



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



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President's Message

Dear Compatriots,

Our forefathers provided that the future site for our nation's capital would be ten square miles, independent of any state or local government. That site would be named the District of Columbia. Therefore, Columbus would forever be associated with the greatest of American heroes, George Washington, as the nation's capital would be called Washington, D.C.

If you would like to become more active in our chapter, please let me know. With the election of officers for 2008 coming up, we could use your help.

Ted Duay has ordered a colonial uniform. If it comes in on time, he will be wearing it at our next meeting. Ted has all the information on ordering these types of uniforms. I encourage you to join in and order a uniform, so that our Chapter can establish a Color Guard to represent us at appropriate events.

Our speaker this month will be Mrs. Paige Patterson, Public Information Officer, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). I know you have heard of the FDLE but may be unsure as to what their specific duties are. I am sure Mrs. Patterson will present some interesting information. Lest I forget, remember to pay your dues for 2008. Save a 41cent stamp and bring yourself to our meeting on Saturday, October 20th. Let Joe know with a yes.

Jim Lohmeyer



President Jim Lohmeyer (far left) and Registrar Ted Duay (far right) induct Charlie Crowell as a new member.

NEXT MEETING - OCT 20th
"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

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr, noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart.

Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates. Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never told you a lot about what happened in the Revolutionary War. We didn't fight just the British.

We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government! Some of us take these liberties so much for granted, but we shouldn't. So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid. Remember: freedom is never free!

I hope you will show your support by please sending this to as many people as you can. It's time we get the word out that patriotism is NOT a sin, and the Fourth of July has more to it than beer, picnics, and baseball games.

The Liberty Bell

Tradition tells of a chime that changed the world on July 8, 1776, with the Liberty Bell ringing out from the tower of Independence Hall summoning the citizens of Philadelphia to hear the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence by Colonel John Nixon.

The Pennsylvania Assembly ordered the Bell in 1751 to commemorate the 50-year anniversary of William Penn's 1701 Charter of Privileges, Pennsylvania's original Constitution. It speaks of the rights and freedoms valued by people the world over. Particularly forward thinking were Penn's ideas on religious freedom, his liberal stance on Native American rights, and his inclusion of citizens in enacting laws.

The Liberty Bell gained iconic importance when abolitionists in their efforts to put an end to slavery throughout America adopted it as a symbol.

As the Bell was created to commemorate the golden anniversary of Penn's Charter, the quotation "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof," from Leviticus 25:10, was particularly apt. For the line in the Bible immediately preceding "proclaim liberty" is, "And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year." What better way to pay homage to Penn and hallow the 50th year than with a bell proclaiming liberty?

Also inscribed on the Bell is the quotation, "By Order of the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania for the State House in Philada." Note that the spelling of "Pennsylvania" was not at that time universally adopted. In fact, in the original Constitution, the name of the state is also spelled "Pensylvania." If you get a chance to visit the second floor of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, take a moment to look at the original maps on the wall. They, too, have the (and the Atlantic Ocean called by the name of that day, "The Western Ocean"). The choice of the quotation was made by Quaker Isaac Norris, speaker of the Assembly.

Centered on the front of the Bell are the words, "Pass and Stow / Philada / MDCCLIII." We'll get to Pass and Stow in a bit.

The Crack

There is widespread disagreement about when the first crack appeared on the Bell. However, it is agreed that the final expansion of the crack which rendered the Bell unringable was on Washington's Birthday in 1846.

The Bell as an Icon

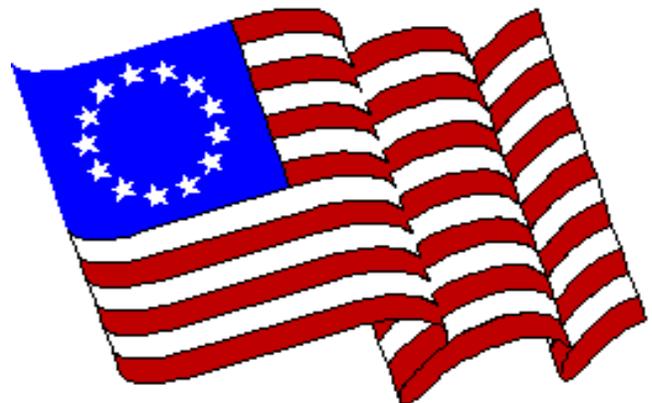
The Bell achieved an iconic status when abolitionists adopted the Bell as a symbol for the movement. It was first used in this association as a frontispiece to an 1837 edition of *Liberty*, published by the New York Anti-Slavery Society.

It was, in fact, the abolitionists who gave it the name "Liberty Bell," in reference to its inscription. It was previously called simply the "State House bell."

In retrospect, it is a remarkably apt metaphor for a country literally cracked and freedom fissured for its black inhabitants. The line following "proclaim liberty" is, "It shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family." The Abolitionists understood this passage to mean that the Bible demanded all slaves and prisoners be freed every 50 years.

William Lloyd Garrison's anti-slavery publication *The Liberator* reprinted a Boston abolitionist pamphlet containing a poem about the Bell, entitled, *The Liberty Bell*, which represents the first documented use of the name, "Liberty Bell."

Continue next month



Ft. Lauderdale Chapter SAR

September 15, 2007 Meeting Minutes

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

After the opening rituals, Compatriot Joe Motes informed us that legislation has been passed and signed by the President that authorizes veterans to salute the Flag during the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem instead of holding their hand over the heart.

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 notices have been sent out and that some have been returned. He also reminded us that the dues notices have an additional line on which to include a donation to the Chapter Trust Fund.

Registrar Ted Duay reported that 2 new member applications have been submitted and that he has several prospective members that he is working with.

2007 CHAPTER OFFICERS

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As Awards Chairman, Compatriot Joe Motes stated that he still has a good supply of Good Citizenship awards. Joe has presented over 250 of these certificates to recommended JROTC members who did not win the SAR JROTC medal. This is due to the feedback from the commanders of the JROTC units who have stated that there are plenty of deserving JROTC members but not enough organizations that provide awards to these kids. So this year, Compatriot Motes has been asking the unit commanders to provide additional names of deserving unit members to receive this award.

Compatriot Ted Duay announced that he found a person who makes customized American Revolutionary uniforms and that anyone interested in one can pick up an application from him. Compatriot Duay has already ordered his uniform and is awaiting its arrival.

Before proceeding on with the guest speaker, President Lohmeyer and Registrar Duay inducted our newest member, Charlie Crowell.

President Lohmeyer then turned over the floor to Compatriot Ted Duay who presented a slide show of his trip to the SAR Annual Congress in Williamsburg, Virginia in which over 650 people attended. Ted then presented our guest speaker, Tom Wilcox, Reference Librarian for the Broward County Main Library.

Mr. Wilcox informed us that the Broward County Library system has over 5,000 reels of microfilm, most of which contain US Census returns from selected states, some beginning with the 1870 census with others beginning with the 1880 census, all of which end with the 1920 census. He also informed us that the Library currently subscribes to some genealogical websites such as Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest, but they will not be renewing some of these subscriptions due to budgetary constraints.

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