



# 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 10th meeting to order at noon. Doug Smith was welcomed back after an extended absence and was accompanied by his daughter. There was a moment of silence and prayer in memory of Doug's recently deceased wife.

Treasurer Rich Jones reported a checking account balance of \$3263, which includes \$1210 belonging to the Trust fund. A portion of the latter will be transferred when then trust's CD matures. The current total in the Trust Fund is \$9485, including the funds mentioned above.

Barbara Gay reported that the Fortenada Chapter of the DAR recently celebrated its 45th anniversary. About 35 attended with many dressed in period costumes. Past chapter Regents presented their personal biographies and a large birthday cake was shared by all.

Our guest speaker was David Butler, co-founder, Past President and now Secretary of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society. He was accompanied by his wife. Mr. Butler provided a brief history of lighthouses and their technology and more specifically the history and refurbishment of the one located at Hillsboro Inlet, Florida. This was illustrated by many slides.

There are 30 lighthouses in Florida. The following is a summary of the Hillsboro light's history :

1901- Congress recognized need for a lighthouse at Hillsboro Inlet and over the next three years approved \$90,000 for its construction.

1905 - French firm awarded contract for lens & turning mechanism. Rated 550,000 Candlepower

1906 - Lighthouse completed in Detroit. Shipped via Lake Erie, Lake Michigan, Illinois and Mississippi River, Gulf Mexico, & Key West --- 4,000 Nautical-Mile trip.

1907:March 07. Lighthouse is placed into service illuminated with one vaporized kerosene lamp

1920 -Converted to Electricity. 4/ 250W increased power to 2.5 million CP.

1926 - Major hurricane destroyed everything except the lighthouse. All buildings had reconstructed from foundation.

1941 to 1945 - Light kept Off due to war

1966 - 3/250W bulbs are replaced with one 1,000 increasing power to 5.5 million CP & a range of 28 NM.

1974 - Lighthouse fully automated. Photocell switch turns bulb on & off. Lens rotates 24 hours a day.

1992 - Imbalance forces the classic lens to be turned off & replaced by a temporary beacon

1993 - Due to mercury contamination, 400 pounds of mercury was removed from original turning mechanism. Coast Guard recommends classic lens be scraped. 1994 - Public pressure allows CG to fund a major renovation to the external part of the tower

1996 - Authorized new bearing mechanism replacement and interior restoration to its original state.

1998 - CG Aux installed bearing and was authorized to maintain lighthouse.

1999 - January 28. The Classic lens is back to operation with all new electrical wiring.

but the newly designed bearing failed in a month later .

2000 - July: Installed new bearing and in August held re-lighting ceremony to celebrate completion with classic lens back on line.

---- Successful operation continues.

Next public tour is tentatively scheduled for June 14th Check the Internet web site for details at . A 37 cent stamp will be issued in June, 2003, depicting the Hillsboro lighthouse. A set of five stamp designs will be in this issue, continuing a series of lighthouse stamps and spanning the coast of the United States from Virginia to southern Florida. A book with detailed histories and lots of photographs will accompany the release.

**NEXT MEETING - MAY 8th  
TOWER CLUB !!!**

**\$20.00 INCL. TAX AND TIP**

**11:30 SOCIAL 12:00 LUNCH**

**28TH FLOOR BANK OF AMERICA**

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

Subject: Fw: Shoe Bomber Sentence

Ruling by Judge William Young

U.S. District Court Judge William Young made the following statement in sentencing "shoe bomber" Richard Reid to prison. It is noteworthy, and deserves to be remembered far longer than he predicts. How much of this Judge's comments did you hear on our TV sets?

January 30, 2003 United States vs. Reid. Judge Young: Mr. Richard C. Reid, hearken now to the sentence the Court imposes upon you.

On counts 1, 5 and 6 the Court sentences you to life in prison in the custody of the United States Attorney General.

On counts 2, 3, 4 and 7, the Court sentences you to 20 years in prison on each count, the sentence on each count to run consecutive with the other. That's 80 years.

On count 8 the Court sentences you to the mandatory 30 years consecutive to the 80 years just imposed. The Court imposes upon you each of the eight counts a fine of \$250,000 for the aggregate fine of \$2 million.

The Court accepts the government's recommendation with respect to restitution and orders restitution in the amount of \$298.17 to Andre Bousquet and \$5,784 to American Airlines.

The Court imposes upon you the \$800 special assessment.

The Court imposes upon you five years supervised release simply because the law requires it. But the life sentences are real life sentences so I need go no further.

This is the sentence that is provided for by our statutes. It is a fair and just sentence. It is a righteous sentence. Let me explain this to you.

We are not afraid of any of your terrorist co-conspirators, Mr. Reid. We are Americans. We have been through the fire before. There is all too much war talk here. And I say that to everyone with the utmost respect.

Here in this court, where we deal with individuals as individuals, and care for individuals as individuals, as human beings we reach out for justice, you are not an enemy combatant. You are a terrorist. You are not a soldier in any war. You are a terrorist. To give you that reference, to call you a soldier gives you far too much stature. Whether it is the officers of government who do it or your attorney who does it, or that happens to be your view, you are a terrorist.

And we do not negotiate with terrorists. We do not treat with terrorists. We do not sign documents with terrorists. We hunt them down one by one and bring them to justice.

So war talk is way out of line in this court. You are a big fellow. But you are not that big. You're no warrior. I know warriors. You are a terrorist. A species of criminal guilty of multiple attempted murders.

In a very real sense Trooper Santiago had it right when you first were taken off that plane and into custody and you wondered where the press and where the TV crews were and he said you're no big deal. You're no big deal.

What your counsel, what your able counsel and what the equally able United States attorneys have grappled with and what I have as honestly as I know how tried to grapple with, is why you did something so horrific. What was it that led you here to this courtroom today? I have listened respectfully to what you have to say. And I ask you to search your heart and ask yourself what sort of unfathomable hate led you to do what you are guilty and admit you are guilty of doing. And I have an answer for you. It may not satisfy you. But as I search this entire record it comes as close to understanding as I know.

It seems to me you hate the one thing that is most precious. You hate our freedom. Our individual freedom. Our individual freedom to live as we choose, to come and go as we choose, to believe or not believe as we individually choose.

Here, in this society, the very winds carry freedom. They carry it everywhere from sea to shining sea. It is because we prize individual freedom so much that you are here in this beautiful courtroom. So that everyone can see, truly see that justice is administered fairly, individually, and discretely.

It is for freedom's sake that your lawyers are striving so vigorously on your behalf and have filed appeals, will go on in their, their representation of you before other judges. We are about it. Because we all know that the way we treat you, Mr. Reid, is the measure of our own liberties. Make no mistake though. It is yet true that we will bear any burden, pay any price, to preserve our freedoms.

Look around this courtroom. Mark it well. The world is not going to long remember what you or I say here. Day after tomorrow it will be forgotten. But this, however, will long endure. Here in this courtroom and courtrooms all across America, the American people will gather to see that justice, individual justice, justice, not war, individual justice is in fact being done.

The very President of the United States through his officers will have to come into courtrooms and lay out evidence on which specific matters can be judged, and juries of citizens will gather to sit and judge that evidence democratically, to mold and shape and refine our sense of justice.

See that flag, Mr. Reid? That's the flag of the United States of America. That flag will fly there long after this is all forgotten. That flag stands for freedom. You know it always will.

Custody Officer; stand him down.



**Chapter President George Dennis presented the Certificate of Appreciation to David Butler for his presentation during our April chapter meeting.**

## May Guest Speaker

Our May Guest Speaker will be Dan Barney Dragon-etti (a VERY GOOD candidate for SAR) His topic will be "The Swamp Fox" A general in the Revolutionary War from S.C.

Of interest because our local CAR chapter is "The Swamp Fox".



## The Battle for Philadelphia

Part 8 of 12 continues from last month

The March to Germantown:

### Washington Defends Reading

Washington chose to defend Reading. He ordered General Sullivan to send troops to block fords along the upper Schuylkill. He reminded Sullivan "not to neglect such fords as the country people tell them are difficult, because at such places the enemy will be most likely to pass." Washington did not want a reprise of Brandywine, where the advice of locals about fords contributed to his defeat in battle.

Again the British and Hessians antagonized a reasonably docile population, losing more friends, gaining the unfavorable decision of neutrals, and influencing the result of the war.

-Joseph Jackson, historian

Meanwhile British soldiers had a grand time plundering houses and farms in the countryside. Despite orders from Howe not to pillage, the troops found the area irresistibly ripe pickings. They took military caches and what food they could find.

### Howe Takes Philadelphia

On September 22nd, Howe discerned that the Americans had evacuated their camp and had moved west to defend Reading -- precisely what he had hoped Washington would do. Though Reading was a tempting target, Howe now had an uncontested path into the unprotected capital of Philadelphia.

Washington, who had already moved west, tried the ruse of leaving campfires burning in order to fool the British into thinking the Americans were still in the area. But by this time in the war, both generals were starting to catch wise to the other's tricks. Howe was not fooled.

Howe was wary and sent Jagers across the Schuylkill at both Gordon's and Fatlands Fords -- just in case Washington had something up his sleeve. Once across though, the Jagers met only token opposition from local militia.

At midnight, Howe moved all his men to Fatlands Ford and marched them across in water that was barely over a foot deep. The entire army had crossed the river by morning. They encamped in Norristown, a village between Philadelphia and Washington's army.

Washington could do nothing to save Philadelphia.

Howe Sends 3k to Philadelphia;

Keeps 9k in Germantown

Howe was looking forward to the pomp and circumstance of occupying an enemy's capital city.

After resting in Norristown on the 24th, Howe moved his 12,000 troops into Germantown on the 25th and ordered Lord Cornwallis and 3,000 men to primp themselves for their triumphal entry into the capital city the following day.

Howe would keep 9,000 troops with him in Germantown and establish this defensible position as his buffer between Washington's troops and Philadelphia.

A 12-year-old resident of the village left his impressions of the British army moving into Germantown.

Like a vast machine in perfect order, the army moved in silence, there was no display of colours, not a sound of music. There was no violence and no offense. Men occasionally dropped out of line, and asked for milk or cider.

### Philadelphia's Tories Prepare

The Tories who remained in Philadelphia were worried and concerned. How would the British treat their loyal Colonial cousins? Would they burn houses? Would they quarter in houses? How long would they stay?

In Philadelphia, Joseph Galloway, influential Tory and friend of Howe, tried his best to make the city pretty. Streets were cleaned. Sentinels were ordered to be on the lookout for Whigs who might try to burn houses. Indeed, two men were arrested after confessing incendiary intentions.

Charles Willson Peale, 1791, Portrait Gallery (Second Bank)

Alexander Hamilton

Galloway tried to calm a city that was in turmoil. He ordered Thomas Willing "to inform the inhabitant to remain quietly and peaceably in their own dwellings, and they should not be molested in their persons and property.

But those who remained in Philadelphia had good reason to be scared. Congress had long ago departed for York. The beloved State House Bell (Liberty Bell) was packed off to Allentown (the Americans didn't want the British melting it down to make bullets). Many had seen lifelong friends leave.

On the 24th, they had been confronted by a band of American soldiers led by Alexander Hamilton, seeking to remove all items of value. He requisitioned, "with force if necessary, blankets, horses, shoes and every other article" of use that could be carried away.

The inhabitants of this place were threatened with great inconvenience and distress, thro want of provision and necessaries, for the country; of which the rebel army had left it very bare and destitute, having at their departure, a few days before the British forces arrived not only carried off almost every thing of that nature, except only what was immediately wanted for the present use of the inhabitants, taken every boat and vessel in the harbour, under pretence that if they were left, they might be serviceable to their enemies.

-Robert Morton

On the 26th, Philadelphia fell. Lord Cornwallis, dressed in a scarlet coat with gold lace, led a resplendent procession of 3,000 British and Hessian dragoons. At 11 A.M., they marched down Second Street amidst the "acclamation of some thousands of inhabitants mostly women and children." Following Cornwallis were a group of Tories who had earlier fled the city.

The marchers left a great impression. The Hessians, wrote one Philadelphia, "have terrific mustachios" and the British had "a tranquil look and dignified experience."

But it was a bare city the British captured.

The Rebel Party was carrying off almost every thing, which they thought might be of use to the English army besides what they apprehended might be wanted by themselves which they chiefly took from the Quakers, and such as least favoured them; as blankets, carpets, cloathing, etc. They likewise took away all the lead and leaden pipes and all the bells in the city except one; and they drove off with them about 4000 head of fat or feeding cattle from the island meadows around the city, with most of the horse they could get, leaving the city and remaining inhabitants in much straight and destitute; they likewise cut the banks of the meadows, and laid them under water having seemingly done all the mischief in their power before their departure.

-British Captain John Montresor

The British began the business of fortifying. Barracks were built. Troops were posted at various points about the city. Cornwallis ordered batteries erected along the waterfront to deal with the pesky Pennsylvania navy.

The British would also soon establish a government with Joseph Galloway acting as police commissioner and another Tory, Samuel Shoemaker, named mayor. They wanted the city to resume all signs of normalcy. But in reality, the British would be in charge all along, much to the chagrin of the puppet politicians.

Soon no one would be able to control the reckless behavior of cooped up troops.

Meanwhile, those true to the patriot cause remained active. Patriots were sent into Philadelphia "pretending to be excellent friends to government." They would later send out reports on British actions and movement.

Meanwhile, Washington, humiliated that the British had taken the capital, but buoyed by the performance of his troops at Brandywine, was preparing to recapture the city. He had repositioned his troops several times, and was now preparing a surprise attack on Germantown

The Battle of Germantown

||| no PAGES TO FOLLOW |||

On October 2nd, Washington conceived a bold plan of attack on Howe's 9,000 troop garrison stationed in Germantown. It called for the simultaneous advance of four different units of troops -- moving by night. At dawn, the four columns were to converge not far from General Howe's headquarters and catch the British by surprise.

The morning started well for the Americans who had the British retreating. But Washington's plan went astray when one of his four columns lost its bearings in a dense fog and thick smoke. Others columns failed to coordinate effectively.

Charles Willson Peale, 1783, Portrait Gallery (Second Bank)

Henry Knox

The British defense was particularly strong at a Germantown mansion named Cliveden where dozens of soldiers had taken refuge. Valuable time was lost while the Americans under Henry Knox bombarded the house. Those inside did not surrender because they feared that Anthony Wayne's men, still furious over the Paoli Massacre, would kill them anyway.

In the end, bad luck and poor timing forced Washington to retreat to Whitemarsh with the British in pursuit.

The Battle was an American defeat but it served to boost morale and self-confidence. They believed the defeat was the result of bad luck, not poor tactics.

The Americans suffered 152 losses, 521 wounded, and over 400 captured. The British casualties numbered 537 plus 14 captured.

## The Siege of Fort Mifflin

Philadelphia belonged to the British and General Howe. Yet the area surrounding the city, and the Delaware River which flowed past Philadelphia, was controlled by George Washington and the Continental Army. Howe desperately needed to find a way to bring food and supplies into the city. To do so, he chose to attack American-held forts along the Delaware. Fort Mifflin, the focal point of the American Defense, came under an intense bombardment. After three weeks of fighting, the British finally conquered the forts but only after a surprising American defense.

### The Siege of Fort Mifflin

#### Library of Congress

An allegorical line engraving published in Germany in 1777 representing a sea engagement at Philadelphia during the Philadelphia Campaign. In the foreground is Washington or possibly Howe. The native represents America.

#### Life During Wartime

After being thwarted at the Battle of Germantown on October 4, 1777, the Continental Army fell back to defend the supply cities of the western Pennsylvania, notably Reading. Much of the victorious British army remained in Germantown, five miles north of Philadelphia. The rest of the British, including many officers, quartered in Philadelphia which had been taken on September 26th. But on October 19, a nervous General Howe, fearing for his supply lines and feeling vulnerable to another attack, recalled several thousand British troops from Germantown into Philadelphia proper.

So Philadelphia, already the most populous city in the colonies, was now swelled in size by a British army which numbered about 18,000 or so. With these troops came the usual camp followers -- wives, prostitutes, and sutlers. And while many supporters of the Revolution had fled Philadelphia in late September upon word that the British were coming, their place was quickly filled up by a legion of Loyalists. Many of these Loyalists had left Philadelphia earlier in the summer because of an unfavorable political climate.

Adding to this throng was a host of New Yorkers who flocked to Philadelphia eyeing the wartime business prospects. With a good many of Philadelphia's merchants having fled the city, there would be need for new sellers to take their place.

#### A Hungry City

The city was packed and rooms were hard to find. Moreover, all these people had to be fed and supplied. And Howe had a huge problem -- he could not get supplies into Philadelphia.

Washington's army controlled the area to the west and north of Philadelphia; the area south of the city was already denuded and pillaged by Howe's overland march to get into Philadelphia; New Jersey to the east was hostile to Howe and the general's supply trains would be unprotected against attack by the state militia.

Most importantly, the Delaware River, the channel by which supplies could be brought in from England and other parts of the colonies, was in the hands of Washington's troops. Washington, recognizing Howe's dilemma, observed:

If the river defenses can be maintained, General Howe's situation will not be the most agreeable; for if his supplies can be stopped by water, it may easily be done by land...The acquisition of Philadelphia may, instead of his good fortune, prove his ruin.

Howe recognized that the only sensible way to supply the surrounded city was via the Delaware River. The Americans, however, controlled three forts in and along the river which the British would have to conquer so that their ships hauling supplies could pass safely. To reach these forts, British ships would first have to navigate past cheveaux-de-frise, a weapon consisting of sharpened spikes hidden in the river with the capability of ripping holes in hulls

### The Pennsylvania Navy

Further, the British would have to contend with the mosquitolike Pennsylvania Navy patrolling the Delaware. The 48 boats and ships of the state navy were lilliputian compared to the massive hulks of the British navy. Yet, mosquitoes have been known to raise welts on much larger beasts -- as Howe would soon appreciate.

The two southernmost of the Americans forts, Billingsport and Fort Mercer were on the New Jersey side of the Delaware River. On the Pennsylvania side of the river, 1,900 yards to the north of Fort Mercer, was Fort Mifflin -- the focal point of the American river defense. The British needed to vanquish these forts to get supplies into Philadelphia.

Toward that end, the British sent heavily cannoned warships toward the forts, plans were made to attack Fort Mercer by land, and British batteries were being prepared to bombard Fort Mifflin.

In the interim, a large portion of the British flotilla that had landed at the Head of the Elk River six weeks earlier now lay at anchor off of Chester, Pennsylvania. These supply-laden ships could bring desperately needed food into nearby Philadelphia -- if only the river was cleared of obstructions.

Library of Congress  
General John Burgoyne

Time was now the biggest foe of the British. News of the General Burgoyne's defeat at the hands of American troops under General Gates had reached the British in Philadelphia. Major Serle wrote, "This is the most fatal Blow we have yet felt, and will I fear occasion every sort of Chagrin & Uneasiness at Home. GOD save & bless my King & Country from the wicked Conspiracies off all their enemies!"

Howe recognized that the taking of the forts would provide a big morale boost not only to his own soldiers, but to the folks back in England. More importantly, he would be able to get supplies into the city. But as October waned, Howe grew impatient. Neither his army nor navy was able to make any headway in clearing the river.

For a first-hand account, read selections from Joseph Plumb Martin's diary. Then there was ice.

If the Delaware River froze, British ships would not be able to reach Philadelphia. And it was already unseasonably cold for October. Ice could already be seen along the shoreline. If the city could not be supplied, the British would have to consider making an ignominious retreat from Philadelphia.

In the meantime, criticisms from the caustic Howe began to rankle his officers. Howe grew increasingly frustrated at the combined efforts of his army and navy to conquer the river forts. His officers responded by griping at Howe behind his back and questioning his leadership at Germantown. The British were showing strain from an unsuccessful campaign.

There's much more to this story! Please return later as we continue work on this site! Thank you. The IHA

## Whitemarsh

The Continental Army spent six weeks encamped at Whitemarsh. From the hills at Whitemarsh, General Washington was able to both protect the supply cities of the west and monitor the British, who were occupying Philadelphia.

Early in December, General Howe tried to launch a surprise attack on the American position. But the British plan had been ferreted out by spies, and the Americans were well prepared for their expedition. On December 5, the British began a probe of the American position in the hills. Three days of non-decisive skirmishing followed, after which the British returned to Philadelphia. It was the last engagement in the campaign of 1777.

Both armies now turned their thoughts to winter encampment. The British would remain snug in Philadelphia. The Americans marched to a small Schuylkill River village called Valley Forge.

Whitemarsh: Part 1 of 8

The waiting is the hardest part. -Tom Petty

For the average soldier, Whitemarsh was a story of waiting. During the six weeks the Continental army encamped there, the Americans waited for the British to attack  
waited to see if Washington would order an attack on Philadelphia  
waited to get paid  
waited to find out where winter quarters might be  
waited for their enlistments to run out  
waited for food and shoes  
waited for something to happen.

For George Washington, though, plenty was happening. There was... a court-martial which hinged on the sobriety of one of his generals an angry salvo of letters on the subject of prisoner exchange with Lord Howe a demand of his attention to respond to expiring enlistments the increasingly problematic level of desertions the gathering of two war councils on the subject of attacking Philadelphia a three-day skirmish which left hundreds of Americans and British dead and wounded.

All the time the Americans camped at Whitmarsh, the locals suffered. About 20 families on the outskirts of Philadelphia were left homeless after the British burned their houses in retaliation for harboring Whigs. The poor in Philadelphia suffered severely as inflation raged and the price of food skyrocketed. An egg was a luxury item.

**Part 9 of 12 continues next month**

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