



# The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

## Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



NOV 2011

website: [www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html](http://www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html)  
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### President's Message

Good Morning Compatriots,

As you all know by now The presentation ceremonies of The Liberty Tree that were to be held this month in Plantation, have been placed on hold due to the many Holiday functions going on until after the first of the year. The finalization of the plans and program for the Liberty Tree and Plaque will be discussed at our November 19th noon time meeting at the Colony West Country Club Located at 6800 N. Pine Island Rd. in Tamarac.

Hope to see you at the lunch meeting.  
Ken E. Loomis

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**Fort Lauderdale Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution  
Minutes of Meeting on October 15, 2011  
Held at Colony West Country Club in  
Tamarac, Florida**

The October meeting of the Ft. Lauderdale Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution was held on the 15th of the month at the Colony West Country Club, 6800 NW 88th Ave, Tamarac, FL. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Charlie Crowell in the absence of President Ken Loomis. The invocation was offered by Chapter Chaplin Rob Joynt, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and the S.A.R. Pledge.

All members and guests were asked to introduce themselves after which lunch was served.

Following lunch, officer's reports were asked for. The treasurer's report was given by Chapter Treasurer Joe Motes. Copies were distributed to members. The report accepted and approved by the membership. Chapter Registrar/Genealogist Ted Duay reported on matters pertaining to state and national S.A.R. affairs including the backlog of applications and efforts to speed up the process. No other officer's reports were offered.

With no program/speaker scheduled, the attending members got involved in numerous discussions including Plymouth MA/Mayflower/Mayflower Society and whether we as a chapter should be cautious in handing out certificates of appreciation to speakers whose political beliefs are not in concert with the beliefs of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Several issues came up for consideration but the Vice President deferred all matters that were not urgent, preferring to

have the President deal with the issues at the November meeting. Among these topics were the nominations of chapter officers for next year.

Joe Motes brought up the Wreaths Across America topic. Jim Lohmeyer made a motion that the chapter pay for five (5) wreaths although who will go to the cemetery and place the wreaths on veterans graves is yet to be determined. The motion was approved by vote, 5 @ \$15.

Liberty Tree Project - With Secretary Jack Dye absent, Vice President Charlie Crowell agreed to pick up the planning of the dedication ceremony. Plan is to get speakers, a Chaplin, political figures, color guard, DAR and CAR members to attend, and to contact the media. Various tasks were assigned to members. The ceremony had been scheduled for November 16th but after the meeting it was learned that the City of Plantation has a big annual celebration scheduled for that day and no local officials would be able to attend. Consequently, the ceremony has been postponed, probably until January.

With no further business before the members, Chapter Chaplin Rob Joynt read the Benediction, the vice President lead the group in the S.A.R. Recessional and the meeting was adjourned. The 50/50 raffle was then held, Vice President Charlie Crowell won for the second month in a row. These minutes are respectfully submitted for approval on this 10th day of October, 2011.

Charlie Crowell  
Vice President, Interim Secretary,  
Ft. Lauderdale Chapter, Son of the American Revolution.

### NEXT MEETING - NOVEMBER 19, 2011

Colony West Country Club  
6800 NW 88th Ave in Tamarac

**Future Dates:**

November 19, 2011  
December 17, 2011  
January 21, 2012  
February 18, 2012  
March 17, 2012

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)

## Commanders from the American Revolutions continues

### Robert Magaw

Born 01/01/1738 in Strabane, County Tyrone, Ireland  
 Died 01/07/1790 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Robert Magaw (1738-1790) was a lawyer from Carlisle, Pennsylvania who served as a colonel in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War.

Robert was born in Strabane, County Tyrone, Ireland and brought to Maryland by his father. He settled at Carlisle in Pennsylvania, and practiced law there. His brother was the Rev. Samuel Magaw. Robert Magaw served several years in the militia, and when the war broke out he was made a colonel in command of the 5th Pennsylvania Regiment.

During the New York campaign he was in command of the American garrison at Fort Mifflin. He was forced to surrender it, and became a prisoner on November 16, 1776. Based on his parole he was set at liberty in New York City, but could not leave the city until he was exchanged. This did not happen until October of 1780.

While a prisoner on parole, Magaw met and courted Marritje Van Brunt (1762-1803) of Kings County, New York. They married in April 1779, and would later have two children. After he was exchanged, he returned home to New Carlisle and continued his law practice. He served two years in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives (1781-1782) and was for many years a trustee of Dickinson College. He died at home in Carlisle on January 7, 1790. After his death, Marritje returned to New York to live with their son, Robert Van Brunt Magaw, at Gravesend.

### Nathaniel Greene

Born 08/07/1742 in Warwick, Rhode Island  
 Died 06/19/1786 in Edisto, South Carolina

Nathaniel Greene was a major general of the Continental Army in the American Revolutionary War. When the war began, Greene was a militia private, the lowest rank possible; he emerged from the war with a reputation as George Washington's most gifted and dependable officer. Many places in the United States are named for him.

#### Early Life

The son of a Quaker farmer and smith, also named Nathanael, he was born at Potowomut in the township of Warwick, Rhode Island, on July 27, 1742 (old style)/August 7, 1742 new style. His mother, Mary Mott, was his father's second wife. Though his father's sect discouraged "literary accomplishments," Greene educated himself, with a special study of mathematics and law. The Rev. Ezra Stiles, later president of Yale University, was a strong influence in the young Nathanael's life.

In 1770, Greene moved to Coventry, Rhode Island, to take charge of the family-owned forge (foundry), shortly prior to his father's death. There, he was the first to urge the establishment of a public school and in the same year he was chosen as a member of the Rhode Island General Assembly, to which he was re-elected in 1771, 1772 and 1775. It is debatable that he was a member of the General Assembly since there is no mention of his participation in his personal papers and because there were several of his contemporaries with the same name from Rhode Island. He sympathized strongly with the "Whig," or Patriot, element among the colonists.

#### Marriage

In 1774, he married Catherine Littlefield Greene of Block Island. "Cathy," as she was known by friends, had been living in East Greenwich with her aunt and uncle (William and Catharine [Ray] Greene of Greene Farm, East Greenwich, R.I.) since her mother died when she was ten years old. Her uncle was a Whig Party leader and governor of Rhode Island. Her aunt and namesake, Catherine Ray, was a close friend and correspondent of Benjamin Franklin from 1751-1784. Nathanael Greene and Catherine Littlefield were married in the "best parlor" at Greene Farm, East Greenwich, R.I. where a framed invitation to their wedding hangs on the back wall to this day (2009).

#### Militia Organizer

In August 1774, Greene helped organize a local militia, which was chartered as the Kentish Guards in October. His participation in the group was challenged because he had a slight limp. It was at this time, he began to acquire many expensive volumes on military tactics, and began to teach himself the art of war. In December 1774, he was on a committee appointed by the assembly to revise the militia laws. It has been speculated that his zeal in attending to military duty led to his expulsion from the Quakers in 1773.

#### Revolutionary War Leader

On May 8, 1775, he was promoted from private to Brigadier General of the Rhode Island Army of Observation formed in response to the siege of Boston. He was appointed a brigadier of the Continental Army by the Continental Congress on June 22, 1775. Washington assigned Greene the command of the city of Boston after it was evacuated by Howe in March 1776. Letters of October 1775 and January 1776 to Samuel Ward, then a delegate from Rhode Island to the Continental Congress, favored a declaration of independence. On August 9, 1776, he was promoted to be one of the four new major generals and was put in command of the Continental Army troops on Long Island; he chose the place for fortifications, and built the redoubts and entrenchments of Fort Putnam (the site of current day Fort Greene Park) east of Brooklyn Heights. Severe illness prevented him from taking part in the Battle of Long Island. Greene was also a Rhode Island Freemason and bore a masonic jewel, the gift of his comrade Marquis de Lafayette, on his person throughout the whole of the revolution.

Greene was prominent among those who advised a retreat from New York City and the burning of the city so that the British might not use it. He was placed in command of Fort Lee on the New Jersey side of the Hudson River. On October 25, 1776, he succeeded General Israel Putnam in command of Fort Washington, across the river from Fort Lee. He received orders from Washington to defend Fort Washington to the last extremity, and on October 11, 1776, the Congress passed a resolution to the same effect; but later Washington wrote to him to use his own discretion. Greene ordered Colonel Magaw, who was in immediate command, to defend the place until he should hear from him again, and reinforced it to meet General Howe's attack. Nevertheless, the blame for the losses of Forts Washington and Lee was put upon Greene, but apparently without him losing the confidence of Washington, who himself assumed the responsibility.

At the Battle of Trenton, Greene commanded one of the two American columns. After the victory there, he urged Washington to push on immediately to Princeton, but was overruled by a council of war. At the Battle of Brandywine, Greene commanded the reserve. At Germantown, Greene's command, having a greater distance to march than the right wing under Sullivan, failed to arrive in good time: a failure which Greene himself thought would cost him Washington's trust. But when they arrived at length, Greene and his troops distinguished themselves.

At the urgent request of Washington on March 2, 1778, at Valley Forge, he accepted the office of Quartermaster General. His conduct in this difficult office, of which Washington heartily approved, has been characterized as "as good as was possible under the circumstances of that fluctuating uncertain force."

However, he had become Quartermaster General on the understanding that he should retain the right to command troops in the field. Thus we find him at the head of the right wing at Monmouth on June 28, 1778. In August, Greene and Lafayette commanded the land forces sent to Rhode Island to co-operate with the French admiral d'Estaing, in an expedition (the Battle of Rhode Island) which proved unsuccessful. In June 1780, Greene was in command at the Battle of Springfield. In August, he resigned the office of Quartermaster General after a long and bitter struggle with Congress over the interference in army administration by the Treasury Board and by commissions appointed by Congress. Greene had vehemently argued with Congress over how to supply the Continental Army. Congress was in favor of having the individual states provide equipment, which had already proven to be ineffective since the federal government held little to no power over the states. A month before Washington appointed him commander of West Point, it fell to Greene to preside over the court which, on September 29, 1780, condemned Major John André to death.

#### **After the War**

North and South Carolina and Georgia voted Greene liberal grants of lands and money, including an estate, "Boone's Barony," south of Edisto in Bamberg County. This he sold to meet bills for the rations of his Southern army. After twice refusing

the post of Secretary of War, Greene settled in 1785 on his Georgia estate, "Mulberry Grove," 14 miles above Savannah. He died at 44 years old on the estate on June 19, 1786, of sunstroke.

Greene was singularly able and, like other prominent generals on the American side, a self-trained soldier. He was second only to Washington among the officers of the American army in military ability, and the only general, other than Washington and Henry Knox, to serve the entire eight years of the war. Like Washington, he had the great gift of using small means to the utmost advantage. His attitude towards the British was humane and even kindly: he even generously defended Gates, who had repeatedly intrigued against him, when Gates's conduct of the campaign in the South was criticized.

### **John Stark**

Born 08/28/1728 in Londonderry, New Hampshire  
Died 05/08/1822 in Derryfield, New Hampshire

John Stark (August 28, 1728 – May 8, 1822) was a New Hampshire general who served in the American Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. He became widely known as the "Hero of Bennington" for his exemplary service at the Battle of Bennington in 1777. He was married to Molly Stark. John Stark. Revolutionary War Continental Army Major General. John Stark was born in Londonderry, New Hampshire. He served as a captain in Roger's Rangers during the French and Indian War (1752-1760).

At the outbreak of the American Revolution, Stark became a colonel of a regiment of New Hampshire militia. His first action was at Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775, where his heroic action kept the British from flanking the Colonials on Breed's Hill.

He was popular with his men and is remembered for his exhortations going into battle. He fought at the battles of Trenton and Princeton, but when he was passed over for promotion in 1777, he resigned and went home. However, when word of the capture of Fort Ticonderoga by British forces under General Burgoyne came.

Stark was called back to battle and given the rank of Brigadier General in the New Hampshire Militia forces. Stark faced a British and Hessian force that was going to Bennington, Vermont to capture colonial supplies. General Stark rallied his men with the battle cry "Tonight the American flag floats over yonder hill or Molly Stark sleeps a widow". With this, Stark and his men won the Battle of Bennington. This led to Burgoyne's surrender after the Battle of Saratoga on October 17, 1777, which some considered the turning point of the Revolutionary War. At the end of the war, Congress promoted Stark to Major General. He returned to his farm in Manchester where he spent the rest of his life. He died in 1822, the last surviving American Revolution General.

**Fort Lauderdale Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution  
2133 NW 208 Terrace  
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**John Sevier**

Born 09/23/1745 in Rockingham County, Virginia  
Died 09/23/1815 in Georgia

**John Sevier** (23 September 1745 – 25 September 1815) served four years (1785–1789) as the only governor of the State of Franklin and twelve years (1796–1801 and 1803–1809) as Governor of Tennessee, and as a U.S. Representative from Tennessee from 1811 until his death. He also served as the commander of the Washington County, Tennessee, contingent of the Overmountain Men in the Battle of Kings Mountain.



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**William Campbell**

**Born** 01/01/1745 in Virginia, United States  
**Died** 08/22/1781 in Virginia, United States

**William Campbell** (1745 – August 22, 1781) was a farmer, pioneer, and soldier in western Virginia. In 1775 he was one of the 13 signers of the Fincastle Resolutions, the earliest statement of armed resistance to the British Crown in the American Colonies. He was an important militia leader of the American Revolutionary War, and was known as the "bloody tyrant of Washington County" for his harsh treatment of Loyalist supporters of the Crown. He became a colonel in 1780, and was most famous for leading the militia to victory at the Battle of Kings Mountain, where he charged the enemy while telling his men to "shout like hell and fight like devils!" Afterwards he worked in conjunction with Continental Army troops to oppose the British invasion of Virginia, providing support at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. The Virginia Assembly commissioned him a brigadier general in 1781, but he died soon after of an apparent heart attack.

Campbell was married to Elizabeth Henry, the sister of Governor Patrick Henry, and represented Hanover County in the Virginia House of Delegates in 1780 and 1781.

Campbell County, Virginia, is named for him.

**James Johnston**

**Born** 01/01/1742 in North Carolina, United States

**Died** 07/23/1805 in North Carolina, United States

Colonel **James Johnston** was born (ca.1742 and died on July 23, 1805) in North Carolina. He was the son of Henry Johnston of Scottish descent. He was married to Jane Eward, the daughter of Robert Ewart. James Johnston was an early patriot of Tryon County, North Carolina. Later Lincoln County, North Carolina. James first entered the service of his country, as a captain of a company in the Winter of 1776, under then colonel William Graham. He was in many notable battles, but his most famous battle was the battle of Kings Mountain. In this battle he led the rear guard, as one of ten colonels. This rear guard consisted of about 90 men, under his command. He was called into the battle within the first 20 minutes of battle. He and his fellow colonels had a complete victory over the British and Tory forces. His militia unit was from the Mecklenburg military district. In his later life he was chosen as a delegate to the North Carolina, Provincial Congress, which met on the 4th of April in 1776. He was a fellow delegate with colonel Charles McLean.

**Continued next month**

