



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



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Organized November 26, 1966

MARCH 2002

Volume 35 Number 3

## Highlights of February Chapter Meeting

President George Dennis called the meeting to order and welcomed the members and guests. Registrar Joe Fordyce reported that applications are being actively pursued by two candidates and a C.A.R. member. A discussion as held to determine if there was interest in holding the chapter meeting somewhere other than the Tower Club. Luncheon cost has increased over the years and this or the location may be deterring attendance by some members. (The cost now is \$20 and will be increased \$1 next year. ) Like previous discussions, those present thought the quality of the food, service and ambiance justified the expense and no better option was suggested. However, as requested in last month's newsletter, it is urged that members not present express any contrary opinion or suggestion. Please get in touch with President Dennis via phone or e-mail. The roster included with the previous newsletter contains contact data.

Potential SAR chapter activities were enumerated in hopes of stimulating interest and participation. Presently our only active programs are the JROTC awards made at all county high schools with units (18) and Eagle Scout recognition. The oration contest and essay contest have been dropped due to very poor participation by the community in recent years. The following SAR programs exist and were highlights. Members interested in participating in any of these should make yourself known to the President or any officer.

- + Plant a "Liberty Tree": - Coordinate planting of a tree dedicated to the Founding Fathers and American liberty. Colonial patriots gathered at trees so designated to discuss current events.
- + Mark or add a wreath to Revolutionary War soldier's grave site
- + Good Citizenship award to anyone performing good service in schools, community or state
- + Flag certificates to individuals or organizations for exceptional and proper display of the American flag
- + Law Enforcement or Fire Safety commendations to those who serve with distinction
- + Good Citizenship Certificates for grade school students
- + Sponsor booth or participate at special events (4th July, Flag Day, Pioneer Day, et al...)
- + Speak at other organizations to promote and publicize the SAR

--- Won't you contribute to the community spirit and help stimulate the Chapter ??

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**Special Guest Speaker William G Crawford Jr. received a Certificate of Appreciation from President George Dennis for his presentation during the February meeting.**

**Our speaker for the March 14th meeting will be Col. Edmund Buchser, Jr.**

Col. Buchser is a Corsair fighter pilot who flew 101 missions in the South Pacific during WWII. He also flew 87 mission in Korea during the Korean War. After that, Col. Buchser was a Test Pilot for Douglas Aircraft. He retired as a Captain with Pan Am Airlines. One of his hobbies is big game hunting. Col. Buchser will share his experiences with us.

**NEXT MEETING - MARCH 14th**

**TOWER CLUB !!!**

**\$20.00 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:**

**954-441-8735**

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

# People of the Revolution

## John André (1750-1780)

John André was the aide de camp of Sir Henry Clinton, the British commander-in-chief.

André purchased a commission as second lieutenant in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in 1771. In 1774 he joined a regiment in Quebec, where he pursued his first love of poetry and painting. In September and October 1775, American troops laid siege to his fort at St. Johns. He was captured, brought back to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and treated roughly. His days as a prisoner turned him against the American rebels. The Americans finally exchanged him in 1776, and he met up with British troops in New York City. Sir William Howe was especially interested in the information André had learned behind the American lines. André then purchased a position as captain and became General Charles Grey's aide. He became known for behaving ruthlessly and aggressively on the battlefield. In 1778 André joined the staff of Henry Clinton, General Howe's replacement. Clinton made him head of intelligence in April 1779. André successfully kept track of intelligence from American deserters and British prisoners who had escaped or were exchanged. André's most famous success was the treachery of Benedict Arnold. As a result, Clinton promoted André rapidly, from deputy to adjutant general in October 1779. Yet Benedict Arnold was also André's downfall. Three American militiamen captured André, who was dressed in civilian clothes with a treasonous letter from Clinton to Arnold in his shoe. André was tried with a court martial. Found guilty, he begged George Washington to shoot him as a gentleman instead of hanging him as a spy. Nevertheless, he was hanged as a spy in Tappan, New York on October 2, 1780.

## Benedict Arnold (1741-1801)

Benedict Arnold was a successful military leader early in his career, but his treasonous relationship with the British in the American Revolution marks him as an infamous traitor to the American cause. Before the Revolution, he was a well-to-do merchant. At the start of the Revolution, Arnold suggested that he could capture Fort Ticonderoga in New York. Benjamin Church made him colonel, and Arnold raised a regiment and captured the fort on May 10, 1775. He returned home victoriously and joined General George Washington's Continental Army. Washington next gave him command of an expedition to attack Quebec. Their attack on Quebec failed, but Arnold and his men managed to sustain a blockade. During this time, Arnold seriously wounded his knee. For his heroism Congress promoted him to brigadier general on January 10, 1776.

In 1776 Arnold repeatedly demonstrated his military prowess against British forces. Yet, Arnold threatened to resign when other brigadiers were promoted to major generals, but not him. At the encouragement of Washington, he again joined the army to stop the advance of General Burgoyne, Colonel Barry St. Leger, and Sir William Howe from the north. Arnold twice made two heroic attacks (once independently) against the British, leading to Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga on October 17, 1776. During these forays, he was shot in the same leg as before, giving him a serious limp thereafter. Arnold's successes conflicted with his superior, General Horatio Gates, and he was temporality removed from his command.

In 1778 Washington appointed Arnold the military commander of Philadelphia after the British evacuated. In Philadelphia patriots accused him of using public wagons for private profit and for making money for himself after he closed all the shops down in Philadelphia. Patriots also accused him of being too friendly with loyalists. After all, the British had just evacuated Philadelphia, and tensions were high between loyalists and patriots. Arnold then faced a court martial for corruption and resigned his post on March 19, 1779. Soon after resigning, Arnold sold his services to the British.

In May 1779 Arnold sent for Joseph Stanbury, who lived in Philadelphia and opposed armed resistance. Stanbury, with the help of Jonathan Odell, met with John Andre, the aide de camp of General Henry Clinton. In the following months, Arnold provided the British with a variety of military and political secrets. Arnold's treachery was revealed when Andre was captured on September 21. Arnold escaped to New York once the Americans discovered he was a spy. Arnold published a statement to encourage other Americans to join his cause. When this failed, he was made a British brigadier and sent on raids in Virginia. His successful attacks against forts in Virginia and New York permanently marked him as a traitor. After General Charles Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia in October 1781, Arnold and his family sailed back to England with Cornwallis. In Britain, he was not trusted with any military commands and failed as a merchant. He died in London in 1801.

## Ann Bates

Ann Bates, a loyalist spy for the British forces, was a teacher in Philadelphia. Bates began spying for the British sometime in 1778. She posed as a peddler, selling thread, needles, knives and utensils to the American camp followers. In this manner, Bates traveled through rebel camps, counting the number of men and weapons and meeting with other loyalist sympathizers in the American army. On May 12, 1780 Bates requested to leave Clinton's espionage ring and join her husband, a gun repairman with the British Army, in Charleston, South Carolina.

## John Burgoyne (1722-1792)

John Burgoyne was a British general and playwright. His first play, *The Maid of Oaks*, was produced in 1775. Burgoyne is probably best known for surrendering at Saratoga during the American Revolution. A parliamentary inquiry into Burgoyne's responsibility for the Saratoga defeat was inconclusive in 1779, but Burgoyne was deprived of most of his political offices. He returned to playwriting, and published and produced a successful comedy, *The Heiress*, in 1786. Burgoyne died in his seventieth year.

## Benjamin Church

Benjamin Church was a member of both the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts and a member of the Sons of Liberty rebel organization along with other patriot leaders such as John and Samuel Adams, Paul Revere and John Hancock. However Benjamin Church was really a paid spy for the British general, Sir Thomas Gage. Six weeks before the battle of Lexington, Church sent Gage letters detailing hidden military and political secrets of the American rebel forces (these letters can also be found at the William L. Clements Library in the Sir Thomas Gage Collection). In October of 1775, one of Church's spy letters to Gage was captured and delivered to General Washington. Church was arrested, stood trial for treason and imprisoned until 1777. After his release, Church sailed to West Indies in a schooner that disappeared at sea.

## Sir Henry Clinton (1730-1838)

Henry Clinton replaced William Howe as Commander of the British forces in America in 1778. During the next four years, he disputed admirals, generals, and Secretary of State George Germain, and became known for his intelligent planning and ineffectual execution. In May 1782, several months after Yorktown, Clinton turned his command over to Sir Guy Carleton. Clinton spent most of his postwar years fighting a paper war with his enemies in the army, navy, and government. His papers, including many spy letters, intelligence reports and military maps, are housed at the Clements Library and form the basis of this exhibit. See the Sir Henry Clinton Collection for more information.



## Lord Charles Cornwallis (1738-1805)

Cornwallis was born in London, the son of the first Earl Cornwallis, and educated at Eton. He began his military career in the Grenadier Guards at the age of eighteen. He became a major general in 1775 and arrived in New York in 1776 where he became second in command to Henry Clinton two years later. In 1781, Cornwallis seriously depleted his army and supplies while achieving a series of tactical victories in the South and was forced to withdraw to Yorktown, Virginia ignoring Clinton's suggestions to either stay in the Carolinas or join the British troops in New York. In September of 1781, the American and French troops met Comte de Gasse and twenty-nine French ships in Chesapeake Bay and laid siege to Cornwallis and the British troops in Yorktown. On October 17, 1781 Cornwallis surrenders. Lord Cornwallis continues on to a successful military career, becoming the governor of India in 1786 and the governor-general of Ireland in 1797. He returned to India in 1805, where he died quietly.

## Sir Thomas Gage (1721-1787)

Gage was born in Firle, England, the descendant of a French nobleman who came to England with William the Conqueror. He was educated at Westminster School and became an ensign in the British Army in 1740. In 1751, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and was ordered to America to serve under General Edward Braddock in the French and Indian War (part of the Seven Years War). He served in Braddock's disastrous Pennsylvania campaign of 1755, becoming an acquaintance of George Washington during the expedition. After the French surrender in 1760 Gage became governor of Montreal. In 1761 he was promoted to major general, and in 1763 he became commander-in-chief in America, assuming his post in New York City. In 1774, after a brief stay in England, Gage was sent back to America as both commander-in-chief and governor of Massachusetts, serving in this capacity during the events leading to the battles of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill. Out of favor with the English government after failing to quell the American rebellion, Gage was recalled to England in late 1775. Gage endured years of financial and personal hardship until he was made a full general when Germain left office in 1782. His papers, including many military and political documents, are housed in the Clements Library.

*Continued next month*

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### Highlights of February Chapter Meeting

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The forthcoming NSSAR Census of SAR prospects were discussed. It is covered in detail in the recent issue of The SAR Magazine. Members are urged to the start collecting the addresses of family members who are eligible for membership and to return the survey forms when they are received. This will provide data for chapters to actively pursue new members.

The guest speaker was William Crawford, Jr. Esq., President of the Ft. Lauderdale Historical Society and members of several other related Broward County organizations. He provided a very interesting and illustrated talk on the history and growth of the Atlantic Intracoastal waterway. He obviously is an authority and his book on this subject will be published soon.

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