



# The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

## Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



website: [www.fortlauderdale.sar.org](http://www.fortlauderdale.sar.org)

JUNE 2022

Fort Lauderdale Chapter chartered December 8, 1966

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### Presidents Message

Compatriots,

At our meeting of June 18, 2022, we will induct and officially welcome Rick Kidder into the Chapter. A profile of him appears in our June 2022 Newsletter so you can get more familiar with his background and interests. I am asking all active members and prospective members to complete a member profile for future publication. Prospective member Jeffrey Watts has sent in his member profile, and we expect approval of his, and son Joshua's, applications in time for induction at our meeting in September 2022. Since our last lunch meeting, most of my volunteer time has gone into working with a new applicant, Tomas Gantt. His application will be ready to go when he obtains a few birth and marriage certificates for which he has applied. You may be interested to know that since November 2021, I have worked with seven serious applicants with results as follows: two approved by NSSAR, two (father and son) in the queue at NSSAR, one being finalized as discussed above, and two put aside due to prospect inactivity.

Improved visibility has been a goal we have worked on over the last several months. Compatriot Mark Snider coordinated with the Sun Sentinel to get our annual lunch meetings regularly announced as an upcoming Community Events. The schedule does come up when searching on Google, and a couple of inquiries have resulted from this initiative. I will also report that our annual calendar of membership lunch meetings has been updated both on the FLSSAR website and in the Chapter Contact page of future SAR magazines. Toward the end of last month, we went live with a new website designed specifically to help Broward County prospective members find us and make immediate contact with us. At the moment, most if not all of the non-recurring visits to the site are from active or current prospective Chapter members. We continue to work on the web management features that make it more searchable. If you have not had a chance, please check it out at the address printed above and below. There are links in the Gallery to our Facebook page and to our Newsletter archives both of which are maintained by Compatriot Joe Motes. Finally, Compatriot Pete Stevenson, as corresponding secretary, prepared an update on our Chapter that will be published in the next Florida Patriot and SAR Magazine. The text of the copy sent (not including photos) follows and gives a quick reminder of major accomplishments and member achievements that have occurred over the first half of 2022:

#### Fort Lauderdale Chapter News

The Chapter had a busy first half marked by several important accomplishments. Completely revised Chapter bylaws were approved by the membership on March 19, 2022, and a new website went live on May 19, 2022.

On February 19, 2022, new members, Herb Gardner and Steven DePaul, were inducted by Chapter President Chuck Adams assisted by Chapter Past Presidents Tom Shepherd and Ted Duay. Also at this meeting, Jim Lohmeyer received a certificate for his nearly 18 years in SAR serving in numerous positions including Chapter Past President and current Chaplain.

On March 19, 2022, Joe Motes was presented a certificate honoring his many contributions to the Chapter in various positions held over the past 26 years including Chapter Past President and current Treasurer. Also at this meeting, Pete Stevenson received his first Supplemental Ancestor Certificate from Chuck Adams recognizing his lineage to patriot Jesse Marsh. On April 19, 2022, Mark Snider received his first Supplemental Ancestor Certificate recognizing his lineage to George Line. The Fort Lauderdale Chapter meets from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month except August and December. Visit us at [www.fortlauderdale.sar.org](http://www.fortlauderdale.sar.org)."

Last month I put forward a 30-day goal to finalize a program budget. My schedule was derailed as first mentioned. However, whether by the July or September meeting, I will meet with Treasurer, Joe Motes to get his input before finalizing the numbers, obtaining approval of the Executive Committee, and reviewing it with the membership. The budget, when complete, will provide a generalized snapshot of the Chapter's typical annual program and the financial resources available to carry them out. The completed document will provide a template for updating it annually by February of each year as set forth in our new bylaws.

I will close with a comment about the Battle of Bunker Hill which was fought on June 17, 1775. We lost the battle after withdrawing from the battlefield. But it is remembered because of the stiff defense and resistance we demonstrated against superior numbers and the better trained British troops. It was a sign of the possibility for good things to come.

Chuck Adams  
President and Registrar/Genealogist  
Fort Lauderdale Chapter SAR

### **NEXT MEETING - June 18, 2022**

**Davie Outback Steak House**  
**2725 South University Dr. Davie, Florida 33328**

#### **Future Dates:**

Saturday, 07/16/2022  
August no meeting  
Saturday, 09/17/2022  
Saturday, 10/15/2022  
Saturday, 11/19/2022

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

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 954-345-6276  
or e-mail Chuck Adams at: [chuckadams1808@gmail.com](mailto:chuckadams1808@gmail.com)

## Florida Frontiers “Florida in the American Revolution”



The importance of Florida in early American history is often overlooked.

The so-called “thirteen original colonies” that would lead to the creation of the United States exclude the fourteenth and fifteenth colonies of East Florida and West Florida.

St. Augustine, Florida was an active city for more than four decades before the English established a settlement at Jamestown, Virginia in 1607.

The Spanish gave Florida its name in 1513, and established the first continuously occupied European settlement in what would become the United States in 1565. After two centuries under Spanish occupation, the British took control of Florida in 1763.

The British separated the area into East Florida, with its capital in St. Augustine, and West Florida, with its capital in Pensacola. Under British rule, East Florida consisted of what is the modern boundary of the state, east of the Apalachicola River. West Florida included the modern Panhandle of Florida, as well as parts of what are now Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Roger Smith focused his doctoral studies at the University of Florida on the topic of Florida in the American Revolution.

“On August 11, 1776, when news of the Declaration of Independence became known in St. Augustine, they became so incensed that they made effigies of John Hancock and Samuel Adams and hung them in the trees in St. Augustine Plaza and set them on fire,” Smith says. “This colony was adamantly loyal when the war broke out.”

At the start of the American Revolution in 1776, East Florida and West Florida were the only two southern colonies that remained loyal to King George III. This was a problem for the British, as the southern colonies in North America supplied food, clothing, and other supplies to their sugar plantations in the Caribbean.

“We always look at the American Revolution from an American perspective, with thirteen colonies from New Hampshire down to Georgia,” says Smith. “When you look at the war from a British perspective, you realize that we’re not talking about thirteen colonies, we’re talking about thirty-three colonies that they had to be concerned with, from Nova Scotia down to Grenada. Half of those colonies, sixteen of them, were in the Caribbean.”

During the American Revolution, approximately sixty percent of the British military was stationed in the Caribbean, to protect sugar production. In the eighteenth century, sugar was as important to the global economy as oil is today.

The Floridas were located right between the British sugar plantations in the Caribbean, and the northern colonial revolt. The British launched attacks on the American rebellion from both St. Augustine in East Florida, and Pensacola in West Florida.

St. Augustine was particularly important to the British, as it had the only stone fortresses south of the Chesapeake Bay. The British had repeatedly attacked the Castillo de San Marcos when it was under Spanish control, and realized the strength of its coquina walls.

“They saw East and West Florida as barriers to sedition from rolling out into the Caribbean, and then launching pads for regaining the American south,” Smith says.

Although the importance of Florida in the American Revolution is usually ignored in history books, George Washington was well aware of the area’s strategic significance. Washington wrote more than eighty letters about the Florida colonies to the Continental Congress and his generals, and he authorized five separate invasions of East Florida between 1776 and 1780.

During a series of battles from 1779 to 1781, Spain was able to recapture West Florida from the British. When the American Revolution ended in 1783, England returned East Florida to the Spanish to keep control of Gibraltar.

Florida would become a United States Territory in 1821, and was named a state in 1845. During the Civil War, Florida seceded from the Union, which is probably why its role in the American Revolution has been minimized.

It wasn’t until the 1880s that doctoral degrees in History were available in the United States, and early American historians tended to write from a northern perspective. “They took the opportunity to get their own little bit of vengeance on the south, and they basically wrote the southern colonies out of the first five years of the American Revolution,” Smith says.



## Exclusive—O'Donnell: 'The Narrative' and the Forgotten Voyage that Changed the Course of the Revolutionary War



The term “information warfare” may not have been coined in 1775, but America’s Founding Fathers absolutely understood the importance of controlling the narrative. When the smoke and chaos cleared on that fateful, bloody morning of April 19, 1775, the politically-savvy Patriot leaders immediately realized the all-important question of “Who fired first?” on Lexington Green would forever distinguish for the world between the aggressors and defenders in the American Revolution.

Refusing to sit back and allow the occupying British forces to control *the narrative*, the Provincial Congress formed a committee within days, including Marblehead merchant and future congressman and vice president, Elbridge Gerry, to gather depositions to convey to London the American version of events at Lexington and Concord. Compiling the accounts was only half the battle, though. They knew they must get their version of events across the Atlantic before British commander General Thomas Gage’s.

The full account of one of the most important, yet forgotten, voyages in American history is now fully told in the new bestselling book, *The Indispensables: Marblehead’s Diverse Soldier-Mariners Who Shaped the Country, Formed the Navy, and Rowed Washington Across the Delaware*. The book is a *Band of Brothers*-style treatment of this unique group of Americans who, multiple times, changed the course of the Revolution.

The Patriots knew that if Gage’s narrative reached the British press first, they would be branded as traitors who initiated the Revolutionary War by firing on the king’s troops. Gerry launched himself into the task with such zeal and celerity that it invoked John Adams to proclaim, “If every Man here was a Gerry, the Liberties of America would be safe against the Gates of Earth and Hell.”

After gleaning twenty sworn depositions from both American and British battle participants that all supported the American conviction that the British had fired first, Joseph

Warren drafted a letter confirming the colonists’ narrative of victimhood and self-defense to sway public opinion in Great Britain. To reinforce the American viewpoint, Gerry enclosed copies of accounts of the battles as told in the *Salem Gazette*, including illustrations of black coffins representing the American dead, adorning the headline.

Transporting the packet to London before Gage’s report became a race against time. Near panic ensued when the Patriots learned Gage’s vessel, the hulking, 200-ton brig, *Sukey*, had departed for London days earlier with the British version of events. The Patriots, instead, pinned their hopes for their future on the deftness of thirty-four-year-old Salem native John Derby, “the accidental captain,” and his ship, the *Quero*, to sneak through the British blockade, outrace the British warship across the Atlantic, and avoid interception on the other side.

In the dead of night on April 28, the sleek, nimble 62-ton *Quero*, devoid of cargo, carrying only the precious packet of depositions and ballast stones, departed from Salem for Britain. They managed to avoid the British warship *Lively*’s blockade of Salem and Marblehead to cut through to the emerald, churning waters of the Atlantic. Her crew had no idea of her cargo, destination, or the importance of her mission. Joseph Warren had sworn Captain Derby to secrecy: “You are to keep this order a profound secret from every person on earth.”

Derby had orders to land first in Ireland and travel over land to England to avoid British agents and ships before delivering his extraordinary news to Massachusetts’ London-based agents, Benjamin Franklin and Arthur Lee. Derby, however, disregarded the order, and in 29 days landed on the Isle of Wight, beating the *Sukey*, while also managing to avoid detection.

Derby was dubbed “the accidental captain” because he appeared in London, seemingly out of nowhere, with earth-shattering news that would change the British Empire overnight. Arriving by carriage from the port of South Hampton, the captain met clandestinely with Arthur Lee, a Virginian educated in medicine and law, who delivered the news to John Wilkes, Lord Mayor of London, who was sympathetic toward the Americans. Derby then slipped through a British dragnet, once again, to sail back to the colonies.

The American depositions successfully shaped the narrative and engendered British compassion. When the London press reprinted them along with the American newspaper accounts of the bloody battle, it created a tidal wave of public opinion favorable for and sympathetic to the colonists as the victims.

Gage’s report would not arrive for another excruciating twelve days. In the meantime, the Crown attempted to discredit the American account, but Lee countered the attack in the press with an American broadside. When Gage’s ship did finally arrive, it bore a version similar to the American account, with the major exception of who fired first.

Not all engagements are won and lost on the battlefield. American Patriots fell to British hands on Lexington Green, but the shot heard round the world might have not been heard beyond Concord, Massachusetts if not for a forgotten Essex county captain and his fast ship who had handed the colonists a tremendous, precocious propaganda victory that changed the course of the Revolutionary War.

*Patrick K. O'Donnell is a bestselling, critically acclaimed military historian and an expert on elite units. He is the author of twelve books, including The Indispensables, which is featured nationally at Barnes & Noble, Washington's Immortals, and The Unknowns. O'Donnell served as a combat historian in a Marine rifle platoon during the Battle of Fallujah and often speaks on espionage, special operations, and counterinsurgency. He has provided historical consulting for DreamWorks' award-winning miniseries Band of Brothers and documentaries produced by the BBC, the History Channel, and Discovery. [PatrickODonnell.com](http://PatrickODonnell.com) @combathistorian*

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### General Membership Meeting Summary (May 2022)

Those in attendance were Chuck Adams, President & Registrar/Genealogist; Allen Manning, Vice President; Joe Motes, Treasurer, Historian/Editor; Peter Stevenson, Secretary; Steven DePaul; Ted Duay; Martin Hollick; Tom Shepherd; **Guests:** Jeffrey Watts, Michele Manning.

#### Officer and Committee Reports:

**Registrar/Genealogist:** Chuck Adams said that, as reported last month, our newest member is Seth MacCutcheon. Due to his travel schedule an induction via Zoom is pending and may be scheduled in June. He said that Rick Kidder was just approved and his induction will be scheduled for the June meeting. Chuck recognized prospective member Jeffrey Watts being in attendance. His family application including son, Joshua, have been submitted with approval expected by August. Chuck concluded by saying that Martin Hollick's first supplement has been in the que at national with approval expected by December. He said that he just received approval of his fourth supplemental and that he has four others in the que at national.

**Secretary/Parliamentarian:** Pete Stevenson reported on the May 15, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting where Chuck reviewed progress on creating a Google searchable Chapter website. The Committee authorized \$ 350 +/- \$50 to buy a 3 year license.

**Treasurer & Historian/Editor:** Joe spoke about our successful JROTC program and made the point that 6 out of 7 scholarship awards received by cadets in Broward County had been recognized by the SAR.

**President:** Chuck briefly updated the membership on the FLSSAR annual meeting and outcome of the officer elections. Ted Duay, who attended the Orlando meetings in person, provided important commentary on the proceedings. Chuck updated members on the member profile initiative. The goal is to publish a profile each month focusing first on the regular luncheon meeting attendees. Chuck reported on the new website stating that it was 90-95% complete.

**Old Business/New Business.** Chuck hopes to present the new budget at the June meeting. There was a discussion on how the FLSSAR reimbursement and carry over process works. Chuck asked Pete Stevenson to send an update on Chapter activities to both the FLSSAR magazine (Florida Patriot) and to NSSAR.

The next membership meeting will be June 18, 2022 at 11:30 am at the Outback Steak House in Davie..



**Our Chapter presented the SAR Medal and Good Citizenship certificates to cadets from Boyd Anderson High School JROTC Academy.**



**Our Chapter presented three SAR Good Citizenship medals to cadets from the Spruance Division Naval Sea Cadets.**

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### JROTC and Good Citizenship Awards Report

This year we got back to a normal with Covid somewhat in the back burner.

We awarded 30 JROTC medals and 10 Bronze Good Citizenship Medals

This year we continued presenting the Good Citizenship Certificates to some of the JROTC units, 232 were presented.



JROTC award to Western High School cadet



JROTC award to Cypress Bay High School cadet



JROTC award to Pompano Beach High cadet



Friday May 20th was the Broward County JROTC Pass in Review for the Cadet of the Year, the Cadet from NOVA High School came in Runner-up, 2nd place out of 31 JROTC programs, this cadet was our 2019 JROTC award recipient, so our JROTC medals are going to outstanding cadets.



Our Chapter presented the SAR Medal and Good Citizenship certificates to cadets from South Plantation High School JROTC.



Our Chapter donated \$100 to the Cypress Bay High School JROTC Booster Fund.

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



**Our Chapter donated \$100 to Boy Scout Troop 224 during their Court of Honor held on May 31, 2022.**



**The Fort Lauderdale Chapter S.A.R. held our chapter meeting on May 21, 2022.**

### 2022 CHAPTER OFFICERS

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**SAR MEMBER PROFILE -**

**RICK KIDDER**



Q. OK Rick, can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

A. I was born on a military base in Biloxi, Mississippi in 1974 due to my father being stationed in the area while serving in the U.S. Navy in Gulfport, Mississippi. Both of my parents are from the Lewiston Auburn area of Maine, but I grew up in Hollywood, Florida where I graduated from McArthur High School in 1993. After graduation, I enlisted in the U.S Navy. I reached the rank of E7 (Chief) after 10 years and was commissioned as a Naval Officer after 12 years of service. In total, I served for almost 23 years in the United States, Italy and Iceland and was also deployed onboard Naval Units to various locations overseas. During my career, I served in Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and numerous other named operations prior to my retirement in 2015. I earned a Masters in Cybersecurity Management from Nova Southeastern University in 2021 and have realized the benefits of this degree program daily in my current role as a Cybersecurity Executive.

Q. What are some of your recreational interests?

A. My favorite hobby is off-roading when the weather permits. When I am stuck inside, I also like researching and reading about historical events and genealogy. I also enjoy running.

Q. How about your family?

A. I have been married to my wife Adriana since 1998 and have two children, Richard III and Kiana. Richard III has followed in my and my father's footsteps, and He is the third generation to serve in the United States Navy under the same name (Richard, Richard Jr, & Richard III). My daughter Kiana is a self-made businesswoman who started her own business at 18 years old and has been growing it every year since.

Q. Who is your favorite Patriot ancestor?

A. My favorite patriot ancestor is William Wait Jr. who was born in Sutton, Mass in 1725. William served as a private and corporal in the Massachusetts or "Sutton" militia, under the command of Capt. Isaac Bolster and Col. Ebenezer Learned. He was present at the siege of Boston and in the Burgoyne campaign. He was granted a bounty of two hundred acres for his service. At the age of sixty-four he was placed on the pension roll of Maine. He died and was buried in Dixfield, Maine in 1817.

Q. What ideas can you contribute to help the Chapter develop, retain and attract members, or recognize others consistent with SAR programs?

A. As a new member, I look forward to donating more of my time in the fall of 2022 at which time I will see what challenges the chapter is experiencing and determine where my skills could be best used.

Thanks, Rick, for sharing.