



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



OCT 2013

website: www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html
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President's Message

Dear Compatriots,

I hope this message finds you well. There are a couple of items that I want to bring to your attention. First, we have a great meeting lined up this month that will be short on business and long on information about the FBI's community outreach program - The FBI Miami Citizens Academy Alumni Association (FBI Miami CAAA) Speakers Bureau. This presentation was designed to *"inform the public about the missions, priorities, and organization of today's FBI. We provide insight into the FBI's role in combating the major threats faced by our country: terrorism, espionage, and all forms of cyber-crimes, including identity theft, Medicare fraud, and Internet scams."* There are multiple speakers and audio-visual components to this roughly 60 minute presentation and we hope everyone can make it!

Also, I want to reach out to you and ask for your help. We are in dire need of members to step into the breach and consider assuming a leadership role in our chapter by filling officer positions for 2014. The core group of members that the chapter has relied upon for many years to "keep all of the plates spinning" are no longer able to fill all of the vacant positions. Please contact either myself or Nominating Committee chairman Ted Duay if you are interested in helping improve the membership experience and maintain the momentum that we have built this past year.

Fraternally,

Lance T. Pfeifer



Battles of the American Revolution The Battle of Trenton

Overview

As soon as Fort Lee was abandoned, Washington began to withdraw his army across New Jersey toward Philadelphia. About 5,000 Americans left Hackensack on November 21, 1776, and retired without casualties 100 miles to safety behind the Delaware River on December 7. But the troops suffered a want of clothing and a sense of defeat which quickly translated into high sickness and desertion rates. It was a demoralized army that unraveled in retreat. Even their stoic commander despaired over "a noble cause lost," and wrote to his brother, "I think the game is pretty near up.

Synopsis

At about eight o'clock on the morning of December 26, 1776, American troops surprised a Hessian picket guard, stationed in houses along the Pennington road about a half mile outside Trenton. Despite a disorganized show of resistance, the Germans were quickly captured or dispersed. Almost simultaneously, General Sullivan's troops approached the town of Trenton, announcing their arrival by the boom of artillery. As the confused Hessian garrison rushed about in a great commotion, Washington advanced his troops to the junction of King and Queen Streets, where Captain Forrest placed six cannon in a commanding position, his line of fire sweeping down both thoroughfares. Several battalions rushed across the field to take control of the Princeton road, preventing escape by that route. Contingents from General Sullivan's division drove General Wilhelm von Knyphausen's troops through the town and seized the bridge on the Bordentown road. Just as the Hessian artillery prepared to fire two cannons, they were rushed and captured by troops led by Captain William Washington and Lieutenant James Monroe. Colonel Rall, roused from a heavy sleep, appeared upon his horse, trying to rally his troops. Instead, the Hessians fled into an orchard where Rall, shot from his horse, tumbled to the ground.

NEXT MEETING - Oct 19, 2013

Primavera Restaurant

830 E. Oakland Park Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334
954-564-6363

Future Dates:

Saturday, 11/16/2013
Saturday, 12/21/2013

Time: 11:30AM social gathering; Lunch at noon
Luncheon - \$25.00
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 954-559-3202
or e-mail **Joe Motes at: joemotes@aol.com**

September minutes:

1) Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM by President Pfeifer

2) Invocation: State President Duay gave the invocation

3) Pledge of Allegiance President Pfeifer led us in the pledge

5) SAR Pledge: **"We descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe."**

* **Introduction of guests** We had 12 attend including compatriot Bobby Foster, a guest from the San Francisco chapter, and inductee Scott Busey

6) Minutes (none)

7) Officer's reports:

a) President:

Welcome back everyone! We don't have a guest speaker this month, but we do have a few items of business that we'll attend to after lunch. I'll cover most of what I want to cover in the executive committee report, so at this time I'd like to turn the floor over to the State President to fill us in on "doings" at the Fall meeting.

State President Duay reported to us on the Fall BOM

b) VP – Bill Zimmer

c) Treasurer – Joe Motes

Treasurer Motes gave his report and also read thank you letters from organizations that received our donations. He also discussed the chapter Facebook page that he has worked so hard to set up.

d) Secretary – James Lohmeyer (absent)

e) Registrar – Ted Duay

Donning his Registrar hat, State President Duay reported on applications that are in process for the chapter.

8) Committee reports: Executive

President Pfeifer reported on the revised bylaws and discussed the goals and focus of this revision. He also spoke briefly about the upcoming priorities of this committee – planning quality, fun, content for the meetings; exciting speakers, visiting historical sites, etc.

- A revised version of the bylaws passed the executive committee vote and were distributed with the September newsletter. The goal was to streamline them and provide us with a more realistic foundation given our current membership levels. The main changes are:

- The addition of an auxiliary membership level
- Built-in flexibility to decrease the frequency of the meetings
- Clean up of Standing Committees

- Now that that work is complete, we will be moving our focus to meeting content. - Interesting programs, sites we can visit and other things to make sure that each meeting is enjoyable. So any feedback that you can give would be great!

10) Old business:

- Bylaws –

State President Duay made a motion to "begin discussion and move toward a vote on the revised bylaws. The motion was seconded by Vice President Zimmer. After discussion, a vote was taken and the revised bylaws passed unanimously.

11) New business: State President Duay made a motion to buy a box of challenge coins to give as gifts to guest speakers. The motion was seconded by Vice President Zimmer. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

12) Introduction of the speaker or program:

- Scholarship introduction - Bill
- Picture of Joe's Daughter with check

Compatriot Milam spoke about the new Scholarship that he and his wife created on behalf of the chapter in memory of his father - William Arthur Milam. Compatriot Milam and his wife Jaya presented the check to President Pfeifer.

- Induction - Scott Busey

New compatriot Scott Busey was inducted by State President Duay and President Pfeifer

- Other certificates/presentations

13) Presiding officer's remarks and thanks to speaker or program principal:

14) SAR Recessional: **"Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court and a nation of free men."**

15) Benediction: President Pfeifer gave the benediction

17) Motion to adjourn/adjournment. State President Duay made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Vice President Zimmer. Meeting was adjourned by President Pfeifer.



Compatriot Milam and his wife Jaya presented the first Scholarship check to President Pfeifer.



Ashley Motes is the first recipient of the William Arthur Milam Sr. Memorial Scholarship.



New compatriot Scott Busey was inducted by State President Duay and President Pfeifer.



State President Ted Duay presented New compatriot Scott Busey with his membership certificate.



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St. Mary's Cathedral and its rectory, standing at the end of Warren Street, mark the former sites of the Green Tree Tavern, where Colonel Johann Gottlieb Rall ate Christmas dinner, and of his headquarters at Stacy Potts' dwelling, where he died of his wounds. While playing cards at the residence of Abraham Hunt, a Tory farmer passed him a note of warning. It was found, crumpled but unread, in his waist coat pocket the following morning. He was buried in an unmarked grave within the bounds of the graveyard of the First Presbyterian Church on State Street. Five Hessian officers and six enlisted soldiers were killed; another eighty of the enemy were wounded. Nine hundred and eighteen prisoners, six brass cannons, forty horses, one thousand stands of arms and fifteen colors were captured. The Continental army had four men wounded in the fight. Neshanic Creek, a tributary of the South Branch of the Raritan, drains the easterly part of a wide valley at the eastern foot of Sourland Mountain. Where this valley passes the Delaware River between Titusville and Trenton, the river's trench is shallow and consequently, the banks of the Delaware in this neighborhood, "although steep, are never vertical, as in the case where the bluffs are higher." Capitalizing upon the natural advantages of the site, McKonkey's Ferry operated here during the Revolution and it was here, despite the impediment of ice floes, that Washington crossed his troops and artillery on Christmas night, 1776, for the surprise attack against three Hessian regiments and a troop of British Light-Horse quartered in Trenton. McKonkey's Ferry was situated where Jacob's Creek, rising by several branches on Smith's Mountain to the north of Pennington, pours into the Delaware River.

After the abandonment of Fort Lee in the face of a British invasion on November 20, 1776, the Continental troops under command of General Washington had retreated across the Jerseys to the edge of Pennsylvania, passing over the Delaware River on

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December 8th. In an audacious maneuver, designed to reverse the fortunes of war and restore American morale, Washington determined to attack the three Hessian battalions stationed at Trenton, a force of about 1,200 soldiers under command of Commandant Colonel Johann Rall. The boldness of Washington's plan of attack lay partly in its timing: the Continental troops would approach Trenton in the wee hours of December 26th. Colonel John Fitzgerald, one of Washington's aides, noted how the Hessians were vulnerable on one particular account: "They make a great deal of Christmas in Germany, and no doubt the Hessians will drink a great deal of beer and have a dance tonight."

At six o'clock on Christmas evening, the troops marched toward McKonkey's Ferry, nine miles north of Trenton. Many of the ill-clad soldiers wrapped rags around their feet; others were shoeless. Boats collected at this strategic crossing were manned by Colonel John Glover's Fourteenth Regiment of Continental Line, a unit largely composed of fishermen from Marblehead, Massachusetts. The passage of 2,700 American soldiers commenced at twilight, but was impeded by snow fall that turned to sleet and by heavy ice floes in the river. Washington, wrapped in his cloak, watched silently from the shore. The artillery finally landed on the Jersey bank of the Delaware at about three o'clock in the morning of December 26, 1776, and the march got underway an hour later. Two miles beyond the landing, at Bear's Tavern, Washington separated his army into two columns: General Greene a division of about 1,200 men and ten fieldpieces, accompanied by General Washington, down the Pennington Road while General Sullivan's division of about 1,500 men marched down the River Road. Informed along the march by courier that the storm was making muskets unfit for firing, Washington responded: "Tell General Sullivan to use the bayonet. I am resolved to take Trenton."

2013 CHAPTER OFFICERS

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William Arthur Milam Sr. Memorial Scholarship

William Arthur Milam Sr. was a direct father-to-son descendant from two men who served America during the Revolutionary War, John Mileham Sr. and John Milam Jr., who were father and son. The spelling of the last name was changed during that time. In William's lineage, each man from John Mileham Sr. to William himself served our country in the military with most of them serving in active duty.

William was born on January 11, 1941 to a farming family located in Douglasville, Georgia. When William graduated high school he entered college at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Instead of focusing on his studies, William spent too much time having fun with his friends and was expelled from the university before the end of his freshman year due to poor grades.

After spending some time to reflect on what he wanted out of life and the kind of man he wanted to be, William married Helen Virginia Scott in May 1960 then soon joined the United States Marine Corps and signed up for Officer Candidate School to become an officer. William was the first person ever to score 100% on the Marine Corps entrance exam. As part of his commitment, William attended Auburn University where he graduated Magnum Cum Laude in Physics.

While attending Auburn, William severely injured one of his knees in a softball game. After graduating from Auburn William went to the Marine Corps Base Quantico in Quantico, Virginia to continue his training to become an officer at The Basic School, which is the training program for officer candidates of the Marine Corps. While at Quantico William determined that due to his injured kneed he would not be able to properly lead Marines in battle and decided to give up his chance at becoming an officer. Instead, he asked to join the enlisted ranks so that he could go to Viet Nam to serve his country.

William got his wish and soon found himself in the jungles of Southeast Asia. While there he attained the rank of Staff Sergeant serving as a radio operator with his unit near the Demilitarized Zone.

After serving his country in Viet Nam, William was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps and he returned to family life, as his third child had been born shortly before he left for Southeast Asia. As a father, William taught his children the value of truth, integrity, discipline and love. He and his son William Arthur Milam Jr. were very close lifelong friends.

William died from brain and lung cancer on January 22, 1991. The brain cancer was deemed likely to be caused by his exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange that was used on the jungles of Viet Nam.

Mr. and Mrs. William Arthur Milam Jr. have proposed and pledged to fund this scholarship to allow the virtues that William Sr. passed on to his son to serve to enrich the lives of students struggling to meet the financial demands of continuing their education.