



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



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Organized November 26, 1966

NOV 2004

Volume 37 Number 8

Highlights of October Chapter Meeting

President George Dennis called the meeting to order at Saturday noon, October 16th. He was back at the helm after a medical problem, although not fully recovered. It also was good to have former FL President Ed Sullivan and his wife, Betty, back from their summer home in Connecticut. Following opening ceremonies, the group adjourned for the buffet lunch provided by The Flaming Pit restaurant. This was our first meeting in these facilities and they were judged by all to be satisfactory and acceptable for our future meetings.

President Dennis reported that on July 4th, a rededication ceremony was held at the grave site of his patriot gg-grandfather James Dennis in Columbiana Co., Ohio. It had previously been arranged for a new headstone to be provided by the US Government and George provided an SAR marker a similar stone for the adjacent plot of his wife.

It was noted that the monthly meeting of the Swamp Fox Chapter, CAR, would be meeting on the next day and that all SAR members and friends were invited. Compatriot Ed Spencer announced that he had pins available for a \$10 donation to the FSCAR state project, "A Beacon to the Future". Proceeds will be used to support a history museum of Egmont Key Island.

It was reported that Compatriot Roland Price is seriously ill. A card expressing sincere regrets was signed by those present and will be forwarded.

A new database called the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System is available free of charge at: www.civilwar.nps.gov. It contains very basic facts about servicemen who served on either side during the Civil War.

continued on page 2



Chapter President George Dennis presents a Certificate of Appreciation to James J. Shannon, Jr. for his outstanding presentation at our October chapter meeting.

Our November Guest Speaker:

Col. Edward Delano Sullivan, Esq. will present a talk about the Mayflower Society and 'true events' of the first Thanksgiving. Ed currently is the Councilor General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and a former Governor of the Florida Mayflower Society. He also is a former president of the Florida SAR and a National Trustee. – Don't miss this informative and sure-to-be-entertaining presentation.

NEXT MEETING - NOVEMBER 20th

"Flaming Pit"

*1150 N. Federal Hwy., Pompano Beach
(11 blocks north of Atlantic Blvd.)*

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

Buffet luncheon - \$11.00

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:

954-441-8735

or e-mail Joe Motes at: joemotes@aol.com

continued from page 1

The following slate for 2005 Chapter officers was announced:

President – Joe Motes

Vice Pres. – George Dennis

Secy / Treas – Ed Spencer

Registrar / Gene – Ted Duay

Chancellor – Edward Sullivan

Chaplain – Jim Lohmeyer

Sgt-at-Arms – Rich Jones

Editor – Joe Motes

Nominations will be open at the November meeting for additional candidates prior to the election. It should be noted that the candidates for Pres. and VP, though quite qualified, were the result of no one else willing to assume these rolls. – It is hoped (and necessary) that others step forward in the future.

The following new trustees were appointed to manage the chapter trust fund:

Ted Duay for a 3 year term, Rich Jones for 2 years and Oscar Kraehenbuehl for 1 year. One trustee is to be replaced every year and serve for a 3-year term.

Ed Sullivan requested that future chapter meetings not be scheduled for a date that will conflict with the Florida Board of Management meeting. He then presented a commendable dissertation on the merits of chapter officers and members attending the BOM's. These provide an opportunity to learn of the many SAR activities available and practiced by other chapters and to meet and know compatriots from around the state. Although Joe Motes does an outstanding job each year of presenting ROTC medals to the local high school units, our chapter no longer participates in other SAR sponsored activities (e.g. the student essay and oration contests, awards available to honor many citizen accomplishments, et al). Doing so would be both helpful to the society and community and provide a needed stimulus for the chapter. – Information and guidance are available; all that is needed are volunteers. How about you !!!

The guest speaker was James J. Shannon, Jr., the former (1979-82) General President of the Sons of the Revolution. He is a native of Kentucky, and attorney, 1986 Citizen of the Year of Madison County, was president of the county historical society for 25 years, and an accomplished cellist (having played professionally in symphonies in Cincinnati, Nashville and Lexington). IN addition to the SR, he holds memberships in the Society of Colonial Wars, Wars of 1812, Stars & Bars (Confederate officers), Aztec Club of 1847 (Mexican War), and numerous other community and social organizations. His talk covered SR membership information and some of the experiences and people he met during his term as the SR president. He currently lives in Ft. Lauderdale but has traveled extensively around the world and shared pictures of a few interesting locations.



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Did you know ??

+ The guard takes 21 steps during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and hesitates for 21 seconds after his about face to begin his return walk. This alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

+ His gloves are moistened to prevent losing his grip on the rifle.

+ He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

+ Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

+ For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30." Other requirements of the Guard: He *must* commit 2 years of his life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty. He cannot swear in public or disgrace the uniform (e.g. fighting) or the tomb in any way. After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on his lapel, signifying he served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of his life or give up the wreath pin.

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from his feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as he comes to a halt. There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. The guard dresses for duty in front of a full-length mirror. Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniform ready for guard duty.

During the first six months of duty, a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Among the notables are: President Taft, Joe E. Lewis, the boxer, and Medal of Honor winner Audie Murphy (of Hollywood fame), the most decorated soldier of WWII.

In 2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, DC, our US Senate/House took 2 days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir!" Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding The Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a serviceperson. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

Free Genealogy Charts

Everyone needs genealogy charts from time to time. While most genealogy programs will create computer-generated charts with data already filled in, sometimes it is nice to have a blank chart that you can fill out by hand. Perhaps even better, you can hand a blank chart to distant cousins, ask them to fill in the blanks and return the forms to you.

You can find downloadable genealogy forms on a number of Web sites. One of the largest collections of genealogy charts can be found by visiting the Misbach Enterprises' web site:

<http://misbach.org/pdfcharts/>. Most of the free charts have room for 6 generations on an 8.5" x 11" chart. All are available as PDF files, which you can view and print with Adobe's Acrobat Reader.

The available free charts include:

Family Tree Chart

This is a very unique tree chart design that holds up to 6 generations in a tree shape. The mother and father's names are placed on the large branches with the children on the trunk. All the ancestors are placed on the leaves in the upper tree.

Grandma's Box Chart

This chart is lined up in a way that makes it easy to see and follow surname ancestral lines. Each surname line is represented horizontally across the page. This chart holds up to 6 generations. There are fields that allow you to link from one chart to another.

Pedigree Chart

This is a traditional pedigree chart. It holds up to 6 generations in the familiar standard format. One difference is that this chart has room for one generation of descendants. There are fields that allow you to link from one chart to another.

Fan Chart

This is a traditional Fan style chart. It has room for one generation of descendants. This chart holds up to 6 generations. There are fields that allow you to link from one chart to another.

Bowtie Chart

This is very similar to the Fan chart, but each side is spread out for visual effect. It clearly separates maternal and paternal ancestral lines. There are fields that allow you to link from one chart to another .

Picture Pedigree Chart

The Picture Pedigree Chart packs a lot of information in one sheet. There is no other chart on the market that fits 6 generations of pictures this size. This chart is great for getting to know your ancestors. You can use this to teach your children about their family tree. This is a good chart to take to family reunions.

Did You Know....

President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law on August 14, 1935. It was a major part of his New Deal plans, most of which were strongly opposed by the Republican Party. Three and a half months later, on December 1, 1936, the first block of 1,000 records were assembled and were ready to start their way through the nine-step process that would result in the creation of a permanent master record and the establishment of an earnings record for the individual.

When this first stack was ready, Joe Fay, head of the Division of Accounting Operations in the Candler Building, walked over to the stack, pulled off the top record, and declared it to be the official first Social Security record. This particular record, (055-09-0001) belonged to John D. Sweeney, Jr., age 23, of New Rochelle, New York. The next day, newspapers around the country announced that Sweeney had been issued the first Social Security Number

Mr. Sweeney was the son of a wealthy factory owner. The younger Mr. Sweeney had grown up in a 15-room Westchester County home staffed with servants. In an effort to learn the family business, Mr. Sweeney was working as a shipping clerk for his father at the time he filled out his application for a Social Security card. The whole Sweeney family voted for Republican Presidential candidate Landon in 1936, although John Jr. allowed that he liked the new Social Security program, even though he didn't think much of the New Deal.

Ironically, John Sweeney died of a heart attack in 1974 at the age of 61 without ever receiving any benefits from the Social Security program. However, his widow was able to receive benefits, based on his work, until her death in 1982.

Did You Know....

In 1938, wallet manufacturer the E. H. Ferree Company in Lockport, New York, decided to promote its product by showing how a Social Security card would fit into its wallets. A sample card, used for display purposes, was inserted in each wallet. Company Vice President and Treasurer Douglas Patterson thought it would be a clever idea to use the actual Social Security Number of his secretary, Mrs. Hilda Schrader Whitcher.

The wallet was sold by Woolworth stores and other department stores all over the country. Even though the card was only half the size of a real card, was printed all in red, and had the word "specimen" written across the face, many purchasers of the wallet adopted the SSN as their own. In the peak year of 1943, 5,755 people were using Hilda's number. The Social Security Administration acted to eliminate the problem by voiding the number and publicizing that it was incorrect to use it. Mrs. Whitcher was given a new number. However, the number continued to be used for many years. In all, over 40,000 people reported this as their SSN. As late as 1977, 12 people were still found to be using the SSN



continued from last month issue

Clark's next surviving letter is dated November 3 from Whiteland Township, Chester County, 8 P.M. The previous day the Continental Army had advanced to encamp at Whitemarsh. This letter was concerned with a new method of obtaining information from Philadelphia by false pretenses. Clark, "counterfeited the Quaker for once" by writing a feigned "few lines to Sir William" Howe, the British commander, "informing him the rebels had plundered me, and that I was determined to risque my all in procuring him intelligence" in revenge; "that the bearer would give him my name," which was that of an anonymous prominent Chester Countian known to favor the British cause. "The letter was concealed curiously, and the General," on receiving the spurious missive, "smiled when he saw the pains taken with it; told the bearer, if he would return" from the country "and inform him of" any American "movements and state of" the Continental Army "he would be generously rewarded."

Sir William gave Clark's spy a pass, which enabled the spy to walk freely about the city and gather information on British defenses, dispositions, munitions, etc., all of which he reported to Clark in great detail, which information was forwarded in the same letter to Washington. The spy also reported that "The inhabitants" of the city "are suffering" for want of provisions. Again Clark reported the rumor prevalent in the city that if the British were unsuccessful in taking the river forts they would abandon Philadelphia.

Clark then suggested that "according to Sir William's desire," Washington should draw up a false statement concerning the numbers and condition of the American Army, "and your intended movements," which would then be dutifully delivered to Howe for his misinformation. The delivery of this forgery would also enable Clark's spy to "take a further view" of the enemy camp.

This arrangement delighted Washington, who replied to Clark on the following day (4th) that the Commander-in-Chief thought "you have fallen upon an exceedingly good method of obtaining intelligence and that too much secrecy cannot be used, both on account of the safety" of Clark's spy "and the execution and continuance of your design, which may be of service to us." Washington then suggested the false information he wished to have delivered to Howe:

"I'd have you mention that General Gates, now having nothing to do the Northward," Burgoyne's invasion from Canada having been defeated, "is sending down a very handsome Reinforcement of Continental Troops to this Army, whilst he with the remainder of them and all the new England and (New) York Militia, is to make an immediate descent on New York (City), the reduction of which is constantly spoken of...and that Genl. (Philemon) Dickinson is at the same time to attack Staten Island, for which purpose he is Assembling great numbers of the Jersey Militia; that the received opinion in our Camp is, that we will immediately attack Philadelphia on the arrival of the Troops from the Northward, and that i have prevailed upon the Legislative Body to order out two thirds of the Militia of this State for that purpose; that you have heard great talk of the Virginia and Maryland Militia coming up, and in short that the whole Continent

seems determined that we use every exertion to put an end to the War this winter; that we mention the forts" defending the Delaware River "as being perfectly secure, having sent ample Reinforcements to their support." Washington added, "These are the outlines of what I think should be necessary" to mislead the enemy and forestall any British attempt to attack the increasingly debilitated Continental Army at Whitemarsh. Hopefully, too, the enemy might be induced to cease their attacks on the river forts, thereby forcing them, for lack of provisions, to evacuate Philadelphia. These hopes, however, were mostly doomed to failure.

The following day, November 4, Clark replied that as a result of the ruse acceded to by Washington, Clark could "expect immediate intelligence of every design of the enemy." He then reported that he had "just returned from below Marcus Hook and Chester" observing the anchorage of the British fleet. While there he "fell in with Capt. (Henry) Lee" and Lee's dragoons and infantry, who had been sent to that vicinity by Washington to destroy the grist mills to prevent their use by the enemy. Lee and Clark endeavored to capture some enemy shallops lying in the Delaware, but the attempt proving unsuccessful because of the withdrawal of the shallops to safer waters, they resorted to a ruse to capture members of the crew of a British tender. Apprised that a local Tory was well known to the British crew, they forced him to hail the enemy ship, saying that he had some fresh beef for them. A boat with five men thereupon put out from the tender. On reaching shore an attempt was made to capture the five men, who endeavored to escape by running off, and were fired upon with the loss of three; the other two escaping unharmed

Hard riding and the excitement of this event much wearied Clark, who noted to Washington, "The excessive fatigue and want of sleep will prevent my being so active as I could wish; riding injures me exceedingly since my late illness," and he was "fearful I shall soon be obliged to retire from service on account of my health." Nevertheless, despite fatigue and illness, he continued to render faithful intelligence service for another two months.

On November 8 from Brigadier General James Potter's militia headquarters at Newtown Square Clark apprised Washington that "A gentleman out of Philadelphia declares that the enemy have not above two days provisions on hand at one time, it being impossible to get more up" from the enemy fleet at Chester. If the blockade afforded by the American river defenses could be maintained, perhaps the enemy might yet be starved out of Philadelphia.

On November 11 Clark was as far down the river shore as Newcastle, Delaware, again spying on the enemy fleet, reporting to Washington on the 12th that 35 British transports had "hove in sigh" in the river bearing heavy enemy reinforcements as well as provisions. The numbers of these reinforcements were conflicting, varying from a few hundred recovered invalids from Staten Island to "between two and three thousand" new troops.

The last estimate proved accurate, being the corps of Major General Sir Thomas Wilson, brought from New York. On the 16th Clark was "sorry to acquaint" General Washington "of the disagreeable news of the evacuation of Fort Mifflin" by its American garrison, a misfortune already known to the Commander-in-Chief; the fort having fallen to severe British cannonading on the previous day.

On the 17th from Darby Township Clark could give a further detailed report to Washington on the British defenses of Philadelphia: "the main body" of the enemy troops "are encamped along the line from Schuylkill to Delaware," just north of the then city limits; "the redoubts" thrown up by the enemy from Lemon Hill (the present site of the Art Museum) to the Delaware "are at a distance of four hundred yards from each other; no cannon in them at present. Field pieces are in the intervals," and the British were endeavoring to raise two battalions of Loyalists. He also reported that the American prisoners "in captivity" in the city were "in the greatest distress; many have died within these few days for want of provision," a circumstance that caused Washington to protest their ill-treatment to Sir William Howe.

Clark rode down to the neighborhood of Province Island, directly below Philadelphia, in company with Generals John Cadwalader and Joseph Reed in an effort to gain intelligence "If the enemy are going to cross the Delaware to attack Red Bank," which information, if true, Clark would forward immediately to Washington. Clark also sent a "young fellow of character" into the city to get "information of the enemy's designs" which the spy was to bear in person to Washington. "I have ordered him to mingle with the British officers; as he is acquainted with several of them... 'twill be easily effected." Clark noted that "the rascally inhabitants are now corresponding and bartering goods with the enemy," and suggested that parties of Americans should drive off the cattle and burn the hay between Philadelphia and Chester lest they fall into enemy hands.

continued next month.

2004 CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - GEORGE DENNIS

2771 SE 15 STREET
POMPANO BEACH FL 33062--7506
954-942-3081

VICE-PRESIDENT - JOSEPH MOTES

2133 NW 208 TERR
PEMBROKE PINES FL 33029-2320
954-441-8735

SECRETARY - OSCAR KRAHENBUEHL

19211 N CREEKSHORE CT
BOCA RATON FL 33498-6218
561-488-5585

TREASURER - RICHARD JONES

2651 PALM AIRE Dr SOUTH #406-27
POMPANO BEACH FL 33069-4221
954-974-5591

REGISTRAR-GENEALOGIST - TED DUAY

1641 SW 102 TERRACE
DAVIE FL 33324-7420

CHANCELLOR - EDWARD SULLIVAN, ESQ

2837 NE 27 STREET
FORT LAUDERDALE FL 33306-1912
954-564-1014

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - JOSEPH MOTES

2133 NW 208 TERR
PEMBROKE PINES FL 33029-2320
954-441-8735

