



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



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MAR 2006

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Our Guest Speaker for March

Lynne Bever graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland in 1985. Upon graduation, she was commissioned an Ensign in the United States Navy and assigned to the Naval Hospital San Diego as the Assistant Resident Officer in Charge of Construction where she attained the rank of Lieutenant Jr. Grade. In 1987, Lynne was transferred to the U.S. Naval Base in Rota, Spain where she served as the Public Works Activity Civil Engineer & Division Officer for 40 enlisted Navy Seabees. Lynne was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant while in Rota and was later transferred to the Naval Air Station in Oceana, Virginia as the Officer in Charge - Construction Battalion Unit 415. Six months after reporting to CBU-415, Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, and Lynne and her unit of 50+ Seabees were deployed to Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield. CBU-415 joined with another CBU and an advance team of 150 Navy doctors, nurses, and Corpsman to erect Fleet Hospital Five. Lynne was one of the first female officers of any branch of the U.S. military to arrive in the combat zone. Upon declaration of war by the U.S. Congress, Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm. Lynne's service in the conflict lasted 7 ½ months during which she was pre-selected to the rank of Lt. Commander. Following her Gulf War service, Lynne was honorably discharged and later entered the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania from where she graduated in 1993. Lynne went on to become a Senior Director with the worldwide corporate headquarters of the Arby's roast beef restaurant chain. Lynne currently works as a business consultant for Comprehensive Consultants, LLC, a firm she recently founded.



March Guest Speaker Lynne Bever

Minutes of our February Meeting

by Ed Spencer, Secretary

The Ft. Lauderdale Chapter SAR was called to order at the Flaming Pit. President Ted Duay presided over this meeting with 22 members and guests present.

New Business:

Treasurer Joe Motes presented the financial report. The report was reviewed and accepted.

The subject came up on the society's sales tax exemption status. Chancalor Ed Sullivan stated that the society was under the Florida State Society's exemption, but he will look further into the exemption certificate.

NEXT MEETING - MARCH 25th

"Flaming Pit"

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

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

Buffet luncheon - \$12.00

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:

954-441-8735

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

The Registrar, Compatriot Ted Duay, reported there were 8 new applications in process and 5 prospective members online, including Compatriot Ron Cameron's two sons.

Trust Fund Trustee, Ted Duay announced that the trust fund was rolled over in its entirety, including funds previously held in reserve in the society's checking account.

Compatriot Joe Motes announced that this year's ROTC awards will be held in early March and April due to the school's academic schedule changes and asked for volunteers to assist in case of scheduling conflicts. Several members announced their availability.

Society President Ted Duay announced that the society's web site has been receiving hits mainly due to the listing of member's Revolutionary ancestors.

Current Program:

Being that no further business before the Chapter, President Ted Duay introduced our guest speaker, Colonel Frank Fong. Colonel Fong earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses, eight air medals, a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star during his years of service. During WWII, he flew with the 9th Army Air Forces in Briton with the 359 Fighter group, flying two sorties over Normandy on D-Day in a P-47 Thunderbolt.

When Colonel Fong attempted to join the Army Air Force as a pilot, he was denied, but his persistence brought him to the attention of General Hap Arnold who sent him a telegram appointing him as an Air Cadet.

After his first tour of duty in England, Colonel Fong chose to stay for a second tour instead of returning to the States and then being transferred to the Pacific Theater of Operations. During this time, he was trained to fly the new P-51 Mustang and continued to fly missions over Europe. Eventually, his success succumbed to the odds when he crashed causing a back injury and a scaring of his left eye, eventually leading to blindness.

After the War, Colonel Fong returned to civilian life only to be recalled to active duty during the Korean War, in which he was trained to fly the Saber Jets, returning to civilian life once more only to be called once again in the 60's for the Viet Nam war. This time, though, they discovered that he was "Too Old" to serve as a fighter pilot where upon General Crane had him transferred to serve in Washington DC.

Colonel Fong's injuries eventually became worse to where he needed to apply for VA for benefits, which began a multi-decade long legal battle with the Veterans Administration over his entitlement due to their loss of his military records. He eventually triumphed with the help of a long time friend, Sharon Malone, receiving back benefits to the time of his injury.



Chapter President Ted Duay presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Frank Fong for his outstanding presentation during our February chapter meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Story of Valley Forge

continued from last month

Dear Compatriots:

At the last meeting, I announced that our Chapter currently has eight new member applications awaiting approval at National and another five or so prospective members. As our Chapter continues to grow, I would like to resurrect some committees that we have not had in a number of years. These committees would include:

****Awards Committee** – this committee would be responsible for assisting Joe Motes and George Dennis in distributing JROTC medals, Good Citizenship Medals, Eagle Scout Awards and Flag Awards.

****Membership Committee** – this committee would be responsible for recruiting new members into our Chapter. There will be a form distributed at our next meeting to collect basic genealogical information (e.g. parents, grandparents, etc.) from prospective members. My wife Debbie has agreed to review these forms in order to find a Revolutionary War patriot for the prospective member.

****Public Relations Committee** – this committee would be responsible for identifying local community events that would provide positive exposure for our Chapter and SAR.

Please consider which committee you would like to serve on. I believe these committees are important tools in allowing us to achieve our stated objectives of fostering patriotism and an interest in the experiences and sacrifices of our patriot ancestors. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Ted Duay
President, 2006

Yet other historians pointedly note that Norris himself was known for his opposition to the Penn family (perhaps explaining why Pennsylvania is spelled “Pensylvania” on the bell). If the Bell were intended to celebrate the 50th anniversary why would it specify 1752, instead of 1751 which would have been the 50th anniversary? Perhaps, Norris recognizing that the Bell would not arrive until 1752 thought it would be curious to backdate his inscription. Or, perhaps, the fiftieth anniversary of the Charter was simply a coincidence. The historical record does not provide us an answer.

Either way, agent Robert Charles ordered a bell from London’s Whitechapel Foundry. The cost of the bell including insurance and shipping was 150 Pounds 13 shillings 8 pence.

The Bell was sent from England on the ship Hibernia, captained by William Child. Note: It is in error, though commonly believed that it came on the Myrtilla. Dennis R. Reidenbach, Acting Superintendent Independence National Historical Park, wrote, “According to newspaper accounts of port activity, the Myrtilla docked in Philadelphia at the end of September 1752. However, Pennsylvania’s Speaker of the Assembly, Isaac Norris (the man who ordered and oversaw the installation of the bell in the State House), wrote on Sept. 1 that the bell had recently arrived. The only ship from England that docked in Philadelphia during the month of August that year was the Hibernia, captained by William Child. The Hibernia was of modest size, transporting dry goods and passengers regularly between England, the colonies and Ireland. No known records identify the Hibernia’s owner either before or at the time it transported the bell.” (Philadelphia Inquirer 9/22/02)

The Bell arrived. On September 1, 1752 Norris wrote the following to Assembly Representative Robert Charles: “The Bell is come ashore & in good order.” He continued, “we have not yet try’d the sound.”

March 1753 On March 10th Norris again wrote Agent Charles.

I gave Information that our Bell was generally like & appvd of but in a few days after my writing I had the Mortification to hear that it was cracked by a stroke of the clapper without any other violence as it was hung up to try the sound.

Norris went on to write that “two Ingenious Work-Men” had been hired to recast the bell. These workmen were named John Pass and John Stow and their names are today inscribed on the bell.

April 1753 After adding a dash more copper into the mixture of the Bell, the workmen were ready to try the new casting. It didn’t sound good, apparently. Isaac Norris noted that “they were so teized (teased) by the witicisms of the Town that they...will be very soon ready to make a second essay.”

It seems they had added too much copper to the detriment of the tone of the bell.

June 1753 It was reported in the New York Mercury that “Last Week was raised and fix’d in the Statehouse Steeple, the new great Bell, cast here by Pass and Stow, weighing 2080 lbs. The steeple had been built in March of 1753 by Edmund Woolley, a member of Philadelphia’s Carpenters’ Company, and the master-builder who had overseen the construction of the State House.

Pass and Stow charged slightly over 36 Pounds for their repair job. According to their bill, the Bell weighed 2,081 pounds.

Nov. 1753 Not everyone was happy with the way the new Bell sounded, however, most significantly Isaac Norris. He wrote yet again to Robert Charles, “We got our Bell new cast here and it has been used some time but tho some are of opinion it will do I Own I do not like it.” Norris suggested returning the metal from the Bell to England to be recast.

March 1754 Agent Robert Charles ordered a new bell from Whitechapel.

May 1754 The Assembly resolved to pay for the new bell while keeping the Pass and Stow bell.

When the new bell arrived most folks agreed it sounded no better than Pass and Stow’s recast Bell. The Pass and Stow Bell remained in the State House steeple. The new Whitechapel bell was hung in a cupola on the State House roof, attached to the State House clocks. It was this bell which rang the time for Philadelphians. The Pass and Stow bell rang for special events.

Feb. 1757 It tolled for the meeting of the Assembly which would send Benjamin Franklin to England to address Colonial grievances.

March 1757 The Pennsylvania Gazette reported that the Bell was rung upon the arrival of Lord Loudon from New York.

Feb. 1761 It tolled in honor of King George III ascending the throne.

1761 The Assembly permitted nearby St. Paul’s Church to use the bell to announce worship until their church building was completed and their own bell installed.

Sep. 1764 It tolled upon the repeal of the Sugar Act. The Bell was rung to call the Assembly in which Benjamin Franklin was to be sent to England to address Colonial grievances.

Oct. 1765 The Bell was “muffled” and rung when ships carrying tax stamps sailed up the Delaware River.

The Bell was rung to summon citizens to a public meeting to discuss the Stamp Act.

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