



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



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Organized November 26, 1966

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BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

Ted Duay attended the Board of Management Meeting of the Florida Society that was held in Lakeland on October 28 - 29, 2005. The keynote speaker was James Randall who is the Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer of SAR. He discussed current initiatives within the Society on a national level. Some of these initiatives include member recruitment and retention as well as the fund raising effort for the SAR Center For Advancing America's Heritage. Of the \$6 million goal, approximately \$2.5 million has been donated to date for this project.

Various compatriots discussed their Officer and Committee Reports at the meeting. This compatriot was heartened to hear Florida President, Harry Hollien announce that all approved Chapter requests for reimbursements would be paid at 100%. This means that the Fort Lauderdale Chapter should receive FULL reimbursement from the Florida Society for all ROTC and Good Citizenship medals awarded to students in 2005!

The Joseph Rumbaugh Oration Contest for Florida will be held at the Winter Board of Management Meeting in Lakeland on Friday, January 8, 2006. I need four volunteers to assist with the contest (2 judges, 1 timekeeper, & 1 prompter). As Contest Chairman, I am prohibited from performing these functions. If anyone would like to volunteer, please let me know.

NOMINATION OF 2006 OFFICERS

At the meeting held on October 22, 2005, the following compatriots were nominated as Chapter officers for 2006:

President - Ted Duay

Vice-President - James Lohmeyer

Secretary - Ed Spencer

Treasurer - Joe Motes

Registrar/Genealogist - Ted Duay

Chancellor - Edward Sullivan

Newsletter Editor - Joe Motes

Chaplain - Robert Joynt

Election of officers will occur at the November 2005 meeting with installation to occur in January 2006.



NEXT MEETING - NOV 19th

"Flaming Pit"

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

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

Buffet luncheon - \$12.00

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:

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The Story of Valley Forge

• Introduction •

The images are heartrending, dramatic and so powerful that they are embedded in the nation’s historical consciousness:

Bloody footprints in the snow left by bootless men. Near naked soldier wrapped in thin blankets huddled around a smoky fire of green wood. The plaintive chant from the starving: “We want meat! We want meat!”

These are the indelible images of suffering and endurance associated with Valley Forge in the winter of 1777-78.

”An army of skeletons appeared before our eyes naked, starved, sick and discouraged,” wrote New York’s Gouverneur Morris of the Continental Congress.

The Marquis de Lafayette wrote: “The unfortunate soldiers were in want of everything; they had neither coats nor hats, nor shirts, nor shoes. Their feet and their legs froze until they were black, and it was often necessary to amputate them.

A bitter George Washington - whose first concern was always his soldiers - would accuse the Congress of “little feeling for the naked and distressed soldiers. I feel superabundantly for them, and from my soul pity those miseries, which it is neither in my power to relieve or prevent.”

The suffering and sacrifices of the American soldiers at Valley Forge are familiar, iconic images, but there is another side of the picture. Valley Forge was where a new, confident, professional American army was born.

Three months of shortage and hardship were followed by three months of relative abundance that led to wonderful changes in the morale and fighting capabilities of the Continental Army.

France would enter the war on the side of the new nation. Valuable foreign volunteers and fresh replacements would trickle into camp.

Most important, it was at Valley Forge that a vigorous, systematic training regime transformed ragged amateur troops into a confident 18th century military organization capable of beating the Red Coats in the open field of battle.

• Background •

Philadelphia was the largest city in the new nation. It became the de facto capital after representatives of the 13 colonies gathered there as the Continental Congress to demand their rights as Englishmen and later proclaim independence and battle the British. Lethargic Maj. Gen. William Howe, commander of British forces in America, made his move on Philadelphia in September 1777 thinking that, perhaps, the capture of the rebel capital would end the war.

Howe loaded 15,000 troops on an armada of ships and sailed from New York City to Elkton, Maryland on the Chesapeake Bay. His forces then marched north on Philadelphia.

Washington attempted to block Howe along the banks of the Brandywine River but was outnumbered and outmaneuvered. Two weeks after Brandywine, Howe entered Philadelphia unopposed.

continued next month

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