



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



website: www.sarfl.weebly.com

OCT 2019

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Volume 52 Number 7

October Message from the President:

Compatriots: Hope this finds everything going well for you and your family. Please check out the SAR Web page to see and review pre and post SAR events. We will be hosting a Regional meeting this coming Jan. 19th, 2020 at the Outback Steak House/University and Davie Blvd in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

We will be discussing end of the year events at our meeting this Saturday also at the Outback Steak House off University and Davie Blvd. from 11:30am – 1:30pm. Please contact Joe Motes and RSVP. Our members are always encouraged to bring a guest to our meetings.

David Lott
President

Minutes -- Sept. 21st, 2019

Meeting gaveled in at 12:50 pm by President David Lott. Five members are in attendance.

Invocation performed by the Chaplain; T. Shepherd

Both Pledge of Allegiance and SAR Pledge conducted.

Officer's Report:

Registrar's report given by C. Adams. There are 9 active applications being worked on through two "Family Plan" submissions.

There are 3 recently approved applications including Chuck Adams and Christopher Williams into our Chapter and Mark Snider through the Cincinnati SAR Chapter.

There is one pending application, Patrick Woolbert, who is waiting for his daughters' approval through DAR.

Three other initial requests have not, as yet, provided any further information to registrar.

Motion to approve the minutes in the last newsletter was made and accepted.

Treasurer, Joe Motes gave report on current status of the Chapter treasury which has \$1146.72. The Chapter re-invested \$18,800 into a new CD with Wells Fargo on June 12th, 2019 earning approximately \$35.00/month in interest, far surpassing the entire years' interest from the previous CD's yearly interest accumulation.

The FSAR has reimbursed our Chapter \$540 used last year for awards and donations and we anticipate the remaining \$540 to be reimbursed from them before the end of the year. A motion was made and approved to donate \$350 to CAR. This donation qualifies for 75% reimbursement from FLSAR.

New Business discussion: The table top flags and stand used for meetings has been replaced.

Induction Ceremony performed for Chuck Adams. He was highly welcomed into the Chapter by his sponsors; Jim Lohmeyer and Joe Motes.

CAR will be attending our next month's meeting to speak about their upcoming activities.

Discussion of venue change possibilities conducted with Denny's (Powerline Rd and Oakland Park Blvd.) as a suggestion, as well as, a potential return to Colony West Country Club at the beginning of next year when it is tentatively set for re-opening.

"Thank you" letters were read by Joe Motes from the following: CAR for our previous \$350 donation and a "Thank You" from the JROTC for feeding the cadets for their Pass and Review.

Lastly, Joe Motes and Jim Lohmeyer attended the memorial services for John Dye and brought the service pamphlet for members to read.

Meeting was closed at 1:25 pm followed by the SAR Recessional by David Lott

Benediction by T. Shepherd

Adjournment at 1:30 pm by David Lott

NEXT MEETING - October 19, 2019

**Davie Outback Steak House
2725 South University Dr. Davie, Florida 33328**

Future Dates:

Saturday, 10/19/2019

December Wreaths Across America

Saturday, 01/18/2020

Saturday, 02/15/2020

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

**FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 954-559-3202
or e-mail Joe Motes at: joemotes@aol.com**

The Battle of Saratoga (Freeman's Farm) 9/19/1777

Overview:

In December General Burgoyne concerted with the British ministry a plan for the campaign of 1777. A large force under his command was to go to Albany by way of Lakes Champlain and George, while another body, under Sir Henry Clinton, advanced up the Hudson. Simultaneously, Colonel Barry St. Leger was to make a diversion, by way of Oswego, on the Mohawk river. In pursuance of this plan, Burgoyne, in June began his advance with one of the best-equipped armies that had ever left the shores of England.

Proceeding up Lake Champlain, he easily forced the evacuation of Crown Point, Ticonderoga, and Fort Anne. But, instead of availing himself of the water-carriage of Lake George, at the head of which there was a direct road to Fort Edward, he advanced upon that work by land, consuming three weeks in cutting a road through the woods and building bridges over swamps. This gave time for Schuyler to gather the yeomanry together, and for Washington to re-enforce that general with troops, under Morgan, from the southern department. Burgoyne also lost valuable time and received a fatal check by his disastrous attack on Bennington.

At length, finding his progress stopped by the entrenchments of Gates at Bemus's heights, nine miles south of Saratoga (Schuylerville), he endeavored to extricate himself from his perilous position by fighting.

Battle:

About 4 miles from Saratoga, on the afternoon of the 19th September, a sharp encounter took place between part of the English right wing, under Burgoyne himself, and a strong body of the enemy, under Gates and Arnold.

The conflict lasted till sunset. The British remained masters of the field. But the loss on each side was nearly equal (from 500 to 600 men) and the spirits of the Americans were greatly raised by having withstood the best regular troops of the English army.

Burgoyne now halted again, and strengthened his position by field works and redoubts. And the Americans also improved their defenses. The two armies remained nearly within cannon-shot of each other for a considerable time, during which Burgoyne was anxiously looking for intelligence of the promised expedition

from New York, which, according to the original plan, ought by this time to have been approaching Albany from the south.

At last, a messenger from Clinton made his way with great difficulty, to Burgoyne's camp and brought the information that Clinton was on his way up the Hudson to attack the American forts which barred the passage up that river to Albany.

Burgoyne had overestimated his resources and in the very beginning of October found difficulty and distress pressing him hard. The Indians and Canadians began to desert him. While, on the other hand, Gate's army was continually reinforced by fresh bodies of the militia.

An expeditionary force was detached by the Americans, which made a bold, though unsuccessful, attempt to retake Ticonderoga. And finding the number and spirit of the enemy to increase daily, and his own stores of provision to diminish, Burgoyne determined on attacking the Americans in front of him, and by dislodging them from their position, to gain the means of moving upon Albany, or at least of relieving his troops from the straitened position in which they were cooped up.

Burgoyne's force was now reduced to less than 6,000 men. The right of his camp was on some high ground a little to the west of the river, thence his entrenchments extended along the lower ground to the bank of the Hudson, the line of their front being nearly at a right angle with the course of the stream.

The lines were fortified with redoubts and field-works, and on a height on the flank of the extreme right a strong redoubt was reared, and entrenchments, in a horse-shoe form, thrown up. The Hessians, under Colonel Breyman, were stationed here, forming a flank defense to Burgoyne's main army. The numerical force of the Americans was now greater than the British, even in regular troops, and the numbers of the militia and volunteers which had joined Gates and Arnold were greater still.

General Lincoln, with 2,000 New England troops, had reached the American camp on the 29th of September. Gates gave him the command of the right wing, and took in person the command of the left wing, which was composed of two brigades under Generals Poor and Leonard, of Colonel Morgan's rifle corps, and part of the fresh New England Militia.

The whole of the American lines had been ably fortified under the direction of the celebrated Polish General Kosciusko, who was now serving as a volunteer in Gates' army.

The right of the American position, that is to say, the part of it nearest to the river, was too strong to be assailed with any prospect of success and Burgoyne therefore determined to endeavor to force their left.

For this purpose he formed a column of 1,500 regular troops, with two twelve-pounders, two howitzers, and six six-pounders. He headed this in person, having Generals Phillips, Reidesel, and Frazer under him. The enemy's force immediately in front of his lines was so strong that he dared not weaken the troops who guarded them, by detaching any more to strengthen his column of attack.

The Battle of Eutaw Springs - 9/8/1781

Background

Seven years of British determination to bring South Carolina to her knees met failure. The spirit that had long resisted royal edict and church canon, the fierce desire and indomitable will to be masters of their own destinies, and the dauntless courage that had carved a new way of life from a wilderness were again threatened by oppression; so, little difference was felt among nationalities and creeds, causing a unity to grow among the new world "peasants and shepherds" that shook the foundations of old regimes.

By midsummer, 1781, the Continentals under General Nathaniel Greene had gained virtual control of South Carolina. The retreating British, disillusioned and sick with summer heat, united forces under Colonel Stewart at Orangeburg and began their march to Charleston. Early in September the 2,300 well-equipped British camped in cool shade beside the gushing springs of Eutaw, little dreaming the Continentals were close upon their heels. General Greene, hearing of Washington's plan to encircle and embarrass the British at Yorktown, determined to prevent Southern aid from reaching the beleaguered Cornwallis. Contingents under Marion, Pickens, Lee, William Washington, Hampton and other South Carolina leaders were called together, and reinforcements from other colonies joined them. These 2,092 poorly-equipped, underfed, and near-naked Americans camped on Sept. 7th. on the River Road at Burdell's Plantation, only seven miles from Eutaw Springs. Strategy for the ensuing attack is accredited to the genius of the dreaded "Swamp Fox," General Francis Marion, who knew every foot of the Santee swamps and river.

Battle

The 8th dawned fair and intensely hot, but the Americans, on short rations and with little rest, advanced in early morning light toward the springs. At their approach the surprised British left their uneaten breakfast and quickly threw lines of battle across the road in a heavily wooded area. Behind them in cleared fields

stood a large brick home with a high-walled garden. The woods and waters of Eutaw Creek were on the north.

Heavy firing soon crackled and boomed through the shady woods. At first the center of the American line caved in, but while opposing flanks were fighting separate battles, Greene restored the center with Sumner's North Carolina Continentals. The whole British line then began to give, but Colonel Stewart quickly pulled up his left-flank reserves, forcing the Americans to retreat under thunderous fire. The encouraged British shouted, yelled, and rushed forward in disorder; whereupon Greene (according to J. P. Petit) "brought in his strongest force: the Maryland and Virginia Continentals, Kirkwood's Delaware's, and Wm. Washington's South Carolina cavalry . . . with devastating effect." The British fled in every direction and the Americans took over their camp. Only Major Majoribanks, on the British right flank and pushed far back into the woods near Eutaw Creek, was able to hold his unit together. Major Sheridan took hasty refuge in the brick home, Colonel Stewart gathered some of his men beyond, and from this vantage they "picked off" many American officers and men.

Greene sent Wm. Washington's cavalry to deal with Majoribanks, but penetrating the woods with horses was too difficult, so Washington tried to encircle and rout, thus exposing himself to dangerous fire. His horse was shot from under him, he himself was wounded, and his company practically ravaged. When a hand to hand fight developed, a British soldier poised his sword over the wounded Washington, but Majoribanks saw and gallantly turned it aside.

In camp, eating the deserted breakfast, and feeling the battle was won, the hungry, thirsty Americans began plundering the English stores of food, liquors, and equipment. Thoroughly enjoying themselves they ignored their leaders' warnings and commands. Majoribanks, realizing the disorder, fell upon them. Sheridan and Stewart pounded at their right, and Coffin came in from their left. The stunned Americans fought this impossible situation bravely, but they were put to flight from the British camp.

After more than four hours of indecisive battle under a merciless sun, both armies had had enough. Casualties were extremely high. "Blood ran ankle-deep in places," and the strewn area of dead and dying was heart-breaking. Greene collected his wounded and returned to Burdell's Plantation. Stewart remained the night at Eutaw Springs but hastily retreated the next day toward Charleston, leaving behind many of his dead unburied and seventy of his seriously wounded. The gallant Majoribanks, wounded and on his way to Moncks Corner, died in a Negro cabin on Wantoot Plantation. He was buried beside the road, but when lake waters were to cover that area his remains were removed by the S.G.P.S.A. to their present resting place at Eutaw Springs Battlefield.

Aftermath

The claim of several historians that the British won the battle is challenged by Christine Swager in her book *The Valiant Died: The Battle of Eutaw Springs September 8, 1781*. The book argues that, first, at the end of the battle, the British held the majority, but not the entirety, of the field where the main battle took place.

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President Lott performed an Induction Ceremony for Chuck Adams.

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Greene held part of the field where the initial skirmish spilled out of the woods into the clearings. Swager also argues that Greene meant to re-engage the enemy on the following day, but was prevented from doing so because the excessively wet weather conditions negated much of his firepower.

Both armies did not leave the vicinity for at least a full day following the battle. When Greene withdrew, he left a strong picket to oppose a possible British advance, while Stewart withdrew the remnants of his force towards Charleston. His rear was apparently under constant fire at least until rendezvousing with reinforcements near Moncks Corner.

Stewart reported casualties of 85 killed, 351 wounded and possibly as many as 420 missing, a casualty rate of over 40%. Some evidence suggests these numbers were higher. American losses as reported by Greene were 139 dead, 375 wounded, and 41 missing.

Despite winning a tactical military victory the British lost strategically. Their inability to stop Greene's continuing operations forced them to abandon most of their conquests in the South, leaving them in control of a small number of isolated enclaves at Wilmington, Charleston, and Savannah. The British attempt to pacify the south with Loyalist support had failed even before Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown.

Lord Edward Fitzgerald, later to become famous as a United Irish rebel, served as a British officer at the battle and was badly wounded.

The State Song of South Carolina contains the line "Point to Eutaw's Battle Bed" in reference to this battle.

2020 Dues Notice now due!

Greetings Compatriot !

Your S.A.R. dues notice and membership card for 2019 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 (954-559-3202) or joemotes@aol.com.

NOTE: Anyone who has not been heard from by 12/14/19 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 S.A.R. Trust Fund was established in 1991 and has grown to its current balance of \$18,800.00. 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.