



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



website: <http://www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html>

MAY 2015

Fort Lauderdale Chapter chartered December 8, 1966

Volume 48 Number 5

President's Message

Compatriots:

The April meeting was the second in the three part series of lectures by the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society. Author Keith Mitzner spoke on early settler Tom Bryan, the Bryan Family and the lands they owned in what is now downtown Ft. Lauderdale. He also spoke about Ed King along with other early movers and shapers.

Our final meeting before the summer break will be given by Valerie Kooyker on Frank and Ivy Stranahan. The State Society's Board of Management (BOM) met in Orlando May 1st and 2nd. In attendance were Ted Duay, Joe Motes, and myself. The State Secretary asked us to remind all of our members to be sure they do not block S.A.R. emails. We were encouraged to participate in the Knight Essay contest in the fall. This is for High School students. There is also an American History Teacher Award. We need a chairman to head up this project and a few volunteers to critique the essays before they can be forwarded to the State finals.

Saturday night May 2nd was the closing banquet and awards ceremony. The highlight for us was the recognition of Joe Motes. Yes, our Joe Motes. First Joe, has been appointed Southeast Regional V.P. This covers Palm Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, and Miami chapters. But more importantly, Joe was one of only four members who were awarded the Patriot Medal. This was presented to Joe by the State President. Also, attending the ceremony was Lindsey Brock the National President General.

Congratulations Joe and our thanks for all of the work you have done for the Chapter and the Society.

Remember our summer break covers July through August.

On May 16th we hope to see you. Come and learn about the Stranahan's. Friends are most welcome. Last month we welcomed two guests.

Looking forward to seeing you at this our last meeting before the summer hiatus.

So come and learn about our early history. Friends are most welcome and the price is right!

Hoping to see you on April 18.

Fraternally,
William W. Zimmer
954 783 0887 email wwz2620@gmail.com

Minutes of April meeting.

The April meeting held at Colony West C/C, Sat. 18 th, 2015. Pledge to the Flag and SAR lead by President Bill Zimmer. Invocation by Chaplin David Kramer. Members and guest introduced themselves. David Nash , working on his application.

Charles Crowell, V.Pres. asked about Liberty Tree. Discussed and somewhat agreed that a Bronze Plaque to be placed on an existing tree. Charles questioned the proper salute for the Flag. In general stand at attention with right hand over heart. If a veteran you can stand with right hand over heart, or salute with right hand to the forehead. Joe Motes treas. stated about \$18,000 in trustee account and \$640. in checking account. All bills paid. Jim Lohmeyer as rep. to VAVS reported party and Joe Motes dancing with M/M.

Our speaker Mr. Keith Mitzer author of Tom Bryan, Early Ft. Lauderdale Spoke about his book The legacy of Tom Bryan, Ed King and other movers and shapers of early Ft. Lauderdale amounts to more than their accomplishments and the monuments they left. It's the way they did it: pioneers working together to create something lasting and good. Bill presented Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Mitzer.

Secretary Note: We had our best attendance in awhile, Is it because we've returned to Colony West ?? or the excellent speakers Bill Zimmer has brought in ?? or the choice of food and price ??? Come join in...call someone to come with you as your guest.

Closed with Prayer and Recessional
Submitted by Jim Lohmeyer



NEXT MEETING - MAY 16, 2014

Colony West Country Club
6800 NW 88th Ave, Tamarac, FL 33321

Future Dates:

Saturday ,09/19/15
Saturday ,10/17/15
Saturday ,11/21/15
Saturday ,01/16/16

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

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: **954-559-3202**
or e-mail **Joe Motes at: joemotes@aol.com**

Battles of the American Revolution The Battle of Eutaw Springs .

Background

Seven years of British determination to bring South Carolina to her knees met failure. The spirit that had long resisted royal edict and church canon, the fierce desire and indomitable will to be masters of their own destinies, and the dauntless courage that had carved a new way of life from a wilderness were again threatened by oppression; so, little difference was felt among nationalities and creeds, causing a unity to grow among the new world "peasants and shepherds" that shook the foundations of old regimes.

By midsummer, 1781, the Continentals under General Nathaniel Greene had gained virtual control of South Carolina. The retreating British, disillusioned and sick with summer heat, united forces under Colonel Stewart at Orangeburg and began their march to Charleston. Early in September the 2,300 well-equipped British camped in cool shade beside the gushing springs of Eutaw, little dreaming the Continentals were close upon their heels. General Greene, hearing of Washington's plan to encircle and embarrass the British at Yorktown, determined to prevent Southern aid from reaching the beleaguered Cornwallis. Contingents under Marion, Pickens, Lee, William Washington, Hampton and other South Carolina leaders were called together, and reinforcements from other colonies joined them. These 2,092 poorly-equipped, underfed, and near-naked Americans camped on Sept. 7th. on the River Road at Burdell's Plantation, only seven miles from Eutaw Springs. Strategy for the ensuing attack is accredited to the genius of the dreaded "Swamp Fox," General Francis Marion, who knew every foot of the Santee swamps and river.

Battle

The 8th dawned fair and intensely hot, but the Americans, on short rations and with little rest, advanced in early morning light toward the springs. At their approach the surprised British left their uneaten breakfast and quickly threw lines of battle across the road in a heavily wooded area. Behind them in cleared fields stood a large brick home with a high-walled garden. The woods and waters of Eutaw Creek were on the north. Heavy firing soon crackled and boomed through the shady woods. At first the center of the American line caved in, but while opposing flanks were fighting separate battles, Greene restored the center with Sumner's North Carolina Continentals. The whole British line then began to give, but Colonel Stewart quickly pulled up his left-flank reserves, forcing the Americans to retreat under thunderous fire. The encouraged British shouted, yelled, and rushed forward in disorder; whereupon Greene (according to J. P. Petit) "brought in his strongest force: the Maryland and Virginia Continentals, Kirkwood's Delaware's, and Wm. Washington's South Carolina cavalry . . . with devastating effect." The British fled in every direction and the Americans took over their camp. Only Major Majoribanks, on the British right flank and pushed far back into the woods near Eutaw Creek, was able to hold his unit together. Major Sheridan took hasty refuge in the brick home, Colonel Stewart gathered some of his men beyond, and from this vantage they "picked off" many American officers and men.

Greene sent Wm. Washington's cavalry to deal with Majoribanks, but penetrating the woods with horses was too difficult, so Washington tried to encircle and rout, thus exposing himself to dangerous fire. His horse was shot from under him, he himself was wounded, and his company practically ravaged. When a hand to hand fight developed, a British soldier poised his sword over the wounded Washington, but Majoribanks saw and gallantly turned it aside.

In camp, eating the deserted breakfast, and feeling the battle was won, the hungry, thirsty Americans began plundering the English stores of food, liquors, and equipment. Thoroughly enjoying themselves they ignored their leaders' warnings and commands. Majoribanks, realizing the disorder, fell upon them. Sheridan and Stewart pounded at their right, and Coffin came in from their left. The stunned Americans fought this impossible situation bravely, but they were put to flight from the British camp.

After more than four hours of indecisive battle under a merciless sun, both armies had had enough. Casualties were extremely high. "Blood ran ankle-deep in places," and the strewn area of dead and dying was heart-breaking. Greene collected his wounded and returned to Burdell's Plantation. Stewart remained the night at Eutaw

Springs but hastily retreated the next day toward Charleston, leaving behind many of his dead unburied and seventy of his seriously wounded. The gallant Majoribanks, wounded and on his way to Moncks Corner, died in a Negro cabin on Wantoot Plantation. He was buried beside the road, but when lake waters were to cover that area his remains were removed by the S.G.P.S.A. to their present resting place at Eutaw Springs Battlefield.

Aftermath

The claim of several historians that the British won the battle is challenged by Christine Swager in her book *The Valiant Died: The Battle of Eutaw Springs September 8, 1781*. The book argues that, first, at the end of the battle, the British held the majority, but not the entirety, of the field where the main battle took place. Greene held part of the field where the initial skirmish spilled out of the woods into the clearings. Swager also argues that Greene meant to re-engage the enemy on the following day, but was prevented from doing so because the excessively wet weather conditions negated much of his firepower.

Both armies did not leave the vicinity for at least a full day following the battle. When Greene withdrew, he left a strong picket to oppose a possible British advance, while Stewart withdrew the remnants of his force towards Charleston. His rear was apparently under constant fire at least until rendezvousing with reinforcements near Moncks Corner.

Stewart reported casualties of 85 killed, 351 wounded and possibly as many as 420 missing, a casualty rate of over 40%. Some evidence suggests these numbers were higher. American losses as reported by Greene were 139 dead, 375 wounded, and 41 missing.

Despite winning a tactical military victory the British lost strategically. Their inability to stop Greene's continuing

operations forced them to abandon most of their conquests in the South, leaving them in control of a small number of isolated enclaves at Wilmington, Charleston, and Savannah. The British attempt to pacify the south with Loyalist support had failed even before Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown.

Lord Edward Fitzgerald, later to become famous as a United Irish rebel, served as a British officer at the battle and was badly wounded.

The State Song of South Carolina contains the line "Point to Eutaw's Battle Bed" in reference to this battle.

Battles of the American Revolution The Siege of Charleston.

Overview:

In 1778, the British Commander-in-Chief in America Lt. General Henry Clinton turned his attention to the South, where partisan fighting between Patriot militia and Tories had been heavy. Clinton had been there once before on June 28, 1776 when Colonel William Moultrie had defeated Clinton and Commodore Sir Peter Parker at the Battle of Fort Sullivan. The British had tried to approach Charleston by water and had failed to reach the city proper.

General Clinton and the British government back in London believed that if the British controlled the South, Tories would flock to support the British and Clinton would be able to overwhelm General George Washington in Virginia. During the winter of 1778-1779, the British took control of Georgia including the cities of Savannah and Augusta. They soon began planning the capture of the important port city of Charleston, South Carolina.

In response to the loss of Georgia in December 1778, the Continental Congress replaced native North Carolinian Maj. General Robert Howe with Bostonian Maj. General Benjamin Lincoln as Southern Department Commander. Lincoln had proven to be an able motivator of militia. But that was New England militia, he would not have nearly as much success with Carolina militia. Lincoln's first task was to retake Georgia.

On May 11, 1779, General Lincoln was able to reoccupy Augusta, Georgia. In September, he was joined by French Admiral d'Estaing in laying siege to Savannah. The British held out for a month. In October, D'Estaing abandoned the siege and sailed south to the West Indies for the winter. Without naval support, Lincoln was forced to give up the siege and return to Charleston, South Carolina.

In December 1779, General Clinton sailed himself south bound for Charleston from New York City. The British fleet included ninety troopships and fourteen warships with more than 8,500 soldiers and 5,000 sailors. Because they had been delayed several months in leaving, the fleet now sailed through stormy seas. The first storm hit on December 27 and lasted three days. On January 1, 1780 another storm hit and lasted six days. This pattern continued and the fleet was separated. From March 11 until the 21th the British fortified their position which was located where the Wappoo Creek flowed into the Ashley River. They mounted artillery to shell American ships

and keep the Ashley River secure. They then moved upstream and north, away from Charleston, slowly securing the plantations along the way while the Americans shadowed them from across the river.

Under the cover of fog on March 29th, the British crossed the Ashley River upstream from the heavily fortified Ashley Ferry and established themselves on Charleston Neck. When the Americans learned that the British were on the Neck, they abandoned their breastworks at Ashley Ferry. By April 1st, the British had moved down into position to begin their siege works.

Meanwhile, naval maneuvering in Charleston Harbor for the Americans was a disaster. In December 1779, four frigates had arrived on orders from Congress under the command of Commodore Abraham Whipple, which were joined by four ships from South Carolina and two French ships. There were 260 guns afloat and forty guns at Fort Moultrie. Before the British ever arrived, Whipple informed Maj. General Benjamin Lincoln that the flotilla could not defend the bar that blocked the entrance to Charleston Harbor.

General Lincoln questioned Commodore Whipple's conclusion, but Whipple was backed up by a naval board. Whipple chose to first withdraw to the mouth of the Cooper River. Meanwhile the British began their approach on March 20th. When Whipple saw the size of the British attack fleet, he scuttled the ships at the entrance of the river. On April 8th, the British fleet moved in with fire only from Fort Moultrie.

On April 12th, Lt. General Henry Clinton ordered Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton and Major Patrick Ferguson to capture Monck's Corner. It was a crossroads just south of Biggins Bridge near the Santee River. Five hundred rebels under General Isaac Huger were stationed there with orders from General Lincoln to hold the crossroads so that communications with Charleston would remain open.

On the evening of April 13, 1780, Lt. Colonel Tarleton gave orders for a silent march. Later that night, they intercepted a messenger with a letter from Huger to Lincoln and thus learned how the rebels were deployed. At three o'clock in the morning on the 14th, the British reached the American post, catching them completely by surprise and quickly routing them. Following the skirmish, the British fanned out across the countryside and effectively cut off Charleston from outside support.

Synopsis:

On April 2nd, siege works were begun about 800 yards from the American fortifications. During the first few days of the siege, the British operations were under heavy artillery fire. On April 4th, they built redoubts near the Ashley and Cooper Rivers to protect their flanks. On April 6th, a warship was hauled overland from the Ashley River to the Cooper River to harass crossings by the besieged to the mainland.

At this point on the 12th, Lt. General Henry Clinton ordered Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton to secure the far bank as described previously in the Background. Governor John Rutledge left the city on the 13th. On the 21st a parlay was

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Presented Bill Zimmer presented a Certificate of Appreciation to our April guest speaker Keith Mitzner.

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made between Lincoln and Clinton, with Lincoln offering to surrender with honor. That is, with colors flying and marching out fully armed, but Clinton was sure of his position and quickly refused the terms. A heavy artillery exchange followed.

On April 23rd, Lt. General Charles Cornwallis crossed the Cooper River and assumed command of the British forces blocking escape by land. Finally on April 24th, the Americans ventured out to harass the siege works. **Continued next column.**

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The lone American casualty was Tom Moultrie, brother of William Moultrie. On April 29th, the British advanced on the left end of the canal that fronted the city's fortifications with the purpose of destroying the dam and draining the canal.

The Americans knew the importance of that canal to the city's defenses and responded with steady and fierce artillery and small arms fire. By the following night, the British had succeeded in draining some water. By May 4th, several casualties had been sustained and the fire had been so heavy that work was often suspended. On the 5th, the Americans made a countermove from their side, but by the 6th, almost all of the water had drained out of the heavily damaged dam and plans for an assault began.

On that same day, May 6th, Fort Moultrie surrendered. On May 8th, General Clinton called for unconditional surrender from Maj. General Benjamin Lincoln, but Lincoln again tried to negotiate for honors of war. On May 11th, the British fired red-hot shot that burned several homes before Lincoln finally called for parlay and to negotiate terms for surrender. The final terms dictated that the entire Continental force captured were prisoners of war. On May 12th, the actual surrender took place with General Lincoln leading a ragged bunch of soldiers out of the city.

The senior officers including Maj. General Benjamin Lincoln eventually were exchanged for British officers in American hands. For all others in the Continental army, a long stay on prison boats in Charleston Harbor was the result, where sickness and disease would ravage them. The defeat left no Continental Army in the South and the country wide open for British taking. Even before Lincoln surrendered, the Continental Congress had already appointed Maj. General Horatio Gates to replace him.

The British quickly established outposts in a semicircle from Georgetown to Augusta, Georgia, with positions at Camden, Ninety-Six, Cheraw, Rocky Mount and Hanging Rock in between. Parole was offered to back country rebels and many accepted, including Andrew Pickens. Soon after securing Charleston, Lt. General Henry Clinton gave command of the Southern Theatre to Lt. General Charles Cornwallis and on June 5th, he sailed north back to New York.

General Clinton's one order to General Cornwallis before he left, was to maintain possession of Charleston above all else. Cornwallis was not to move into North Carolina if it jeopardized this holding. Clinton also had ordered that all militia and civilians be released from their parole. But in addition, they must take an oath to the Crown and be at ready to serve when called upon by His Majesty's government. This addition angered many of the locals and led to many deserting or ignoring the order and terms of their parole.

Conclusion:

This was a severe blow to the colonies. It was the greatest loss of manpower and equipment of the war for the Americans and gave the British nearly complete control of the Southern colonies.