

NEWSLETTER



The Ft. Lauderdale Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

ORGANIZED NOVEMBER 21, 1922

NEXT MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 1992

PLACE: The Tower Club , One Financial Plaza , C & S Bank Building.
(Formerly known as the Landmark Bank Building.)

TIME: Social Hour - 11:30 a.m. Luncheon served at noon.

COST: \$10.00 per person for luncheon. Bring a guest or prospective member

IF YOU PARK IN THE C & S BUILDING
THE COST WILL BE \$ 2.00 MORE

RESERVATIONS :

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS BY TUESDAY EVENING FEB. 11TH BY
CALLING WALLY FLOYD AT (305) 566-9705. LEAVE A
MESSAGE WITH HIS SECRETARY.

PROGRAM :

THE PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY WILL BE:
SECOND SEMINOLE WAR PRESENTATION BY
PERSONNEL FROM THE FT. LAUDERDALE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
A MAN WILL COME DRESSED IN AN INFANTRY SOLDIER'S UNIFORM
AND WILL TELL ABOUT ARMY LIFE IN THE SEMINOLE WAR. SOMEONE
WILL SHOW SOME SLIDES AND DISCUSS THE SEMINOLE INDIAN
SITUATION AT THAT TIME..

NEWS NOTES :

THERE ARE A FEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR
1992 DUES. THE TOTAL FOR NAT., STATE AND LOCAL
IS \$41.00. PLEASE MAKE THE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
THE SAR AND SEND THEM TO GIB BUCKBEE.

THE TRUST FUND IS STILL LOOKING FOR A GOOD FEW
MEN WHO WILL CONTRIBUTE. A LIST OF THOSE WHO HAVE
CONTRIBUTED WILL BE PUBLISHED IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT :

This year we need to strongly focus on membership
and work together to increase particularly the number
of new members. Please contact me directly if you
know of prospective members that I can contact.

Lastly, I welcome your suggestions and comments to
improve our chapter. Your volunteerism would
greatly be appreciated. Give me a call!



"LEST WE FORGET"



THE NEED FOR A BILL OF RIGHTS By Steven Fitschen

Two hundred years ago, the soldiers of the new American nation bled and died for their God given rights. Patrick Henry had expressed the sentiment "Give me liberty or give me death". The flag of New Hampshire proclaimed "Live free or die". So protective were our forefathers of these rights and so suspicious were they of a strong central government, that they formed a loose confederation of states under the Articles of Confederation. Later, with Maryland and Virginia on the verge of war, our forefathers realized their mistake.

As John Quincy Adams stated in 1839, "There was thus no congeniality of principle between the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation. The foundation of the former were a superintending Providence -- the rights of man, and the constituent revolutionary power of the people. That of the latter was the sovereignty of organized power, and the independence of the separate or dis-united States."

Although the Constitution returned to the spirit of the Declaration, as Adams pointed out, and although a weak central government had failed the test of practice, the Framers and Ratifiers of the Constitution knew all too well the dangers of a strong central government controlled by fallen men. Even the rule of law was not a sufficient safeguard, nor was the principle of enumerated powers.

In the Constitutional Convention, George Mason refused to sign the document without a Bill of Rights. Despite the great influence of the Federalist Papers, all the state conventions were not convinced the Constitution itself would serve as a Bill of Rights. Massachusetts, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island all proposed amendments with North Carolina initially refusing to ratify until James Madison pledged that a Bill of Rights would be added to the Constitution. It took Madison two years, but the Bill of Rights was ratified on December 15, 1791.