



The Florida Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution
Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter
website: www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Organized November 26, 1966

JAN 2007

Volume 40 Number 1

Dear Compatriots:

Happy New Year!

It has been my pleasure to serve this year as President of the Fort Lauderdale Chapter, and I am truly grateful for the trust and support that you have extended to me.

The year 2006 was a successful one for the Fort Lauderdale Chapter. We added a number of new members to our ranks who I hope would accept the reins of leadership in the future by accepting officer positions within our chapter.

The Fort Lauderdale Chapter is well represented at the state and national level. Joe Motes, our Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, has been serving as the Recording Secretary of the Florida Society SAR. I have been serving as Chairman of the FLSSAR Audit Committee, Treasurer and Trustee of both the Florida SAR Endowment Trust Fund and the Florida SAR Operating Trust Fund, and as a member of both the NSSAR Budget Committee and the NSSAR Genealogy Committee. Jim Lohmeyer, your incoming President for 2007, has been faithfully attending the FLSSAR Board of Management meetings to learn about the Florida Society and meet fellow compatriots from throughout the state. Jim has shown faithful service to our chapter and will make an excellent President. I hope that everyone will show him the same faithful support that you have shown to me.

I would encourage and CHALLENGE all members of our chapter to be as active within our organization as they possibly can be. There are many worthwhile projects that we can tackle; all we need is the manpower!

In patriotism,

Ted Duay
President

The year 2006 has passed and it's time to reflect on it, but not dwell. Our SAR chapter achieved many good things, thanks to Ted and company. Now we need to look forward to 2007. With your guidance and help I look forward to another good year. One of our goals will be to increase attendance, Any suggestions?

Jim Lohmeyer / President Elect



SAR & DAR members enjoy the SAR/DAR joint luncheon held at the Lighthouse Point Yacht Club.

NOTE: Our guest speaker for this month's Installation Luncheon will be announced by Ted Duay by email within the next few day.

NEXT MEETING - JANUARY 27th

"Flaming Pit"

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

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

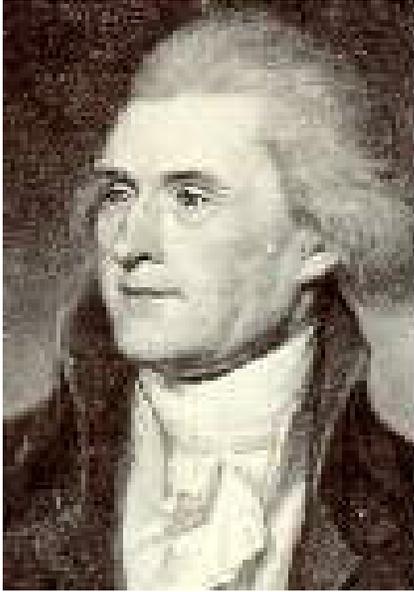
Buffet luncheon - \$15.00

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:

954-441-8735

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

Freemasonry and the American Revolution



Thomas Jefferson was not a Freemason nor was he part of any Illuminati Conspiracy

One of the core delusions of American Freemasons is that Freemasonry played a pivotal role in the American Revolution. Masonic efforts to promote this notion have successfully created a mythology that has seeped into mainstream historical texts. Gordon S. Wood reiterates the essential features of American Freemasonry's revolutionary mythology in a 'Pulitzer Prize' winning book, *"The Radicalism of the American Revolution"*. Mr. Wood sets the stage for his story by discussing the cosmopolitan nature of the American Revolution.

The truth was, said Thomas Paine in *Common Sense*, that Americans were the most cosmopolitan people in the world. They surmounted all local prejudices. They regarded everyone from different nations as their countryman and ignored neighborhoods, towns, and countries as "distinctions too limited for continental minds"... America, by uniting the different kindred of the earth, had a duty to eradicate national prejudices and to make all humanity members of one extensive family.

Mr. Wood then goes on to assert '*the importance of Masonry for the American Revolution*':

The institution that best embodied these ideals of sociability and cosmopolitanism was Freemasonry. It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of Masonry for the American Revolution. It not only created national icons that are still with us; it brought people together in new ways and helped fulfill the republican dream of reorganizing social relationships. For thousands of Americans, it was a major means by which they participated directly in the Enlightenment.

Freemasonry took on its modern role in Great Britain at the beginning of the eighteenth century. The first Grand Lodge was formed in London in 1717. By mid-century, English Masonry was strong enough to provide inspiration and example to a worldwide movement. Although Masonry first appeared in the North American colonies in the 1730s, it grew slowly until mid-century, when membership suddenly picked up. By the eve of the Revolution there were dozens of lodges up and down the continent. Many of the revolutionary leaders, including Washington, Franklin, Samuel Adams, Otis, Richard Henry Lee, Madison, and Hamilton, were members of the fraternity. The Revolution disrupted the organization but revitalized the movement; in the following decades Masonry exploded in numbers, fed by hosts of new recruits from deeper levels of the society. There were twenty-one lodges in Massachusetts by 1779; in the next twenty years fifty new ones were created, reaching out to embrace even small isolated communities on the frontiers of the state. Everywhere the same expansion took place. Masonry transformed the social landscape of the early Republic.

While Mr. Wood's story does a great job promoting Freemasonry, it plays fast and loose with the truth. Mr. Wood doesn't get his basic facts straight when he lists Richard Henry Lee, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton as Masons. In the book *"Freemasonry in American History"* the Masonic Scholar Allen E. Roberts specifically states that Hamilton and Lee were not Masons and that there is 'no proof' Madison was a Mason. Mr. Roberts mentions Samuel Adams in his book but does not cite him as a Mason. This omission suggests there is no evidence to support claims for Samuel Adams' membership in the Masonic fraternity. The errors made by Mr. Wood suggest he has fallen under the influence of Masonic mythologists and, like many Masons, grossly exaggerated '*the importance of Masonry for the American Revolution*' by misleading people about the Masonic affiliations of some important American Revolutionaries.

While some Freemasons joined the Revolutionary cause, the vast majorities of American Revolutionaries were not members of the Masonic fraternity. Important Revolutionary leaders like Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, John Adams, and Patrick Henry were not Freemasons. Of the fifty-six signers Declaration of Independence only eight or nine can be shown to have been Freemasons.

While Masons shamelessly promote George Washington's membership and sometimes allege his persevering zeal for the Masonic fraternity, his commitment to the organization is unclear. In 1798 Washington wrote to a Reverend Synder, '*to correct an error you have run into, of my presiding over the English Lodges in this country. The fact is I preside over none, nor have I been in one more than once or twice in the last thirty years.*' As early as 1780, Washington called Freemasonry "*Childs Play*" and subsequently announced to a committee of right worshipfuls of King David's Lodge, that *it was not agreeable to him to be addressed as a Mason*. When Washington retired to private life, Freemasons Andrew Jackson and Edward Livingston were two of the three men to vote AGAINST Congressional resolutions giving thanks to this great man. It is unclear whether the third man was also a Mason.

Benjamin Franklin was a Freemason whose unique socializing skills included attending gatherings of the English Hell Fire Club, a secret society focused on sex, pornography and politics.[6] When a relation asked about becoming a Mason, Franklin replied with his characteristic humor and candor, “*one fool in any family is enough.*” General Lafayette, another Mason, does not appear to have joined (been recruited into?) a French Masonic lodge until the Revolutionary war was virtually over. After the war Masons lavished General Lafayette with higher Masonic degrees. General Lafayette once remarked with irony, as he was pulled around New York, “*To-morrow, I am to visit the schools; I am to dine with the Mayor; and in the evening, I suppose, I am to be made VERY WISE by the Masons.*” Another notable revolutionary Freemason was the traitor Benedict Arnold.

Mr. Wood continues his discussion of Freemasonry by presenting his vision of an ‘*enlightened cosmopolitan dream*’. Freemasonry was a surrogate religion for an Enlightenment suspicious of traditional Christianity. It offered ritual, mystery, and congregativeness without the enthusiasm and sectarian bigotry of organized religion. But Masonry was not only an enlightened institution; it was a republican one as well. It repudiated the monarchical hierarchy of family and favoritism and created a new hierarchical order that rested on “real Worth and personal Merit” and “brotherly affection and sincerity. “ Masonry was an organization designed to maintain the familiarity of personal relationships in a society that was coming apart. It created an “artificial consanguinity,” declared De Witt Clinton, that operated “with as much force and effect, as the natural relationship of blood.” It was intended to bring people together who did not know each other as well as they had in the past. The Masonic lodges, declared Charles Brockwell in 1750, were a means by which men who differed in everyday affairs, even in occupation, social rank, and religion, could “all meet amicably, and converse sociably together.” There in the lodges “we all discover no estrangement of behavior, nor alienation of affection. “ Masonry was looking for the lowest common denominator of unity and harmony in a society increasingly diverse and fragmented. It became “the Center of Union and the means of conciliating friendship among men that might otherwise have remained at perpetual distance.” That strangers, removed from their families and neighbors, could come together in such brotherly love seemed a vindication of the enlightened hope that the force of love might indeed be made to flow outward from the self. A Mason found himself “belonging, not to one particular place only, but to places without number, and in almost every quarter of the globe; to whom, by a kind of universal language, he can make himself known and from whom we can, if in distress, be sure to receive relief and protection.” This was the enlightened cosmopolitan dream.

After stripping away the spin, one finds, Mr. Wood has identified some key features of post-Revolutionary War Freemasonry. In particular:

Freemasonry worked to create ‘*a new hierarchical order*’
 Freemasonry afforded *members* an extended support network
 Freemasonry was a ‘*surrogate religion*’
 Freemasonry promoted itself as ‘*enlightened*’, while characterizing Christian belief as ‘*sectarian bigotry*’
 These features provide a basis for an alternative interpretation of Freemasonry’s role in American society.

The American Revolution had a profound impact on the America’s Masonic lodges. It should come as no surprise that many American Masons were swept up in the spirit of non-Masonic giants like Thomas Jefferson. However, Freemasons were inherently ideologically opposed to the egalitarian beliefs of America’s revolutionaries. After the war was over many Masons, who had benefited from strong ties to the English Monarchy’s hierarchical and class oriented structure, worked to create ‘*a new hierarchical order*’ which could preserve and promote exclusive membership privileges in a country without a ruling monarch. While American Freemasonry evolved to survive and thrive, its roots in exclusionary ruling class unionism made it a home for those working against the real principals of the American Revolution. American Freemasonry’s dishonest ‘*revolutionary*’ mythology is just a smokescreen used to obscure to the membership’s self-serving objectives and to pander to the brotherhood’s delusions of greatness. While Mr. Wood describes Freemasonry as a ‘*surrogate religion*’, an acknowledged Mason once described the organization as an all-encompassing ‘*Universal Religion*’.

The Masons regularly raise charges of bigotry and hate mongering for any person or organization that might question the beliefs and mythology of their ‘*surrogate religion*’. To characterize organized religion as ‘*sectarian bigotry*’ is hypocrisy when discussing American Masonic lodges that have served as a bulwark of institutionalized sexism and racial segregation with their separate Prince Hall Lodges for African Americans.

It also works to position organized Christian religion as an ethical inferior to Freemasonry. Positioning Freemasonry as ethically superior to organized Christian religion and any other religious system of belief is consistent with the objective of Masons to position themselves at the top of a social hierarchy. It has nothing to do with the vision of religious freedom espoused by revolutionaries, like Thomas Jefferson. It also fails to acknowledge the important role of the Religion of the American Revolution.

Fort Lauderdale Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
2133 NW 208 Terr
Pembroke Pines FL 33029-2320

FIRST CLASS MAIL

2007 CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - JAMES LOHMEYER
15862 SW 14 STREET
PEMBROKE PINES FL 33027-2361
954-436-1156

VICE-PRES / REGISTRAR / GENEALOGIST - TED DUAY III
1641 SW 102 TERRACE
DAVIE FL 33324-7420
954-473-2754

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

TREASURER / SGT-AT-ARMS - JOSEPH MOTES
2133 NW 208 TERR
PEMBROKE PINES FL 33029-2320
954-441-8735

CHANCELLOR - EDWARD SULLIVAN, ESQ
2837 NE 27 STREET
FORT LAUDERDALE FL 33306-1912
954-564-1014

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - JOSEPH MOTES
2133 NW 208 TERR
PEMBROKE PINES FL 33029-2320
954-441-8735



Chapter Vice President, Jim Lohmeyer, emphasizes a point at the December 2, 2006 joint SAR/DAR luncheon.

