



# The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

## Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



website: <http://www.learnwebskills.com/sar/index.html>

OCT 2015

Fort Lauderdale Chapter chartered December 8, 1966

Volume 48 Number 7

### President's Message

Compatriots:

Our next meeting will be held at the Colony West Country Club on Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>. Social gathering at 11:30 AM lunch at noon.

The September event was once again a joint meeting with the Broward County Regents Council of the DAR. We celebrated the Constitution Week. They had an excellent speaker. Tom Dixon is a professor of law at Nova Southeastern University. His timely topic was on immigration. There were five SAR members in attendance.

The State Board of Management (BOM) will be meeting October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at the Orlando Florida Hotel and Convention Center. The SE Region Chapters are tasked with manning the Registration Desk and Hospitality Room. Joe Motes and I will be attending. All SAR members of the FLSSAR are welcome. These meetings can be most enjoyable and educational.

Also, it is that time of the year to identify those who would be willing to serve as officers of the chapter for 2016. Please consider stepping forward and helping our chapter sustain itself and continue to grow.

Fraternally,

William W Zimmer [wwz2620@gmail.com](mailto:wwz2620@gmail.com)  
954-783-0887  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 17<sup>th</sup> Colony West Country Club  
November 21<sup>st</sup> Colony West Country Club  
December 12<sup>th</sup> Wreaths Across America Program in Lake Worth



### DAR Constitutional Report

Our SAR chapter was invited to join with DAR's of Broward County to celebrate their annual Constitution Week. Our group and friends attending were Mr. & Mrs. Bill Zimmerman, Mrs. Debbie Duay, Col. Jack Dye and son Mike, Mr. Stuart Galup and Jim Lohmeyer.

#### Opening

Meeting began with DAR's ritual, Pledge of Allegiance to Flag of the United States of America, Preamble of the Constitution and the American Creed.

Report on the President General Message was given by Janet Amorosino.

Acknowledged that a Lady was celebrating her 60th year Anniversary with SAR.

#### Program

Professor Tom Dixon was introduced as guest speaker. He is Coordinator of History / Politics ...Nova Southeastern University. His subject "Birth Rite Citizenship" as set forth in the Fourteen Amendment. He mentioned tourist babies, and some people born in the USA but not citizens.

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#### NEXT MEETING - OCT 17, 2015

Colony West Golf Club  
6800 NW 88th Ave, Tamarac, FL 33321

#### Future Dates:

Saturday, 11/21/15  
Saturday, 01/16/16  
Saturday, 02/20/16

Time: 11:30 AM social gathering; Lunch at noon

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 954-559-3202  
or e-mail Joe Motes at: [joemotes@aol.com](mailto:joemotes@aol.com)

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Also over time the discussion of American Indians, Japanese, Afro, and Gypsies rather interesting how we interpret the 14th over periods of time.

One of the DAR's suggested a book "The Words We Live By" by Linda Monks. Very good for general knowledge on the Constitution.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

P.S. Our next meeting Oct 17, 2015 at Colony West Golf Club. 11:30 Social 12:00 Lunch and program.

Collecting books for the V.A. hospital. If you have any hardbacks or paperbacks you have read please bring them to our next meeting. we get points for our chapter for doing so.

Jim Lohmeyer  
Secretary

### **Battles of the American Revolution The Battle of Eutaw Springs.**

Continued from the Sept issue

Town Creek: The Native American Pee Dee lived here from about 1150-1400, and it is the only ceremonial mound and village center of that culture located within North Carolina. The site has been the focus of archaeological interest for more than half a century. 509 Town Creek Mound Road, Mt. Gilead; 910-439-6802; [www.nchistoricsites.org/town](http://www.nchistoricsites.org/town).

CSS Neuse: Explore the life of Richard Caswell, the first governor of the independent state of North Carolina. The remnants of the ironclad gunboat CSS Neuse, a product of the Confederate navy's ill-fated attempt to regain control of the lower Neuse River and retake the city of New Bern during the Civil War, are also at the Kinston site. 100 N. Queen St., Kinston; 252-522-2107; [www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse](http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse).

Reed Gold Mine: The site of the first documented gold find in the United States. North Carolina led the nation in gold production until 1848. The visitor center contains exhibits of gold and historical mining equipment. 9621 Reed Mine Road, Midland; 704-721-4653; [www.nchistoricsites.org/reed](http://www.nchistoricsites.org/reed).

**The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge:** Fought in present day Pender County on Feb. 27, 1776, the victory of N.C. forces over Southern loyalists helped build political support for the revolution and increased recruitment of additional soldiers. 40 Patriots Hall Drive, Currie; 910-283-5591; [www.nps.gov/mocr](http://www.nps.gov/mocr).

**Beaufort Historic Site:** 18th- and 19th-century coastal Carolina comes alive in six authentically restored buildings on the 2-acre Beaufort Historic Site. The site is located within the 12-block historic district of Beaufort, North Carolina's third-oldest town. 100 Block Turner St., Beaufort; 252-728-5225; <http://beauforthistoricsite.org>

### **Battles of the American Revolution The Battle of Bennington.**

**Saturday, August 16, 1777**

#### **Overview**

The Battle of Bennington was a battle of the American Revolutionary War that took place on August 16, 1777, in Walloomsac, New York, about 10 miles (16 km) from its namesake Bennington, Vermont. An American force of 2,000 men, primarily composed of New Hampshire and Massachusetts militiamen, led by General John Stark, and reinforced by men led by Colonel Seth Warner and members of the Green Mountain Boys, decisively defeated a detachment of General John Burgoyne's army led by Lieutenant Colonel Friedrich Baum, and supported by additional men under Lieutenant Colonel Heinrich von Breymann.

Baum's detachment was a mixed force of 700 composed of dismounted Brunswick dragoons, Canadians, Loyalists, and Indians. He was sent by Burgoyne to raid Bennington in the disputed New Hampshire Grants area for horses, draft animals, and other supplies. Believing the town to be only lightly defended, they were unaware that Stark and 1,500 militiamen were stationed there. After a rain-caused standoff, Stark's men enveloped Baum's position, taking many prisoners and killing Baum. Reinforcements for both sides arrived as Stark and his men were mopping up, and the battle restarted, with Warner and Stark successfully driving away Breymann's reinforcements with heavy casualties.

The battle was an important victory for the American cause, as it reduced Burgoyne's army in size by almost 1,000 men, led his Indian support to largely abandon him, and deprived him of needed supplies, all factors that contributed to Burgoyne's eventual surrender at Saratoga. The victory also galvanized colonial support for the independence movement, and played a role in bringing France into the war on the American side. The battle anniversary is celebrated in the state of Vermont as Bennington Battle Day.

#### **Background**

After the British victories at Hubbardton, Fort Ticonderoga, and Fort Anne, General John Burgoyne's plan

for the 1777 Saratoga campaign was to capture Albany and gain control of the Hudson River Valley, dividing the American colonies in half.

This was part of a grand plan to separate the rebellious New England colonies from the (believed) more loyal southern colonies via a three-way pincer movement. The western pincer, under the command of Barry St. Leger, was repulsed when the Siege of Fort Stanwix failed, and the southern pincer, which was to progress up the Hudson valley from New York City, never started since General William Howe decided instead to capture Philadelphia.

### **British forces**

Burgoyne's progress towards Albany had initially met with great success, including the scattering of Seth Warner's men in the Battle of Hubbardton. However, his advance had slowed to a crawl by late July due to logistical difficulties exacerbated by the American destruction of a key road, and the army's supplies began to dwindle. Burgoyne's concern over supplies was magnified in early August when he received word from Howe that he was going to Philadelphia, and was not in fact going to advance up the Hudson River valley. In response to a proposal first made on July 22 by the commander of his German troops, Baron Riedesel, Burgoyne sent a detachment of about 800 troops under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Friedrich Baum from Fort Miller on a foraging mission to acquire horses for the German dragoons, draft animals to assist in moving the army, and to harass the enemy. Baum's detachment was primarily made up of dismounted Brunswick dragoons of the Prinz Ludwig regiment. Along the way it was joined by local companies of Loyalists, some Canadians and about 100 Indians, and a company of British sharpshooters. Baum was originally ordered to proceed to the Connecticut River valley where they believed horses could be procured for the dragoons. However, as Baum was preparing to leave, Burgoyne verbally changed the goal to be a supply depot at Bennington, which was believed to be guarded by the remnants of Warner's brigade, about 400 colonial militia.

### **American forces**

Unknown to Burgoyne, the citizens of the New Hampshire Grants territory (which was then disputed between New York and the Vermont Republic) had appealed to the states of New Hampshire and Massachusetts for protection from the invading army following the British capture of Ticonderoga. New Hampshire responded on July 18 by authorizing John Stark to raise a militia for the defense of the people "or the annoyance of the enemy". Using funds provided by John Langdon, Stark raised 1,500

New Hampshire militiamen in the space of six days, more than ten percent of New Hampshire's male population over the age of sixteen. They were first marched to the Fort at Number 4 (modern Charlestown, New Hampshire), then crossed the river border into the Grants and stopped at Manchester, where Stark conferred with Warner. While in Manchester, General Benjamin Lincoln, whose promotion in preference to Stark had been the cause for Stark's resignation from the Continental Army, attempted to assert Army authority over Stark and his men. Stark refused, stating that he was solely responsible to the New Hampshire authorities. Stark then went on to Bennington with Warner as a guide, while Warner's men remained in Manchester. Lincoln returned to the American camp at Stillwater, where he and General Philip Schuyler hatched a plan for Lincoln, with 500 men, to join with Stark and Warner in actions to harass Burgoyne's communications and supply lines at Skenesboro. Baum's movements significantly altered these plans.

### **Prelude**

Baum's Germans left Burgoyne's camp at Fort Edward on August 9 and marched to Fort Miller, where they waited until they were joined by the Indians and a company of British marksmen that also joined the expedition. The company marched off toward Bennington on August 11. In minor skirmishes along the way they learned from prisoners taken that a sizable force was in place at Bennington. On August 14 Baum's men encountered a detachment of Stark's men that had been sent out to investigate reports of Indians in the area. Stark's men retreated, destroying a bridge to delay Baum's advance. Stark, on receiving word of the approaching force, sent a request to Manchester for support, and then moved his troops out of Bennington toward Baum's force, setting up a defensive line. Baum sent a message to Burgoyne following the first contact indicating that the American force was larger than expected, but that it was likely to retreat before him. He then advanced a few miles further until he neared Stark's position. He then realized that at least part of his first message was incorrect, so he sent a second message to Burgoyne, requesting reinforcements.

It rained for the next day and a half, preventing battle. During this time, Baum's men constructed a small redoubt at the crest of the hill and hoped that the weather would prevent the Americans from attacking before reinforcements arrived. Stark sent out skirmishers to probe the German lines, who managed to kill thirty Indians in spite of the difficulties of keeping their gunpowder dry. Reinforcements for both sides marched out on the 15th; travel was quite difficult due to the heavy rains.

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Burgoyne sent 550 men under Heinrich von Breymann, while Warner's company of about 350 Green Mountain Boys came south from Manchester under Lieutenant Samuel Safford's command.

Late on the night of August 15, Stark was awakened by the arrival of Parson Thomas Allen and a band of Massachusetts militiamen, who insisted on joining his force. In response to the minister's fiery threat that his men would never come out again if they were not allowed to participate, Stark is reported to have said, "Would you go now on this dark and rainy night? Go back to your people and tell them to get some rest if they can, and if the Lord gives us sunshine to-morrow and I do not give you fighting enough, I will never call on you to come again." Stark's forces again swelled the next day with the arrival of some Stockbridge Indians, bringing his force (excluding Warner's men) to nearly 2,000 men.

Stark was not the only beneficiary of unexpected reinforcements. Baum's force grew by almost 100 when a group of local Loyalists arrived in his camp on the morning of August 16.

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### Battle

On the afternoon of August 16, the weather cleared, and Stark ordered his men to be ready to attack. Stark is reputed to have rallied his troops by saying, "There are your enemies, the Red Coats and the Tories. They are ours, or this night Molly Stark sleeps a widow." Upon hearing that the militia had melted away into the woods, Baum assumed that the Americans were retreating or redeploying. However, Stark had decided to capitalize on weaknesses in the German's widely distributed position, and had sent sizable flanking parties to either side of his lines. These movements were assisted by a ruse employed by Stark's men that enabled them to safely get closer without alarming the opposing forces. The Germans, most of whom spoke no English, had been told that soldiers with bits of white paper in their hat were Loyalists, and should not be fired on; Stark's men had also heard this, and many of them had suitably adorned their hats.

Continued next month issue



### 2016 Dues Notice.

Greetings Compatriot !

Your SAR dues notice and membership card for 2016 are enclosed. Please mail your check no later than December 14th. This timing is required to meet the new deadlines established by the state and national organizations. If circumstances may delay your payment, call or e-mail the Treasurer (954-441-8735 or joemotes@aol.com

NOTE: Anyone who has not been heard from by 12/14/15 must be reported as dropped from Membership.

Reinstatement can be made at a later date but this will require processing a special application and the payment of \$5 in addition to the regular dues. These delays also may cause some issues of the newsletter and magazine to be missed. – Of course, it is hoped that everyone will renew but it also is very important that your response be timely.

#### CHAPTER TRUST FUND

The Fort Lauderdale Chapter SAR Trust Fund was established in 1991 and has grown to its current balance of approx \$16,297.45. The stated purpose of this fund is to assist in the operation of the Chapter, including its projects and expenses. Only the earnings of the Trust may be utilized, never the principal.

Including extra dollars in your check for the trust fund will be very helpful and appreciated.

Thank you and have a happy holiday season.....