



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



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Organized November 26, 1966

NOVEMBER 2001

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## Chapter Holiday Christmas Party

Monday December 10, 2001

TOP OF THE PARK

Pompano Park Racing Track

1800 SW 3 Street Pompano Beach

Suggested Arrival Time is 6:00pm

Seat Down Time is 6:30pm

The Dining Room is located on the 6th Floor, called the "Top of the Park". Seating will be six per table and all tables are located along the windows overlooking the track.

The Cost of the dinner is \$16.95 per person, tax and tip included.

Choices of menu are 3 Entrees to select from:

**Prime Rib, Chicken Breast Chasseur, or Poached Salmon,** assorted dinner rolls, butter, fresh garden salad with a vinaigrette dressing, baby sweet carrots, steaming baked potato. For desert French Style Cheese cake and Coffee or Tea.

To make reservations, please call George Dennis at 954-942-3081. Should you get an answering machine, leave your name, number of people attending and if you want Beef or Chicken. You must have your order in to Mike by December 6th. This Dinner is open to all, so if you want to bring a guest or guests this will be OK as long as Mike has your reservation.

**Remember, the \$16.95 price includes dinner for one, tax, gratuity and race program.**

Please make you check payable to our Chapter the night of the dinner.



## 2002 Annual Dues

Your Year 2002 dues notice are enclosed with this newsletter. Payment is due by January 1st. A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. The chapter's annual report and dues payment will be forwarded to the state Secretary on December 31th., so I must receive all dues no later than Dec 15th. If there are extenuating circumstances that will delay your payment beyond this deadline, please call or write me. If unanticipated payment is made later, it will be necessary for you to prepare reinstatement papers in order to reestablish active status. Your cooperation in completing this necessary obligation will be appreciated.

## November Guest Speaker

Our November meeting topic will be on Heraldry, Donald Mandich, retired Chairman of the Board, Comerica Bank will be our guest speaker.

Don has an extensive book collection about Heraldry, and has extensive information he can share with us. He said if anyone were interested, he would do research about their family name before the meeting and bring it with him.

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

*\$18.00 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:*

*954-341-9285*

*Members living in South Broward need to dial the  
area code plus the phone number,  
or e-mail me at: Va60inf@aol.com*

## Chronicles of the Revolution Burgoyne Surrenders at Saratoga Oh Fatal Ambition Part Four

**October 17, 1777**

Near Saratoga, New York

A British army of nearly 7,000 surrendered today to a combined force of American militia and Continental regulars. "The fortunes of war have made me your prisoner," said British General John Burgoyne as he handed over his sword to his American counterpart, Horatio Gates. "I shall always be ready to testify that it was through no fault of your excellency," Gates replied.

News of the momentous British defeat spread quickly through the colonies and fueled speculation that the French government would now seriously consider entering the conflict on the American side. For months, rumors have suggested that Louis XVI needed solid proof of the strength of the revolution before he would officially commit French military aid to the cause. The British defeat at Saratoga could very well buy that help.

The end for Burgoyne and his army came on the heels of a long and arduous campaign that began with a stunning British victory at Ticonderoga. Burgoyne, known in the press as "Gentleman Johnny" began his sojourn in Canada. In an attempt to link forces with British General Howe traveling north from New York, Burgoyne sailed with his army down Lake Champlain, headed for Albany. They paused only to capture the formidable American fort at Ticonderoga.

British expectations were dashed, however, in the American countryside. Burgoyne's cumbersome retinue, which included 30 carts of Burgoyne's personal possessions, and several cases of champagne, was stymied by the dense New York forests.

By the time Burgoyne reached Freeman's Farm near Saratoga, American patriots were less cowed by Burgoyne's haughty pronouncements demanding their surrender, than they were of general fears of having an invading army in the neighborhood.

In fact, the American militia had been fully alerted to Burgoyne's presence, and, as one observer put it, "were out in droves." By the time the two battles of Saratoga were fought, American forces led by Gates and his able field general, Benedict Arnold, outnumbered Burgoyne and his army by nearly 2 to 1.

Killed in the ensuing battle was Burgoyne's second-in-command, General Simon Fraser. A witness to Fraser's death heard him cry, "Oh fatal ambition," as life seeped out of him. He may have been speaking of the whole misguided campaign.

In Paris, it can be assumed that the American ambassador to Versailles, Benjamin Franklin, will act immediately on word of this victory, and once again beg Louis for French aid. If that assistance is forthcoming, it is certain that the war will continue and spread---by means of the ancient enmities between Britain and France---to the far reaches of the globe.

## Yorktown is Won! "The World Turned Upside Down" Part Five

**October 19, 1781**

Yorktown, Virginia

In a stunning reversal of fortune that may signal the end of fighting in the American colonies, Charles Lord Cornwallis today signed orders surrendering his British Army to a combined French and American force outside the Virginia tobacco port of Yorktown. Cornwallis' second-in-command, Charles O'Hara, attempted to deliver Cornwallis's sword to French general, Comte de Rochambeau. But Rochambeau directed O'Hara to American General George Washington, who coolly steered the British officer to Washington's own second in command, Major General Benjamin Lincoln.

Thus ended a three-week old siege which had begun with the miraculous convergence of French and American forces on the Chesapeake Bay. With just a brief window of opportunity to pin Cornwallis in Virginia, Washington and Rochambeau raced southward from New York to link up with the French fleet under Admiral Comte de Grasse in Chesapeake Bay. They arrived just in time to corner the British, who were anticipating relief that never came from either General Henry Clinton or the British fleet.

Off shore, the French fleet effectively blocked aid from Cornwallis. On shore, the incessant shelling of the French and American guns made life miserable for the British troops.

When a British officer finally appeared with a white flag on the parapet surrounding Yorktown, the French and American guns fell quiet. The Continental forces let go a momentous cheer until Washington ordered it silenced. "Let history huzzah for you," he was heard to shout.

Cornwallis' surrender ended a disastrous southern campaign for the British army. Britain's strategy---an attempt to incorporate loyalists support with British efforts---had begun with high hopes and a victory in Charleston, South Carolina just a year and a half before. But the plan backfired as loyalist and Patriot forces in the south fought a series of savage fights that left both sides bloodied, but only the Patriots unbowed.

Cornwallis limped into Virginia in late summer trailed by a force led by the The Marquis de LaFayette, long a supporter of American efforts both as a soldier in this country, and as an advocate for the cause in France.

As Cornwallis' 8,000 man force became prisoners-of-war, the British band played the World Turned Upside Down, a tune that underscored the strange turn of events which had brought defeat at the hands of the provincial forces of America, to the most powerful country in Europe.

As the "world war" engendered by the American Revolution continues to plague British foreign policy, it looks more and more likely that King George and Parliament will cut its losses in the colonies and begin a withdrawal of troops.

After six and half years of fighting, the war may be finally over.



## Congress Add a Bill of Rights to the Federal Constitution Madison Leads the Fight for Passage Part Six

**December 15, 1791**  
Philadelphia

A bill of rights to the Federal Constitution was officially entered into law today by an act of the United States Congress. Among other guarantees, these 10 amendments to the constitution ensure citizens of the United States freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion and freedom of assembly. They protect Americans from "unreasonable searches and seizures," guarantee criminals the right to "a speedy" trial, and from "cruel and unusual punishments."

Proponents of the measures hailed them as a necessary safeguard of individual rights. "Every American's guarantee of freedom," one observer called the amendments. But others viewed the Bill as a sop to anti-Federalists, who had withheld their support for the ratification of the constitution 3 years ago, until promised that a protection of individual rights would be included in the document.

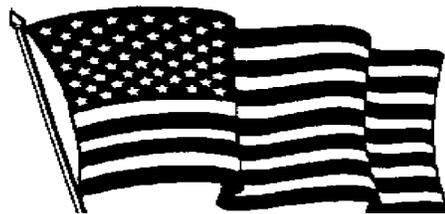
Federalists at the time felt that a Bill of Rights was an unnecessary addition to the Constitution (most claimed the amendments were a redundancy---these were rights already guaranteed to citizens of the new republic), but they agreed to the stipulation to help adopt the Constitution.

Accordingly, it was James Madison, chief architect of the Constitution, who shepherded the 17 proposed amendments through the newly convened 1st Congress in 1789. These 17 were shrunk to 12 in the U.S. Senate, and to 10, as they were passed by the constitutionally mandated 3/4ths of the states.

The passage of the Bill brings to a close a long battle that began early in the post-war years. Though it passed at least one piece of great legislation and encouraged a host of reforms, the confederation of states which constituted the American government through the Revolutionary War and beyond, was the source of a great deal of acrimony and debate almost from its inception.

Early critics of the confederation, like Alexander Hamilton, claimed that the new republic would never achieve greatness---let alone function as a united country---if it continued to be governed by the parochial concerns of 13 independent republics. Many older patriots like Patrick Henry, George Mason and Samuel Adams, defended the confederation as the bastion for the hardwon liberties achieved through Revolution. They feared the power of the strong, central government they saw outlined in the federal constitution and claimed the powers of their own state constitutions would be diminished. As another opponent, Mercy Otis Warren, said, "We are told . . . 'that the whole constitution is a declaration of rights,' but mankind must think for themselves, and to many very judicious and discerning characters, the whole constitution with very few exceptions appears a perversion of the rights of particular states, and of private citizens."

Madison's support for "the Bill" has been crucial to its passage. That "The Father of the Constitution," should be the chief proponent of a measure that threatened to sink the ratification process just a few years ago, is probably an indication of Madison's own good work. The Constitution is already being seen as a document flexible enough to bend to the variety of interests contained in the new republic---including federal and republican ideologies. Only time will tell if it can maintain this unique elasticity . . .



## Purchase a Colonial Uniform

Many Florida SAR members have colonial uniforms which they wear in Chapter color guards or for special community and SAR events. Only two members in our chapter own one. We routinely are asked to participate in July 4th, Flag Day, ROTC, DAR and other functions wearing them. This is a great way to participate in these events and to provide visibility and publicity for the SAR. Please consider getting a uniform for yourself and your society's benefit. There are several colors and styles available. The following source reportedly has been used satisfactorily for many years. She has a complete price list for individual items and color chart for the uniforms that she will send upon request.

Prices as of June 30, 2000, Subject to change without notice

Uniforms \$250.00 Shoe Buckles: \$10.00 PR

Tricorn Hats \$17.50 Shipping and Handling \$12.50

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