderly farmer by the name of Joseph Brown into leading him over the shortest route to the battle. The elderly farmer demurred until an American officer dismounted from his horse and pointedly pointed the tip of his sword at Brown.

Brown led the way.

Brown raced Washington and his officers and at a breakneck pace for four miles. Washington urged them on jumping fences, hurtling ditches and urging the farmer "Push along, old man, push on!"

Following them were two divisions of Nathanael Greene which had been held in reserve. Greene's column moved at remarkable speed covering four miles in 45 minutes.

What Washington saw as he rode up was the Americans in retreat from Battle Hill. A soldier from New Jersey recalled, "We broke and Rallied and Rallied & broke from height to height till we fell on our main Army who reinforced us & about sunset we made a stand." This was Greene's Division.

At this point Lafayette rode up and did all he could to make the men charge at the point of a bayonet but the Americans, little used to this sort of fighting did not care to do so, and this brigade fled like the rest of the army." Then, Amidst the confusion, Lafayette was wounded, as he would recount later in a letter to his wife: "the English honoured me with a musket ball, which slightly wounded me in the leg."

Greene opened his ranks to let the retreating Americans pass through and then re-formed his lines. Fierce fighting now took place in the area known as Sandy Hill. Charges and countercharges followed.

Back at Chadd's Ford Knyphausen Launches His Attack

While the Americans were fighting the British near Dilworth, they could hear cannon fire from the vicinity of Chadd's Ford. Knyphausen was attacking Wayne. If Wayne gave way, the British under Knyphausen would have a clear path to Greene's troops fighting the northern attackers.

Knyphausen had begun bombarding the Americans across the creek with heavy artillery. The Prussian general was supposed to hold his attack until he heard the sound of Howe firing two cannon shots which was the signal that the northern troops had forded the river successfully. Regardless, at 4:00 P.M., Knyphausen began a frontal attack without the signal.

Fortunately for Knyphausen, American brigades under Generals Green and Nash had just been sent north to reinforce the American lines at Birmingham. Knyphausen sent his men across the Brandywine at several different fording spots, with four regiments alone crossing at Brinton's Ford. Knyphausen's main column pushed through at Chadd's Ford in the face of heavy American resistance. A smaller British force moved south, and crossed the creek probably at Gibson's Ford, which threatened the American militia posted farther south at Pyle's Ford.

The Americans fought with verve -- despite being outnumbered. They might have been able to endure the attack had not another British regiment -- who had gotten lost earlier in the day at Birmingham Hill -- entered the fray. These British Guards and Grenadier Brigades were supposed to have part of the British force that attacked Sullivan's second line of defense at Battle Hill. Instead, they became tangled and lost in the thickets of Wistar's Woods, which allowed Sullivan's men to hold their ground longer than they might have.

After a couple hours, these lost troops emerged serendipitously to the rear of Wayne's artillery position. Now, Wayne had to shift some of his men to defend against this new menace.

The British pushed the outflanked Americans back to the Chad House where the Widow Chads remained -- and staunchly defended her property.

Ultimately, the British got the best of Wayne's men in a spirited duel. Besieged by the bayonets of the British 71st Battalion and the Queens Rangers, the Americans turned tail toward Chester, leaving their artillery behind. Eleven guns were abandoned by the Americans including two cannon which had been captured from the Hessians during Washington's surprise attack of Trenton after crossing of the Delaware on Christmas Day 1776.

Among those besieging the British was Patrick Ferguson of Ferguson's Rifleman. It was near the Chadd House that the inventor of the breech-loading rifle was wounded, which may have an effect on the war.

A Great Save

Edward Hector, a negro private in the 3rd Pennsylvania Artillery, valiantly saved a few wagon loads of ammunition and arms in the tumult. But most of the equipment was left behind. Fortunately, Washington had ordered the baggage removed to Chester the day before, so at least that was safe.

Wayne posted a small brigade armed with four cannon, at Painter's Crossroads to cover the troops retreating toward Chester. They kept the main road to Chester open not only for Wayne's retreating men, but Nash's North Carolinians, and the rear guard of Sullivan's troops who were falling back from Dilworth.

Greene's Men Dig In

Greene's men held the Sandy Hollow area. Fighting under Greene was brigadier General, Peter Muhlenberg, a Lutheran minister who had once served in the Prussian army. As he rode along the defensive line rallying the Virginia troops, he was recognized by some Hessians who called him by his nickname, "Devil Pete." Though the Americans fought well they were forced back. An aide-de-camp to General Howe wrote, "By six

o'clock our left wing still had not been able to advance. Here the rebels fought very bravely and did not retreat until they heard in their rear General Knyphausen's fire coming nearer....The Rebels found themselves between two fires. This probably caused them to leave their strong post and retreat from their right wing on the Road to Chester. After warring for nearly two hours the outnumbered Americans began to give way.

Surprise Party

At about 7:30, some of General Weedon's men and North Carolina troops under Brigadier General Nash surprised Howe's troops and put a damper on the British victory party. They had come on in the rear and drw up in a semicircle just north and west of the Dilworth Crossroads. Here they surprised Howe's victorious troops who had just taken the field from Greene.

"The heat of the Action fell chiefly on the 64th Regt who suffered considerably, enduring with the utmost steadiness a very heavy fire, which lasted till Dark, when the Rebels retreated in great Panick taking the road to Chester."

The American's last stand was supported by Casimir Pulaski who led a stunning cavalry charge. Pulaski had been present at Brandywine as an observer but received Washington's permission to organize a group of horseman into an ad hoc unit. It was not enough and the Americans retreated toward Chester.

This last American foray probably convinced Howe that it would be too dangerous to try and follow the Americans for a nighttime knockout. Besides which, the day had been exhausting. Howe's troops marched 17 miles in 11 hours, and had fought three pitched battle in the space of six hours. A British lieutenant pointedly summed up the rigors the British had been recently exposed to:

We had the Honour & with our Fire closed the Day. The Fatigue of the Day were excessive; some of our best Men were obliged to yield, one of the 33 dropped dead [of heat stroke] nor had we even Daylight, we could not make any thing of a pursuit. If you knew the weight a poor Soldier carries, the length of time he is obliged to be on foot for a train of Artillery to move 17 miles, the Duties he goes

thro' when near an Enemy, that the whole night of the 9th we were marching, you would say we had done our Duty on the 11 to beat an Army strongly posted, numerous & unfatigued.

Library of Congress

Major John Andre

Major John Andre, in a businesslike manner, summed up the battle from the British point of view: "General Knyphausen, as was preconcerted, passed the ford upon hearing the column engaged, and the troops under him pushed the enemy with equal success. Night and the fatigue the soldiers had undergone prevented any pursuit. It is remarkable that after reconnoitering after the action, the right of General Howe's camp was found close on General Knyphausen's left, and nearly in a line, and in forming the general camp next day scarce any alteration was made."

British Casualties

Casualties at Brandywine were strewn across a 10-square mile area of the battlefield, making final determinations particularly difficult. General Howe in his official report to Parliament counted: 90 killed, 488 wounded and 6 missing in action. Howe, once again clearly underestimated casualty figures. Before the Battle of Germantown, an adjutant in the British army, reckoned British killed and wounded at 1,976. This is the exact same number arrived at by Jacob Hitzheimer, a civilian at Brandywine who recorded the number of British wounded in a diary entry. Some reports have the Queens Rangers losing 290 out of 480 men, while Ferguson's Riflemen suffered 46 casualties out of 80.

The 2nd Light Infantry and 2nd British Guards who were involved in some of the fiercest fighting at Brandywine (including hand-to-hand combat) are listed as having lost 612 of 1,740 troops.

American Casualties

Major General Greene estimated American losses at 1,200 men. He also reported the loss of 10 irreplaceable cannon and a Howitzer. A Hessian officer listed the American casualty and captured rate at 1,300. An American officer under Brigadier General Nash reported British losses at 1,960 and the Americans at 700.

Battle of the Clouds

After being defeated at the Battle of Brandywine, Washington and the Americans needed to regroup. First, he moved his army away from the British. Then he placed his troops in such a way that they could protect both Philadelphia and Reading, an important supply city.

British General Howe, instead of following up on his victory and throwing a decisive knockout punch at the Americans, instead remained encamped on the Brandywine battlefield. Four days after the battle, Howe learned that the Americans were 10 miles to his north. He sent his army to meet them.

Washington learned of Howe's plans and readied his army. On September 16th, the two armies stood on opposite sides of a valley ready to reprise the Battle of Brandywine. All of a sudden a torrential downpour burst from the skies. In essence, the battle was called off due to rain.

The March to the Battle

There was no rest for the weary.

George Washington's troops had spent the prior day battling the British at Brandywine for nearly a dozen hours -- much of the fighting transpiring in oppressive 90-degree heat. Many of the Americans had been up well before dawn on the morning of the battle, had spent the day on the battlefield in intense fighting, and, as night fell, marched miles in dark retreat to the Continental camp at Chester.

Now, in the chill 4 A.M. dawn of the 12th, the Americans were on the march again.

Washington did not want to take the chance that General Howe and the British would try and follow up their incomplete victory and finish off the Americans in the morning. So, the American general roused his exhausted men, and marched them from Chester northeast in the direction of Philadelphia.

Howe allowed his men a day of rest and burying the dead. (On the 13th he sent Cornwallis to Chester to find Washington.)

By midday the Americans reached the Schuylkill River and crossed the bridge over the Middle Ferry. This left them on the east side of the river, a couple of miles from Philadelphia. And though the steeple of Christ Church and other familiar landmarks could be seen, the comforts and pleasures of the city would have to wait; the army turned away from the Philadelphia, and marched along the east bank of the river, arriving at the Falls of Schuylkill around nine that night.

They had to be drop-dead exhausted. Not only had the Americans just participated in one of the bloodiest battles of the entire Revolutionary War, but the day's march covered several miles and took 17 hours.

Yet, for the most part, the army arrived in remarkably good spirits. Though some were wounded and others barefoot, at least for once they had their baggage with them. More importantly, they knew they had gone toe-to-toe with the mighty British army -- and had not backed down.

An American officer wrote:

I saw not a despairing look, nor did I hear a despairing word. We had our own solacing words already for each other -- 'Come, boy, we shall do better another time' -- sounded throughout the entire army.

Washington's Preparations

The following day, the 13th, most of the Americans finally caught their breath. Washington took time that day to write to a letter to Congress in which he lauded the performance of his brave soldiers at Brandywine. The general rewarded his resilient band with a gill of rum for their "gallant behavior."

The hundreds of wounded at Brandywine were tended to. Among them was the Marquis de Lafayette, who traveled by barge directly from Chester to Philadelphia. The Frenchman, who had been shot in the thigh, rested for a while at Philadelphia's Indian Queen Tavern, and, on the advice of doctors, was transferred by coach to recuperate in Bethlehem.

The healthy troops spent the day cleaning their guns, refreshing ammunition, and acquiring new supplies. Those not seriously wounded or sick were given the chance to recuperate.

Washington Makes Plans

Washington needed to be in a position wherein he could protect both Reading to the west and Philadelphia to the south. Though the Americans were at a safe distance from the British for the time being, Washington was nonetheless fearful that the enemy might try and flank his right side. This would leave him trapped in a "pocket" formed by the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers. Washington decided the best position for protecting both cities was on the west side of the Schuylkill River. Read here for more on Washington's strategy.

Accordingly, General Anthony Wayne, along with a small detachment, was dispatched across the Schuylkill River to forestall any possible British attack. Wayne marched his men toward Merion, which today is the gateway to Philadelphia's famous Main Line. As night approached, the company stopped at Tunis' Tavern, where the officers slept inside and the soldiers slept outside in a field.

The main body of troops broke camp at Schuylkill Falls the next morning. They marched north two miles and crossed the river. River crossings were rarely easy, and this one was no exception. One observer reported in his journal that the cold water was "nearly up to the waist." The army then headed west to rendezvous with Wayne at Merion.

At 6 A.M. the following morning the army marched another 14 miles west. They finished their journey with their head in one tavern and their tail in another. That is, the front of the army encamped at White Horse Tavern and the rear was positioned at Warren Tavern. Their line stretched for three miles. The busy Washington, who had other business to attend to, made his headquarters from Malin Hall, a mile west of the Warren Tavern.

The Americans were now in a position to defend the all-important supply cities of Reading and Valley Forge, in addition to the munition works at Coventry and Warwick. Philadelphia was, for the present, protected. Chadd's Ford, and the British, were 10 miles to the south. Washington had succeeded -- for the time being -- in placing his army in-between the British and the upper fords of the Schuylkill.

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