



The Florida Society of the  
Sons of the American Revolution  
**Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter**  
website: [www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html](http://www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html)



*Fort Lauderdale Chapter Organized November 26, 1966*

MAR 2008

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## President's Message

Dear Compatriots:

On March 8, 2008, Jim Lohmeyer, Ed Spencer, and I attended the ceremonies for the 225th Anniversary of the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution at Cape Canaveral, Florida. It was a fantastic event with approximately 400 people in attendance.

In my last message to you, I discussed the opportunities for our chapter to become more active in the community and obtain positive visibility. In keeping with that, our April 26th meeting at the Flaming Pit has been cancelled; instead, our chapter will have a booth that day at Nova University's Genealogy Fair being held at their Alvin Sherman Library in Davie. This event is the first of its kind, and has been organized to celebrate the university's new genealogical book collection. This event is being heavily advertised, and the university is expecting attendance of approximately 1,000 people. Please let me know if you are interested in attending or helping to man the SAR booth. This event offers a great opportunity to obtain potential new members for our chapter and to let the public know what SAR is all about.

For our March meeting, our speaker will be Charlie Crowell, Chapter Secretary, who will be giving a presentation on his patriot ancestor, Colonel Philip Van Rensselaer, who was instrumental in the defeat of the British at Saratoga. Please plan on attending and hearing Charlie's great talk!

In patriotism,

Ted Duay  
President



**Vice President Ed Spencer marches with the Color Guard during the the celebration of the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution.**

### APRIL REGULAR MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Our Chapter's April 26, 2008 regular meeting has been cancelled. As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, members are encouraged to attend or participate in the Nova Genealogy Fair being held on that day.

Our May meeting will be held at the Flaming Pit Restaurant on Saturday, May 24, 2008 at the regular times.

There will be no April newsletter issue.

*NEXT MEETING - MARCH 29th*

#### **"Flaming Pit"**

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

Time: 11:30AM social gathering; Lunch at noon  
Buffet luncheon - \$16.00

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:  
954-473-2754

or e-mail Ted Duay at: [tedduay@yahoo.com](mailto:tedduay@yahoo.com)

Fort Lauderdale Chapter  
 Society of the Sons of the American Revolution  
 Meeting held at the Flaming Pit Restaurant

February 2008 meeting called to order at 12:00  
 Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, SAR Pledge - Total of 18 persons present - each introduced him/herself. Break for lunch  
 Meeting resumes 12:35

Discussion of the Cape Canaveral event, Last Naval Battle of the Revolution. Plans to send a wreath, motion to speed up to \$100 made, approved unanimously.

President Ted Delay discussed efforts to get members to be more active. Mentioned questionnaire/survey that was part of last newsletter asking members what they would be interested in being involved in.

Conversation about the 60,000 graves in data base that has been a project involving DAR and SAR members.

Vice President Ed Spencer mentioned an Iraq vet he met and Ed thanking him for his service.

Joe Motes gives Treasures Report. Motion to put \$2,000 into CD passes.

Question about future newsletters being made available electronically only. Hardcopies to continue.

Joe Motes reports that there are now 27 schools in the ROTC programs.

Swearing in of 2 new members, certificates presented and photo session.

Presentation given by new member, Thomas Wilcox. Discussed the sacrifices our ancestors made and how the revolutionary era still offered little in the way of effective medical treatment. Tales of blood letting, drilling holes in skulls, the lack of doctors, and few doctors with degrees. Tom continued with explanations of diseases of the era including small pox, etc. He reviewed the unsanitary conditions, camp fevers, ship fever and the estimated 10-1 ratio of those killed by disease vs. in battle.

President Ted Delay presented a certificate of appreciation to Tom Wilcox for his presentation.

50/50 drawing held.

SAR recessional, meeting adjourned.



**President Ted Duay and Immediate Past President Jim Lohmeyer presenting a wreath at the 225th Anniversary of the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution held at Cape Canaveral on March 8, 2008.**



President Duay inducts Tom Strok, Jr. and Tom Wilcox, II into the SAR.

## The Liberty Bell continued from last month.

Feb 1771- It was rung to call the Assembly together to petition the King for a repeal of tea duties.

1772- People living in the vicinity of State House petitioned the Assembly to stop ringing the bell so often, complaining that they were "incommoded and distressed" by the constant "ringing of the great Bell in the Steeple."

Dec 12, 1773- Shortly after the Boston Tea Party (12/16/1773), the Bell rung the news that the ship Polly was bringing "monopoly" tea into Philadelphia. At this time the Assembly resolved that Captain Ayres of the Polly would neither be allowed to land nor bring his tea to the custom house.

1774- It was noted that the steeple in the State House was in need of repair.

1781- June 1774- A muffled tolling announced the Intolerable Acts which included the closure of the Port of Boston. It tolled for a town meting whrein the citizens of Philadelphia pledged over 4,000 pounds in aid for the suffering residents of Boston.

April 1775- It pealed to announce the Battle of Lexington and Concord.

July 4, 1776- The Liberty Bell did not ring on July 4, 1776 for the Declaration of Independence. The reason? The Declaration is dated July 4, 1776, but on that day, the Declaration was sent to the printer.

July 8, 1776- The first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. Bells tolled throughout the city on that day. Tradition holds that the Liberty Bell rang out this day. However, the steeple was in bad condition and historians today doubt the likelihood of the story.

Sept 1777- War came to the Philadelphia region. The British had won the Battle of Brandywine on September 11 and were poised to move into Philadelphia. Philadelphians tried to remove anything the British could make use of, including bells. Bells could be melted down and recast into cannon. On September 23, the State House Bell was taken down and shipped inland. A member of the Carpenters' Company was put in charge of the physical removal. The bell was hidden in the basement of the Zion Reformed Church in Allentown (where you can visit today). On its journey, the Bell was guarded by Colonel William Polk of North Carolina who was in command of 200 North Carolina and Virginia militiamen.

June 27, 1778- The Bell was brought back to Philadelphia but not rehung. The rotten steeple didn't allow it. The Bell was put into storage for seven years. Some believe the Bell was stored in one of the munitions sheds that flanked the State House.

1781- The State House steeple was torn down.

1785- The Bell was rehung in the rebuilt State House steeple.

1787- The Bell was rung upon ratification of the Constitution.

1789- It was rung throughout the year to call students of the University of Pennsylvania to classes at nearby Philosophical Hall.

1790- Tolled at death of Franklin.

March 1797- Rung during the inauguration of John Adams.

Dec 1799- Tolled at the death of Washington.

1799- Pennsylvania's state capital moved to Lancaster. The Bell remained in Philadelphia and was used to call voters, to celebrate patriotic occasions, and to toll on the deaths of famous Americans.

July 1804- Tolled at the death of Hamilton.

1816- The state of Pennsylvania announced its intention of selling the State House and yard. When it was learned that the yard was going to be subdivided for building lots, the city of Philadelphia was scandalized. It responded by purchasing the building and yard from the state for \$70,000.

1821- Philadelphia City Councils (there were two at the time) bought a new bell to be used for the clocks on the State House. The Liberty Bell would remain on the fourth floor of the brick part of the tower.

Sept 1824- Bell rung for Lafayette's triumphant return to Philadelphia. A letter to the Philadelphia Public Ledger on May 4, 1915 (nearly 100 years after the event) claimed that the Bell cracked on this occasion. There was no mention in the contemporary press that the bell cracked at that time, however.

continued next month

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July 1826- Tolled at the deaths of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson (both of whom died on July 4).

1828- Philadelphia decided to reconstruct the State House steeple. Council also decided to replace the State House clock with a new one in the steeple. It was decided the new clock should have a new bell.

A foundry owner named John Wilbank cast a 4,000 pound bell. In December, Wilbank's bell took the place of the old State House Bell, and the Liberty Bell was moved to a different part of the new tower. The bell that was installed as a clock bell in 1821 disappeared -- It's assumed that Wilbank took it as part of his payment. Wilbank was also supposed to haul away the Liberty Bell at that time.

#### 2008 CHAPTER OFFICERS

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The city sued Wilbank for breach of contract -- because he did not take the Liberty Bell with him. Wilbank argued that draying (hauling) costs exceeded the \$400 the Bell was assessed at. They haggled in court before a judge ordered a compromise: Wilbank would pay court costs; the City had to keep the Bell, which was technically considered "on loan" from Wilbank.

Over the years, Wilbank's heirs have agitated the city of Philadelphia to give them the Bell which they considered rightfully theirs. In a 1915 agreement, the family agreed to keep the bell on loan as long as it hung in Independence Hall.



President Duay presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Tom Wilcox, II.



Tom Strok, Jr. and Tom Wilcox, II show off their new SAR member certificates.