



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



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**Piper High Cadet Nicholas F Figueroa received his JROTC Medal from ROTC Chapter Chairman Joe Motes.**



**Chapter President Mike Evans presents the JROTC Medal to Coconut Creek High School Cadet Jesse Diaz.**



**Deerfield Beach High Cadet Jhonnas Silva is presented his ROTC Medal by JROTC Chairman Joe Motes.**

## Message from our Present

Special Thanks to all members who attends our last meeting. Ed Sullivan was a gentleman and honored us with the presence of his lovely wife.

Richard Jones did a wonderful job in being our dinner speaker. His topic was that of the Battle of Gilford Courthouse. We were shown the battle site as reenactors fought the battle before a large crowd. Rich gave a detailed account of the battle paying special attention to the roll of a certain "horse."

This month , Ed Sullivan will be our speaker at the monthly meeting at the Tower Club. For those that will be attending please contact Mike Evans, Joe Motes will be out of town and not able to attend. You can call me at 341-9285 and leave a message on the answering machine as to how many will be in your party. If you would like leave your phone number, and I will call you back to confirm.

I look foward to seeing you there. And have a safe journey until then.

Sincerely, Mike

*NEXT MEETING - JUNE 14th  
TOWER CLUB !!!*

*\$18.00 INCL. TAX AND TIP  
11:30 SOCIAL 12:00 LUNCH  
28TH FLOOR BANK OF AMERICA  
1 FINANCIAL TOWER  
SE 3RD AVE & BROWARD BLVD  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:*

*954-341-9285*

*Members living in South Broward need to dial the  
area code plus the phone number,  
or e-mail me at: Va60inf@aol.com*

## A New Nation 1784 to 1790

*Continued from last month's issue*

**June 25, 1788** - In Virginia, the Federalists, led by James Madison, finally prevail as ratification of the Constitution (with a proposed bill of rights and 20 other changes) is endorsed by a close vote of 89 to 75.

**July 2, 1788** - A formal announcement is made by the president of Congress that the Constitution of the United States is now in effect, having been ratified by the required nine states.

**July 8, 1788** - A committee in the old Congress (still under the Articles of Confederation) is established to prepare for an orderly transfer of power, including procedures for electing representatives to the first Congress under the new Constitution and procedures for choosing the electors of the first president.

**July 26, 1788** - The state of New York votes 30 to 27 to endorse ratification while also recommending a bill of rights be included.

**September 13, 1788** - New York City is chosen by Congress to be the temporary seat of the new U.S. government.

**October-December** - Commodity prices stabilize, spurring economic recovery and a gradual return to pre-war levels of prosperity.

**November 1, 1788** - The old Congress, operating under the Articles of Confederation, adjourns. The U.S. is temporarily without a central government.

**November 21, 1788** - North Carolina endorses the Constitution by a vote of 194 to 77.

**December 23, 1788** - Maryland proposes giving a 10 square-mile area along the Potomac River for the establishment of a federal town to be the new seat of the U.S. government.

**January 7, 1789** - Presidential electors are chosen in the 11 ratifying states, except New York.

**January 23, 1789** - Georgetown University, the first Catholic college in the U.S., is founded by Father John Carroll.

**February 4, 1789** - Ballots are cast in the first presidential election, to be counted on April 6.

**March 4, 1789** - The first Congress convenes in New York City, but is unable to achieve a quorum, since most members are still traveling there.

**April 1, 1789** - A quorum is reached in Congress with 30 of 59 members present and the House of Representatives begins to function. Of the 59 members, 54 had also been delegates to the constitutional convention.

**April 6, 1789** - In the Senate, with 9 of 22 senators present, the presidential ballots cast on Feb. 4 are counted. George Washington is the unanimous choice for President with 69 votes. John Adams is elected Vice President with 34 votes. Messengers are then sent to inform Washington and Adams.

**April 14, 1789** - Charles Thomson, secretary of Congress, arrives at Mount Vernon and informs George Washington of his election as President. Two days later, Washington leaves for New York City.

**April 21, 1789** - John Adams arrives in New York and is sworn in as Vice President, then takes his seat as presiding officer of the Senate.

**April 23, 1789** - After an eight day triumphal journey, Washington arrives in New York City.

**April 30, 1789** - On the balcony of New York's Federal Hall, George Washington, at age 57, is sworn in as the first President of the United States. He then enters the Senate chamber to deliver his inaugural address.

**May 7, 1789** - The first inaugural ball occurs in honor of President Washington.

**June 1, 1789** - In its first act, Congress establishes the procedure for administering oaths of office.

**July 4, 1789** - Congress passes its first tax, an 8.5 percent protective tax on 30 different items, with items arriving on American ships charged at a lower rate than foreign ships.

**July 14, 1789** - In France, the French Revolution begins with the fall of the Bastille in Paris, an event witnessed by the American ambassador, Thomas Jefferson.

**July 20, 1789** - Congress passes the Tonnage Act of 1789 levying a 50 cents per ton tax on foreign ships entering American ports, 30 cents per ton on American built but foreign owned ships, and 6 cents per ton on American ships.

**July 27, 1789** - Congress begins organization of the departments of government with the establishment of the Department of Foreign Affairs, later renamed the Department of State. Followed by the War Department (Aug. 7) Treasury Dept. (Sept. 2) and Postmaster General under the Treasury Dept. (Sept. 2).

**September 22, 1789** - The Federal Judiciary Act passed by Congress establishes a six-man Supreme Court, attorney general, 13 federal district courts and 3 circuit courts. All federal cases would originate in the district court and, if appealed, would go to the circuit court and from there to the Supreme Court.

**September 25, 1789** - Congress submits 12 proposed constitutional amendments to the states for ratification. The first ten will be ratified and added to the Constitution in 1791 as the .

**September 29, 1789** - The U.S. Army is established by Congress. Totaling 1000 men, it consists of one regiment of eight infantry companies and one battalion of four artillery companies.

**November 26, 1789** - A Day of Thanksgiving is established by a congressional resolution and a proclamation by George Washington.

**March 1, 1790** - A Census Act is passed by Congress. The first census, finished on Aug. 1, indicates a total population of nearly 4 million persons in the U.S. and western territories. African Americans make up 19 percent of the population, with 90 percent living in the South. Native Americans were not counted, although there were likely over 80 tribes with 150,000 persons. For white Americans, the average age is under 16. Most white families are large, with an average of eight children born. The white population will double every 22 years.

The largest American city is Philadelphia, with 42,000 persons, followed by New York (33,000) Boston (18,000) Charleston (16,000) and Baltimore (13,000). The majority of Americans are involved in agricultural pursuits, with little industrial activity occurring at this time.

**April 17, 1790** - Benjamin Franklin dies in Philadelphia at age 84. His funeral four days later draws over 20,000 mourners.

**July 10, 1790** - The House of Representatives votes to locate the national capital on a 10 square-mile site along the Potomac, with President George Washington choosing the exact location.

### *Stories of Spies and Letters*

## **Take the Money and Run**

### **April/May 1775 -- Rachel Revere to Paul Revere**

Paul Revere was one of the original members of the Sons of Liberty rebel organization and played a large role in popularizing resistance to the Stamp Act and the Boston Massacre through his widely circulated engravings of the events. In addition to his silversmith and engraving skills, Revere was also an accomplished horse rider and frequently rode as a courier between rebel leaders.

On April 18, 1775, Revere learned of General Gage's plans for a midnight raid on the town of Concord to seize the rebel colonists' store of weapons. Revere immediately set out on horseback to warn patriot leaders John Hancock and Sam Adams in Lexington that the British were marching to seize rebel leaders and weapons. After delivering his message in Lexington, Revere continued on to Concord where he was captured and questioned by British troops. In their hurry to return to Concord, the British officers decided to release Revere. However, they took his horse, forcing him to return to Lexington on foot.

Paul Revere's wife, , sent this concerned letter to her husband as he tried to make his way home, horseless and without funds. Rachel entrusted the letter and 125 pounds to to deliver to her husband. Church was a member of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts and the surgeon general of Washington's troops. Rachel and the rebel leaders did not know that Church was also a spy for the British and reported to General Gage the movements and strategies of the rebel forces. Instead of giving the letter to Paul Revere, Church delivered this letter to General Gage. No mention

was ever made of the money Rachel sent in Church's report to Gage and it is presumed that he kept the money. Church was eventually apprehended in October of 1775 when his mistress was captured secreting one of Church's letters to General Gage. Church was imprisoned until 1777 when he was allowed to set sail to the West Indies. His ship was declared lost at sea.



**ROTC Chapter Chairman Joe Motes presents the ROTC Medal to Miramar High School Cadet Maria Gonzalez.**

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## **The Mad Scientist**

### **May 6, 1775 - Benjamin Thompson to Gage's Staff**

Benjamin Thompson, one of the earliest and most famous American scientists, did not believe in the American rebellion. In this letter, Thompson did not hide his leanings towards the loyalist cause, but he did use to include secret text within the body of his letter. The secret letter is proof of Thompson's previously suspected intelligence work for the British Army. Thompson wrote this letter from Woburn, Massachusetts because he had been run out of his hometown in New Hampshire for sending British deserters back to Gage's headquarters in Boston. In the beginning of the letter, Thompson briefly mentioned the Battle of Lexington and Concord that had happened two weeks prior, stating that Gage has "already better intelligence of them affairs than I am able to give." Instead he concentrated on explaining the movements of the "Rebel Army (if that mass of confusion may be called an Army)."

Within the visible text of the letter, Thompson reported on the actions of the Continental Congress' resolution to raise 30,000 men against the British which he had learned from a member of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, possibly Benjamin Church. He also detailed the Rebel Army's plan to attack the or the Castle William Fort at Castle Rock. Instead the Continental Army, led by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold, attacked Fort Ticonderoga in Lake Champlain. In invisible ink Thompson wrote of a secret cache of papers, unfortunately the name of the courier has been erased and nothing is known of the Thompson's papers. In October 1775, around the same time was tried for treason by Washington, Thompson left Boston and returned home to New Hampshire to his wife for a short time. On November 4, 1775, Thompson was back in Boston writing a detailed report on the conditions in the American camp for , General Gage's replacement. In March of 1776, when Howe evacuated Boston, Thompson sailed to England to assist who ran the British troops from England. Thompson failed to notify his wife and small daughter in Concord, New Hampshire of his plans and they never saw him again.