



**The Florida Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution
Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter**
website: www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Organized November 26, 1966

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President's Message

Dear Compatriots,

Ted, Debbie and I attended the FLSSAR Fall BOM meeting on October 26 & 27 in Kissimmee. The most exciting news presented was the proposed purchase of a five story building in downtown Louisville in the historic section of town that would serve as the new headquarters for the NSSAR. This would be a relocation as the existing NSSAR headquarters would be sold, tax credits would be provided to renovate the historic building, and a museum would attract tourists. It appears to be a win-win situation.

This month Dr. Debbie Duay will be our guest speaker, and her topic will be "The Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution." This is right in line with the FLSSAR celebration on March 8, 2008 at Port Canaveral which will commemorate the 225th anniversary of this battle. There are big things planned, so plan on attending. Reservations for Friday, March 7, 2008 can be made at the Country Inn and Suites in Cape Canaveral.

Last month we had 12 people attend our meeting. The chef cooked a good meal for 20. We need to coordinate a little better. We need to let Galluppi's know our head count 48 hours in advance, so please let Joe Motes know no later than noon on Thursday, November 15 if you plan to attend.

Officers for the year 2008 will be elected on November 17. A slate will be presented and nominations from the floor will be accepted. Come and voice your choice.

Our December meeting will be on Saturday, December 1 at the Lighthouse Point Yacht Club. This will be a joint meeting with the Lighthouse Point DAR. Advance paid reservations will be required. The details are included in this newsletter.

Respectfully,
Jim Lohmeyer

Dr. Debbie Duay Receives Award from Broward County Historical Commission

On November 3, 2007, Dr. Debbie Duay was awarded the Dr. Cooper C. Kirk Award at the recently held 35th Annual Pioneer Day. This award was presented by the Broward County Historical Commission in recognition of her tireless efforts to present meticulously researched records to the public on-line.

December 9, 2007 Event at Alexander Nininger State Veterans' Nursing Home

On December 9, 2007, the Fort Lauderdale Chapter SAR will be joining the Swamp Fox Society CAR and Lighthouse Point Chapter DAR at the Alexander Nininger State Veterans' Nursing Home from 2pm to 4pm. The CAR will be presenting a program to honor the veterans. Please join us and show your support for the CAR and our veterans.



NEXT MEETING - NOV 17th

"Galuppi's Restaurant"

1103 N. Federal Hwy., Pompano Beach
(11 blocks north of Atlantic Blvd.)

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

Buffet luncheon - \$20.00

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL JIM LOHMEYER:

954-436-1156

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

continued from last issue

The Bell and the Declaration of Independence

In 1847, George Lippard wrote a fictional story for *The Saturday Currier* which told of an elderly bellman waiting in the State House steeple for the word that Congress had declared Independence. The story continues that privately he began to doubt Congress's resolve. Suddenly the bellman's grandson, who was eavesdropping on the doors of Congress, yelled to him,

This story so captured the imagination of people throughout the land that the Liberty Bell was forever associated with the Declaration of Independence.

The truth is that the steeple was in bad condition and historians today highly doubt that the Bell actually rang in 1776. However, its association with the Declaration of Independence was fixed in the collective mythology.

Bell as Symbol

After the divisive Civil War, Americans sought a symbol of unity. The flag became one such symbol, and the Liberty Bell another. To help heal the wounds of the war, the Liberty Bell would travel across the country.

Starting in the 1880s, the Bell traveled to cities throughout the land "proclaiming liberty" and inspiring the cause of freedom. We have prepared a photo essay of its in San Francisco.

A replica of the Liberty Bell, forged in 1915, was used to promote women's suffrage. It traveled the country with its clapper chained to its side, silent until women won the right to vote. On September 25, 1920, it was brought to Independence Hall and rung in ceremonies celebrating the ratification of the 19th amendment.

To this day, oppressed groups come to Philadelphia to give voice to their plight, at the Liberty Bell, proclaiming their call for liberty.

History of the Bell

On November 1, 1751, a letter was sent to Robert Charles, the Colonial Agent of the Province of Pennsylvania who was working in London. Signed by Isaac Norris, Thomas Leech, and Edward Warner, it represented the desires of the Assembly to purchase a bell for the State House (now Independence Hall) steeple. The bell was ordered from Whitechapel Foundry, with instructions to inscribe on it the passage from Leviticus.

The bell arrived in Philadelphia on September 1, 1752, but was not hung until March 10, 1753, on which day Isaac Norris wrote, "I had the mortification to hear that it was cracked by a stroke of the clapper without any other violence [sic] as it was hung up to try the sound."

The cause of the break is thought to have been attributable either to flaws in its casting or, as they thought at the time, to its being too brittle.

Two Philadelphia foundry workers named John Pass and John Stow were given the cracked bell to be melted down and recast. They added an ounce and a half of copper to a pound of the old bell in an attempt to make the new bell less brittle. For their labors they charged slightly over 36 Pounds.

The new bell was raised in the belfry on March 29, 1753. "Upon trial, it seems that they have added too much copper. They were so teased with the witticisms of the town that they will very soon make a second essay," wrote Isaac Norris to London agent Robert Charles. Apparently nobody was now pleased with the tone of the bell.

Pass and Stow indeed tried again. They broke up the bell and recast it. On June 11, 1753, the New York Mercury reported, "Last Week was raised and fix'd in the Statehouse Steeple, the new great Bell, cast here by Pass and Stow, weighing 2080 lbs."

In November, Norris wrote to Robert Charles that he was still displeased with the bell and requested that Whitechapel cast a new one.

Upon the arrival of the new bell from England, it was agreed that it sounded no better than the Pass and Stow bell. So the "Liberty Bell" remained where it was in the steeple, and the new Whitechapel bell was placed in the cupola on the State House roof and attached to the clock to sound the hours.

The Liberty Bell was rung to call the Assembly together and to summon people together for special announcements and events. The Liberty Bell tolled frequently. Among the more historically important occasions, it tolled when Benjamin Franklin was sent to England to address Colonial grievances, it tolled when King George III ascended to the throne in 1761, and it tolled to call together the people of Philadelphia to discuss the Sugar Act in 1764 and the Stamp Act in 1765.

In 1772 a petition was sent to the Assembly stating that the people in the vicinity of the State House were "incommoded and distressed" by the constant "ringing of the great Bell in the steeple."

But, tradition holds, it continued tolling for the First Continental Congress in 1774, the Battle of Lexington and Concord in 1775 and its most resonant tolling was on July 8, 1776, when it summoned the citizenry for the reading of the Declaration of Independence produced by the Second Continental Congress. However, the steeple was in bad condition and historians today doubt the likelihood of the story.

In October 1777, the British occupied Philadelphia. Weeks earlier all bells, including the Liberty Bell, were removed from the city. It was well understood that, if left, they would likely be melted down and used for cannon. The Liberty Bell was removed from the city and hidden in the floorboards of the Zion Reformed Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania, which you can still visit today.

Throughout the period from 1790 to 1800, when Philadelphia was the nation's capital, uses of the Bell included calling the state legislature into session, summoning voters to hand in their ballots at the State House window, and tolling to commemorate Washington's birthday and celebrate the Fourth of July.

The Bell Today

The Liberty Bell Center was opened in October, 2003. On every Fourth of July, at 2pm Eastern time, children who are descendants of Declaration signers symbolically tap the Liberty Bell 13 times while bells across the nation also ring 13 times in honor of the patriots from the original 13 states.

The green area seen in the foreground of this photograph was the location of the President's House when Philadelphia was the nation's capital (1790-1800) for Presidents Washington and Adams. The house was demolished in 1832. A commemoration to Washington and the 9 enslaved Africans who toiled there, and Adams and his presidency is being planned.

Liberty Bell Facts

Location: Liberty Bell Center, Market Street & 6th, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Bell Originally Cast: Whitechapel Foundry 1752

Bell recast: Pass & Stow Philadelphia 1753 and again later that year

Bell owned by: The City of Philadelphia (not the Park Service)

Center opened: October, 2003

Center architect: Bernard J. Cywinski of Bohlin, Cywinski, Jackson

Tourism information: Daily 9am-5pm with extended hours July and August. The bell is visible 24 hours a day. 215-597-8974

Strike note: E-flat
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Composition: 70% copper, 25% tin, small amounts of lead, zinc, arsenic, gold and silver (a more detailed analysis is given.)

Size of Crack: The crack is approximately 1/2 inch wide and 24.5 inches long.

continued next month



Ft. Lauderdale Chapter SAR

Minutes of Meeting on 14 October 2007

The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Jim Lohmeyer.

After the opening rituals, President Jim Lohmeyer announced that two of our members had moved away: Mr. Jim Cox had moved to Vidalia, Georgia after the passing of his wife, Mary Elizabeth Cox, and Mr. Rich Jones had moved to Tennessee. All will be missed. President Lohmeyer asked for nominations for 2008 Chapter officers. The slate of officers will be presented for vote at the November meeting.

President Lohmeyer stated that the minutes of the previous meeting were printed in the newsletter. Afterwards, Compatriot Joe Motes presented the Treasurer's Report. The minutes and Treasurer's Report were accepted.

Treasurer Joe Motes stated that the Membership dues have been sent out and that some have been returned. He also reminded us that the dues card also has an additional line to donate to our trust fund.

Compatriot Ted Duay reminded everyone that he has found someone who makes customized American Revolutionary Uniforms and that anyone interested in one can pick up an application from him.

2007 CHAPTER OFFICERS

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In addition, Compatriot Ted Duay, reminded everyone that the Joint SAR/DAR meeting will be held at the Lighthouse Point Yacht Club on December 1, and the price of the luncheon will be \$23.00 per person.

Before proceeding on with the guest speaker, President Jim Lohmeyer presented Mr. and Mrs. Spencer, parents of Compatriot Ed Spencer, a card commemorating their 53rd anniversary. Thank you to everyone involved.

President Jim Lohmeyer then turned over the floor to our guest speaker, Paige Patterson-Hughes, Public Information Officer for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Mrs. Patterson-Hughes informed us of the FDLE's statewide functions of Domestic Security, Pre-Disaster Planning and their function as a member of the Joint Terrorism Task Force on top of their normal operations of coordinating statewide criminal investigations, state crime statistical reporting and other Public Safety services provided to local law enforcement agencies. Since these tasks are so diverse and the need level varies by area throughout the state, the FDLE is divided up into seven regions to better serve the local communities.

Paige recounted one of her first experiences as Information officer when she had to brief the news media on the Gianni Versace murder case. Immediately after the brief, she received a phone call from her supervisor who congratulated her on a successful and professional briefing. That is when she realized that the interview was being broadcasted live. Since that time Paige has conducted many briefs on high profile incidents in South Florida.

There being no further business before the Chapter, President Jim Lohmeyer adjourned the meeting



President Jim Lohmeyer presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Paige Patterson-Hughes for her presentation at our October meeting.