



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



Fort Lauderdale Chapter Organized November 26, 1966

SEPTEMBER 2002

Volume 35 Number 9

Highlights of August Chapter Meeting

President George Dennis called the August 8th meeting to order and welcomed members and guests, which included his grandson and John Stewart, member of the Palm Beach Chapter. Barbara Gay, the DAR liaison, provided information about the local chapter of the CAR, which is open to all children from birth to 18 years. Anyone interested should contact Opal Spencer, (954) 566-3719. The DAR will not hold a joint Constitution Week lunch in September, hence VP Motes arranged for a regular SAR chapter meeting at the Tower Club.

Annual Meeting: -- It is necessary to make arrangements soon for the annual induction banquet in December. Comments were made that the absence of a private room and handicapped access were disadvantages of previous banquets at the race track. Anyone is asked to provide President Dennis with suggested locations ASAP.

New Officers: -- Nominations for next year's chapter officers are due at the October meeting, prior to the election in November. Anyone interested in serving for one of these positions should contact President Dennis. Please volunteer to help your society !!!

News from National Society: -- A summary of info from headquarters:

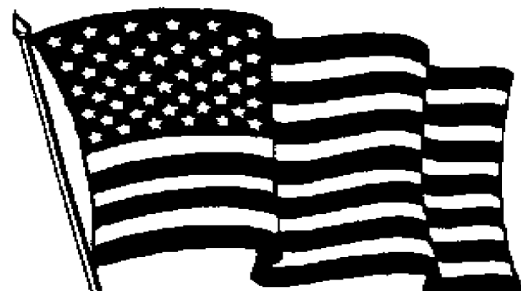
+ Effective November 1st, national dues will be increased from \$20 to \$25. Dues accompanying any application after that will be credited to the following year. (The writer has not been able to learn if the \$500 fee for life membership has / will change.)

The guest speaker was Helen Landers, Broward County Historian and long time resident of the county. She provided a very informative and entertaining review of some high profile happenings of 50 years ago and how they were interconnected with Broward County. A recently prepared attractive brochure and map was distributed that describes and locates all of the historical and interesting attractions in the county. Pres. Dennis presented Ms. Landers with a Certificate of Appreciation and our sincere thanks.

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Our Guest Speaker for September

Jack R. Bresnahan is a native of St. Louis, MO. Jack served in the Navy & Air Force for over 20 years, having left the Naval Air Station in 1958 after being assigned to the Naval Air Station in New Orleans, LA. It was there that he met my wife and where they lived for the next 29 years. Upon retirement in 1989, they moved to Ft. Lauderdale to be near their daughter and 3 grandchildren. It was then that Jack was able to devote more time to his hobbies. Besides a lifelong interest and collection of Lincoln & Civil War memorabilia, Jack also became very interested in genealogy and was elected president of the Broward Cou



*NEXT MEETING - SEPT 12th
TOWER CLUB !!!*

*\$20.00 INCL. TAX AND TIP
11:30 SOCIAL 12:00 LUNCH
28TH FLOOR BANK OF AMERICA
1 FINANCIAL TOWER
SE 3RD AVE & BROWARD BLVD
FORT LAUDERDALE*

*FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:
954-441-8735*

*Members living in North Broward need to dial the
area code plus the phone number,
or e-mail me at: JoeMotes@aol.com*

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+ New forms have been provided for members wishing to be dual members, reinstate or to transfer to another state. Contact the Chapter Secretary for this info.

+ Census of qualified SAR prospects is now open to all Compatriots. 2500 prospects have been reported to the national coordinator as of June 1st, but more can be processed. ALL members are now asked to submit info for relatives that could be members. Forms and instructions are available at: and

+ New SAR Patriot Index CD is available. It can be ordered direct from Progeny Publishing (1-800-565-0018) or SAR Merchandising (\$39.95). If you own the 1999 Edition you can upgrade for a special price (\$19.95). Easy to do via phone if you previously registered it with Progeny.

+ The NSSAR and Merchandise web sites have been updated. Status areas are now available that are 'orphan' pages and not available links. They may be accessed directly via URL's.

Membership Application Status:

Merchandise Status:

News from FLSSAR Meeting August 9-10 -- The following are a few of the items discussed at the Board of Management meeting in Ft. Myers:

+ President General Rice Aston (TX) will attend the annual FLSSAR meeting May 2-3 in Sarasota

+ "The Florida Patriot" magazine will be online for the Fall 2002 edition. It will contain everything in the hardcopy, plus some extra photos, info, color and sound. A preview sample is available on the FLSSAR web site now. I understand that it also will be offered in lieu of the hardcopy to those subscribing, which will represent a significant saving by the society.

+ Guidelines for Chapter reimbursements from the Endowment Trust Fund have been revised and will be distributed soon. Less money is available due to lower fund income. Over \$350 will require Exec. Board approval.
idea.

+ A single site is being considered for all BOM's, with the Lakeland area appearing most central. Responsibility would be spread among chapters. Former FL President Hoffmann spoke against this idea.

+ Past FL President Ron Hamilton is recovering from colon cancer surgery. Six months of chemo is anticipated.

+ It was proposed that special recognition be given to those who members who have new patriot lines approved.

+ Several committees mentioned that wearing Revolutionary War Uniforms at community events produced outstanding attention and publicity for the SAR. Members were urged to get them. (The source for uniforms was provided in the Nov. 2001 issue of this newsletter. Anyone wanting this information should contact Oscar Kraehenbuehl.)

+ Mayor General James Dozier, Army Ret., provided an informative talk at the banquet about terrorism and its history..... plus answering numerous questions about current events.

----- These meetings are open to all members and you are urged to attend. -----

Miscellaneous

Stuart Browne has numerous old records, photos and documents from pre-mid '90's meetings and events. Does anyone want to keep them ? If not, they will be destroyed.



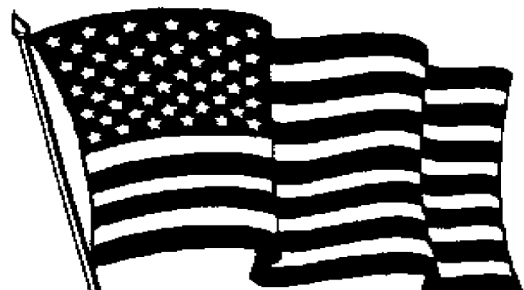
Chapter President George Dennis presented the Certificate of Appreciation to Helen Landers for her presentation during our August chapter meeting.



RE: Photos

Graves of Revolutionary War Patriot Pvt. James Dennis and his wife, located in Highlandtown Methodist church cemetery, Columbiana Co., Ohio.

- These new headstones were installed June 29, 2002, as arranged for by his gg-grandson Compatriot George R. Dennis, President of Ft. Lauderdale Chapter FLSSAR and his family. This burial site had been forgotten over the years although George took a picture of it when he was 16 (1930) (photo upper right). When recently found, the original headstones were missing but church records confirmed the burials and locations. The U.S. Government provided the new headstone for the patriot and the family provided the SAR emblem and the matching stone for his wife. Attention is called to the fact that the government will provide a headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased veteran if an application and documentation of service is submitted by their next of kin. -- Call the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, (800) 697-6947.



The Philadelphia Campaign 1777

Background to the Campaign
Quick Revolutionary War Tour 1765-1777

The British defeated the French and their Indian allies in the French and Indian War (1754-1763). The result was British control over much of North America. But the war had cost England a great deal of money and Parliament decided it was time for the Colonies to pay a share for their own defense.

To raise money, Parliament passed the Stamp Act in 1765. This law required the purchase of tax stamps to buy paper.

The Colonists were outraged. After years of "Salutary Neglect" wherein Colonial taxes were not collected by the British, the new policy was unwelcome.

The Colonists had always considered themselves Englishmen. Among the rights granted to all Englishmen was a voice in Parliament -- something they didn't have. With the Stamp Act, "Taxation without representation is tyranny," became a battle cry. Rioting, rhetoric, and the calling of the Stamp Act Congress quickly led England to repeal the Stamp Act.

But many new taxation measures, such as the Sugar Act and Townshend Acts followed. The Americans reacted by forming organized political groups such as Committees of Correspondence and the Sons of Liberty.

The people of Boston were most outspoken and violent in their reaction to taxes. They threatened and harmed British customs officials trying to collect taxes. So, the British quartered troops in Boston to protect their officials. In 1770, the Boston Massacre occurred as British troops fired into a group of protesters, killing five of them. This was the first blood.

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In 1773 the East India Company was granted a virtual monopoly on the importation of tea. In protest, a group of Boston citizens disguised as Mohawk Indians boarded a ship and dumped 342 chests of tea into Boston harbor.

Parliament responded with the "Intolerable Acts."

Accused Colonists could be tried in England
American homes were forced to host British troops
Boston Harbor was closed, and more

This resulted in the First Continental Congress, in 1774, which met at Philadelphia's Carpenters' Hall. Twelve colonies sent delegates to discuss how to return to a state of harmonious relations with the Mother Country -- not revolution! But radical thinking won out. Parliamentary acts were declared "unconstitutional." Taxes were not paid, an import-export ban was established, and Colonists were urged to arm themselves.

The "shot heard 'round the world" was fired at Lexington where armed colonists tried to resist British seizure of an arsenal. Eight Americans and 273 British soldiers were killed. The Revolution began.

The Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia on May 10, 1775 and they declared themselves the government. They also named George Washington Commander in Chief of the newly organized army.

In June 1775, the Battle of Bunker Hill resulted in about 400 American and 1,054 British fatalities. The first major battle of the War gave the Americans great confidence.

Skirmishes in late 1775 led to the capture of Ft. Ticonderoga in New York and a win at the Battle of Crown Point, under the command of Ethan Allen. However, Benedict Arnold's attempt to capture Canada for the Americans failed.

On July 4th, 1776, Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence. The United States is born.

30,000 British troops arrived in New York Harbor in August and joined those already under the command of General William Howe. American defeats followed at Long Island, Harlem Heights, and White Plains.

The Americans salvaged a dismal year with Washington's Christmas night crossing of the Delaware to capture Trenton. This was followed up shortly after by a victory at the Battle of Princeton. The Americans chased Howe back to New York. Washington went into winter quarters in Morristown, New Jersey. In the Spring of 1777, The Philadelphia Campaign was about to unfold.

For the next several months this newsletter will be covering The Philadelphia Campaign of Spring 1777.