



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



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Oscar Kraehenbuehl Reports

Induction and Holiday Banquet

A festive gathering of compatriots, wives and guests took place December 10th at the Pompano Park Racing Track for the 35th annual chapter meeting since its founding on December 8, 1966. Dinning tables were reserved along the windows that overlooking the harness racing and excellent meals were served. The ceremony had some verbal competition with the park announcer but all business and announcements were handled commendably. Former President General Carl Hoffmann (who was a sponsor of this chapter's charter in 1966) inducted the chapter officers for 2002. New President George Dennis then had the pleasure of inducting his son, Dr. Thomas Dennis, and Daniel Ayers into the Society and Chapter. Many members of George's family were present for this occasion. Certificates were presented to all the previous year's officers in appreciation for their service. Special recognition was given to Harry Young for attending in colonial uniform. He was George Washington personified. The park announcer acknowledged the presence of our organization and the 5th race was designated as in our honor (and it was very lucky for at least one compatriot). The only unfortunate experience of the evening was that the stairs to the tables were too extensive for some guests to navigate. We regret this oversight.

Flag Certificates Available Flag certificates from the SAR are available to present to individuals, companies or government agencies that fly the United States flag for patriotic purposes only not for commercial or advertising purposes. Lots of people are displaying the flag these days, but aren't you aware of someone who is deserving of special recognition and commendation ?? Notify Oscar Kraehenbuehl, who will prepare a certificate with the name provided and get it to you to sign and present in person. Call: (561) 488-5585 or E-mail: OscarK@pobox.com.

In Memory of Mary Agnes Frisinger

It is with regret that we note the passing of Mary Agnes, the wife of Compatriot Edward Frisinger. Unfortunately, it is only the older chapter members who had the pleasure of knowing her and Ed before they moved to California several years ago but retained chapter membership. We send our sympathy to Ed for this great loss to him and his family. A contribution to the Chapter Trust Fund in her memory is duly noted.

This Month's Guest Speaker

The speaker for the January 11th meeting will be Nick Navarro. Mr. Navarro is President and CEO of Navarro Group LTD., Inc. The company provides a broad range of security services in the following areas: Private and public security guards, body guards and VIP protection, independent security surveys, integrated security programs, legal service of summons and subpoenas, record searches, filing of cases and courier services, pre-employment background searches, insurance fraud investigations, corporate and forensic investigations, accident reconstruction, worker's compensation and financial investigations, polygraphs, and alcohol and drug testing. Prior to his tenure as CEO of Navarro Group, Mr. Navarro was Sheriff of Broward County Florida from 1984 to 1992. During that time, Mr. Navarro served as Steering Committee Chairman for the multi-agency Blue Lightning Strike Force, Chairman of the Florida Sheriffs Association's Anti-Crack Task Force, and President of the International Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association.

*NEXT MEETING - JANUARY 10th
TOWER CLUB !!!*

\$20.00 INCL. TAX AND TIP

11:30 SOCIAL 12:00 LUNCH

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History: The Battle of Cowpens Part 2

By Mike Joslyn

Barely formed, the British began to march forward at 7 AM. The crimson and green line rolled to within fifty yards of the skirmishers, and then came to a sudden halt as the Americans fired. As the skirmishers retreated to the main militia line, the British dressed their ranks and came on again. Reaching the 50 yard point in front of the full complement of militia, the British took two volleys from them, losing one out of every ten of their officers in the process. Strangely, the artillerymen ignored all this, and fired instead on the Continentals on the hill. The rounds overshot, landing among Washington's cavalry behind the hill, and causing nothing more serious than their move to a quieter position behind the American left.

Having fulfilled Morgan's expectations, the militia began to run to the left to get behind the Continentals. This presented an opportunity for the 17th dragoons, who charged to catch the trailing lot of militiamen, but who in turn were caught by a surprise counter-charge of Washington's cavalry. The whirlwind of horses and sabers was left behind as the British infantry continued to advance.

At 7:20, the Fusiliers and the Legion infantry approached the Continentals. Confident of having routed the militia, Tarleton fully expected that the Continentals would either leave, or stay and be destroyed by a now-numerically superior enemy. Instead, the British infantry got bogged down in a spirited fire fight. Over the ensuing half-hour, the pace of British firing grew weaker, while the rate of Continental fire continued unabated: a sure sign that the British infantry were the ones beginning to crack.

Sensing this erosion of his troop's morale, Tarleton ordered the Highlanders to move around the 7th and attack the rebel's right flank. He also ordered the Legion cavalry forward to support them, assuming that the pressure of the Highlanders combined with a cavalry charge would "put a victorious period to the action".

Meanwhile, the Highlander's movement did not go unnoticed on the hill. Lieutenant Colonel John Eager Howard, in command of Morgan's third line of troops, ordered the Virginia militia on the right to refuse their right, the effect of which would be to create a bend in the line at that point and momentarily prevent the outflanking attempt. Unfortunately, the order was misinterpreted, and the Virginia men turned around and marched over the hill. As each company saw the one to the right march away, it too did an orderly about-face and marched to the rear. In Howard's mind, this was not necessarily a bad thing, because it removed the threat of being outflanked altogether, but in Morgan's mind, it seemed like the beginning of a rout. He galloped forward and yelled "Are you beaten"? After reassuring Morgan that he was merely changing position to protect his right flank, Howard added, "Do men who march like that look as though they are beaten"? Morgan agreed they did not, and told Howard to turn his troops around just over the hill, and fire a volley into the following British.

Like Morgan, the British infantry saw this spontaneous retreat as a rout, and it inspired them to a ragged charge over the hill. Just as they passed the crest, ready to plant their bayonets in the backs of fleeing rebels, the Americans suddenly wheeled about and fired with every musket at a distance of less than thirty yards. Then the Marylanders levelled their bayonets and charged. At the same instant, Washington's cavalry, now finished with its private battle with the 17th dragoons, slammed into the British from behind. It was more than enough to break both the 7th and Legion infantry, and the privates who didn't prostrate themselves in front of the Americans and beg for mercy, threw their weapons away and took off down the Green River road.

The panic spread to the previously untouched Legion Dragoons in the reserve, and they left their commander in the dust of their departure. Abandoned by the army, the artillerymen fought to the last man in a futile attempt to save the guns.

This left the Highlanders, who despite the obvious catastrophe, continued to fight.

Unfortunately for MacArthur and his Scots, the militia had reformed itself in the rear of the Continental line, and having circled the back of the battlefield, now came up on the 71st from the left. With the Continental infantry on one side, and the militia on the other, MacArthur bowed to the inevitable and surrendered his battalion. It was now ten minutes to eight, and the battle of Cowpens was, for all practical purposes, over.

Except for Tarleton, a few dragoons from the 17th, and the Legion cavalry that had run away, the entire force sent after Morgan was now dead or captured. In sheer numbers, the British lost as many men as they had lost on the crucial day at Saratoga. An enraged Cornwallis set out after Morgan, who, without his short term militia was now outnumbered four to one by Cornwallis' remaining army. After fruitlessly chasing both Morgan and Greene across North Carolina, Cornwallis launched an invasion of Virginia, confident that the attainment of this colony would end the war. With Cornwallis occupied in Virginia, Greene moved back into the Carolinas and picked off the now-unsupported British garrisons one at a time. As for Tarleton, he was absolved of any responsibility for the disaster by Cornwallis. He survived the war to become a general, become knighted, and write a book about the southern campaigns in which he blamed numerous others for his loss, but particularly Earl Charles Cornwallis.

The Culper Gang

June 27, 1779 -- George Washington to
Benjamin Tallmadge

In 1778, at Washington's orders Benjamin Tallmadge organized a spy network in New York City, the heart of the British forces. Tallmadge was to take all precautions that this ring would be extremely secret; in fact, it was so secret that Washington did not even know who the men in the spy ring were. Robert Townsend, Aaron Woodhull, Austin Roe, Anna Strong, and Caleb Brewster made up this ring, and the code name for it was Samuel Culper.

The central figure, Robert Townsend, code name Culper Junior, was a society reporter for an American newspaper and the owner of a small dry goods store in New York City.

The newspaper gave him access to social functions all over town, where he could talk to British soldiers, without having them assume anything. The dry goods store gave him access to people in and outside the city who were in need of goods and, sometimes, a little extra information.

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In order to pass information from New York City to George Washington in up-state New York without being caught, the Culpers created an elaborate scheme. It was so elaborate that at times it acted to their detriment. The way it worked is this: as Townsend gathered information about the British soldiers in New York City, Austin Roe would drop by the store every once in a while to buy goods for people on Long Island. At the store, Roe would put in a request in writing from a John Bolton. Bolton was the code name for Tallmadge. Townsend would give Roe the requested goods and Roe would leave. Then Townsend would sneak out back when no one was looking, and run up to his small room, close to the shop. There he would read what Tallmadge had written and answer the letter. Roe would show up again at Townsend's room and take the letter back with the answers. Hiding the letter within the package, Roe, a courageous man, not afraid of riding great distances, would ride as fast as he could the 110 miles to Setauket, New York where he would hand off the letter at its first stop.

Once in Setauket, Roe dropped the letter off in a field that he had rented to tend his cattle. He would tend the cattle and place the letter in a pre-arranged drop box. After Roe had gone, Aaron Woodhull, code name Culper Senior, would enter the field, which was right next to his house and pick up the letter. Woodhull would add his own information to it, and then look across the bay to see where Anna

Strong had place her black petticoat on the line. This petticoat would let Woodhull know that Caleb Brewster had arrived in his whaleboat to take the letter across the bay. The number of handkerchiefs on the clothesline would tell Woodhull where exactly Brewster was hiding, or which cove he was in along the shore. Under cover of darkness, Woodhull would sneak to the cove and give Brewster the message.

Brewster would row back across Devil's Belt to Fairfield, Connecticut and give Benjamin Tallmadge, who would be waiting on his horse on the other side, the letter. Finally, in a series of mounted dragoons, posted every fifteen miles the letter would be passed all the way to Washington in New Windsor, New York.

The scheme worked well most of the time, but Washington's letter, dated June 27, 1779, signifies the dangers of this circuitous route. Tallmadge was on his way from Washington's headquarters to drop this letter off with one of the Culpers. Townsend, who knew he was coming, attempted to warn Tallmadge about possible raids into Connecticut. Woodhull

forwarded the message with his own similar warning, but Tallmadge did not receive the warnings. Instead, he and some ninety troops were near Bedford, New York at Poundridge when they were attacked at dawn by Lord Roudon's Light Horse and a body of light infantry. Tallmadge lost his horse and most importantly his secret papers from Washington, including this letter, to be sent to the Culpers. The "private letter" mentions the Culpers by code, fortunately not revealing their true identity, which no one knew but Tallmadge. The letter also mentioned a George Higday, who was going to help the ring, but as a result of the letter's loss, Higday was not able to join. Instead, Washington made sure that he was notified quickly of his discovery, and although Higday's place was raided, the British found no papers because he had had time to destroy all evidence.

After this incident, Tallmadge added a few more security measures to the letters by including invisible ink and codes. Woodhull, Townsend, Tallmadge, and Washington were the only ones who had the coded dictionary and invisible ink. Washington's letter, as a result of being captured by the British, ended up in Henry Clinton's private collection.

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