



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



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## Our Speaker For The October Meeting

Mr. Robert Clothier will be our speaker for the October 12th meeting. Mr. Clothier a long time resident of Broward County. Working most of his life in the real estate business. He is a former Army officer and father of a resent Taravella High School student, his son Robert now enrolled in Vanderbilt University. Mr. Clothier's wife is employed by the Broward County school system.

Mr. Clothier was a two term president of the Taravella High School Parents Advisory Board, and has served on several committees in his city of Coral Springs.

Mr. Clothier will be speaking on the demographic changes to Florida and especially those of Broward County. Changes that will effect the makeup and diversity of the United States for several decades to come.

In August we had two school resource officer's speak at our meeting. Both men are employed by the city of Coral Springs, however, they are assigned to a school system. One officer, Michael Callahan, is assigned to Taravella High School. His main duty is to form a bond with the students and to assist school security in case of need. Both officers like their jobs but see some room for improvement in school discipline. They did state that most of the young people are hard working, honest, and obey the rules and laws.

## From The President

I was made aware this week of two disturbing pieces of information. They are both interrelated. The author's book and name I don't have, but was written in Canada about the holocaust. In his book he said that the event never happened. For this man expressing his ideas, he was judged and sentenced for HATE SPEECH fifteen years in prison. Yes, our neighbors to the North now have HATE SPEECH LAWS... does it sound unbelievable? Well, recently some of our own legislators are calling for more HATE CRIMES laws and some for HATE SPEECH LAWS. Is it just me or does this sound like history is ready to repeat itself here in our own back yard?

If you think this is a liberal idea only, Think again. I heard a conservative running for the State Senate that he is in favor of more hate crime laws. I had the opportunity of visiting with

a couple of Asian decent. They are both highly educated, and the husband a Republican. However, when we spoke of HATE SPEECH he seems in favor of it. He and his wife were insulted verbally by some youths after a recent movie. The youths used a slang term to people of Asian decent. This man said that it hurt a lot and he wished something could have been done. I suggested he grab them and give them a good swat on the head or disregard them. I said there will always be some who will act this way.

What surprised me was he thought some sort of HATE SPEECH would help in this matter. I almost fell out of my chair. He was ready to tear up or mark through the First Amendment. Why is our nation getting so soft with terms and words. Is there one of you SAR members who can say he feels free to speak his mind on any issue today without having to worry what someone else might say. Our founding fathers hard work, blood and sacrifice have kept us safe for the last 224 years. However, some politicians seem now ready to sell out our personal freedoms to get elected. Please feel free to tell me I'm wrong. Maybe I will wake from this dream and see a different America for my children and grandchildren. Please, I call on all our members to get involved in our community. Let our voices be heard. I for one will not let my liberties be destroyed for political correctness or because we are living in a financial boom time. Gentleman, once any law is enacted it will never be changed, I call on all of you to arms and get involved now for the sake of our country.

**NEXT MEETING - OCTOBER 12th  
TOWER CLUB !!!  
\$18.00 INCL. TAX AND TIP  
11:30 SOCIAL 12:00 LUNCH  
28TH FLOOR BANK OF AMERICA  
1 FINANCIAL TOWER  
SE 3RD AVE & BROWARD BLVD  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:  
954-441-8735**

*Members living in North Broward need to dial the  
area code plus the phone number,  
or e-mail me at: joemotes@aol.com*

## A New Nation 1784 to 1790

### Part 5 of 5

**January 14, 1784** - The is ratified by Congress. The Revolutionary War officially ends.

**March 1, 1784** - A congressional committee led by proposes to divide up sprawling western territories into states, to be considered equal with the original 13. Jefferson also proposes a ban on slavery everywhere in the U.S. after 1800. This proposal is narrowly defeated.

**August 30, 1784** - Beginning of the China Trade, as the American Ship *Empress of China*, sailing from New York, arrives at Canton, China. The ship will return with exotic goods, including silks and tea, spurring large numbers of American merchants to enter the trade.

**September 22, 1784** - Russians establish their first settlement in Alaska, on Kodiak Island.

**January 11, 1785** - Congress relocates to New York City, temporary capital of the U.S.

**February 24, 1785** - Although England refuses to send an ambassador to the U.S., is sent as the American ambassador to Britain. He will spend the next three years trying without success to settle problems regarding the existence of a string of British forts along the Canadian border, pre-war debts owed to British creditors, post-war American treatment of Loyalists, and the closing of the West Indian colonies to American trade.

**May 8, 1785** - Congress passes the Land Ordinance of 1785 which divides the northwest territories into townships, each set at 6 square miles, subdivided into 36 lots of 640 acres each, with each lot selling for no less than \$640.

**January 16, 1786** - The Virginia legislature passes Jefferson's Ordinance of Religious Freedom guaranteeing that no man may be forced to attend or support any church or be discriminated against because of his religious preference. This will later serve as the model for the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

**Summer of 1786** - Americans suffer from post-war economic depression including a shortage of currency, high taxes, nagging creditors, farm foreclosures and bankruptcies.

**August 8, 1786** - Congress adopts a monetary system based on the Spanish dollar, with a gold piece valued at \$10, silver pieces at \$1, one-tenth of \$1 also in silver, and copper pennies.

**August 22-25, 1786** - Angry representatives from 50 towns in Massachusetts meet to discuss money problems including the rising number of foreclosures, the high cost of lawsuits, heavy land and poll taxes, high salaries for state officials, and demands for new paper money as a means of credit.

**August 31, 1786** - In Massachusetts, to prevent debtors from being tried and put in prison, ex-Revolutionary War Captain Daniel Shays, who is now a bankrupt farmer, leads an armed mob and prevents the Northampton Court from holding a session.

**September 20, 1786** - In New Hampshire, an armed mob marches on the state assembly and demands enactment of an issue of paper money.

**September 26, 1786** - Shays' rebels, fearing they might be charged with treason, confront 600 militiamen protecting the state Massachusetts Supreme Court session in Springfield and force the court to adjourn.

**October 16, 1786** - Congress establishes the United States mint.

**October 20, 1786** - Congress authorizes Secretary of War Henry Knox to raise a an army of 1340 men over concerns of the safety of the federal arsenal at Springfield, Mass.

**December 26, 1786** - Shays assembles 1200 men near Worcester, Mass. and heads toward Springfield. Massachusetts Governor, Bowdoin, then orders mobilization of a 4400 man force.

**January 26, 1787** - Shays' rebels attack the federal arsenal at Springfield but are unsuccessful. Revolutionary War hero, Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, then arrives with reinforcements from Boston to pursue the rebels.

**February 4, 1787** - Gen. Lincoln's troops attack Shays' rebels at Petersham, Massachusetts, and capture 150 rebels. Shays flees north to Vermont.

**February 21, 1787** - Amid calls for a stronger central government, due in part to Shays' Rebellion, Congress endorses a resolution calling for a constitutional convention to be held in Philadelphia, beginning in May.

**May 25, 1787** - With 29 delegates from nine states present, the constitutional convention begins in the state house (Independence Hall) in Philadelphia. A total of 73 delegates have been chosen by the states (excluding Rhode Island) although only 55 will actually attend. There are 21 veterans of the Revolutionary War and 8 signers of the Declaration of Independence. The delegates are farmers, merchants, lawyers and bankers, with an average age of 42, and include the brilliant 36 year old James Madison, the central figure at the convention, and 81 year old Ben Franklin. Thomas Jefferson, serving abroad as ambassador to France, does not attend.

The delegates first vote is to keep the proceedings absolutely secret. George Washington is then nominated as president of the constitutional convention.

**June 19, 1787** - Rather than revise the Articles of Confederation, delegates at the constitutional convention vote to create an entirely new form of national government separated into three branches - the legislative, executive and judicial - thus dispersing power with checks and balances, and competing factions, as a measure of protection against tyranny by a controlling majority.

**July 13, 1787** - Congress enacts the which establishes formal procedures for transforming territories into states. It provides for the eventual establishment of three to five states in the area north of the Ohio River, to be considered equal with the original 13. The Ordinance includes a Bill of Rights that guarantees freedom of religion, the right to trial by jury, public education and a ban on slavery in the Northwest.

**July 16, 1787** - At the constitutional convention, Roger Sherman proposes a compromise which allows for representation in the House of Representatives based on each state's population

and equal representation for all of the states in the Senate. The numerous black slaves in the South are to be counted at only three fifths of their total number. A rough draft of the constitution is then drawn up.

**August 6-10, 1787** - Items in the draft constitution are debated including the length of terms for the president and legislators, the power of Congress to regulate commerce, and a proposed 20 year ban on any Congressional action concerning slavery.

**September 17, 1787** - Thirty nine delegates vote to approve and then sign the final draft of the new Constitution.

The Legislative Branch will consist of two houses. The upper house (Senate) to be composed of nominees selected by state assemblies for six year terms; the lower house (House of Representatives) to be elected every two years by popular vote.

The Executive Branch is to be headed by a chief executive (President) elected every four years by presidential electors from the states. The President is granted sweeping powers including: veto power over Congress which can be overridden by a two-thirds vote in each house; commander in chief of the armies; power to make treaties with the advice and consent of two-thirds of the Senate; power to appoint judges, diplomats and other officers with the consent of the Senate; power to recommend legislation and responsibility for execution of the laws.

The President is required to report each year to the legislative branch on the state of the nation. The legislative branch has the power to remove the President from office. The House can impeach the President for treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors with actual removal from office occurring by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

The Judicial Branch consists of a Supreme Court headed by a chief justice. The court has the implied power to review laws that conflict with the Constitution.

**September 19, 1787** - For the first time the proposed Constitution is made public as printed copies of the text are distributed. A storm of controversy soon arises as most people had only expected a revision of the Articles of

Confederation, not a new central government with similarities to the British system they had just overthrown.

**September 28, 1787** - Congress votes to send the Constitution to the state legislatures for ratification, needing the approval of nine states.

**October 27, 1787** - The Federalists, who advocate a strong central government and approval of the new Constitution, begin publishing essays in favor of ratification. Written by Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay, the total number of articles will eventually reach 85 and be compiled and published as the Federalist Papers.

**December 7, 1787** - Delaware is the first of the nine states needed to ratify the Constitution. To be followed by: Pennsylvania (Dec. 12) New Jersey (Dec. 18) Georgia (Jan. 2, 1788) Connecticut (Jan. 9) Massachusetts (Feb. 7) Maryland (April 28) South Carolina (May 23) and New Hampshire (June 21).

**February 6, 1788** - Anti-Federalists in Massachusetts, led by and John Hancock, favor a more decentralized system of government and give their support to ratification of the Constitution only after a compromise is reached that amendments will be included which guarantee civil liberties.

**February 27, 1788** - In Massachusetts, following an incident in which free blacks were kidnapped and transported to the island of Martinique, the Massachusetts legislature declares the slavery trade illegal and provides for monetary damages to victims of kidnappings.

**March 24, 1788** - In Rhode Island, the Constitution is rejected by a popular referendum. The state, fearful of consolidated federal power, had refused to send a delegation to the constitutional convention in Philadelphia and had subsequently rejected a state convention to consider ratification.

**June 2, 1788** - In Virginia, anti-Federalist forces, led by Patrick Henry and George Mason, oppose ratification of the Constitution. They are joined by who calls for a bill of rights and a lower house set up on a more democratic basis.

**June 25, 1788** - In Virginia, the Federalists, led by James Madison, finally prevail as ratification of the Constitution (with a proposed bill of rights and 20 other changes) is endorsed by a close vote of 89 to 75.

**July 2, 1788** - A formal announcement is made by the president of Congress that the is now in effect, having been ratified by the required nine states.

**July 8, 1788** - A committee in the old Congress (still under the Articles of Confederation) is established to prepare for an orderly transfer of power, including procedures for electing representatives to the first Congress under the new Constitution and procedures for choosing the electors of the first president.

**July 26, 1788** - The state of New York votes 30 to 27 to endorse ratification while also recommending a bill of rights be included.

**September 13, 1788** - New York City is chosen by Congress to be the temporary seat of the new U.S. government.

**October-December** - Commodity prices stabilize, spurring economic recovery and a gradual return to pre-war levels of prosperity.

**November 1, 1788** - The old Congress, operating under the Articles of Confederation, adjourns. The U.S. is temporarily without a central government.

**November 21, 1788** - North Carolina endorses the Constitution by a vote of 194 to 77.

**December 23, 1788** - Maryland proposes giving a 10 square-mile area along the Potomac River for the establishment of a federal town to be the new seat of the U.S. government.

**January 7, 1789** - Presidential electors are chosen in the 11 ratifying states, except New York.

**January 23, 1789** - Georgetown University, the first Catholic college in the U.S., is founded by Father John Carroll.

**February 4, 1789** - Ballots are cast in the first presidential election, to be counted on April 6.

**March 4, 1789** - The first Congress convenes in New York City, but is unable to achieve a quorum, since most members are still traveling there.

**April 1, 1789** - A quorum is reached in Congress with 30 of 59 members present and the House of Representatives begins to function. Of the 59 members, 54 had also been delegates to the constitutional convention.

**April 6, 1789** - In the Senate, with 9 of 22 senators present, the presidential ballots cast on Feb. 4 are counted. George Washington is the unanimous choice for President with 69 votes. John Adams is elected Vice President with 34 votes. Messengers are then sent to inform Washington and Adams.

**April 14, 1789** - Charles Thomson, secretary of Congress, arrives at Mount Vernon and informs George Washington of his election as President. Two days later, Washington leaves for New York City.

**April 21, 1789** - John Adams arrives in New York and is sworn in as Vice President, then takes his seat as presiding officer of the Senate.

**April 23, 1789** - After an eight day triumphal journey, Washington arrives in New York City.

**April 30, 1789** - On the balcony of New York's Federal Hall, George Washington, at age 57, is sworn in as the first President of the United States. He then enters the Senate chamber to deliver his .

**May 7, 1789** - The first inaugural ball occurs in honor of .

**June 1, 1789** - In its first act, Congress establishes the procedure for administering oaths of office.

**July 4, 1789** - Congress passes its first tax, an 8.5 percent protective tax on 30 different items, with items arriving on American ships charged at a lower rate than foreign ships.

**July 14, 1789** - In France, the French Revolution begins with the fall of the Bastille in Paris, an event witnessed by the American ambassador, Thomas Jefferson.

**July 20, 1789** - Congress passes the Tonnage Act of 1789 levying a 50 cents per ton tax on foreign ships entering American ports, 30 cents per ton on American built but foreign owned ships, and 6 cents per ton on American ships.

**July 27, 1789** - Congress begins organization of the departments of government with the establishment of the Department of Foreign Affairs, later renamed the Department of State. Followed by the War Department (Aug. 7) Treasury Dept. (Sept. 2) and Postmaster General under the Treasury Dept. (Sept. 2).

**September 22, 1789** - The Federal Judiciary Act passed by Congress establishes a six-man Supreme Court, attorney general, 13 federal district courts and 3 circuit courts. All federal cases would originate in the district court and, if appealed, would go to the circuit court and from there to the Supreme Court.

**September 25, 1789** - Congress submits 12 proposed constitutional amendments to the states for ratification. The first ten will be ratified and added to the Constitution in 1791 as the .

**September 29, 1789** - The U.S. Army is established by Congress. Totalling 1000 men, it consists of one regiment of eight infantry companies and one battalion of four artillery companies.

**November 26, 1789** - A Day of Thanksgiving is established by a congressional resolution and a proclamation by George Washington.

**March 1, 1790** - A Census Act is passed by Congress. The first census, finished on Aug. 1, indicates a total population of nearly 4 million persons in the U.S. and western territories. African Americans make up 19 percent of the population, with 90 percent living in the South. Native Americans were not counted, although there were likely over 80 tribes with 150,000 persons. For white Americans, the average age is under 16. Most white families are large, with an average of eight children born. The white population will double every 22 years.

The largest American city is Philadelphia, with 42,000 persons, followed by New York (33,000) Boston (18,000) Charleston (16,000) and Baltimore (13,000). The majority of Americans are involved in agricultural pursuits, with little industrial activity occurring at this time.

**April 17, 1790** - Benjamin Franklin dies in Philadelphia at age 84. His funeral four days later draws over 20,000 mourners.

**July 10, 1790** - The House of Representatives votes to locate the national capital on a 10 square-mile site along the Potomac, with President George Washington choosing the exact location.

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