



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



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Highlights of October Chapter Meeting

by Oscar Krahenbuehl

President George Dennis called the October 10th meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. He reminded everyone that our chapter has been invited to meet with the DAR on January 11th at 11:30 AM in lieu of our regular meeting that month. Details will be provided in the future.

Treasurer Rich Jones reported that chapter finances are in satisfactory shape (no management expenses or debts have been concealed). He will initiate chapter meeting announcements in several community publications in an effort to inform and invite returning snowbirds and others to the meetings.

Registrar Joe Fordyce sent letters to 7 prospective members encouraging them to visit and join the SAR and our chapter. Follow-up calls or messages also were made. No interest has been shown so far. These leads were provided by the national membership census project.

It was agreed that the chapter's annual meeting will be held at the Sea Watch restaurant on Monday, December 2nd and menu options were decided upon. (See item below for more details.)

In the absence of other volunteers, it was proposed that the present officers be nominated for the same chapter positions for 2003. All officers present agreed. Registrar Joe Fordyce was not present but it is known that his new job commitments make it impossible for him to continue in this office. A volunteer is earnestly solicited. Chancellor Ed Sullivan also was not present but it is hoped he will agree to continue in his position. Member wishing to serve in any position can/will be nominated from the floor at the November meeting prior to the election vote.

Miscellaneous items discussed:

- + Shipping costs for SAR merchandise from Louisville Headquarters has been increased by \$1.25
- + Activities and accomplishments of the Palm Beach Chapter were highlighted. Visitors are welcome at their meetings on the third Tuesday at the Sailfish Club (\$23). It was noted that their longtime Secretary/Treasurer, Raymond Shepley, was married on Sept. 28th.

+ Recent technical reports state that under less than optimum conditions, digital tapes and disks (including CD-ROMs) can deteriorate in as little as 5 to 10 years. Properly stored acid-free paper has longer life.

The guest speaker was Carolyn Kayne, Genealogy Librarian with the Broward County Main Library. She provided a review of the services and databases available for genealogical research at the library and the additional resources anticipated in the near future. Access procedures and location of these materials was given. Private consultation is available with her upon appointment by calling 954-357-7426 (ckayne@browardlibrary.org.) It was apparent to all present that many resources and documents are now available by a variety of means without having to leave Fort Lauderdale.... if you have access to the Internet access, which is available at the library.

Annual Banquet & Installation of Officers

Everyone should have received a separate mailing by now providing details of the banquet to be held on Monday evening, December 2nd. If not, call or e-mail Secy. Oscar Krahenbuehl at (561) 488-5585 or OscarK@pobox.com to receive a copy. The deadline for reservations is noon Wednesday, November 27th. It is hoped that everyone who can will attend this annual event to enjoy both the camaraderie and to show support for your chapter and its officers.

***NEXT MEETING - NOVEMBER 14th
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***

On the March to Brandywine

Part 2 of 12 continues from last month

The British landed at the Head of Elk and were ready to march north. Their likely goal was the capture of Philadelphia. Meanwhile, George Washington rapidly moved his troops between Howe's army and Philadelphia. A jittery Continental Congress was watching.

Howe was counting on a legion of Loyalists to join him. That didn't happen. Further, the British commander confronted a logistical nightmare: he had to find food for a massive army in unfamiliar territory.

Both commanders stood two weeks away from one of the largest and bloodiest battles in the war. In between were bad roads, sick horses, rampant plundering, and a failed peace overture.

Moving On Up

Thursday 4 a.m.

Cold plumes of smoke billowed from the chilled nostrils of the freshly awakened, gaunt British horses. They were being saddled by a group of Jagers who, under the command of Lord Cornwallis, would be in the vanguard of a column setting out from Head of Elk and marching toward Elkton.

British Captain Montresor reported that as the vanguard moved out they left behind two burning houses. It "appeared to have been done on purpose," he wrote.

The troops marched in formations wider than the road. The vanguard troops tore down fences and obstructions for those behind. The army on the march was impressive. A contemporary diarist noted that it was:

a beautiful sight to see ... as they came in sight on the river slope west of the town, with their scarlet coats, their bright guns and bayonets gleaming in the rays of an early August sun.

The day grew warm and clear as the column advanced. They progressed at the somewhat slow rate of about a mile and a half an hour, due in part to a massive cannon being hauled over rain-rutted roads.

After the five-hour journey, covering eight miles, the head of the column entered Elkton, by now a virtual ghost town, deserted in anticipation of the British arrival.

In fact, the crafty Delaware militia had taken supplies just minutes earlier and then scattered at the sight of the invaders, burning a bridge on the east end of town as they went. This inconvenienced the British slightly, forcing the invading column to ford a shallow creek before entering town. The Delaware militia retreated toward the elevations of Grey's Hill and Iron Hill, slightly to the northeast.

Howe arrived in Elkton by day's end and set up his headquarters at the Elk Tavern.

British and Hessian officers were quartered in houses deserted by residents. The 71st Regiment maintained the line of communication between Cornwallis's Division at Elkton and Knyphausen's predominantly Hessian Division which was still unloading from the ships.

Scavenging and Ransacking

While at Elkton, scavenging parties went in search of provisions. Although the punishment in the British army for theft of property was hanging or whipping, this didn't seem to deter this untoward behavior.

A Mystery

On Saturday, August 30, Captain Montresor who was with the advance group at Iron Works penned a provocative entry in his journal: "The Jagers who are forward fired two cannon shot at some officers with their escort, reconnoitering." Two mysteries endure from the journal entry. The first mystery is why were the Jagers firing at officers since the British considered shooting at officers a breach of war etiquette? The second unanswered question is, could the Jagers have been firing on Washington himself? While it's not likely that Washington would have ventured as far south as the area near Iron Works, the American commander was recorded to be out reconnoitering that Saturday.

Lodging and Dislodging

British and Hessian officers were quartered in town, while soldiers built a camp northeast of town, dislodging the overmatched Delaware militia. Small boats carrying camping equipment, baggage, and food were sent up the Little Elk Creek. Some exchanges with the militia were recorded, but overall the British were uninterrupted in their camp-raising and provision-stealing.

Divide and Forage

By Saturday, August 29, Howe came to the decision to temporarily divide his command into two divisions in order to facilitate foraging. There was now very little food remaining in the ships' stores. Of particular concern was a lack of fodder for the horses who had already suffered greatly during the journey.

With Howe at Elkton was General Cornwallis. Still at the landing site was General Knyphausen with the 3rd British Brigade and the dragoons under the command of Major General Grey. Instead of bringing them up to Elkton, he ordered them to go east.

Cornwallis Takes Iron Works

Meanwhile back at Elkton, Cornwallis responded to a skirmish with the Delaware militia. He ordered an advance corps of 400 infantrymen to secure a position on Iron Hill, thus keeping the ever-pestering militia at a safe distance from his main division.

Shortly after that skirmish, Cornwallis himself led a raid which captured Iron Works, a village located four miles north of Iron Hill. A British soldier noted that the militia impressively defended with "smart fire." Upon hearing the American shooting, "the whole (British) party marched immediately towards it, but the rebels kept firing and retreated, and at last dispersed in the woods." Casualties on both sides were light.

Back at Head of Elk

General Howe arranged with his brother, Admiral Howe, to start preparations for removing the fleet from the Chesapeake Bay. It was decided that the admiral would sail down the Chesapeake and then sail north toward the Delaware River. The army would carry all their own supplies.

General Grant remained stationed at Head of Elk with the fleet to unload the remaining supplies and to preserve communication until the ships departed.

Howe Moves Things Along

Back at the Elkton, Howe suffered from not knowing the area's topography. His maps gave him "very inaccurate accounts" and his spies "very little intelligence." Yet Howe knew he would have to make tracks during the hot days of September to make up for lost time. He ordered Knyphausen to get going and rendezvous with Cornwallis at Aikin's Tavern.

Soon after the orders were given, it started to rain again. Despite the swampy roads, Knyphausen's division advanced north from their previous night at Carson's Tavern and attached itself to the rear of Cornwallis's division at Aikin's Tavern on the morning of September 3rd. Meanwhile Grey's column moved ahead to Lum's Pond.

On the morning of September 3, the British troops set out toward Cooch's Bridge. A surprise awaited them there.

Washington Heads to White Clay Creek

Congress requested the Executive Council of Pennsylvania to raise 5,000 men and arm them. The state, always loath to make military expenditures, did not acquiesce in any such quantity.

In Wilmington, Washington, now reunited with his generals, called in as much militia support as he could find to help bolster his army.

Washington expected Howe to march directly toward Philadelphia. He sent the Delaware Militia to Christiana Bridge to scout, perhaps to encourage a British advance in that direction, and, if Howe were to move his troops elsewhere, at least this would prevent the locals from supplying the enemy.

At 4 a.m., he ordered a march "which proceeded thro Wilmington, Newport and Rising Sun" and encamped in White Clay Creek, about ten miles north of Elkton.

Why do we assemble in arm? Was it not to protect the property of our countrymen? And shall we to our eternal reproach be the first to pillage and destroy it? Will no motives of humanity, of real interest and of honor restrain the violence of the soldiers? How many noble designs have miscarried, how many victories have been lost, how many armies have been ruined by an indulgence of soldiers in plundering?

-George Washington, who was fully aware of the deleterious effect Continental plundering would have on those neutral and those of wavering support to the patriot's cause.

To the put-upon civilian population, both armies must have seemed like little more than a plague of locusts.

Organizing and Annoying

On Saturday, the 29th, Washington recognized the need for a new group of sharpshooters to replace Morgan's Riflemen, who were fighting in New York with Gates. He sought 700 recruits: 100 from each of seven brigades -- the finest marksmen -- to form a new corps of light infantrymen under the command of New Jersey General William Maxwell.

Meanwhile, Washington sent out the militia to scout and annoy the British positions farther south.

White Clay to Red Clay

Not confident in the defensibility of his current position, Washington ordered his army to fall back toward Red Clay Creek during the wee hours of the morning of the 30th. Here, Washington arranged his troops for battle.

Part 3 of 12 continues next month

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Chapter President George Dennis presented the Certificate of Appreciation to Carolyn Kayne for her presentation during our October chapter meeting.

DAR Constitution Week in January

The DAR Constitution week has now been moved to Saturday, January 11th, 2003. The DAR would like to invite all the Fort Lauderdale Chapter SAR members and their wives to their January meeting. They will be meeting at the lovely Deer Creek Country Club in Deerfield Beach (just east of I-95 and just north of Hillsboro Blvd.) at 11:30 AM. The luncheon will cost \$20 a person. The guest speaker will be Mrs. Guy Wright and her program is entitled, "Patriotism in America." President Dennis will be contacted by the DAR with the menu and all reservations should be in by January 6th. They look forward to having the SAR join them for this very inspiring program. If you have any questions, please call or E-mail Alice Carlson - Regent of Fontenada DAR at (954) 941-3226 or email at acbcinfla@aol.com

