



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



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Organized November 26, 1966

JULY 2003

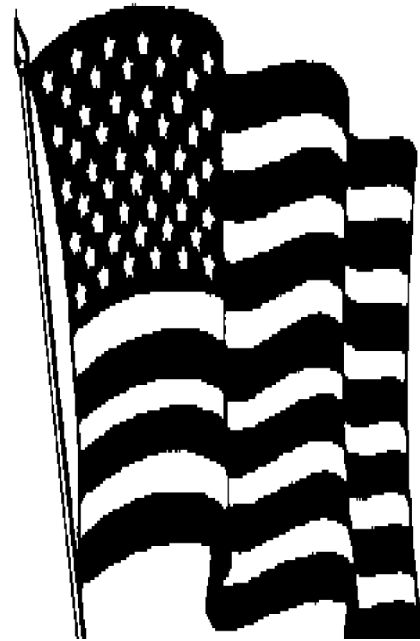
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## ROTC Awards for 2003 by Joseph Motes

As the 2002 academic year came to an end, our Chapter has made this another successful year. In my conversation with many of the unit CO's, they have expressed how grateful they are for our involvement in their Awards Recognition program. My personal thanks go out to George Dennis who helped make all these presentations a success. This year we had 20 recipients, with the addition of the new US Navy Sea Cadets, this cadet was the recipient of the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal.

Boyd Anderson High  
Charles Flanagan High  
Coconut Creek High  
Coral Springs High  
Cypress Bay High  
Deerfield Beach High  
Dillard High  
Fort Lauderdale High  
Hallandale High  
McArthur High  
Miramar High  
Northeast High  
Piper High  
Plantation High  
Pompano Beach High  
South Broward High  
South Plantation High  
Stranahan High  
Taravella High  
Western High  
US Navy Sea Cadets  
US NAVY S

Germain Mullings  
Alexander Garcia  
George Garcia  
Brandon Howard  
Amos Eshel  
Marc Vertinord  
Ashley Denis  
Stephen Stenberg  
Keeno Drumond  
Ruben Rodriguez  
Charles Sheffield  
Erik Pluemer  
Melissa Torres  
Kelix L DeJesus  
Andrew Paul-Hus  
Kern Dieudonne  
Gary Harden  
Ricardo Baraybar  
Pierce Torres  
Zachary Pennebaker  
Eric Balcunas



**NEXT MEETING - JULY 10th  
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*Members living in North Broward need to dial the area code plus the phone number, or e-mail me at: [JoeMotes@aol.com](mailto:JoeMotes@aol.com)*

## The Battle for Philadelphia

Part 10 of 12 continues from last month

### Skirmishing

On his march to Chestnut Hill, Cornwallis's column was fired upon by Captain McLane's patrol stationed at Beggar Town (modern Mount Airy). Before falling back, McLane sent a message to Washington, letting him know the British were moving toward Whitmarsh. In retaliation for being fired upon, the British burned yet another house which harbored American riflemen.

The British arrived at Chestnut Hill at dawn. Cornwallis, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Abercrombie of the Light Infantry headed out along the Bethlehem Pike to reconnoiter the American position. They saw countless campfires blazing in the hills. What they didn't know was that Washington had ordered his men to make extra campfires so as to deceive the British as to true troop strength.

Washington sent out General James Irvine and about 600 Pennsylvania militiamen to meet Cornwallis. The Americans fired first and drew heavy return fire from the British. The militiamen were unable to respond to the disciplined reaction from the British platoons. Instead of fighting, they headed for cover. Heavy skirmishing followed which the British got much the better of.

Two musket balls threw General Irvine from his horse. One shot grazed his head, while another took three fingers from his left hand. Dozens of Americans were wounded, killed or captured in the brief engagement. The British losses were light.

While retreating, the Americans were intercepted by a Hessian column who had outflanked them. In a panic, the Americans hightailed it for the hills.

The British marched down Bethlehem Pike to St. Thomas Episcopal church where they encamped. They spent a night in "weather [that] was excessive cold." In the morning, General Howe came to the church to survey the American position. From the church tower, he found the American position which was just half a mile away, to be strongly defended. Even as Howe was looking on, the Americans continuing to fortify their defenses. Howe could also see that the Americans were sending reinforcement to bolster their defenses.

Regardless, Howe decided to probe the enemy with artillery fire. But the shells couldn't reach the American lines. Howe withdrew and decided to try an attack on the American left. On the way, he split his column to form against the American center and left. Howe formed solidly on high ground, but the Americans were on higher ground even still.

For once the American forces controlled the flow of action. On the 6th, when the British shifted toward the center, the Americans fluidly sent extra troops to follow them. Howe, who loved using flanking maneuvers, was unable to do so as the Americans in the hills could see everything he tried to do. In fact, Howe's own flank would have been vulnerable if he tried such a feint.

December 7, 1777

On the 7th, Washington discovered Howe shifting his troops toward Edge Hill where Daniel Morgan's riflemen were posted. This was the left-center of the American position. Morgan, along with Colonel Gist's Maryland troops assaulted the British 1st Light Infantry in "guerrilla" fighting. Using trees and rocks as cover, the Americans gave the British all they could handle, and "the Battle of Edge Hill" dragged on throughout the day. Ultimately, Cornwallis brought his 33rd Regiment into the action, whereupon Morgan decided it was best to withdraw. Casualties numbered about 40 on both sides.

As Morgan was retreating, Howe began a preplanned probe of the American center. He sent a detachment of British Grenadiers toward the Americans, but Major Baurmeister reported it to be well-defended with "strong abatis," "trenches," and "nine uncovered pieces" of artillery.

Meanwhile, British General "No Flint" Grey was straining to get into the action. Howe instructed Grey to hold his troops until Howe's own troops had been able to advance. So Grey dutifully reined in his Rangers. But since Howe discerned no weakness after probing the American lines, he had been unable to move. Grey, meanwhile, waited past the time he had expected to move, then decided to march on his own.

Accompanied by Light Infantry and Queens Rangers he marched toward the American center. Shortly after starting out, they ran into musketry fire which probably came from the Marylanders retreating from Cornwallis's foray earlier in the day. A new battle began on the edge of Edge Hill, which the Americans got the worst of, suffering over a dozen casualties. Grey continued on.

Albert Rosenthal after C.W. Peale, 1907, Portrait Gallery (Second Bank)  
John Cadwalader

As he pushed forward, Grey cut off Americans Colonel Joseph Reed and General John Cadwalader from the American line. Reed was rendered helpless after falling from his horse which had been had been shot. He was beset by a host of Hessians bearing barbaric bayonets. Cadwalader drew his sword an prepared to defend his friend to the death.

Just then the cavalry rode in to save the day.

Captain Allen McLane, at the head of a squad of horseman, ordered a charge. The Hessians fled and McLane rescued the two American officers. The Cavalry had saved the day.

Shortly after this, the 2nd Continental Regiment attacked Grey's troops halting the British forward movement. Grey, thinking he was outnumbered and feeling he had accomplished his original goal of softening the American position, withdrew.

As night fell two Hessian regiments were brought in to solidify the British line. All seemed in place for another major engagement the next day.

Come sunrise though, Howe was in no mood to fight. The prior nights had been too cold for his liking. Further, he had used up his two-day supply of provisions. His only real offensive threat appeared to be a very wide flanking movement to the east which many of his officers favored. But Howe thought that the American position was too strong to attempt such a movement. The comforts of city life beckoned the soft general. Thus, on the afternoon of the 8th, the British started marching back to Philadelphia.

American cavalry and foot soldiers were sent at the rear of the retreating British column forcing Jagers to turn around, form on elevations, and shoo the pesky Americans away. Finally, some British cannon blasts convinced the Americans they had chased the British far enough.

Surgeon Albigeance Waldo commented, "We were all chagrin'd [at the British retreat] as we were more willing to chase them in the rear than meet such sulkey dogs in front. We were now remanded back [to quarters] with several draughts of rum in our frozen bellies, which made me glad, and we all fell asleep in our open huts, or experienced the coldness of the night."

Washington rued the turn of events. On December 10th he wrote the following report to Congress.

I sincerely wish they had made an attack, as the issue, in all probability, from the disposition of our troops, and the strong situation of our camp, would have been fortunate and happy. At the same time I must add, that treason, prudence, and every principle of policy, forbade us quitting our post to attack them. Nothing but success would have justified the measure; and this could not be expected from their position.

[Click here for full text of Washington's report.](#)

Howe's foray against the Americans at Whitemarsh had gained him nothing. A local Tory could not understand Howe's mindset. He wrote that it seemed "as if the sole purpose of the expedition was to destroy and spread devastation and ruin, to dispose the inhabitants to rebellion be despoiling their property."

The three day campaign had resulted in over 300 casualties. The Americans casualties numbered nearly 100.

Parliament, as displeased as the American Congress with the pace of the war, would soon hear word of yet another futile expedition.

Meanwhile, Washington could not remain at Whitemarsh indefinitely. Though he had held off the British once, there was no guarantee that he could repulse them a second time. Further, Whitemarsh was just too close for comfort to the British in Philadelphia. And Whitemarsh was also not a particularly good location for a winter camp. It was too spread out too hard to supply.

On the 11th, Washington broke camp at Whitemarsh and headed over the Schuylkill yet one more time.

In eight days the American army would wind up at a small village along the Schuylkill -- Valley Forge.

## The British in Philadelphia

On September 26, the British proudly marched into Philadelphia.

In anticipation of their arrival, the capital was abandoned by the Patriots and many in the business community.

Things were in turmoil until the forts held by the Patriots were taken by the British and a steady supply of food and equipment flowed into the city.

They were ready to fully settle in for a warm, cozy, and party-filled winter.

When the French Alliance was announced, the occupying British feared an attack from the French armada and quickly abandoned the city, leaving the Tories unprotected and frightened.

### The British in Philadelphia: Part 1 of 2

#### The British Occupy the Capital

On September 26, the British occupied Philadelphia. In anticipation of their arrival, many Patriots and businessman had abandoned the city. Further, Washington's soldiers had looted Philadelphia, taking anything that might have been of use to the British.

Those citizens who remained were a mixture of Loyalists, Quakers, and the poor. Three fourths of the population were woman and children. Most looked forward to British rule -- after all they had always considered themselves loyal English citizens. Moreover, they had long chafed under the excessive zeal of the Patriots who had been running the city.

British officers quartered in the finest houses, merchants from other towns started moving in, and a puppet government composed of naive Tories was established.

#### A City in Turmoil

But the city was in turmoil. Churches were turned into hospitals as wounded from the Battles of Brandywine and Germantown were tended to. The Walnut Street Gaol was filled with American Prisoners of War. Food, clothing, and firewood were scarce as an American blockade effectively kept supplies from the city.

#### The River is Opened

But on November 16, the British captured two forts along the Delaware River which had kept supplies from coming into the city -- now they were ready to fully settle in for a warm, cozy, and party-filled winter.

But most Philadelphians had something new to worry about. While food started to trickle in, it was outrageously expensive. Most did not have the hard money necessary to pay for goods. An ever-increasing amount of looting began occurring, as did assaults and other crimes.

#### Quakers in the City

Quakers, who did not gamble, dance, or go to theater were now living in a city of revelry where plays were performed, affairs were carried on in public, weekly balls were held at City Tavern, and gambling was a main form of entertainment.

#### Scrapes and Minor Attacks

Lord Howe, instead of attempting a winter assault on the cold, vulnerable Americans instead chose to concentrate on dubious foraging expeditions and attacks on isolated posts. While they attacks were often successful, they cast a predatory character upon the British and aroused a whole bunch of bitterness.

#### Farewell Howe, Hello Clinton

The British government grew dissatisfied with the results of Howe's campaign and recalled him to England replaced by Henry Clinton.

Howe's fond officers prepared a party called the Meschianza for their departing leader. The Meschianza attended by the Tory belles of Philadelphia featured jousting, flower-festooned floats, and the most sumptuous meal in the city's history.

That very night, Howe prepared an assault against the Marquis de Lafayette at Barren Hill. He promised his guests they would be dining with the captured Frenchman the following day. They didn't.

### The French Alliance

Late in Spring news of the French Alliance reached the British who feared being trapped in Philadelphia by French warships blockading the Delaware River and they opted to leave for New York.

Tory citizens were appalled that the British had decided to leave. They offered to raise 3,000 men if 2,000 British would stay to occupy the city. Howe left them hanging by urging them to make terms with Congress. The most active Tories left with the British.

In the end, the British slipped out of town. "They did not go away, they vanished."

## What Happened at Valley Forge

No battle was fought at Valley Forge. Yet, it was the turning point of the Revolutionary War. It was here that the Continental army was desperately against the ropes -- bloody, beaten, battle-weary -- and ready to quit. Even General Washington conceded, "If the army does not get help soon, in all likelihood it will disband."

The question must be asked, "Why didn't they disband?"

We know what happened here. Early into the six-month encampment, there was hunger, disease, and despair. Raw weather stung and numbed the soldiers. Empty stomachs were common. Cries of "beef" echoed throughout the camp. The future promised only more desperation and starvation.

Some couldn't take the cold, hunger, and uncertainty any longer. There were dozens of desertions. Disease debilitated. Death descended in droves.

Charles Willson Peale, 1781-82, Portrait Gallery (Second Bank)  
Baron Von Steuben



But by February the weather eased somewhat -- moving from brutal to merely miserable. In March, General Nathanael Greene was appointed head of the dismal Commissary Department and magically food and supplies started to trickle in. By April, Baron von Steuben, a quirky mercenary who was not really a baron, began to magically transform threadbare troops into a fighting force. Also in April, the Conway Cabal, a plot to remove George Washington from power, was quashed for good. May, brought news of the French Alliance, and with it the military and financial support of France.

On June 19, 1778, exactly six months after they Americans arrived, a new army anxious to fight the British streamed out of Valley Forge toward New Jersey. They had been transformed from Rebel into a Mature Army.

At Valley Forge, we read of words like "sacrifice" and conjure up images of bloody footprints, but the concept of suffering for freedom isn't easily understood. What kept these men going? What happened at Valley Forge?

## TIMELINE

Events leading up to the War

The French and Indian War (1754-63)

The Sugar Act (4/5/1764)

The Stamp Act (3/22/1765)

Patrick Henry's "If This Be Treason" speech (5/29/1765)

The Stamp Act Congress (10/7-25/1765)

Townshend Act (6/29/1767)

Disturbances in Boston

The Boston Massacre (3/5/1770)

The Boston Tea Party (12/16/1773)

The First Continental Congress (Philadelphia, 9/5-10/26/1774)

1775: The War Begins

The Rides of Paul Revere and William Dawes (4/18)

The Battles of Lexington and Concord (4/19)

Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys Seize Fort Ticonderoga (5/10)

The Second Continental Congress (met in Philadelphia, 5/10)

Washington named Commander in Chief (6/15)

Battle of Bunker Hill (fought on Breed's Hill) (6/17)

Montgomery captures Montreal for Americans (11/13)

Benedict Arnold's failed attack on Quebec (12/30)

- 1776: The Year of Independence  
 Paine's "Common Sense" published (1/15)  
 Patriot triumph at Moore's Creek, NC (2/27)  
 Continental fleet captures New Providence Island in the Bahamas (3/3)  
 The British evacuate Boston (3/17)  
 Richard Henry Lee proposes Independence (6/7)  
 British defence of Fort Moultrie, SC (6/28)  
 Declaration of Independence adopted (7/4)  
 Declaration of Independence signed (8/2)  
 Arrival of 30,000 British troops in New York harbor  
 British win the Battle of Long Island (Battle of Brooklyn) (8/27-30)  
 British occupy New York City (9/15)  
 British win the Battle of Harlem Heights (9/16)  
 Benedict Arnold defeated at Lake Champlain (10/11)  
 American retreat at the Battle of White Plains (10/28)  
 British capture Fort Washington, NY and Fort Lee, NJ (11/16)  
 Washington Crosses the Delaware and captures Trenton (12/26)
- 1777: The War for the North  
 Washington wins the Battle of Princeton (1/3)  
 Washington winters in Morristown, NJ (1/6-5/28)  
 Flag Resolution (flag possibly designed by Hopkinson, likely sewn by Betsy Ross) (6/14)  
 St. Clair surrenders Fort Ticonderoga to the British (7/5)  
 Lafayette arrives in Philadelphia (7/27)  
 Americans under Herkimer defeat the British under St. Leger at Fort Stanwix, in the Mohawk Valley in Oriskany, New York (8/6)  
 American Militia under General Stark triumph over Hessians at Bennington (8/16)  
 British General Howe lands at Head of Elk, Maryland (8/25)  
 British success at the Battle of Brandywine, PA (9/11)  
 Rain-out at the Battle of the Clouds, PA (9/16)  
 Burgoyne checked by Americans under Gates at Freeman's Farm, NY (9/19)  
 Paoli Massacre, PA (9/21)
- British under Howe occupy Philadelphia (9/26)  
 Americans driven off at the Battle of Germantown (10/4)  
 Burgoyne loses second battle of Freeman's Farm, NY (at Bemis Heights) (10/7)
- Burgoyne surrenders to American General Gates at Saratoga, NY (10/17)  
 Hessian attack on Fort Mercer, NJ repulsed (10/22)  
 British capture Fort Mifflin, PA (11/16)  
 Americans repulse British at Whitemarsh, PA (12/5-7)  
 The Winter at Valley Forge, PA (12/19/77-6/19/78)
- 1778: Valley Forge and the French Alliance  
 The French Alliance (2/6)  
 British General William Howe replaced by Henry Clinton (3/7)  
 Van Steuben arrives at Valley Forge  
 Battle of Barren Hill, PA (5/20)  
 Washington fights to a draw at Battle of Monmouth (6/28)  
 George Rogers Clark captured Kaskaskia, a French village near Detroit (7/4)  
 French and American forces besiege Newport, RI (8/8)  
 British occupy Savannah, GA (12/29)
- 1779: The War Spreads  
 Militia beat Tories at Kettle Creek, NC (2/14)  
 American George Rogers Clark captures Vincennes on the Wabash in the Western campaign (2/25)  
 Fairfield, CT, burned by British (7/8)  
 Norwalk, CT, burned by British (7/11)  
 American "Mad" Anthony Wayne captures Stony Point, NY (7/15-16)  
 "Light Horse" Harry Lee attacks Paulus Hook, NJ (8/19)  
 John Paul Jones, aboard the Bonhomme Richard, captures British man-of-war Serapis near English coast (9/23)  
 The Tappan Massacre ("No Flint" Grey kills 30 Americans by bayonet) (9/28)  
 American attempt to recapture Savannah, GA fails (10/9)  
 Coldest Winter of the war, Washington at Morristown, NJ
- 1780: The Campaign for the South  
 British capture Charleston, SC (5/12)  
 British crush Americans at Waxhaw Creek, SC (5/29)  
 Patriots rout Tories at Ramseur's Mill, NC (6/20)  
 French troops arrive at Newport, RI, to aid the American cause (7/11)  
 Patriots defeat Tories at Hanging Rock, SC (8/6)  
 British rout Americans at Camden, SC (8/16)

Benedict Arnold's plans to cede West Point to the British discovered (9/25)

King's Mountain, SC: battle lasted 65 minutes. American troops led by Isaac Shelby and John Sevier defeated Maj. Patrick Ferguson and one-third of General Cornwallis' army. (10/7)

Washington names Nathanael Greene commander of the Southern Army (10/14)

1781: All But Done

Mutiny of unpaid Pennsylvania soldiers (1/1)

Patriot Morgan overwhelming defeated British Col. Tarleton at Cowpens, SC (1/17)

Articles of Confederation adopted (3/2)

British win costly victory at Guilford Courthouse, NC (3/15)

Greene defeated at Hobkirk's Hill, SC (4/25)

Cornwallis clashed with Greene at Guilford Courthouse, NC (5/15)

Americans recapture Augusta, GA (6/6)

British hold off Americans at Ninety Six, SC (6/18)

"Mad" Anthony Wayne repulsed at Green Springs Farm, VA (7/6)

Greene defeated at Eutaw Springs, SC (9/8)

French fleet drove British naval force from Chesapeake Bay (9/15)

Cornwallis surrounded on land and sea by Americans and French and surrenders at Yorktown, VA (10/19)

1782 and Beyond

Lord North resigned as British Prime Minister (3/20/82)

British evacuated Savannah, GA (7/11/82)

British sign Articles of Peace (11/30/82)

British leave Charleston, SC (12/14/82)

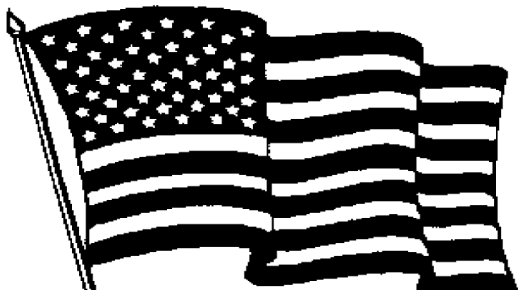
Congress ratifies preliminary peace treaty (4/19/83)

Treaty of Paris (9/3/83)

British troops leave New York (11/25/83)

Washington Resigns as Commander (12/23/83)

U.S. Constitution ratified (9/17/87)



## People

The American Revolutionary War is the story of people. Each of these people played a role in the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777. Some are from this project, others will link you to another project from the IHA, Historic Valley Forge, and some will link you to work done by others.

### John McKinly (1721-1796)

McKinly, born in Ireland, moved to Wilmington, Delaware and established a successful medical practice. He held several important posts and positions in Colonial Delaware, serving variously as sheriff, chief Burgess of Wilmington, Assembly member, and as a member of the Committee of Correspondence. He played an active role in the militia as well. In February 1777, McKinly was chosen Commander and Chief and President of Delaware.

After the British were victorious at the Battle of Brandywine, General Howe sent several brigades of troops to occupy nearby Wilmington. In the early morning hours of September 13, 1777, President McKinly was taken prisoner by these troops. Initially the British imprisoned him in Philadelphia, but then took their valuable prize to New York City after the city was abandoned in June 1778.

McKinly was paroled in August 1778, and shortly thereafter exchanged for William Franklin, Loyalist Governor of New Jersey, and Benjamin Franklin's son. After his release, McKinly shunned political life, instead choosing to resume his medical practice. Though he was subsequently elected to the Continental Congress, he opted not to serve.

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