



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



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Organized November 26, 1966

JAN 2005

Volume 38 Number 1

Highlights of December Chapter Meeting

The regular meeting was held Saturday, December 18th at the Flaming Pit Restaurant and called to order at noon by President George Dennis. The turnout was good and included several welcomed guests, wives and a visiting member of the NY SAR Society.

Treasurer Richard Jones reported that the Chapter's assets continue to be adequate and under good control. He is ending 5 years as treasurer and noted that the account balance is \$25 more than when he first took office. He also commented on new banking security procedures which transferring the account to new officers much more laborious and complicated. Not only is more documentation being required but the bank also has added security precautions which prohibit the wearing of sunglasses or any kind of hat while in their facility.
-- What's next ??

Registrar Ted Duay reported that three more membership applications were signed today and will be submitted. There has been an increase in membership interest during recent months which bodes well for the chapter and society. Ted has created and will maintain a chapter web site at: www.learnwebskills.com/sar/

Members are invited to submit information or photos that would be relevant to post. Members and all of the general public are encouraged to attend a genealogy workshop at the Parkland Library on Saturday, January 15th, 9 to 11AM. (Located at 6600 University Dr., Phone: 954-757-4200.) The event is being sponsored by the Lighthouse Point Chapter DAR and the Ft. Lauderdale Chapter SAR and will be conducted by Debbie Duay, Registrar for that chapter. Attendance is recommended for anyone who missed Debbie's previous genealogy talks and demonstrations.

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Our Guest Speaker for January

Rod Hedrick has lived in Broward for over 15 years since coming here to work for the Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff. He has had an avid interest in American History since he was a child growing up near Tampa. Florida having been a retirement state provided a great opportunity for me to listen to Veterans and hear their stories. Sadly, many friends have passed on who had some interesting, Albeit frightening experiences. Rod has collections on a number of topics such as USAAF, US Army, WW2 & Korea, Manhattan Project, US Army Berlin Brigade Occupation, & foreign items the German, Japanese & Russian. Rod also conducted taped interviews on some veterans who have unique historical interest.

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NOTE ! Future meetings will be on 4th Saturday

Future chapter meetings will be held on the **4th** Saturday of the month, rather than the 3rd. This change was made to eliminate conflicts with other organizations meeting at the Flaming Pit restaurant and will help insure the availability of a favorable private room for our use. - The January meeting will be Saturday the 22nd.

NEXT MEETING - JANUARY 22th

"Flaming Pit"

*1150 N. Federal Hwy., Pompano Beach
(11 blocks north of Atlantic Blvd.)*

Time: 11:30AM social gathering; Lunch at noon

Buffet luncheon - \$11.00

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:

954-441-8735

or e-mail Joe Motes at: joemotes@aol.com

Genealogy Workshop

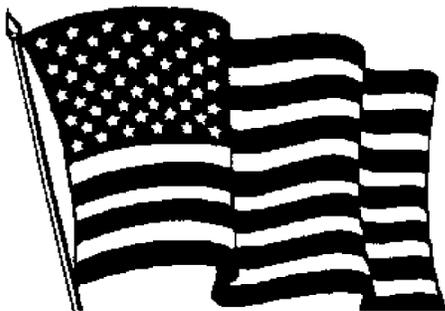
On January 15, 2005 from 9:00 - 11:00 AM, our chapter is co-sponsoring a Genealogy Workshop with the Lighthouse Point Chapter NSDAR. Debbie Duay, wife of Registrar, Ted Duay, will be the featured speaker. Anyone who missed her talk at the September SAR meeting will definitely benefit from her presentation. Ted Duay will be representing our chapter, and is hoping to pick up some new prospective members. SAR members, spouses, family members, and friends are welcome to attend.

The workshop will be held at the Parkland Library, 6600 University Drive, Parkland, FL 33067. The Parkland library is located on University Drive north of Holmberg Road next to Parkland City Hall. Take Sample Road west to University, and go north on University Drive until you pass Holmberg Road. The library is on the east side of University Drive.

Our Guest Speaker for January

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Rod is currently working on 2 book projects. One is on 2 of my wives Great Uncles who died in Korea on the Same day, one as a POW, the other is on the USAAF's earliest cruise missile, an advanced copy of the German V1, called the Ford JB2-Loon. We had an aircraft carrier full of these preparing to hit Japan when the war ended. He will be speaking at the first meeting of one of the brothers' WW2 experiences as a POW, then in the second meeting to be scheduled for our March meeting, the other brother of the 2 in Korea and their untimely deaths.



The secretary reported that the Chapter Annual Report and dues have been forwarded to the FLSSAR Secretary. As of this date, there are 46 active members in the chapter. Two members had to be dropped, but a letter and the necessary application have sent in hopes they will reinstate. The current membership is 9 greater than this same time last year. Both reinstatements and aggressive work by Registrar Duay (and Debbie) created this welcome gain.

As reported previously, \$420 was contributed to the chapter trust fund by 15 members along with their dues. Sincere appreciation is extended to: Daniel Ayers, Stuart Browne, James Cox, Ted Duay III, Henry Fancher, George Hess, Richard Jones, Jim Lohmeyer, Joe Motes, Roland Price, Wellington Roemer, Ed Spencer, Tom Strok, Bryan Sullivan, Edward Sullivan

While organizing the files to be turned over to the incoming secretary, Oscar Kraehenbuehl came across a biography of Compatriot Harry Calevas in a 1986 newsletter. He was Acting Chapter President at that time. Since he and his wife were present, it seemed fitting to relate his extensive and impressive professional background. It included diverse inventions and products, hotel and association management, seminars and authorship of books on these subjects and business leaderships. -- Harry was applauded for his many accomplishments.

New member, Jim Lohmeyer, was inducted into the Society by Oscar Kraehenbuehl. (President Dennis didn't have his glasses and wasn't able to perform this duty.) His sponsor, Ted Duay, pinned his rosette and Jim was warmly welcomed. - He also is commended for assuming the responsibility of Chapter Chaplain for the coming year.

Compatriot Ed Sullivan (Former Natl. Trustee, Former State President, et al) made a plea for members to become active in state society activities. He noted that currently there are no chapter members on any committee or holding office and none are even attending BOMs (Board of Management) meetings. This is a marked change from the past and a loss to the members and the organization. BOMs provide an opportunity to learn about the many useful activities sponsored by the SAR and to meet men from other chapters and learn what they are doing.

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Hopefully, this experience would translate to more activity in our chapter. It was noted that the next BOM will be in Lakeland on January 14-15, and the Annual Meeting will be in Sarasota, April 29-May 1. Subsequent BOMs also will be in Lakeland and their dates and details will be in later bulletins and posted at: www.flssar.org/meet.html. Ed noted that attendance would be worthwhile even if only for the first day (Friday). -- GET ACTIVE !!

Outgoing President George Dennis presented certificates of appreciation to the other outgoing officers for their past service and dedication. To wit: Joe Motes: (VP since 2001; Editor, 7 years; Chair. JROTC Awards, 7 years)

Oscar Kraehenbuehl: (Secretary since 2001- this time)

Richard Jones: (Treas. Since 2000; Sgt. Arms since 1997)

Ted Duay: (Reg/Gene; 21 Supplementals; Created chapter website)

Edward Sullivan: (Chancellor since 2000 this time)

The following elected chapter officers for 2005 were present and duly inducted.

President Joe Motes

VP George Dennis

Secy/Treas Edward Spencer

Chancellor Ed Sullivan

Regis.Gene. Ted Duay

Chaplain Jim Lohmeyer

Sgt.-at-Arms Rich Jones

President Elect Joe Motes accepted his return to this office with willingness but also some reluctance and the hope that others will step forward to share this responsibility in the future. He plans to continue his lead roll in the annual JROTC award presentations to the local high school units. He noted that their number has increased from 9 to 25 over the 7 years he has been involved. He stressed that the area in which he especially will need help is in acquiring good speakers for the meetings. (No one volunteered to take this leadership, so the post is still open.) Only a few speaking candidates are currently known. PLEASE help by providing assistance with this necessity.

President Motes presented a special certificate of appreciation and a Past President's pin to George Dennis for his dedicated service as President since 2000.

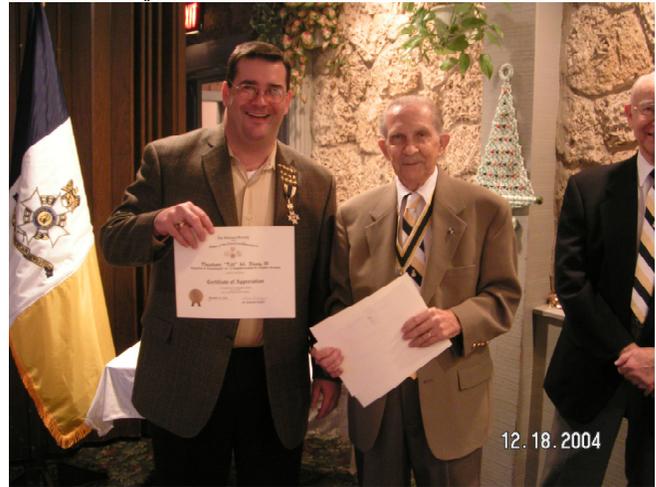
The meeting was concluded by Oscar Kraehenbuehl reading an article entitled "Who Was Lorenzo Dow.?" Mr. Dow (1777 -1834) reportedly was perhaps the second or third most famous person in the United States at one time. His autobiography once was the second best selling book in the country, topped only by the bible. It is believed that more than 10,000 babies were named after him. He was a layman preacher whose public speaking mannerisms were like nothing ever seen before. He shouted, screamed, cried, begged, flattered, insulted and challenged people and their beliefs. Although not always well received, he often preached before open-air assemblies of 10,000 people or more and invented the term "camp meeting". He traveled extensively by foot or horse back across what was then the US and Canada and three times to England and Ireland. He acquired little wealth, giving away most of what he received. This overview of his life was both entertaining and interesting. It was noted that anyone having an ancestor with those given names very likely had someone in the family attend one of his sermons. - He has no living descendents.

(Secretary's personal note: These minutes end 15 years for the writer serving various positions in the Chapter. It's now time to back down. I appreciate the assistance and camaraderie during those years and will continue to provide support when & where I can. --- A.O.K.)





James Lohmeyer is inducted into our society by Oscar Krahenbuehl.



Ted Duay is presented a Certificate of Appreciation from President George Dennis.



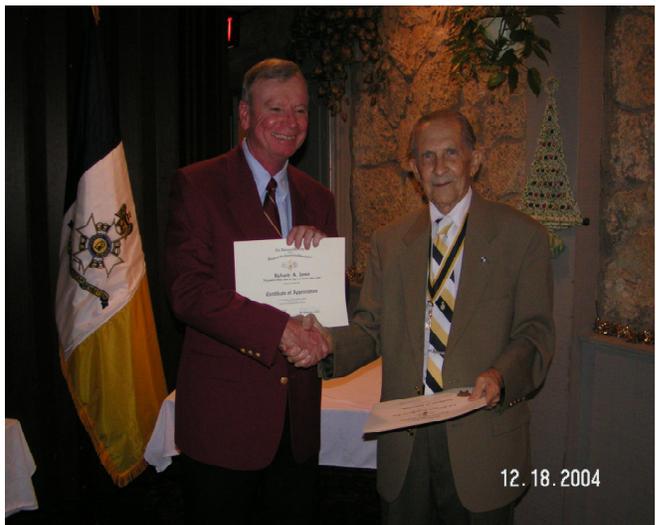
James' sponsor Ted Duay pins the rosette.



Joe Motes is presented a Certificate of Appreciation from President George Dennis.



Outgoing President George Dennis presents James Lohmeyer with new member certificate of our society.



Richard Jones is presented a Certificate of Appreciation from President George Dennis.



Ed Sullivan is presented a Certificate of Appreciation from President George Dennis.



Incoming President Joe Motes presents the past president certificate to outgoing President George Dennis.



Oscar Krahenbuehl is presented a Certificate of Appreciation from President George Dennis.



New Officers for 2005 are: James Lohmeyer, Ed Spencer, Rich Jones, Joe Motes, George Dennis, Ed Sullivan and Ted Duay.



Outgoing officers for 2004, Joe Motes, George Dennis, Rich Jones, Ted Duay, Oscar Krahenbuehl and Ed Sullivan.



Continued from the Dec issue.

On January 2, 1778 Washington "obliged" Clark with a letter to Laurens stating that Clark "is active, sensible and enterprising and has rendered me very great assistance since the army has been in Pennsylvania by procuring me constant and certain intelligence of the motions and intentions of the Enemy. It is somewhat uncertain whether the State of the Major's health will admit of his remaining in the military line, if it should, I may perhaps have occasion to recommend him in a more particular manner to the favor of Congress at a future time." General Greene also sent a similar letter of recommendation to Congress.

These letters had their effect. On January 13 Clark, evidently recovering in health, could write to Washington from York that Congress "have appointed me an auditor with Mr. (Matthew) Clarkson, to settle and adjust the accounts of the main army." This service would be far easier than the heavy duties imposed on him in his role of chief of spies. "Whether I am equal to the task assigned to me or not, I cannot presume to say...My utmost exertions shall be tried to give general satisfaction." Since the position of Auditor had no rank in the army, he requested permission to resign his commission as Major and Aide-de-Camp to Greene, which request would be presently granted. Clark closed by thanking Washington "for all favors" which the Commander-in-Chief had bestowed on him, "but in particular manner for your letter to the President, which, with General Greene's, without any solicitation on my part, have procured me what I did not expect," i.e., the auditorship.

On January 24 Washington replied, requesting Clark to "repair as soon as you possibly can to the Army, to enter upon the duties" of Auditor, since the army accounts were in an exceedingly disordered state because of a lack of adequate supervision. Apparently Clark was unable to assume this duty until the latter part of March, however; for it was not until the 25th of that month that General Orders at Valley Forge notified the army that he and Clarkson had been appointed.

Later, Clark returned to active service, being commissioned captain in the 13th Pennsylvania Regiment, transferring to the 8th Pennsylvania on July 1, 1778, to the 1st Pennsylvania in 1781, and to the 3rd Pennsylvania in 1783. He retired June 3 of the latter year because of the recurrence of ill health, resuming his law practice in York and "adjoining districts" until his death in 1819. In the interim between the Revolution and his death he experienced one more brief military service. In 1814, with the British invasion of Maryland during the War of 1812, he volunteered as an aide to Major General Samuel Smith for the defense of Baltimore, again retiring from service when the British receded from Chesapeake Bay. There was patriotic fire in John Clark's veins that even aging could not quench.

Valley Forge Commissariat

One of the principal historical mystiques of Valley Forge is the near starvation experienced there by the Continental Army during the winter of 1777-78. As early as December 22 of the former year, a short three days after the arrival of the army at its winter encampment, General Washington was writing a piteous letter to Henry Laurens, President of Congress, at York, Pa.

"It is with infinite pain and concern, that I transmit [to] Congress. . . Letters respecting the State of the Commissary's department. If these matters are not exaggerated, I do not know from what cause this alarming deficiency or rather total failure of Supplies arises; But unless more Vigorous exertions and better regulations take place in that line, and immediately, this Army must dissolve. I have done all in my power by remonstrating, by writing to, by ordering the Commissaries on this Head. . .but without any good effect, or obtaining more than a present scanty relief."

On the following day the Commander in Chief, in even more explicit manner, warned Laurens of the prospective dissolution of the army for lack of foodstuffs, or its forced dispersion "to obtain subsistence the best manner they can. . ."

By the latter part of 1777 the Commissary, and its adjunct, the Quartermaster Department (Quartermaster General Thomas Mifflin having resigned on November 7), were in an extremely decayed state. Although these departments were normally supervised by commissioned officers, the general employees of these departments, even those directly attached to the army, were civilians, which made them often difficult for military control. The early history of the Commissary Department of the Continental Army is not always a pretty one. While the majority of its civilian employees were undoubtedly honest and patriotic, instances of theft and corruption were not infrequent. General Washington often expressed his anger and bitterness in writing when these instances came to his attention.

Nor were these the only reasons for the too frequent failure to adequately feed the troops. The decline in value of the Continental currency made farmers shy from selling to the commissary agents. Congress, until March and April, 1778 failed to provide experienced officers to supervise the Commissary and Quartermaster Departments. The system of paying the Purchasing Commissaries on a percentage basis, instead of salaries, led to confusion, irregularities and sometimes fraud. Temptation was rampant, even in the majority of civilian employees resisted that temptation. Also, in the immediate vicinity of Valley Forge the passage of the American and British armies during the preceding campaign had divested the country of food supplies; southeastern Pennsylvania could not adequately supply the American troops as normally its rich farmlands could have done. The commissaries had to look elsewhere for supplies. Finally, nature intervened with rain and snow, which turned the roads into quagmires, thereby blocking easy access to the encampment.

The concentrated at Valley Forge was the principal military force in the Middle Military Department, which covered southern New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. The Northern Department consisted of northern New York and the New England states; the Southern Department, Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia. It is with the Middle Department and the commissary of that area that the present essay is concerned.

Supply magazines, principally for food, in the Middle Department were established at New Windsor, New York, above West point on the Hudson River; at Morristown, Newark, Elizabeth, Pittstown, Princeton, Trenton, Bordentown, Burlington, Haddonfield and Mount Holly, New Jersey, though the latter three could be threatened by enemy attack from Philadelphia and probably were therefore little used; at Easton, Bethlehem, Allentown, Coryell's Ferry (on the Delaware at the present New Hope), Pottsgrove (now Pottstown), Downingtown, Lancaster and Carlisle in Pennsylvania; at Baltimore and Georgetown in Maryland; and at Sussex Court House in southern Delaware.

A Commissary Return for Valley Forge for January 1778 lists the following commodities purchased or ordered to be purchased for the supply of the troops: flour, bread, pork, salt beef, fresh beef, veal or mutton, hams, tongues, bacon, fish, butter, peas, turnips, potatoes, cabbages, wheat, lard, molasses, cider, spirits, rum, whiskey, vinegar, rice and salt. Many of these items are left blank on the Return, however, indicating that they were unattainable. Candles and soap, although inedible items, were also the responsibility of the Commissary Department.

The commissaries were divided into two groups: the Issuing Commissaries who, though civilians, often served with the troops and at military posts; and the Purchasing Commissaries who circulated about the country handling the business indicated by their title. It was with the latter that the army experienced the most trouble, not only from the difficulties they experienced in acquiring supplies but also because of the irregularities already noted, though in one instance an Issuing Commissary at Valley Forge was arrested for theft, convicted by court martial, and drummed out of camp in disgrace.

Since the business of the Purchasing Commissaries, rather than that of the Issuing Commissaries, better illustrates the difficulties of supply at Valley Forge, the story of the former will form the bulk of this essay. The Issuing Commissaries were undoubtedly paid on a salary basis rather than on the percentage system of the Purchasing Commissaries. The latter method was undoubtedly intended to promote more activity by the Purchasing Commissaries, but it also opened the business to the irregularities already noted.

The principal Commissary officer in charge of Middle Department purchasing during most of the winter of 1777-78 was William Buchanan, formerly lieutenant colonel in the Maryland Militia. Thus Buchanan was not a regular army officer, but technically a civilian. He had been appointed Deputy Commissary General of Purchases on June 18, 1777, then promoted full Commissary General on August 5 of the same year. Much of the ill-supervision of his department during his tenure in charge may be laid to Buchanan's lackadaisical activity, or rather his inactivity. This inactivity apparently was passed down from the head of the department to numbers of his subordinates, though certainly not to all. As early during the encampment period Washington was complaining, "at present neither the principal of the Department [Buchanan] nor any of his Deputies make their appearance in camp" to discuss with the chieftain matters of mutual interest.

On the following day, the 28th, Washington urged Buchanan to assume some activity. The Commander in Chief's letter read, "As the Season advances in which the bad weather and broken Roads will render the transporting of provision from any distance for the most part subject to considerable delay, and sometimes impracticable,

it becomes indispensably necessary to form with all possible expedition ample Magazines for our Winter Supply contiguous to the Rear of the Camp, and to embrace every favourable Opportunity of keeping them furnished. They ought never to have less than thirty days provisions in them.

"You will likewise extend your views to establishing the necessary Magazines for the next Campaign" expected in the spring. "The deputies in your department complain of a deficiency of Waggons, the power you have by virtue of your office of impressing them, if exerted, will certainly remedy this evil." But, despite this urging, Buchanan continued dilatory in his assigned tasks.

Not all the purchasing agents were in Buchanan's category, however. Notably, Ephraim Blaine of Pennsylvania, Deputy Commissary General for New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland, exerted his best efforts to rectify the deficiencies in the department, and earned the gratitude of Washington. Blaine's efforts were not enough, nevertheless, and the army at Valley Forge continued to face starvation or dissolution on more than one occasion.

Nor did the Commander in Chief solely blame the commissaries for the laxity of the department. Blame could be aimed elsewhere. For instance on January 20 Washington wrote to governor William Livingston of New Jersey, "I am pleased to find that your legislature have fixed a price circumscribing the avarice of your farmers, who like their neighbours" especially those in Pennsylvania "are endeavouring to take every advantage of the necessities of the Army" by demanding exorbitant prices for their produce. On the other hand the farmers contended that the constant depreciation of the Continental currency made it only fair that they should increase their prices. Also, with the frequent lack of any currency with which to pay for their agricultural purchases, the commissaries were forced to issue promissory notes to the farmers, which the latter distinctly distrusted.

Continued with next month issue

2004 CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - JOSEPH NOTES

2133 NW 208 TERR
PEMBROKE PINES FL 33029-2320
954-441-8735

VICE-PRESIDENT - GEORGE DENNIS

2771 SE 15 STREET
POMPANO BEACH FL 33062--7506
954-942-3081

SECRETARY - ED SPENCER

1811 NE 41 STREET
FORT LAUDERDALE FL 33308-5537
954-566-3719

TREASURER - ED SPENCER

1811 NE 41 STREET
FORT LAUDERDALE FL 33308-5537
954-566-3719

REGISTRAL-GENEALOGIST - TED DUAY

1641 SW 102 TERRACE
DAVIE FL 33324-7420

CHANCELLOR - EDWARD SULLIVAN, ESQ

2837 NE 27 STREET
FORT LAUDERDALE FL 33306-1912
954-564-1014

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - JOSEPH NOTES

2133 NW 208 TERR
PEMBROKE PINES FL 33029-2320
954-441-8735