



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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Dear Patriots,

If you could not attend our last meeting, we missed you, and you missed our featured speaker, Kingsley Guy. It was a joy to hear his talk on journalism and then comments on general questions from the audience.

Our speaker, March 24th will be Col. Dennis Teitge, Everglade High School Commanding Officer, and Battalion Commander Cadet Anthony Ghezzi. They will present information concerning ROTC units in our Broward County High Schools.

We need to come a little closer in our relationship with one another. If some one is ill let me know or one of our officers know so we can contact them. Harry Calevas did not attend our last meeting, not feeling too good, drop him a note.

See you on the 24 th.

Jim Lohmeyer

Thought:: Wisdom doesn't automatically come with old age. Nothing does---except wrinkles. It's true,some wines improve with age, but only if the grapes were good in the first place. Our grapes were Patriots.



President James Lohmeyer and Rich Jones presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Kingsley Guy for his presentation during our February meeting.



Compatriot Joe Motes presented Cadet Ian McColaugh from the Weston Civil Air Patrol with the Good Citizenship Medal during their February 17th Awards night.



NEXT MEETING - MARCH 24th

"Flaming Pit"

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

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

Buffet luncheon - \$15.00

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:

954-441-8735

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

The Battle of Fort Moultrie and Long Island - June 28, 1776

continued from last month

In August the British had thirty two thousand veterans on Staten Island. To oppose this force Washington, who, divining the intention of the enemy to strike New York, had moved his army thither in the early spring, could muster but eighteen thousand men, and many of these were new recruits and in no sense to be compared with veteran soldiers. Before opening hostilities Admiral Howe offered the olive branch, which he had fresh from Lord North, a gracious offer from the king to pardon all rebels who would lay down their arms and assist in restoring order. It was sent by special messenger to "George Washington, Esq." But as "George" Washington, the citizen and planter, had no authority to deal with national questions, and as "General" Washington had not been addressed, he declined to receive the communication.

The next act in the drama was the opening of hostilities. Washington occupied Manhattan Island, and Brooklyn Heights, which commanded the city. He had sent Greene to fortify the latter, and now he manned it with half his army under the command of Putnam. Howe determined to assault Brooklyn Heights. With twenty thousand men the English advanced on the American position by different roads, and in the early morning of August 27, they encountered the Americans whom Putnam had sent out under Sullivan, who had taken the place of Greene, owing to the illness of the latter. Sullivan was first attacked by a large body of Hessians under Von Heister, and scarcely had the fight begun when he was assailed in the rear by the main force. Between two galling fires, it was not possible for the Americans to hold their ground, and nearly the whole force, including the commander, were made prisoners of war. Another division of fifteen hundred American troops, under Lord Stirling, was now assaulted by General Grant and a little later by Cornwallis.

After four hours of desperate resistance, Stirling succeeded in getting his men across a marshy stream to a place of safety, while he himself was taken prisoner, and the struggle known as the battle of Long Island was over. About four hundred had been killed and wounded on each side, and the British taken some eleven hundred prisoners.

Washington had witnessed the disaster from a distance with deep emotion. "My God," he cried, "what brave fellows I must lose this day." Howe closed in around the American fortress, and Washington, expecting an immediate storming of the works, brought troops from Manhattan and raised the defense to ten thousand men. But Howe decided to settle down to a siege. The American commander seeing that he could not stand a siege, determined to elude his enemy by night, and this he did with remarkable skill. The night was favorable, as a dense fog enveloped the moving army. Every manner of craft on the East River, from the yacht to the scow and rowboat, was pressed into the service; and on the morning of the 30th, the entire army with its stores and artillery was safe in New York, and Howe had lost the rarest opportunity of his life of crushing the rebellion and ending the war. Had he been quick to surround Washington he could have captured him and his ten thousand; but the delay was fatal.

Lord Howe again made overtures for peace. He sent the captured Sullivan to Philadelphia to make proposals to members of Congress and to request a committee of conference. Franklin, Rutledge, and John Adams were appointed; they met Howe on Staten Island, but as they refused to treat with him, except on the ground of independent America, the conference came to nothing.

After losing Brooklyn Heights, Washington could no longer hold New York, and his next move was to fall back with the army to the heights along the Harlem River. But before Putnam, with the rearguard of four thousand men, could leave New York, Howe had crossed the East River, and occupied the city. Putnam was in imminent danger of capture, and was saved by the clever strategy of a woman. As Howe reached Murray Hill, the fine country seat of Mrs. Murray, -- now a fashionable portion of New York City, -- that lady sent him a pressing invitation to stop for luncheon. Howe accepted the kind offer, and while he and his officers spent two hours with their hostess, whom they no doubt supposed to be a loyalist, Putnam made his escape up the Hudson to the main army; but in his haste he left behind his heavy guns and many of his army equipments.

The great object of the British was now to get in the rear of Washington and to cut off his retreat northward. But the Hudson was guarded by two strong forts -- Fort Washington on the upper end of Manhattan Island and Fort Lee across the river on the Palisades -- and for nearly a month the two armies lay glaring at each other. After a skirmish on Harlem Plains in September, Washington moved his main army to White Plains. Howe followed him, and, despairing of gaining his rear, made an attack in front. This skirmish, known as the battle of White Plains, took place on Chatterton's Hill near the American camp, and resulted in an American loss of nearly one hundred and fifty men, and a British loss of over two hundred. Howe refused to make a second attack, and retired down the Hudson after Washington had taken a strong position at North Castle, near the scene of the battle.

Footnotes

1Among the prisoners was also Allan Macdonald, kinsman of the commander and husband of the famous Flora Macdonald who had aided the Pretender's escape from Scotland.

2Congress had appointed (General Charles Lee to take general command at the South, but Lee did little else than find fault. He would have stopped the proceedings of Moultrie but for the determined interference of Rutledge, the president of the provincial congress.

3This American "Lord" was William Alexander of New Jersey. He had inherited a lapsed Scotch title and was always known as Lord Stirling.

4The opinion is held that Howe sympathized with the Americans and did not wish to defeat them. See reference to the subject on a later page.

Ft. Lauderdale Society SAR
Minutes meeting 24 Feb 2007

The meeting was called to order by society President Jim Lohmeyer.

Past President Ted Duay announced that the Next BOM meeting will be held in April and the NSAR meeting will be held in Williamsburg, Va. in July.

The minutes were approved as printed in the news letter.

Compatriot Joe Motes gave a brief on the financial standing of the chapter and added that he has received the reimbursement checks for the metals and the dues. Afterward, the Treasury reports were approved.

President Jim Lohmeyer passed the floor over to Compatriot Rich Jones to introduce our guest speaker, Mr. Kingsley Guy. Kingsley was the Editorial Editor for the Sun Sentinel Newspaper and co-worker of Compatriot Jones for many years

Mr. Guy joined the New York Times in 1976 as a copy boy where, he said, that he caught the news bug and worked his way up to reporter. In his time as a newspaper employee, he has seen changes in the industry from where the pages were physically "cut and paste" the page layouts together to where they are now "drag and drop" on a computer screen.

He said that he has enjoyed his career in the news business in that he has been able to travel around the world and has seen many different countries and cultures.

Mr. Guy said that the one thing that he is best known for is his editorial on Pope John Paul II election as pope, in which he misstated that this is the first time the church has elected a "non-catholic pope". This statement caused a major uproar throughout the Nation.

Mr. Guy, proceeded to give us an overview of the First Amendment's Freedom of the Press being the "Fourth estate" as a check on the three branches of government. He further went on to quote Thomas Jefferson in which Mr. Jefferson said that he would prefer to have a newspaper without government than a government without a newspaper.

In Mr. Guy's view, he sees that today's news is focused on miscellaneous items of interest verses the items of Importance. He also sees a major shift in the method of the news being delivered to the public. That shift is being caused by technology, as before, where the Television took over from the newspaper, but now the computer is preferred media to deliver news to the public. Both the TV and computer medias are causing a decline of the newspaper industry.

This change in the dynamic of delivery of news to the public has also changed, in Mr. Guy's opinion, a change in the essences of news itself. This change is from a reflective reporting style to a reactive reporting style where the reflective style is analytical in nature and the reactive style is simple factual in nature. This, he believes leads to the appearance of a deliberate liberal slant to news reporting. Even though he does not believe that there is a deliberate slanting of the news, he does believe that most reporters subconsciously allow their personal views to seep into their reporting. But he also believes that the Journalists need to maintain the First Amendment in a responsible manner.

There being no further business before the society, President Jim Lohmeyer adjourned the meeting.

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