



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



FEB 2012

website: www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html
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President's Message

Dear Compatriots:

I am honored to be elected again as President of the Fort Lauderdale Chapter. I am looking forward to a fun and productive year, and I encourage everyone to participate in the activities of our chapter.

We have a great slate of officers for 2012 who will be installed at our meeting on February 18, 2012. In our slate of officers, we have two new faces. Compatriots Lance Pfeifer and Don Green, elected to membership last year, volunteered to serve as officers this year. Lance is serving as our Vice President and Don Green is serving as Registrar/Genealogist, a position I held for the last eight years. I commend the willingness of all the compatriots who agreed to serve as officers and encourage others to follow their example.

Our speaker for the February meeting will be Florida DAR State Lineage Research Chairman, Dr. Debbie Duay, Ph.D. whose presentation is entitled "Kings, Queens, Pilgrims, and Tavern Keepers: Who's in Your Family Tree?" This informative talk discusses other major hereditary societies and the requirements to join. It will include examples of their certificates and insignia. You might discover an additional organization that you might want to join.

We will also be celebrating the 98th birthday of Compatriot George Dennis. Please be sure to join us for this special occasion.

Our meeting dates until the summer are:

- Saturday, 2/18/2012
- Saturday, 3/17/2012 (Liberty Tree Dedication at Liberty Tree Park, Plantation)
- Saturday, 4/21/2012
- Saturday, 5/19/2012

I look forward to seeing everyone there.

In patriotism,

Ted Duay
President

Commanders from the American Revolutions continues- Samuel Graves

Born 4/17/1713 in Staindrop, England

Died 3/8/1787 in Hembury Fort, Honiton, Devon

Samuel Graves was born into a distinguished naval family. he married Elizabeth Sedgwick, daughter of John Sedgwick of Staindrop (County Durham). After Elizabeth's death in 1767 he married again in 1769, his second wife being Margaret Spinkes, daughter of Elmer Spinkes of Aldwinkle in Northamptonshire, and an elder sister of Elizabeth Simcoe. He had no children, just a ward (daughter of his late sister-in-law) who married his godson John Graves Simcoe, who later became first Governor General of Upper Canada. He was the uncle of Admiral Thomas Graves, 1st Baron Graves, who was a first cousin of Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Graves. Graves died at his estate at Hembury Fort, Honiton, Devon.

Military Career Seven Years War

In 1756 Graves rose to command the Duke. He commanded the Barfleur in Admiral Sir Edward Hawke's 1757 expedition to Basque Roads. Two years later, Graves returned to command of the Duke, serving again under Hawke in the Battle of Quiberon Bay, 20 November 1759. He continued in command of the Duke until his promotion to rear admiral in October 1762.

NEXT MEETING - FEBRUARY 18, 2012

Colony West Country Club
6800 NW 88th Ave in Tamarac

Future Dates:

- February 18, 2012
- March 17, 2012
- April 21, 2012
- May 19, 2012

Time: 11:30AM social gathering; Lunch at noon
Buffet Luncheon - \$15.00

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 954-441-8735

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American War of Independence

In October 1770 Graves rose to vice admiral, and in July 1774 assumed command of the Royal Navy's North American station. Graves's orders were vague, his resources overstretched, and his task, in the words of the Dictionary of National Biography, "perhaps the most ungracious duty that has ever fallen to the lot of a naval officer." According to his instructions, Graves was charged with supporting customs officials enforcing the various revenue and trade acts governing North American colonial trade within the empire, especially the Boston Port Act. With only twenty-six ships and over one-thousand miles of coastline from Nova Scotia to Florida to patrol, Graves's task was Sisyphean.

Manning problems made the Royal Navy's problems even more acute, thus forcing it to resort to press gangs in order to supplement the ships' slender crews. Compounding the problem was the attitude and behavior of navy officers who did not recognize local authority and were more often contemptuous of local officials and sensitivities.

Headquartered in Boston, Graves was at the center of the Revolutionary turmoil in New England. His sailors manned the boats that ferried British soldiers across the Charles River en route to Concord on the night of 18 April 1775. Two months later, on 17 June 1775, his sailors again helped ferry troops, this time to the Charlestown Peninsula, while several of his ships provided fire support for the pyrrhic victory at Bunker Hill. During the Siege of Boston, Admiral Graves, on 6 October 1775, ordered Lt. Henry Mowatt, commanding the armed vessel *Canceaux*, to destroy seaports that were supporting the rebellion. Mowatt burned Falmouth (today's Portland, Maine) on 18 October.

On 27 January 1776, V.Adm. Richard Viscount Howe succeeded Graves as commander-in-chief of the North American station. Graves returned to England without a command. In September 1777 he declined command of Plymouth, but indicated a desire to return to active duty. Graves advanced to admiral of the blue on 29 January 1778, admiral of the white on 8 April 1782, and died at his estate at Hembury Fort, Honiton, Devon on 8 March 1787.



Benedict Arnold

Born 01/14/1741 in Norwich, Connecticut
Died 06/14/1801 in London, England

Overview

Benedict Arnold V was a general during the American Revolutionary War who originally fought for the American Continental Army but switched sides to the British Empire. While he was still a general on the American side, he obtained command of the fort at West Point, New York, and plotted unsuccessfully to surrender it to the British. After the plot failed, he served in the British military.

Arnold has been called "the best general on either side of the conflict". He distinguished himself early in the war through acts of cunning and bravery. His many successful actions included the Capture of Fort Ticonderoga in 1775, successful defensive and delaying tactics while losing the Battle of Valcour Island on Lake Champlain in 1776, the Battle of Ridgefield, Connecticut (after which he was promoted to Major General), and the pivotal Battles of Saratoga in 1777, in which he suffered leg injuries that effectively ended his combat career for several years.

In spite of his success, Arnold was passed over for promotion by the Continental Congress while other general officers took credit for his many accomplishments. Charges of corruption were brought by political adversaries, and Congress investigated his accounts, finding he owed it money after he had spent much of his own money on the war effort. Frustrated, bitter, and strongly opposed to the new American alliance with France, Arnold decided to change sides in 1779. In July 1780, he sought and obtained command of West Point in order to surrender it to the British. Arnold's scheme was exposed when American forces captured British Major John André carrying papers that revealed the plot. Upon learning of André's capture, Benedict Arnold escaped down the Hudson River to the British sloop-of-war *Vulture*, narrowly avoiding capture by the forces of General Washington, who was arriving the same day to inspect West Point and to meet and dine with Arnold.

Arnold received a commission as a brigadier general in the British Army, an annual pension of £360, and a lump sum of over £6,000. He led British forces at Blanford, Virginia and Groton, Connecticut before the war effectively came to an end with the Siege of

Yorktown. In the winter of 1782, Arnold moved to London with his second wife, Margaret "Peggy" Shippen Arnold. He was well received by King George III and the Tories but frowned upon by the Whigs. In 1787, he entered into mercantile business with his sons Richard and Henry in Saint John, New Brunswick, but returned to London to settle permanently in 1791, where he died. Because of the way he changed sides his name quickly became a byword for treason in the United States. This conflicting legacy is recalled in the ambiguous nature of some of the memorials that have been placed in his honor.

Early life

Benedict was born the second of six children to Benedict Arnold III (1683–1761) and Hannah Waterman King in Norwich, Connecticut, on January 14, 1741. He was named after his great-grandfather Benedict Arnold, an early governor of the Colony of Rhode Island, and his brother Benedict IV, who died in infancy. Only Benedict and his sister Hannah survived to adulthood; his other siblings succumbed to yellow fever in childhood. Through his maternal grandmother, Arnold was a descendant of John Lothrop, an ancestor of at least four U.S. presidents.

Arnold's father was a successful businessman, and the family moved in the upper levels of Norwich society. When he was ten, Arnold was enrolled into a private academy in nearby Canterbury, with the expectation that he would eventually attend Yale. However, the deaths of his siblings two years later may have contributed to a decline in the family fortunes, as his father took up drinking. By the time he was fourteen, there was no more money for private education. His father's alcoholism and ill health prevented him from training Arnold in the family mercantile business, but his mother's family connections secured an apprenticeship for Arnold with two of her cousins, brothers Daniel and Joshua Lathrop, who operated a successful apothecary and general merchandise trade in Norwich. His apprenticeship with the Lathrops lasted seven years.

In 1755, Arnold, attracted by the sound of a drummer, attempted to enlist in the provincial militia for service against the French, but his mother refused permission. In 1757, when he was sixteen, he did enlist in the militia, which marched off toward Albany and Lake George to oppose the French invasion from the French province of Canada that culminated in the Battle of Fort William Henry. Word of that battle's disastrous outcome led the company to turn around; Arnold served for 13 days. A commonly accepted story that Arnold deserted from militia service in 1758 is based on uncertain documenta-

ry evidence.

Arnold's mother, to whom he was very close, died in 1759. The youth took on the responsibility of supporting his father and younger sister. His father's alcoholism worsened after the death of his wife, and he was arrested on several occasions for public drunkenness and was refused communion by his church; he died in 1761.

Wilhelm von Knyphausen

Born 11/04/1716 in Lutzburg, East Friesland, Hannover, Germany

Died 12/07/1800 in 12/07/1800

Wilhelm Reichsfreiherr[1] zu Innhausen und Knyphausen (1716 – 1800) was a Hessian general during the American Revolutionary War.

In the army of Hesse-Kassel (or Hesse-Cassel), Knyphausen was a lieutenant general. With 42 years of military experience, he traveled to North America in 1776 and led Hessian troops in the Battles of White Plains, Fort Mifflin, Brandywine, Germantown, Springfield, and Monmouth. In 1779 and 1780, he commanded British-held New York City. When Phillip Leopold von Heister left for Germany, von Knyphausen took command of the German troops serving under Sir William Howe. Because of von Knyphausen's seniority, ranking British officers held dormant commissions outranking him in case the British commander became disabled. Despite this, von Knyphausen was trusted by his British superiors. Sir William Howe gave him responsibility for the right flank at the Brandywine, tasked with keeping the attention of the Continental commanders on the river line at Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. He also commanded the vanguard of the army withdrawing from Philadelphia at the time of the Battle of Monmouth. Knyphausen left the North American theater in 1782 in part because of ill health, including blindness in one eye caused by a cataract. (His wife had died in 1778.) Friedrich Wilhelm von Lossberg succeeded to command of the Hessian troops in New York.

The Regiment von Knyphausen served in the Americas from 1776 to 1783. It took part in the attack on Fort Mifflin and was in garrison at Trenton, New Jersey. Major von Dechow, who was in command in late 1776, warned Colonel Johann Rall to fortify the town, advice that was ignored. During the Battle of Trenton the regiment tried to escape across Assunpink Creek but was forced to surrender. Major von Dechow was

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mortally wounded during the battle.

In 1785, shortly after the war, General Lafayette travelled to Kassel and met Knyphausen. He wrote to General Washington that they reminisced about the war and exchanged compliments.

Johann Rall

Born 01/01/1720 in Hesse-Cassel, Germany

Died 12/26/1776 in 12/26/1776

Early life and career

Rall was probably born as a so-called "soldier child" ca. 1725. He was a son of Captain Joachim Rall from Stralsund, who served in the regiment of Major General Donop. The first mention of Johann Rall was as a new cadet of the same regiment on 1 March 1740, commanded at this time by Colonel Prince Casimir von Isenburg of Isenburg-Birstein.

He was promoted to warrant officer on 25 July 1741; to second lieutenant on 28 August 1745; and to captain on 10 May 1753. Rall was promoted to major on 7 May 1760, under Major

General Bischhausen and transferred, in January 1763, into the Stein garrison regiment, where he was appointed lieutenant colonel. On 22 April 1771, he was transferred to the Mansbach Infantry Regiment as a colonel. He became commander of the regiment in January 1772.

During this time, Rall fought in the War of the Austrian Succession and participated in campaigns in Bavaria, on the Rhine, in the Netherlands, and served in Scotland. He fought in the Seven Years' War (also called the French and Indian War) and was involved in many battles. From September 1771 until August 1772, he was in Russia and fought for Catherine the Great under Count Orlov in the Fourth Russo-Turkish War.

The American Revolution

By 1776, Rall belonged to the infantry regiment of the 1st Division under General Phillip Leopold von Heister and commanded approximately 1,200 men fighting for Great Britain in the American Revolutionary War. He was at the Battle of Brooklyn at Flatbush, the Battle of White Plains, the Battle of Long Island, and figured prominently in the Battle of Trenton.

General George Washington crossed the Delaware River with his troops on the way to Trenton, New Jersey. The Hessian regiments, camped in and around Trenton, were attacked and decisively defeated by the American Continental Army. The Hessians had supposedly let their guard down to celebrate the Christmas holiday, and Rall himself was misled by John Honeyman, a spy of Washington who convincingly posed as a loyalist. According to one account, Rall was busy playing cards the night before the attack at the home of Trenton merchant Abraham Hunt when he was handed a note from a local Loyalist who'd seen Washington's forces gathering. He placed the note in his vest without bothering to read it and went back to his card game. The following morning Rall was woken by a junior officer and informed of the attack. Rall took command and ordered a counter-attack by bayonets that was scattered by American sniping and artillery fire.

During this action Rall was wounded slightly. The situation deteriorating, and still under fire, Rall ordered his men to withdraw to an orchard at the town's edge. Shortly after, he was wounded a second time, removed to a nearby church, and then to his headquarters. Following the battle both General Washington and General Greene visited Rall at his headquarters, and through an interpreter Rall secured a promise that his captured men would be treated humanely. Rall died the following day, and was buried in the cemetery of the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton on East State Street. The inscription on his tombstone read, "Here lies Colonel Rall, for him, all is over". However, the exact location of his plot within the cemetery is currently unknown.

Continued next month



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