



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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Our 2002 Fort Lauderdale Chapter Officers

The following members were voted to be officers for the year 2002.

President - George Dennis

Vice President - Joe Motes

Secretary - Oscar Krahenbeuhl

Treasurer - Richard Jones

Registrar - Joseph Fordyce

Chancellor - Edward Sullivan, Esq

Holiday SAR Christmas Party

Monday December 10, 2001

TOP OF THE PARK

Pompano Park Racing Track

1800 SW 3 Street Pompano Beach

Suggested Arrival Time is 6:00pm

Seat Down Time is 6:30pm

The Dining Room is located on the 6th Floor, called the "Top of the Park". Seating will be six per table and all tables are located along the windows overlooking the track.

The Cost of the dinner is \$16.95 per person, tax and tip included.

Choices of menu are 3 Entrees to select from:

Prime Rib, Chicken Breast Chasseur, or Poached Salmon, assorted dinner rolls, butter, fresh garden salad with a vinaigrette dressing, baby sweet carrots, steaming baked potato. For desert French Style Cheese cake and Coffee or Tea.

To make reservations, please call George Dennis at 954-942-3081. Should you get an answering machine, leave your name, number of people attending and if you want Beef or Chicken. You must have your order in to Mike by December 6th. This Dinner is open to all, so if you want to bring a guest or guests this will be OK as long as Mike has your reservation.

Remember, the \$16.95 price includes dinner for one, tax, gratuity and race program.

Please make you check payable to our Chapter the night of the dinner.

Our Speaker For The November Meeting

Our November meeting topic will be on Heraldry, Mr. Donald Mandich, retired Chairman of the Board, Comerica Bank will be our guest speaker.

Don has an extensive book collection about Heraldry, and has extensive information he can share with us. He said if anyone were interested, he would do research about their family name before the meeting and bring it with him. He suggested maybe 4 or 5 people maximum.

Any members wanting to submit their names may do so by call Mr Joe Fordyce at 561-852-9964 evenin;



**NEXT MEETING - NOVEMBER 8th
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 South Broward need to dial the area code plus the phone number, or e-mail me at: joemotes@aol.com

Chronicles of the Revolution

High Tea in Boston Harbor

Roots of the Conflict

Part One

Boston

April 1, 1774 - King George III and Parliament responded decisively this week to The Boston Tea Party by closing the city port.

Four British regiments were sent to Boston, along with new Governor General Thomas Gage, who will replace the much-maligned Thomas Hutchinson.

Hardliners in the British government, looking for reasons to clamp down on the Bay colony, found their cause last December when the Sons of Liberty made a salty Darjeeling of Boston Harbor. 342 crates of tea were dumped into the ocean in response to a parliamentary act which imposed restrictions on the purchase of tea in the colonies.

In London, Massachusetts' agent to the British government, Benjamin Franklin, also felt the wrath of the British government. Franklin was excoriated in Parliament's Privy Council by Scottish barrister Alexander Wedderburn for his role in publishing some private correspondence damaging to Hutchinson.

For his part, Franklin stood stoically through the ordeal, but was heard to mutter "I shall make your king a little man for this," to Wedderburn as both left the council at the end of the day.

The tea party, Franklin's roasting in Parliament and now the closing of Boston harbor exemplify the hardening of positions on both sides of the Atlantic.

Relations began to sour soon after Britain tried to exact a price from her colonists for the protection of America and its ever expanding frontier. The 1765 Stamp Act, which was intended by Parliament to provide the funds necessary to keep the peace between settlers and the Native American populations in the wilderness, was loathed throughout the colonies. While its repeal in Parliament a year later was applauded by Americans, the British Government quickly enacted other provisions designed to fulfill the same function. Each was met with resistance in America.

Where Britain's actions will lead is the subject of wide speculation. While there is talk in America of some concerted effort on the part of the colonies to protest the closing of Boston harbor, historically, the colonies have been a diverse lot and many are skeptical whether they can unite in this cause. In any case, emotions are running high, and a sense of gloom is encompassing Massachusetts, and other colonies in America. One patriot mournfully observed, "Our cause is righteous and I have no doubt of final success. But I see our generation, and perhaps our whole land, drowned in blood."

Independence

Lexington and Concord Remembered

Part Two

Philadelphia, July 4, 1776 - In language certain to inspire patriots, and gall the King and England, a Declaration of Independence was adopted today by the Continental Congress. The Declaration is the defiant culmination of years of struggle between the new nation and its former protector. In ringing terms it lists the causes of the split, as well as describing the principles on which the new nation intends to govern itself. ("We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal . . .")

Virginian Thomas Jefferson is credited with principal authorship of the document, with help from John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert Livingston. The document affirms Congress' July 2 decision to part with Great Britain.

To some, Jefferson's language sounds like a creed for future generations of Americans. Others wonder if his stirring words will apply to all Americans, or just those most directly served by the all-white, all-male, all-propertied members of the 2nd Continental Congress.

What is certain is that Congress has come a long way since it first gathered in Philadelphia in the fall of 1774. Few of its members then could have guessed that it was about to lead America into this decisive and seemingly irrevocable break with England.

To a degree, Congress' hand was forced. Tension between British troops occupying Boston and the citizens of that city were bound to erupt, as they did a year ago last spring at Lexington and Concord. A subsequent engagement at Bunker Hill made it doubly hard to "uncross the Rubicon."

The King himself seemed to be encouraging a fight. A final Congressional entreaty to peace last year was answered in cold language by George III. "The lines have been drawn," he wrote. "Blows must decide."

Still it took a wildly successful pamphlet by unknown writer, Thomas Paine to push the collective consciousness toward independence. *Common Sense* spoke in plain English to the hundreds of thousands of Americans who read it. "We have it in our power to begin the world anew," Paine wrote.

By the spring of this year, the idea of independence had caught fire throughout the colonies. Royal governments were ousted one after another up and down the eastern seaboard, and colonial assemblies began drafting their own constitutions. The idea of freedom seem to intoxicate everyone.

Americans are now faced with the consequences of their action. British troops have withdrawn from Boston and are said to be on their way to New York. General George Washington and the Continental Army are marching there to greet them. Only time will tell whether the force of Jefferson's language will be matched by American force in the field.

Dark Hour for the Rebels Washington's Next Move Part Three

Christmas week, 1776

Near Trenton, New Jersey

George Washington and his beleaguered Continental Army are spending a grim holiday season on the road. Four long months of harassment and battle with the British Army have left the 6,000 rebels tired, footsore and hungry. To make matters worse for Washington, he can expect more than half of his volunteers to drift home by the New Year, their enlistments up.

An evaporating army is just the latest in a long string of misfortunes to beset Washington. Since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in July, American forces have been mostly on their heels. The sobering sight of a huge British fleet in New York harbor in the wake of the celebration was the first indication that the road to American independence would be no promenade for the Continentals.

Washington and his troops were subsequently swept off Long Island, and chased the length of Manhattan. The disaster in New York was capped by American defeats at Forts Washington and Lee on the Hudson. The Continental Army has subsequently limped through New Jersey, on the road to its present encampment here on the Delaware River, close to nearby Trenton and a brigade of Hessians garrisoned there.

Through all of this, Washington supporters could be forgiven for wondering what Congress has been doing to relieve the abject condition of the army. While much criticism has been levelled at Washington's pitiful defense of New York, the general's friends insist that the current state of the army would be dramatically improved if Congress would put aside its bickering over the pros and cons of a standing army and find a way to keep the Continentals in the field.

Meanwhile observers are speculating that Washington will have to shelve his dream of a "European-style" army disciplined enough to effectively engage the British regulars in field combat. Already the sense is that new tactics are evolving. "Unless we are absolutely forced into," Washington wrote recently, "we shall avoid a large battle. With the fate of America at stake, our job is to prolong this war as much as possible."

Inspiration for the cause was recently provided by the brilliant pamphleteer Thomas Paine. Paine, who's essay "Common Sense" helped inspire the colonials to independence a year ago, recently penned another essay, "The Crisis," which Washington subsequently ordered read to his troops. Said to have been written on a drumhead, Paine's opening refrain has a stirring beat of its own: "These are the times that try men's souls. . ."

It is doubtful, however, whether Paine's words alone will be enough to invigorate the American cause. The sense here is that Washington needs to take a gamble. He desperately needs a victory to hold his troops together, and to keep the hopes of the revolution alive.

Meanwhile, the Hessian force across the Delaware is preparing a sumptuous Christmas feast . . .

The Chronicles Part Four continues next month

9-11-01 Positive Numbers

*** The Buildings ***

* The World Trade Center -

The twin towers of the World Trade Center were places of employment for some 50,000 people. With the missing list of just over 5,000 people, that means 90% of the people targeted survived the attack. A 90% on a test is an 'A.'

* The Pentagon -

Some 23,000 people were the target of a third plane aimed at the Pentagon.

The latest count shows that only 123 lost their lives. That is an amazing 99.5% survival rate. In addition, the plane seems to have come in too low, too early to affect a large portion of the building. On top of that, the section that was hit was the first of five sections to undergo renovations

that would help protect the Pentagon from terrorist attacks. It had recently completed straightening and blastproofing, saving untold lives. This attack was sad, but a statistical failure.

*** The Planes ***

* American Airlines Flight 77

This Boeing 757 that was flown into the outside of the Pentagon could have carried up to 289 people, yet only 64 were aboard. Luckily 78% of the seats were empty.

* American Airlines Flight 11

This Boeing 767 could have had up to 351 people aboard, but only carried 92. Thankfully 74% of the seats were unfilled.

* United Airlines Flight 175

Another Boeing 767 that could have sat 351 people only had 65 people on board. Fortunately it was 81% empty.

* United Airlines Flight 93

This Boeing 757 was one of the most uplifting stories yet. The smallest flight to be hijacked with only 45 people aboard out of a possible 289 had 84% of its capacity unused. Yet these people stood up to the attackers and thwarted a fourth attempted destruction of a national landmark, saving untold numbers of lives in the process.

*** In Summary ***

Out of potentially 74,280 Americans directly targeted by these inept cowards, 93% survived or avoided the attacks. That's a higher survival rate than heart attacks, breast cancer, kidney transplants and liver transplants -- all common, survivable illnesses. The Hijacked planes were mostly empty, the Pentagon was hit at its strongest point, the overwhelming majority of people in the World Trade Center buildings escaped, and a handful of passengers gave the ultimate

sacrifice to save even more lives.

Pass this information on to those in fear and the media. Don't fear these terrorists. The odds are against them.

Joe Vela

Shriners Hospital for Children-Houston

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