



# The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

## Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



OCT 2010

website: [www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html](http://www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html)

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### President's Message

It's almost Columbus Day as I'm writing this message. I am always struck by the reinterpretation of the life of Christopher Columbus as it is being reported these days. Somehow he has gone from the intrepid adventurer/explorer to a villainous barbarian who brought upon the native people of America a great genocide.

We can see the same rewriting of history with regards to our Founding Fathers. I saw recently where an elementary school named for George Washington had its name changed in favor of an artist, an illustrator really, who did a lot of Saturday Evening Post covers... and it wasn't even Norman Rockwell.

In my work, I see a lot of people passing judgment on historic figures even though they have precious little understanding of the times in which these people lived. The truth is, Columbus acted in accordance with his times. To expect otherwise is ridiculous. Same thing is true with Washington and his ownership of slaves or Truman with his decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan.

I guess my biggest gripe is this. If you want to pass judgment on historic figures, at least take the time to learn about the times in which these men lived. Imposing your 21st century values on them doesn't work.

All this makes me wonder what the revisionist in the future will say about us.

Columbus Day is also the 123rd anniversary of the death of the Barefoot Mailman here in South Florida. On October 11, 1887, mailman James Hamilton died while trying to cross the Hillsboro Inlet which is located between Hillsboro Beach and Pompano Beach. At the time, the area was completely uninhabited. These mailman walked barefoot along the beach to Miami because there were no roads at the time.

Newspapers reported the tale saying Hamilton was rowing his little boat across the 200 foot wide channel when sharks attacked. The sharks knocked him in the water and devoured him. A fisherman was out in the ocean and witnessed the tragedy. He went to get help but by the time anyone returned, Hamilton's remains were either washed out to sea or washed upstream and never found.

Another version says Hamilton arrived at the inlet to find his

boat was moved to the opposite shore. He then hung his mailbag on a tree, took his clothes off and attempted to swim to retrieve the little boat. After that, it's anyone's guess. Sharks, alligators, the currents. Some have even suggested barracudas or a heart attack.

The story is a classic example of pioneer life here in Florida. It was a hard life. It was a hot, sticky, mosquito infested, swampy existence with ever present dangers and an unimaginable amount of physically demanding work to be done. A life few of us would have ever chosen.

Keep that in mind next time you have to brave the heat while walking out to your mailbox.

Charlie Crowell  
Ft. Lauderdale Chapter President



**NEXT MEETING - OCTOBER 16, 2010**

Colony West Country Club  
6800 NW 88th Ave in Tamarac

Future Dates:

November 20, 2010  
Installation December 18, 2010

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)

## The Gaspee Affair

The Sons of Liberty were very active throughout the colonies, and the British officers charged with enforcing the customs laws and the Stamp Act were becoming aggressive.

In June of 1772, a dramatic event was to demonstrate the severity of the crisis. A Lieutenant William Duddington, of Her Majesty's Ship Gaspee, was charged with patrolling the waters of Narragansett Bay, off Rhode Island. Duddington had earned a reputation as an overzealous enforcer; boarding and detaining vessels and confiscating cargoes, often without charge, and without recourse for merchants whose goods were impounded. Losses were mounting and it was widely believed that these harassments were directed specifically at members of the Sons of Liberty.

On June 9, 1772, a local vessel out of Newport was under way to Providence when its captain baited the HMS Gaspee and led Duddington into shallow waters near Warwick. The Gaspee ran aground at a place that is now known as Gaspee point. News of the grounding quickly reached Providence and a party of fifty five, led by a man named John Brown, planned an attack on the ship. The following evening they surrounded and boarded the Gaspee, wounding Duddington and capturing the entire crew. All were hauled ashore and abandoned, to watch as the Gaspee was looted and then burned.

The boldness of this attack was even more remarkable in that none of the attackers made any effort to hide their identities. Duddington and crew were able to point out most of the participants readily. However, this did them little good because the local courts, too, were antagonistic toward the Royal Navy. Rather than attempt to prosecute the attackers, charges were brought against Lt. Duddington for illegally seizing goods. When this news reached Parliament, there was outrage. A special commission, under the authority of the vice-admiralty courts, was sent to apprehend the perpetrators of the Gaspee affair, and to haul them back to England for trial. Though the identities of the perpetrators were widely known, the investigation was fruitless. No arrest was ever made.

## THE TOWNSHEND REVENUE ACT

**June 29, 1767**

AN ACT for granting certain duties in the British colonies and plantations in America; for allowing a drawback of the duties of customs upon the exportation from this kingdom, of coffee and cocoa nuts of the produce of the said colonies or plantations; for discontinuing the drawbacks payable on china earthen ware exported to America; and for more effectually preventing the clandestine running of goods in the said colonies and plantations.

WHEREAS it is expedient that a revenue should be raised, in your Majesty's dominions in America, for making a more certain and adequate provision for defraying the charge of the administration of justice, and the support of civil government, in such provinces as it shall be found necessary; and towards further defraying the expenses of defending, protecting and securing the said dominions; ... be it enacted.... That from and after the twentieth day of November, one thousand seven hundred and sixty seven, there shall be raised, levied, collected, and paid, unto his Majesty, his heirs, and successors, for upon and the respective Goods here in after mentioned, which shall be imported from *Great Britain* into any colony or plantation in *America* which now is or hereafter may be, under the dominion of his Majesty, his heirs, or successors, the several Rates and Duties following; that is to say,

For every hundredweight avoirdupois of crown, plate, flint, and white glass, four shillings and eight pence.

For every hundred weight avoirdupois of red lead, two shillings.

For every hundred weight avoirdupois of green glass, one shilling and two pence.

For every hundred weight avoirdupois of white lead, two shillings.

For every hundred weight avoirdupois of painters colours, two shillings.

For every pound weight avoirdupois of tea, three pence.

For every ream of paper, usually called or For every ream of paper, usually called or known by the name of *Atlas fine*, twelve shillings. ...

Continued on page 4

**Fort Lauderdale Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution  
Minutes of Meeting on September 18, 2010  
Held at Colony West Country Club in  
Tamarac, Florida**

The meeting was opened at 12:03 PM by President Charles Crowell with 15 members and guests present. The invocation was offered by Jim Lohmyer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the SAR Pledge, each led by the President.

The President asked each of the members and guests to introduce themselves. At the conclusion of the introductions lunch was served.

Following lunch the President then asked the officers of the Chapter to report with the following results:

Vice President: Nothing to report.

Secretary: The Secretary noted that the minutes had been distributed with the newsletter and asked that they be approved.

Treasurer/Newsletter: Treasurer and Publisher of the Chapter Newsletter Joe Motes presented the treasurers report that indicated a current balance in the operating account of \$3,083.15 and asked that the report be approved. A motion to approve the report was made, seconded, and approved by a voice vote. Joe also noted that he had received letters from the local chapters of the Civil Air Patrol and Sea Cadets expressing their appreciation for the funds that our Chapter provides them.

The President, noting the sparse attendance at this meeting of chapter members stated that he would defer the matter or nominations for chapter officers for the coming year until the next meeting. He also asked that the chapter newsletter be mailed to members as was done in the past, as well as posted electronically, saying that this might be a way of boosting attendance.

Major Dan Brown and Cadets Ian Adams and Christina Echegoyen of the Pembroke Pines Chapter of the Civil Air Patrol were introduced.

Major Brown provided an overview of the origin and the mission of the Civil Air Patrol while the cadets talked of their experiences and activities as members. Following their presentations there was a short question and answer period, after which each was presented with a certificate of appreciation by the President.

The meeting was adjourned with a benediction by Jim Lohmyer and the SAR Recessional led by the President.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Dye, Secretary

Note: The winner of the 50/50 raffle held after the meeting was Charles Crowell who donated his share to the Civil Air Patrol.



**President Charles Crowell presents certificates of Appreciation to Major Dan Brown and cadets Ian Adams and Christina Echegoyen.**



**Fort Lauderdale Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution  
2133 NW 208 Terrace  
Pembroke Pines FL 33029-2320**

Continued from page 2

...and that all the monies that shall arise by the said duties (except the necessary charges of raising, collecting, levying, recovering, answering, paying, and accounting for the same) shall be applied, in the first place, in such manner as is herein after mentioned, in making a more certain and adequate provision for the charge of the administration of justice, and the support of civil government in such of the said colonies and plantations where it shall be found necessary; and that the residue of such duties shall be payed into the receipt of his Majesty's exchequer, and shall be entered separate and apart from all other monies paid or payable to his Majesty ...; and shall be there reserved, and shall be there reserved, to be from time to time disposed of by parliament towards defraying the necessary expense of defending, protecting, and securing, the *British* colonies and plantations in *America*..

And be it further enacted ..., That his Majesty and his successors shall be, and are hereby, impowered, from time to time, by any warrant or warrants under his or their royal sign manual or sign manuals, countersigned by the high treasurer, or any three or more of the commissioners of the treasury for the time being, to cause such monies to be applied, out of the produce of the duties granted by this act, as his Majesty, or

his successors, shall think proper or necessary, for defraying the charges of the administration of justice, and the support of the civil government, within all or any of the said colonies or plantations....

And whereas by an act of parliament made in the fourteenth year of the reign of King Charles the Second, intituled, *An act for preventing frauds, and regulating abuses, in his Majesty's customs*, and several other acts now in force, it is lawful for any officer of his Majesty's customs, authorized by writ of assistance under the seal of his Majesty's court of exchequer, to take a constable, headborough, or other public officer inhabiting near unto the place, and in the daytime to enter and go into any house, shop cellar, warehouse, or room or other place and, in case of resistance, to break open doors, chests, trunks, and other pakege there, to seize, and from thence to bring, any kind of goods or merchandise whatsoever prohibited or uncustomed, and to put and secure the same in his Majesty's storehouse next to the place where such seizure shall be made; and whereas by an act made in the seventh and eighth years of the reign of King William the Third, intituled *An act for preventing frauds, and regulating abuses, in the plantation trade*, it is, amongst otherthings, enacted, that the officers for collecting and managing his Majesty's revenue, and inspecting the plantation trade, in *America*, shall have the same powers and authorities to enter houses or warehouses, to search or seize goods prohibited to be imported or exported into or out of any of the said plantations, or for which any duties are payable, or ought to have been paid; and that the like assistance shall be given to the said officers in the execution of their office, as, by the said recited act of the fourteenth year of King Charles the Second, is provided for the officers of England: but, no authority being expressly given by the said act, made in the seventh and eighth years of the reign of King William the Third, to any particular court to grant such writs of assistance for the officers of the customs in the said plantations, it is doubted whether such officers can legally enter houses and other places on land, to search for and seize goods, in the manner directed by the said recited acts: To obviate which doubts for the future, and in order to carry the intention of the said recited acts into effectual execution, be it enacted ..., That from and after the said twentieth day of November, one thousand seven hundred and sixty seven, such writs of assistance, to authorize and empower the officers of his Majesty's customs to enter and go into any house, warehouse, shop, cellar, or other place, in the *British* colonies or plantations in *America*, to search for and seize prohibited and uncustomed goods, in the manner directed by the said recited acts, shall and may be granted by the said superior or supreme court of justice having jurisdiction within such colony or plantation respectively...

**2010 CHAPTER OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT -CHARLES CROWELL**

950 SW 20 STREET  
BOCA RATON FL 33486-6832  
561-361-7003

**VICE-PRESIDENT -F.D. FLANNERY**

2599 NE 15 Street  
POMPANO BEACH, FL 33062-8253  
954-781-6314

**REGISTRAR / GENEALOGIST - TED DUAY III**

1641 SW 102 TERRACE  
DAVIE FL 33324-7420  
954-473-2754

**SECRETARY -JOHN DYE**

7951 NW 11th Street  
PLANTATION, FL 33322-5158  
954-476-0287

**TREASURER / SGT-AT-ARMS - JOSEPH MOTES**

2133 NW 208 TERR  
PEMBROKE PINES FL 33029-2320  
954-441-8735

**CHANCELLOR - EDWARD SULLIVAN, ESQ**

2837 NE 27 STREET  
FORT LAUDERDALE FL 33306-1912  
954-564-1014

**CHAPLAIN - ROBERT JOYNT**

1740 NW 42 STREET  
OAKLAND PARK FL 33309-4459  
954-772-1798