



The Florida Society of the  
Sons of the American Revolution  
Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter  
website: [www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html](http://www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html)



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**THE ORIGINAL THANKSGIVING**  
as recorded by Edward Winslow

“Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, so that we might, after a special manner, rejoice together after we had gathered the fruits of our labors... many Indians coming among us, and among the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted; and they went out and killed five deers, which they brought to the plantation... And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.”

**THE ORIGINAL THANKSGIVING DAY PRAYER**

“LORD,  
We prayed for daily bread with every thrust of spade and planted seed.  
We begged deliverance from ills, our weakened Colony survived. Thy will was done.  
We asked for Guidance, You answered with the kindly Massasoit, who taught us the ways of wilderness, gave us seeds to sew.  
Our pleas for strength, You rewarded with determined minds and sinewed backs.  
We put our trust in Thee, You prospered us.  
Now with harvest bountiful we dare to bide in this free land,  
We ask Thy blessing on our native friends and on ourselves.  
With folded calloused hands, we give Thee thanks.  
Amen”



**November Guest Speaker**

Debbie Duay, Vice Regent of the Lighthouse Point DAR will be present a very informative talk at the November 4, 2006 meeting on Broward County historical preservation projects. She will discuss a number of projects that have been supported by the Fort Lauderdale Chapter SAR and how these projects are enhancing the visibility of our chapter in the local community. Some of these projects include cemetery transcriptions, marriage record transcriptions, Broward County WW I veterans, and the founding families of Fort Lauderdale and Pompano Beach. With the upcoming 100th birthdays of the founding of Pompano Beach (2008) and Fort Lauderdale (2011), these research projects offer great potential for enhancing community interest in patriotic organizations such as ours. This presentation is not to be missed.



*NEXT MEETING - NOVEMBER 4th*

**“Flaming Pit”**

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

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

*Buffet luncheon - \$15.00*

*FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:*

*954-441-8735*

*or e-mail Joe Motes at: [joemotes@aol.com](mailto:joemotes@aol.com)*

Dear Compatriots:

I just attended the Florida Society's Board of Management meeting which was held in Kissimmee. As usual, I had a wonderful time meeting fellow compatriots from around the state and learning what the SAR is doing in Florida.

As Chairman of the FLSSAR Audit Committee, I presented the results of the committee's internal audit of the books and records of the Florida Society for the year ended December 31, 2005. The books and records were found to be in good order and fairly stated.

I also presented the accountings of the Florida SAR Endowment Trust Fund and the Florida SAR Operating Budget Trust Fund for the period from January 1, 2006 through September 31, 2006. The value of both funds continues to grow, having a combined value in excess of \$400,000 as of September 31, 2006.

I was honored to be unanimously elected a Trustee of both trust funds by the Board of Management with my term ending December 31, 2009. I will also serve as the Treasurer of both funds.

The Executive Director of the National Society SAR attended the Board of Management meetings. He commented at how pleased he was that the Florida Society was in such good financial shape.

I encourage all of you to attend the Board of Management meetings as they are a great way to learn about the Florida Society and meet fellow compatriots.

Respectfully,

Ted Duay, President

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## **Ft. Lauderdale Chapter SAR Minutes of October 14, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Ted Duay. He introduced our special guest, Gerry Meeks, FLSSAR Regional Vice President for the Southeast District. RVP Meeks stated how pleased he was to be able to attend the meeting and commented favorably on the efforts of President Duay and Treasurer Motes at the state level. He stated that the duties assumed by both were valued and appreciated by the FLSSAR.

President Duay presented the Treasurer's Report which was accepted by unanimous vote. The minutes of the previous meeting were submitted by the Chapter Secretary, William E. Spencer. The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

Vice President Lohmeyer reminded us that the Chapter will be having a joint meeting with the Lighthouse Point DAR and the Swamp Fox CAR at the Lighthouse Point Yacht Club on December 2, 2006. Compatriots and spouses are encouraged to attend. Anyone interested in contributing to Toys for Tots should bring an unwrapped gift to the meeting.

The question of whether the Fort Lauderdale Chapter would join the North Lauderdale Christmas Parade on December 16 at 1:00 pm was brought forward. It was voted to participate in the parade. Those willing to join in, please contact Ed Spencer at (954) 566-3719. This event is a great way for our Chapter to gain positive visibility in the community.

President Duay then proceeded to induct our new member, Rod Hedrick into the SAR.

Nominations for 2007 officers are:

President: Jim Lohmeyer

Vice Pres: Ted Duay

Treasurer\Sergeant at Arms: Joe Motes

Chaplain: Robert Joynt

Chancellor: Ed Sullivan

Secretary: **NEED** Volunteer

The election will be held at the November meeting.

Compatriot Bob Dooley addressed the Chapter on the importance of members becoming officers within the organization, as members need training and experience before becoming a president. Compatriot Dooley has served in a number of officer positions within our Chapter.

President Duay introduced our guest speaker, Mrs. Opal Spencer, Senior President of the Swamp Fox CAR who presented her talk on Native American Genealogy.

Native American Indian genealogical research is unique compared to other forms of genealogical research. When establishing descent from an Indian tribe for membership and enrollment, the individual must provide genealogical documentation. First, the researcher must identify the tribe and then become familiar with their particular tribe and traditions, naming customs and kinship systems, which vary widely among tribes. The documentation must prove lineal descent from an ancestor who was a member of a federally recognized tribe. Most of the records are derived from U.S. Government records using early Indian rolls, census records, applications, enrollment cards, annuity, and allotment records made as a result of Indian claims against the Federal Government.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has valuable records of federal government agencies, including records from various field offices, which have been deposited throughout the United States. BIA rolls are separate from and unrelated to the federal decennial census schedules.

The National Archive records, 1830-1940, mainly deal with Indians who maintained their tribal status records. These include lists relating to Indian removal, annuity pay rolls, annual tribal census rolls of Indians who were under the BIA jurisdiction (living on the reservations), special rolls relating to Eastern Cherokees, claims relating to Eastern Cherokees, estate files and Carlise Indian School Files. The National Archives military records section has a separate alphabetical file for each Indian veteran who served prior to 1870. The National Archives Branch, Ft. Worth, Tx has one of the largest collections of American Indian genealogical materials, much on microfilm, and is available through interlibrary loans.

Early Federal Census Records, 1790-1850 included Indians only if they lived in settled areas, were taxed and did not maintain a tribal affiliation. These records did not specify their race as Indian, but indicated them as a white if living with white settlers, or a black if living with black people.

Indians who were not taxed were not counted in the federal census if they lived on reservations or roamed over unsettled tracks of land. In 1860, the Federal Census added the category of Indian taxed. Later, the 1870-1910 census included the category of Indian taxed or untaxed, but did not include Indians living on reservations until 1890. But the 1890 census was destroyed leaving only the 1900 federal census records as the first census available listing Indians on reservations.

Two of the Major sources for proving Native American ancestry and Indian genealogy are the Dawes Commission and the Guion Miller Commission.

The Dawes Commission was established in 1893 to accept tribal enrollments, mostly for those in the Indian Territory which later became Oklahoma. These enrollments were accepted between 1899 and 1907 with additional names added as late as 1914 due to Federal Court rulings.

The Guion Miller Commission for the Eastern Cherokee was approved in 1909 and is primarily used to award annuities to the Cherokee Tribe residing east of the Mississippi River who escaped the Trail of Tears and did not maintain their tribal status. Rejected applicants were allowed to file objections in the form of Exceptions that were investigated and included in a supplemental report and added to the enrollment record to the U.S. Court of Claims in 1910.

There being no further business before the Chapter, President Duay adjourned the meeting.



**When you think of American history**, the cities of Philadelphia and Boston come to mind. Washington, D.C. and Williamsburg, Virginia are always known for their popular history. We've all known how the Borough of Manhattan is saturated in American History as well. But Brooklyn has more than her own place in the story of America. The first major campaign between The Continental Army and His Majesty's Royal Army happened in Brooklyn, U.S.A. It is here where important historical landmarks resulted from The Battle of Brooklyn in and .

Background: The impromptu skirmishes at 'Lexington and Concord', and the defeat of the surprised British garrison at Breeds Hill in Massachusetts late in 1775, locked America and England into mortal conflict. This changed the course of world history. Then, an ill-fated attempt by the American Congress to try to bring Canadian outposts, (especially Montreal and Quebec) into the war on our side, ended in catastrophe. forming a central inland water route which maps the United States interior, and would cut off New England from the other colonies. Control the Hudson River and you establish a strong hold on the interior. It was hoped in Philadelphia that Quebec and Montreal, upon being seized by American forces, would join the U.S. in revolt. But for reasons of religious and cultural differences, the Canadian townships, both heavily Catholic, were more than a little weary of an invading Protestant American army occupying their cities. They had just cause for concern.

Protestant - Catholic conflict was still active in 1776 and colored much of European politics as late as the 18th century. Irish Catholics had problems being accepted in the U.S. even in the 20th century. English occupation of Canada was proving to be acceptable to Catholic leaders in both cities. The anti-Catholic sentiment was being heard loud and clear above the border. Our armies, beaten by the weather in the north were just not capable of holding Canadian territories without popular activism.

The result were northern campaigns collapsing for logistical reasons, even in the face of weak English opposition. In the process, we nearly lost our hold on central New York and the Hudson/Lake Champlain axis. And without the victory of Saratoga, we would have certainly lost the War of Independence. By August 1776, we were being beaten back down the Hudson, towards New York City and the Ocean Harbor. While at the same time, the British were ready to take New York as its first major beach head against the Colonies.

Up until July of 1776, there were many even within the Continental Congress. that it was Parliament which was causing our troubles with the Motherland. The King was expected to eventually intercede on our behalf. It's hard for us to imagine in today's world, but during the 18th century which marked the end of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, the small man looked to the King as his protector and the King was considered benevolent. It was Parliament run by small minded feudal Lords, and their inherent corruption and politics which people feared. As such, the thought that the King would intercede on behalf of the Colonies with the British Parliament was not a far fetched idea. At least not in America.

But King George III had different ideas. He declared to Parliament that the American rebellion would be crushed with the full force of the British Army. And barring its ability to raise enough troops to put down the rebellion with British citizen's, King George declared he would hire German mercenaries. It was this declaration which spawned the commission of the writing of the Declaration of Independence. The first theater of the war after its issue was right here in Brooklyn.

That March in 1776, George Washington, after being appointed Commander and Chief of the Continental Army, entered New York City and entrenched himself in New York and Brooklyn. The New England regiments involved with the scuffled at 'Lexington and Concord' headed down from Boston to New York to meet with Washington.

Many of who were left from Benedict Arnold's and Robert Montgomery's failed Canadian expeditions also arrived. Regiments from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia joined Washington as well. The names of many who served with Washington in this crucial battle, and its aftermath, ring familiar for many a Brooklynite.

Israel Putman

John Durkee

Henry Knox

Nathanael Greene

are among the famous as etched in the names of our streets and neighborhoods.

Others less famous deserve even more recognition.

John Haslet

William Smallwood

John Glover

William Alexander

When finished reading this article, each of these men should become familiar to you, and you will better appreciate that Brooklyn is as holy ground as anywhere in the U.S.

The Main British Army was conveyed across the Atlantic Ocean under the command of General William Howe. Washington had nearly 20,000 soldiers at his disposal in New York. He built Fort Washington in northern Manhattan, at and around 180th Street on the west side. In Brooklyn he engaged Nathaniel Greene and Rufus Putman (Israel Putman's cousin). Putman and Greene traced out works around Brooklyn Heights that sloped gradually into the plains of Flatlands and Flatbush, and surveyed the Marshlands and beaches that makeup Brooklyn's south shore. At the Battery, Knox was to build, well, The Battery, - a line of cannon artillery that projected out into New York Harbor. Battery Park at this time in lower Manhattan was entirely under water.

Washington had his troops spread out over both sides of the East River and up and down Manhattan Island. Just prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence, on June 29th in 1776, the British finally arrived in New York Harbor in perhaps the largest flotilla the harbor had seen to that point. Eyewitness Daniel McCurtin wrote, "the whole bay was full of shipping as it could be.

I...thought all London afloat." Knox' Battery was a formidable force, which unfortunately was pointed in the wrong direction to be of any use. The British troops landed in Staten Island and formulated a plan, away from Knox' guns, and through that July, more and more transport ships met the British Fleet in Staten Island. Dick Howe, the brother of the General, brought in tremendous reinforcements to help his brother. In August, the British Fleet that was assigned and blockaded in the south, commanded by Admiral Peter Parker (no relation to Mary Jane Watson), joined Howe. General Clinton and General Cornwallis also sailed into New York Harbor. Together they made up Britain's **greatest expeditionary** force to date, ready to snarl Washington.

And if the British weren't enough, Dick Howe brought to his brother King George's promised German mercenaries. The psychological effect of the German troops could not have been over-estimated. But the appearance of German soldiers was a wake up call to the common man in New York City. If the Brits weren't yet considered a foreign power, the presence of the Germans was greatly resented by the American population.

But all this mattered not, because Washington, without a Navy to control the waters around New York Harbor, was faced with a divided force. Much of it was in Brooklyn, cut off from an escape route if needed as Howe's fleet took control of the East River. On top of this problem, Washington's Army was barely more than a mob. Troops were undisciplined and had little respect for military rank. They were ill equipped without heavy artillery. They had no experience to use the artillery they had. Military drill was critical at a time when the musket firearm was not much more effective than the bayonet, and effective use of weapons depended on elaborately choreographed warfare which laid down thick lines of fire to make up for a lack of accuracy. Strict precision discipline in the ranks translated to successful campaigns. This was an art almost unknown by American troops. Even the senior staff command structure was in flux.

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