



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



website: www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html

FEB 2014

Fort Lauderdale Chapter chartered December 8, 1966

Volume 47 Number 2

President's Message

Dear Compatriot,

At the January Luncheon, the presentation made by Larry Johnson lead to a very informative and lively discussion on money laundering, terrorism, and the Middle East. The insights we shared and the almost endless questions from attendees made it a most enjoyable luncheon.

The Florida S.A.R. Board of Management Spring Annual meeting will be held at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando this May 2nd and 3rd. The outgoing President for the State Organization is Ted Duay, a member of our Ft. Lauderdale chapter. The honor of hosting the Hospitality Room belongs to the SE Region which includes us, Miami, and the Palm Beach chapters. The joint effort will be an excellent time to attend a B.O.M. meeting if you have ever entertained the idea. A few of us are already signed up. Please join us for what promises to be an exciting meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at the February 15th luncheon. The venue remains Primavera.

Please feel free to call me 954-783-0887 or email me at wwz2620@gmail.com

Fraternally,

William W. Zimmer

January Minutes

Jan. 2014 meeting called to order by Compatriot Bill Zimmer

Chaplin David Kramer lead in prayer, followed by Pledge to the Flag and Pledge to S.A.R.

Past President Lance Pfeifer presented Joe Motes with a newly established award representing outstanding work in the community and S.A.R. Lance presented certificates of Appreciation to last year's officers

Everybody introduced themselves and shared some information.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1 Continue ROBO
- 2 Update Website. Larry stated he would help.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Need volunteers to help host the BOM in May. Bill Zimmer stated he will go. It would be nice to have several attend for this will be the last BOM that President Ted Duay presides over.

2. Change of meeting dates discussed; no action.

3. Next meeting we will help George Dennis celebrate his 100 Birthday. Would be nice if we had large turn out. Also need a count for Primavera Restaurant and size of cake.

Meeting closed with prayer by David Kramer and the S.A.R. recessional.

Jim Lohmeyer. Sec.

This Month's Guest Speakers

This month we will have members of The Children of the American Revolution Swamp Fox Society, they will tell us about their organization. This is our Junior organization, many of these children will probably join our chapter or the Daughters of the American Revolution. Please show your support by attending this luncheon.

NEXT MEETING - FEB 15, 2014

Primavera Restaurant

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

Future Dates:

Saturday, 03/15/2014
Saturday, 04/19/14

Time: 11:30AM social gathering; Lunch at noon
Luncheon - \$25.00
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 954-559-3202
or e-mail Joe Motes at: joemotes@aol.com



January 2014 meeting, Joe Motes receives the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal, followed by the Installation of Officers for 2014, followed by presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to all of last years officers, and then incoming President Bill Zimmer presented outgoing President Lance Pfeifer his Certificate of Appreciation.



Battles of the American Revolution The Battle of Oriskany, Part 1 Oriskany, New York

The fight was for the continent. The strategy embraced the lines from Boston to the mouth of the Chesapeake, from Montreal even to Charleston. Montgomery's invasion of Canada, although St. John's and Montreal were taken, failed before Quebec, and the retreat of the American forces gave Burgoyne the base for his comprehensive campaign. Howe had been compelled to give up New England, which contained nearly one-third of the population and strength of the colonies. The center of attack and of defense was the line of New York and Philadelphia. From their foothold at New York, on the one hand, and Montreal on the other, the British commanders aimed to grind the patriots of the Mohawk valley between the upper and nether mill stones. The design was to cut New England off from the other States, and to seize the country between the Hudson and Lake Ontario as the vantage ground for sweeping and decisive operations. This was the purpose of the wedge which Burgoyne south to drive through the heart of the Union. In the beginning of that fateful August, Howe held all the country about New York, including the islands, and the Hudson up to Peekskill; the British forces also commanded the

St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario, and their southern shores, finding no opposition north of the Mohawk and Saratoga lake. The junction of Howe and Burgoyne would have rendered their armies masters of the key to the military position. This strip of country from the Highlands of the Hudson to the head of the Mohawk was the sole shield against such concentration of British power. Once lost it would become a sword to cut the patriots into fragments. They possessed it by no certain tenure. Two months later Governor Clinton and General Putnam lost their positions on the Hudson. Thus far Burgoyne's march had been one of conquest. His capture of Ticonderoga had startled the land. The frontier fort at the head of the Mohawk was to cost him the column on whose march he counted so much.

Synopsis

The corps before Fort Stanwix was formidable in every element of military strength. The expedition with which it was charged was deemed by the war secretary at Whitehall of the first consequence, and it had received as marked attention as any army which King George ever let loose upon the colonists. For its leader Lieutenant-Colonel Barry St. Leger had been chosen by the king himself, on Burgoyne's nomination. He deserved the confidence, if we judge by his advance, by his precautions, by his stratagem at Oriskany, and the conduct of the siege, up to the panic at the rumor that Arnold was coming. In the regular army of England he became an ensign in 1756, and coming to America the next year he had served in the French war, and learned the habits of the Indians, and of border warfare. In some local sense, perhaps as commanding this corps, he was styled a brigadier. His regular rank was Lieutenant-Colonel of the thirty-fourth regiment. In those days of trained soldiers it was a marked distinction to be chosen to select an independent corps on important service. A wise commander, fitted for border war, his order of march bespeaks him. Skillful in affairs, and scholarly in accomplishments, his writing prove him. Prompt, tenacious, fertile in resources, attentive to detail, while master of the whole plan, he would not fail where another could have won. Inferior to St. Leger in rank, but superior to him in natural powers and personal magnetism, was Joseph Brant -- Thayendanegea -- chief of the Mohawks. He had been active in arraying the six Nations on the side of King

George, and only the Oneidas and Tuscaroras had refused to follow his lead. He was not thirty-five years of age; in figure the ideal Indian, tall and spare and lithe and quick; with all the genius of his tribe, and the training gained in Connecticut schools, and in the family of Sir William Johnson; he had been a lion in London, and flattered at British headquarters in Montreal. Among the Indians he was preeminent, and in any circle he would have been conspicuous.

As St. Leger represented the regular army of King George, and brant the Indian allies, Sir John Johnson led the regiments which had been organized from the settlers in the Mohawk Valley. He had inherited from his father, Sir William, the largest estate held on the continent by any individual, William Penn excepted. He had early taken sides with the king against the colonists, and having entered into a compact with the patriots to preserve peace and remain at Johnstown, he had violated his promise, and fled to Canada. He came now with a sense of personal wrong, to recover his possessions and to resume the almost royal sway which he had exercised. He at this time held a commission as colonel in the British army, to raise and command forces raised among the royalists of the valley. Besides these was Butler, -- John Butler, a brother-in-law of Johnson; lieutenant-colonel by rank, rich and influential in the valley, familiar with the Indians and a favorite of them, shrewd and daring and savage, already the father of that son Walter, who was to be the scourge of the settlers, and with him to render ferocious and bloody the border war. He came from Niagara, and was now in command of Tory rangers.

The forces were like the leaders. It has been the custom to represent St. Leger's army as a "Motley crowd." On the contrary it was a picked force, especially designated by orders from headquarters in Britain. He enumerates his "artillery, the thirty-fourth and the King's regiment, with the Hessian riflemen and the whole corps of Indians," with him, while his advance, consisting of a detachment under Lieutenant Bird, had gone before, and "the rest of the army, led by Sir John Johnson," was a day's march in the rear. Johnson's whole regiment was with him, together with Butler's Tory rangers, with at least one company of Canadians. The country from Schoharie, westward, had been

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scoured of royalists to add to this column. For such an expedition, the force could not have been better chosen. The pet name of the "King's regiment" is significant. The artillery was such as could be carried by boat, and adapted to the sort of war before it. It had been especially designated from Whitehall. The Hana Chasseurs were trained and skillful soldiers.

The Indians were the terror of the land. The Six Nations had joined the expedition in full force except the Oneidas and the Tuscaroras. With the latter tribes the influence of Samuel Kirkland had overborne that of the Johnson's, and the Oneidas and the Tuscaroras where by their peaceful attitude more than by hostility useful to Congress to the end. The statement that two thousand Canadians accompanied St. Leger as axe men is no doubt an exaggeration;

but, exclusive of such helper s and of noncombata-
tants, the corps counted not less than seventeen
hundred fighting men. King George could not then
have sent a column better fitted for its task, or better
equipped, or abler led, or more intent on achieving
all that was imposed upon it. Leaving Montreal, it
stated on the nineteenth of July from Buck Island,
its rendezvous at the entrance of Lake Ontario. It
had reached Fort Stanwix without the loss of a man,
as if on a summer's picnic. It had come through in
good season. Its chief never doubted that he would
make quick work with the Fort. He had even cau-
tioned Lieutenant Bird who led the advance, lest he
should rise the seizure with his unaided detachment.
When his full force appeared, his faith was sure that
the fort would "fall without a single shot." So confi-
dent was he that he sent a dispatch to Burgoyne on
the fifth of August, assuring him that the fort would
be his directly, and they would speedily meet as
victors at Albany. General Schuyler had in an offi-
cial letter expressed a like fear.

St. Leger was therefore surprised as well as annoyed
by the news that the settlers on the Mohawk had
been aroused, and were marching in haste to relieve
the fort. He found that his path to join Burgoyne was
to be contested. He watched by skillful scouts the
gathering of the patriots; their quick and somewhat
irregular assembling; he knew of their march from
Fort Dayton, and their halt at Oriskany. Brant told
him that they advanced, as brave, untrained militia,
without throwing out skirmishers, and with Indian
guild the Mohawk chose the pass in which an am-
bush should be set for them. The British commander
guarded the way for several miles from his position
by scouts within speaking distance of each other. He
knew the importance of his movement, and he was
guilty of no neglect.

Continued next month March 2014

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