



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



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## Highlights of April Chapter Meeting

President George Dennis called the April 11th meeting to order and welcomed members, the visiting (but local) Ohio Compatriot Terry Etling and guests. General chapter business was discussed, plus a repeated request for names of any candidates for flag certificates, law enforcement and fire safety commendations. It was noted that the president's email address has been changed to: [grdennis@attbi.com](mailto:grdennis@attbi.com).

The guest speaker was Christopher Eck, Administrator with the Broward Co. Historical Society. He gave an informative overview of the history of archeological protection and preservation in the country and locally. It was not surprising to hear that this movement has created a lively competition between real estate developers and preservationists. Mr. Eck had been a member of the commission involved in the preservation of the "Miami Circle", so was able to provide many interesting details of that activity in response to member's questions. We were fortunate to get to know this knowledgeable and personable young man and hope he finds time to pursue membership in the SAR and our chapter.

Oscar Kraehenbuehl  
Reply to : [OscarK@pobox.com](mailto:OscarK@pobox.com)



Chapter President George Dennis presents Certificate of Appreciation to last month's guest speaker Christopher Eck

## Our Guest Speaker for May

Our speaker for this month is Dr. V. Lombardo Castro, M.D., F.A.C.S. Dr. Castro is affiliated with the Broward General Medical Center, Plantation General Hospital, and Westside Regional Medical Center as Staff Urologist.

He is also affiliated with the University of Miami as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery, and as Director of the Organ Donor Harvest Program. Dr. Castro is a member of the Greater Miami Urological Association, and the Fort Lauderdale Surgical society. He has published numerous professional articles.



**NEXT MEETING - MAY 9th  
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](mailto:JoeMotes@aol.com)*

# Timeline to the Revolution

## 1763

**February 10** British and French sign the Treaty of Paris, ending The French and Indian War. The French and Indian War was a part of the Seven Years War (1756-1763), an imperial struggle between England, France and Spain. The war ended in 1763 with the Treaty of Paris and the redistribution of European colonies. The cost of the war left a huge national debt hanging over the government of Britain which young George III was left to resolve as best he could.

## 1765

**March 22** The Stamp Act was passed by Parliament, igniting a major cause of the American Revolution -- taxation without representation. The act levied a tax on all newspapers, legal documents, pamphlets, almanacs, playing cards and dice by requiring that they bear a stamp. The money from the tax was to be used to pay for the defense of the colonies. American opposition was intense, merchants refused to buy British goods, stamp agents were threatened and official stamps were destroyed.

**Summer** Secret organizations known as the Sons of Liberty, based on a term used by Colonel Isaac Barre in a speech against the Stamp Act in the House of Commons, formed in the provincial towns to lead the protest against the Stamp Act and other unpopular British legislature.

**October 7-25** Delegates from nine of the thirteen colonies gathered in New York City to formally protest the Stamp Act. After huge public outrage, the Stamp Act was repealed on March 18, 1766. However, on the same day, Parliament passes the Declaratory Act, asserting the right of Parliament to make any laws it wished regarding the American colonies.

## 1768

**October 1** British troops arrived in Boston to quell the growing unrest in the American colonies.

## 1770

**March 5** Building tension between American colonists and British troops came to a head after a day of rioting in Boston. British officers, surrounded by an angry mob, fired into the crowd killing 3 men outright and mortally wounding 2 others. The Boston governor, Lt. Gov. Hutchinson, avoided further confrontation by removing all British troops to islands in Boston harbor.

## 1773

**May 10** The Tea Act was passed in Parliament to save the East Indian Company, a British company based in England's Indian colonies, from bankruptcy. The act remitted all British duties on tea while retaining the tax on tea exported to America, enabling the company to cut its prices and undersell colonial competition. The British company's unfair advantage led to the near destruction of the American tea merchants trade.

**December 16** In protest over the Tea Act, members of the Sons of Liberty dressed as Indians boarded three British ships in Boston harbor and threw the valuable tea overboard.

## 1774

**May 13** General Thomas Gage replaced Hutchinson as Governor of Boston.

**June 2** Parliament passed the Quartering Act, requiring American colonists to provide shelter to British troops and horses when requested.

**September 5 - October 25** Twelve colonies, all but Georgia, sent 56 delegates to Philadelphia to participate in the First Continental Congress. The purpose of the First Continental Congress was to debate and plan a unified response to British policy and actions. It was the first time many of these influential men had met face to face.

**September** General Gage, the Governor of Boston, responded to increased threats of violence from the American colonists by fortifying Boston Neck, the thin spit of land connecting Boston to the mainland. This move effectively cut the city of Boston off from the rest of Massachusetts, placing the city under siege.

**October** General Gage dissolved the Massachusetts General Court in attempt to thwart colonial power over Massachusetts. Members of the court reconvened as the Massachusetts Provincial Congress and voted to recruit 12,000 men for a militia (composed of American minutemen -- colonists prepared to fight the British on a minute's notice) and purchase 5,000 muskets and bayonets.

## 1775

**March 25** Patrick Henry delivered his "give me liberty or give me death" speech to the Virginia Assembly in Richmond.

**March 30 - April 5** General Gage ordered his troops on a practice march around Boston. The Massachusetts Provincial Congress at Concord viewed the British march as an act of open hostility. They issued formal grievances against the British government and adopted fifty-three articles of war against the British army.

**April 18** General Gage planned a secret night march on Concord to seize the colonists' store of weapons. Paul Revere immediately rode out over Boston Neck towards Lexington to warn John Hancock and Samuel Adams, fellow members of the Sons of Liberty. After Revere reached Lexington, he went to Concord where he was caught and questioned by six British officers. The officers left Revere horseless and stranded near **Lexington**.

**April 19** In Lexington, 130 minuteman, warned by Paul Revere, met the British troops in attempt to stop the army from reaching Concord. The American patriots were outnumbered and began to disperse. However, a shot was fired and the British troops killed eight colonists and wounded ten. The British troops continued for Concord where they were met by 150 minuteman. The fighting was light and plagued by the lack of discipline of the patriot minuteman. The British troops withdrew back to Boston after a mostly ineffectual search for hidden patriot weapons. The patriot minuteman raced ahead of the British army, hiding behind trees, rocks, houses and barns alongside the roads. The British army made an easy target for patriot snipers as they marched in straight lines in their red uniforms. The British troops returned to the safety of the Bunker and Breed's hills outside Charlestown, protected by the gunner ships lying in the Charles River.

**April** When Paul Revere did not immediately return home from his "Midnight Ride", Rachel Revere wrote a letter to her husband, Paul Revere, sending him 125 pounds and her prayers for his safety. Rachel Revere asked Benjamin Church, a member of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress and Sons of Liberty, to deliver her letter and money to her husband. Unbeknownst to Rachel and other members of the Sons of Liberty, Benjamin Church was a British loyalist and delivered her letter to General Gage instead.

**April 23** The Massachusetts Provincial Congress called up 30,000 new militiamen and contacted other New England colonies requesting their help in raising the necessary troops to fight the British.

**May 6** Benjamin Thompson a well-known American colonist and scientist, wrote an unidentified member of General Gage's staff a letter with a secret message written in invisible ink. In the letter, Thompson detailed the movements of the Rebel Army and complained about his treatment at the hands of the "deluded people" who rise against the king.

**May 10** Benedict Arnold and Ethan Allen raised a troop of 83 men and storm Fort Ticonderoga, capturing 50 officers and 100 cannons. The Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia. All thirteen colonies were represented.

**June 15** George Washington was named Commander-in-Chief of all the American troops by the Continental Congress.

**June 17** American militiamen approached Bunker Hill at night to build fortifications by digging trenches and raising walls. The British tried unsuccessfully to stop the colonists from their ships in the Charles River. British troops were also sent in formation to attack the militiamen. They are repelled twice by the colonists, suffering heavy casualties. By the third attempt, the American militia had run out of ammunition and were killed or captured. The British won the battle, but at a heavy cost, raising the hopes of the American colonists.

# 1776

**February 27** The patriots defeated the Loyalists at Moore's Creek Bridge.

**March 7** The British evacuated Boston after 2000 men, led by John Thomas and aided by heavy cannonade, occupied the city during the night of March 4-5.

**March - May** France and Spain arranged to secretly provide support to Britain's rebellious colonists through fictitious companies.

**June 11** Congress appointed a committee to produce a declaration of independence. Within the committee, consisting of Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Robert R. Livingston, and Roger Sherman, Jefferson was appointed to prepare a draft of the declaration. Jefferson's draft, with minor changes suggested by committee members, was debated in Congress on July 2 and July 3.

**July 4** The amended Declaration of Independence was approved without dissent. The declaration was first publicly proclaimed on July 8 in Philadelphia, and was read before George Washington and his troops on July 9 in New York City.

**August 27** After William Howe evacuated Boston, he decided New York City should be his base of operations. On August 27, Howe and his 20,000 forces defeated the patriots on Long Island.

**September 11** William Howe and his brother Richard Howe met with Congressional representatives at Staten Island. They were appointed peace commissioners by the king, but were instructed not to negotiate unless all extralegal congresses and conventions were dissolved. The meeting was fruitless.

**September 15** The British occupied New York City.

**September 22** American spy Nathan Hale was executed in New York City.

**December 26** George Washington mounted a surprise attack on Hessian troops at Trenton by crossing the icy Delaware. He returned to Pennsylvania with his prisoners, crossed the river a third time, and reoccupied Trenton on December 30.

*Continued Next Month*

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