



# The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

## Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



MAY 2013

website: [www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html](http://www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html)  
Fort Lauderdale Chapter chartered December 8, 1966

Volume 46 Number 5

### President's Message

Dear Compatriots,

The meeting in April was a huge success. Our new meeting location at Primavera Restaurant provides an outstanding venue in terms of menu choices, location and audio/visual capabilities. Last month we were pleased to see a large turnout of compatriots and their spouses join us as George Dennis, one of the nation's oldest Eagle Scouts, presented the Eagle Scout Scholarship Award to Eagle Scout Kurt Wuest; along with a check for \$200.00. We even made the 6:00p.m. local news on CBS!

May will be our last meeting before the summer break. We return to our regular meeting schedule in September. Over the summer I encourage you to make a list of service opportunities, speakers or historical locations that might be of interest to our Chapter for consideration in the coming year as we begin scheduling events. It is important for the Broward Chapter of the SAR to be visible and to encourage our youth involved in JROTC, Scouting and other commendable causes.

I wish you and your families a safe, healthy and happy summer.

Sincerely,

Lance T. Pfeifer



Mr. George Dennis {99 years old and 82 years a Boy Scout} presented Eagle Scout Kurt Wuest a certificate of appreciation for his second place in state competition.

#### NEXT MEETING - MAY 18, 2013

Primavera Restaurant  
830 E. Oakland Park Boulevard  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334  
954-564-6363

#### Future Dates:

Saturday, 09/21/2013  
Saturday, 10/19/2013  
Saturday, 11/16/2013

Time: 11:30AM social gathering; Lunch at noon  
Luncheon - \$24.00

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 954-559-3202  
or e-mail Joe Motes at: [joemotes@aol.com](mailto:joemotes@aol.com)



**Compatriot Ted Duay installed Larry Johnson as our newest member.**



**President Lance Pfeifer present a Certificate of Appreciation to Ken Loomis for his term as President 2011.**

## Battles of the American Revolution The Battle for Camden, S.C.

Wednesday, August 16, 1780

~55-65°F, winds 10knots

North of Camden, South Carolina

<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>The US Colonies</b>
Great Britain	United States
Banastre Tarleton,	Horatio Gates,
Francis Rawdon-Hastings,	Johann de Kalb,
Lord Charles Cornwallis	Marquis de la Rouerie
Force: 2100	Force: 3700
Killed: 68	Killed: 300
Wounded: 245	Wounded: 600
Captured: 11	Captured: 1000

### Overview:

The Battle of Camden was a major victory for the British in the Southern theater of the American Revolutionary War. On August 16, 1780, British forces under Lieutenant General Lord Charles Cornwallis routed the American forces of Major General Horatio Gates about 10 km (six miles) north of Camden, South Carolina, strengthening the British hold on the Carolinas.

### Background:

Following the British defeat at Saratoga in 1777 and French entry into the American Revolutionary War in early 1778, the British decided to renew a "southern strategy" to win back their rebellious North American colonies. This campaign began in December 1778 with the capture of Savannah, Georgia, and gained further ground in January 1780, when General Sir Henry Clinton led an army and captured Charleston, South Carolina. Clinton returned to New York, leaving Earl Charles Cornwallis the task of fortifying the South and raising the anticipated large numbers of Loyalists. The Continental Army in the south, most of which had surrendered at Charleston, was completely driven from South Carolina in the May 1780 Battle of Waxhaws.

The only Patriot resistance remaining in South Carolina were militia partisan companies under commanders like Thomas Sumter, William Davie, and Francis Marion. The Continental Army began to reform at Charlotte, North Carolina under Horatio Gates, the "hero of Saratoga". Gates arrived in late July, and met with the local militia and Continental Army commanders. Against the advice of council, Gates, even before he knew the full capabilities of the troops under his command, ordered a march into South Carolina through an area he had been advised had strong Loyalist tendencies. A significant number of his troops were relatively untested militia companies, and even some of the Continentals under his command had little battlefield experience.

Because of its crossroads location, Camden was considered a key to controlling the back country of the Carolinas. On July 27, Gates advanced into South Carolina, heading towards Camden, then garrisoned by about 1,000 men under Lord Rawdon. Gates established a camp at Rugeley's Mill, north of Camden, where he was joined by militia companies from North Carolina and Virginia. The weather was extremely hot, and a significant number of troops were put out

of action by the heat and diseases like dysentery. While Gates had over 4,000 men in camp, only about 3,700 of them were effective for combat, in part because Gates further reduced their numbers by sending several hundred men in support of operations by Sumter and Marion.

General Cornwallis, alerted to Gates' movement on August 9, marched from Charleston with reinforcement, arriving at Camden on August 13, bringing the effective British troop strength over 2,000 men.

### Deployments:

Gates formed up first on the field. He had around 3,700 troops, of which around only 1,500 of them were regular troops. On his right flank he placed Mordecai Gist, Johann de Kalb's 2nd Maryland and a Delaware Regiment. On his left flank, he placed 2,500 untried North Carolina militia under Colonel Richard Caswell. Gates stayed with the reserve force, the 1st Maryland Brigade under William Smallwood. Gates placed seven guns along the line. Behind the militia, he placed companies of cavalry and light infantry. With this formation, Gates was placing untested militia against the most experienced British regiments.

Cornwallis had around 2,100 men, of which around 600 were Loyalist militia and Irish Volunteers. The other 1,500 were regular troops. Cornwallis also had the infamous and highly experienced Tarleton's Legion, around 250 cavalry and 200 infantry who were formidable in a pursuit situation. Cornwallis formed his army in two brigades. Lord Rawdon was in command of the left wing, facing the Continental Infantry with the Irish Volunteers, Banastre Tarleton's Infantry and the Loyalist troops. On the right was Colonel Webster, facing the inexperienced militia with the 23rd Royal Welch Fusiliers and the 33rd Regiment of Foot. In reserve, Cornwallis had two battalions of the 71st Regiment of Foot and Tarleton's cavalry force. He also placed four guns in the British centre.

### Battle

Both armies advanced at each other just after dawn. The British troops opened the battle, when the right flank fired a volley into the militia regiments, causing a significant number of casualties and then launched a bayonet charge. The militia, lacking bayonets, fled before the British regiments even reached them. Only one company of militia managed to fire a volley before fleeing. The panic quickly spread to the North Carolina militia, and they fled. Seeing his left flank collapse, Gates fled with the first of the militia to run from the field. Within a matter of minutes, the whole American left wing had evaporated. The Virginia militia ran away so quickly that they suffered only three casualties.

While the militia was routing, and before Gates' flight, he ordered his right flank under de Kalb to attack the opposing British militia forces. Rawdon's troops advanced forward in two charges, but a heavy fire repulsed his regiments. The Continental troops launched a counter attack which came close to succeeding and Rawdon's line was beginning to falter. Cornwallis rode to his left flank and steadied his men. Instead of pursuing the militia and repeating an event similar to the Battle of Naseby, Webster wheeled around and launched a

bayonet charge into the left flank of the Continental regiments.

The North Carolina militia that had been stationed next to the Delaware regiment held its ground, the only militia unit to do so. The Continental regiments fought a stiff fight for some time, but only 800 Continentals were facing over 2,000 British troops. Cornwallis, rather than fight a sustained fight with a heavy loss, ordered Tarleton's cavalry to charge the rear of the Continental line. The cavalry charge broke up the formation of the Continental troops, and they finally broke and fled.

De Kalb, attempting to rally his men was shot eleven times by musket fire. After just one hour of combat, the American troops had been utterly defeated, suffering over 2,000 casualties. Tarleton's cavalry pursued and harried the retreating Continental troops for some twenty miles before drawing rein. By that evening, Gates, mounted on a swift horse, had taken refuge 60 miles away in Charlotte, North Carolina.

### Aftermath

The Camden Battlefield, located about 5 miles (8.0 km) north of Camden, is owned by the Daughters of the American Revolution, and is undergoing preservation in a private-public partnership. The site was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1961, and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966.

Aspects of the battle were included in the 2000 movie *The Patriot*, in which Ben and Gabriel Martin are seen watching a similar battle. Ben comments at the stupidity of Gates fighting "muzzle to muzzle with Redcoats". The film is not historically accurate, depicting too many Continental troops relative to the number of militia, and that the Continentals and militia retreated at the same time.

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### April Minutes

SAR, Broward Chapter, April meeting called to order by President Lance Pfeifer.

Chaplain Robert Joynt gave a devotion. Pledge to the Flag and Pledge to SAR lead by President Lance Pfeifer. All attendees stood and introduced themselves.

Executive committee stated they were working on speakers, attendance, and a closer association.

Mr. George Dennis {99 years old and 82 years a Boy Scout} presented Eagle Scout Kurt Wuest a certificate of appreciation for his second place in state competition. The state champion went on to win the National Honor. That makes Kurt number two in the country. Congratulation.

President Lance Pfeifer and Compatriot Ted Duay installed Larry Johnson as our newest member.

Ken Loomis received a Certificate of Appreciation for serving as Chapter President year of 2011.

Good to have William Zimmer, F.D. Flannery and Ken Loomis with us today as they have been under the weather for a period of time.

Continued on page 4

**Fort Lauderdale Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution  
2133 NW 208 Terrace  
Pembroke Pines FL 33029-2320**



**Our Chapter presented two Eagle Scout certificates at Pembroke Pines Troop 224 Eagle Court of Honor.**



**2013 CHAPTER OFFICERS**

- PRESIDENT - LANCE PFEIFER**  
1360 NE 47th STREET  
OAKLAND PARK FL 33334-4229  
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- VICE-PRESIDENT - BILL ZIMMER**  
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POMPANO BEACH FL 33062-5732  
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- REGISTRAR / GENEALOGIST - TED DUAY**  
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2771 SE 15 St  
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954-942-3081

Minutes continued from 3

To all the wives who attended---thanks for bringing your husbands. We enjoyed having you. William Platt nice having you with us.

BOM May 3 & 4 ... Our own Compatriot Ted Duay will be installed as State SAR President. Many may not know all the hours Ted has devoted to SAR. Our state trustee account was in shambles Ted worked hard collecting records to get the correct accounting. He has been active in getting the records and helping people become SAR members.. We know the state will be in good hands this coming year

Meeting closed with the Recessional.

J.W. Lohmeyer

**FORT LAUDERDALE CHAPTER  
TRUST FUND REPORT  
DECEMBER 31, 2012**

VALUE OF TRUST FUND AT MARCH 1, 2012  
\$16,297.45

2012 EARNINGS -  
2012 CONTRIBUTIONS 585.00

**TOTAL VALUE OF TRUST FUND AT DECEMBER 31,  
2012 \$16,882.45**

CONTRIBUTIONS PRIOR TO 1993 \$2,225.00  
1993 CONTRIBUTIONS 230.00  
1994 CONTRIBUTIONS 130.00  
1995 CONTRIBUTIONS 76.00  
1996 CONTRIBUTIONS 247.00  
1997 CONTRIBUTIONS 1,883.00  
1998 CONTRIBUTIONS 610.00  
1999 CONTRIBUTIONS 845.00  
2000 CONTRIBUTIONS 511.00  
2001 CONTRIBUTIONS 586.00  
2002 CONTRIBUTIONS 325.00  
2003 CONTRIBUTIONS 745.00  
2004 CONTRIBUTIONS 255.00  
2005 CONTRIBUTIONS 385.00  
2006 CONTRIBUTIONS 460.00  
2007 CONTRIBUTIONS 455.00  
2008 CONTRIBUTIONS 405.00  
2009 CONTRIBUTIONS 568.00  
2010 CONTRIBUTIONS 840.00  
2011 CONTRIBUTIONS 345.00  
2012 CONTRIBUTIONS 585.00

**TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO TRUST FUND  
(PRINCIPAL) \$12,711.00**

**AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR CHAPTER EXPENSES  
(INCOME) \$4,171.45**