

The Florida Patriot

Official Magazine of the Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Volume XLIV, No. 2.

Summer 2014



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SAR

The Sons of the American Revolution is a historical, educational, & patriotic non-profit, United States 501 (c) 3 corporation that seeks to maintain and extend (1) the institution of American freedom, (2) an appreciation for true patriotism, (3) a respect for our national symbols, (4) the value of American citizenship, and (5) the unifying force of e pluribus unum that has created, from the people of many nations, one nation, and one people.

We do this by perpetuating the stories of patriotism, courage, sacrifice, tragedy, and triumph of the men who achieved the independence of the American people in the belief that these stories are universal ones of man's eternal struggle against tyranny, relevant to all time, and will inspire and strengthen each succeeding generation as it too is called upon to defend our freedoms on the battlefield and in our public institutions.

Florida Patriot

The *Florida Patriot* is the official magazine of the Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution (FLSSAR). It is published quarterly. The subscription to this magazine is part of the Florida Society SAR dues. Products and services advertised do not carry the FLSSAR nor the NSSAR endorsement. The Florida Society reserves the right to reject content of any copy.

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FLSSAR BOM Meeting & Annual Meeting May 2014



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Content Submission

The Editor of the Florida Patriot actively seeks manuscripts and articles for publication. Suitable topics are articles about the state and local SAR, their activities, and members. Articles should be approximately 100 to 500 words and photos should be included when possible. All submissions will be printed in a timely manner. Chapter News submissions should be 150 to 200 words; single photo size should be at least 600x600 pixels. Other article submission should be original material or submit other author's articles with publication releases accompanying the submission.

The Florida Society assumes no responsibility for statements made or opinions of contributors. All submissions are requested by email. The Society is not responsible for items sent through the mail. Please do not send original or irreplaceable materials or photographs.

The Editor reserves the right to make any editorial conformity of style. Authors grant the Florida Society print & electronic publication rights. To submit material to the Editor via email at swampfoxeditor@cfl.rr.com or via mail at 1535 Skyline Drive, Kissimmee, FL 34744.



Society President's Message

I'd like to thank everyone who voted for me and thereby placing their faith in our state society for the coming year. We should expect that our committees will continue to support the many goals of the Sons of the American Revolution.

I have asked our committee chairmen to present short and long term goals for their committees for this year. Their committee reports for each BOM should reflect their efforts in reaching their goals. All of our committees should then be proud of their accomplishments at the end of the year. Committees that manage our competitions have a long term goal - the competition. But they should also have short term goals that will result in a successful competition, e.g., sending contest information to chapters, articles in The Florida Patriot, publicity on their contest in our communities. Our Veterans Recognition Committee has a goal of contacting all of the Florida Medal of Honor recipients for recognition at one of our BOMs.

Our Florida Society is growing and has recently surpassed Virginia into the 2nd largest society. That is due to many things, the recent series of Genealogical sessions, getting recognition in many of our chapter's communities, and a continued effort on the part of many of our compatriots to seek out their friends and family for membership. A recurring problem is the retention of our current membership at the end of the year. We need to be steadfast in our efforts to keep our members engaged at the chapter level so that they want to keep their membership. Several chapters have set a high bar for us all by keeping 100% of their members. Volunteering in organizations like ours means that one has a passion which is fulfilled by that organization's goals/ activities. And, in following that passion, the member has fun and feels fulfilled. Because if it isn't fun, he wouldn't do it. Once it stops being fun, he stops. Let's discover the SAR passion in our members and encourage them to follow that passion at your chapter level, the state level, and even the National level. We have many accomplished and professional Florida SAR members who could be helping us to excel in our goals and activities. Let's bring them in and share our passion and fun with them.

Our Florida leadership recognizes that chapters may need help from the state society in training new officers or in other areas. We are working with our 7 Regional Vice Presidents in developing a possible means by which we can bring that assistance closer to the chapters. If approached by your RVP, please let us help you and your chapter.

Until next time, let's work to support the goals of the SAR and have FUN doing it.

Respectively,

Steve Williams

FLSSAR President, 2014 - 2015

What is an E-Book?

The Florida Society has created and continuing to add to a new, for us, type of publication an e-Book. The electronic Book, or e-Book, contains articles and content concerning specific subject matter. We have created two e-Books. One based around the military experiences of our Florida compatriots in whichever field of military life they experienced be it WWII, the Korean Conflict, VietNam, or later conflicts. The second is centered on Genealogical and Historical subject matter. It might be information on historical artifacts or people and battles in the Revolutionary War, or genealogical analysis or research reports.

Take advantage of these e
-Books and spend a few minutes
reading their stories or reports.
They can be found on the Florida
Website at http://flssar.org/
Forms.htm.

Calling All Color Guardsmen!

Here's a chance to strut your stuff by attending the BOM wearing your colorful attire, be it a Military uniform, militia outfit, or civilian clothing. If you haven't started marching with the Florida Brigade and have earned your Bronze Color Guard medal, do so starting this year! Show the dashing side to your personality by joining the other members of the Florida Brigade as they present the colors at the banquet. Staying for the banquet is optional, but it is more fun to mingle with the ordinarily dressed folks.

The Declaration of Independence

By Donald E. Green, Ph.D. - Central Florida Chapter

This year marks the 238th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the founding document of our Republic. Enacted by the Continental Congress in the early stages of the war with our mother country, it provided a philosophical rationale for what many in Great Britain regarded as out-and-out rebellion. The passage of the proposal for independence was not quickly passed by Congress; it was not a passionate spur-of-themoment spasm. This era resulted from years of mis-governance by Great Britain as well as by debates too numerous to enumerate among friends,

enemies and even indifferent citizens of the North American Colonies. The Stamp Act, Boston Massacre, the Townshend Acts, Boston Tea Party, the Coercive Acts (colonists called them the "Intolerable Acts") which closed Boston Harbor and abolished the Massachusetts legislature, among other measures, and the arrival of thousands of Redcoats to enforce the "Intolerable Acts" pushed colonists to the brink of violence. King George III bore some responsibility when he wrote to his incompetent Prime Minister, Lord North, after troops had been dispatched to Boston to quell what he viewed as a local insurrection, "blows must decide whether they are to be subject to this country or independent." Up until the colo-



nists read the King's private message to North, they blamed Parliament for their troubles; now they added the King.

When General Gage, the commanding officer in Boston, heard that "rebels" were storing arms, cannon and ammunition at Concord, he sent troops to Concord to confiscate the contraband. Warned beforehand by the nocturnal rides Paul Revere and Joseph Dawes, the war began on the green (the communal cow pasture) at Lexington on 19 April 1775 and spread to Concord where the Minute Men met the troops at the bridge over the Concord River. Faced with deadly, accurate fire from hunting rifles, the British retreated to Boston. A few weeks later, as colonial militia men attempted to fortify the heights of Breed's Hill above the Boston suburb of Charlestown, the first pitched battle of the war occurred. The British took the hill but suffered more than a thousand casualties in the effort.

In January, newly arrived immigrant Thomas Paine published a small pamphlet with the disarming title of COMMON SENSE. Paine called the King a "Royal Brute" and argued passionately, if not always with logic, that it was illogical for an island to rule a continent.

The stage was set to debate the issue of independence in the 2d Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia. John Adams, a Massachusetts farmer & lawyer, argued for independence from the day he arrived as a delegate. The New England representatives stood with Adams as did several of the Virginia delegates whose leader Colonel George Washington had been elected by the Congress to be the first Commander of the Continental Army, which did not yet exist. Most of the Middle Atlantic colonies such as New York and Pennsylvania wanted reconciliation with Britain rather than independence. But the emergence of Washington's Continental Army on the outskirts of Boston, the determination of the British government to bring the "rebels" to heel and the passage of the Prohibitory Act, which closed all American ports, bulldozed the colonies toward complete independence.

On 15 May 1776, Congress enacted a resolution advising the colonies to establish their own individual governments. Most were already operating under de facto legislatures such as the Massachusetts Congress.

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That same day the Virginia Convention passed a resolution instructing its delegates in Congress to press for independence. John Adams was almost beside himself when he received the news. Other states followed suit. So on June 7, Adams' close ally Richard Henry Lee of Virginia moved that the "united states" become completely independent. Congress appointed a committee on 11 June to draft a declaration showing cause and rationale for this radical act. Lee's motion was tabled until the Committee submitted its report. Members were, of course, John Adams, the venerable and wise Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Robert Livingston from a wealthy New York family and, oh yes, the red-headed, light complexioned, freckled-faced young lawyer from Virginia, Thomas Jefferson, whose writings had brought him to the notice of the likes of Adams and Franklin. At the Committee's first meeting, the first question to be settled was which one should write the initial draft. It was suggested that Adams be given the honor, but Adams demurred and strongly suggested Jefferson. According to Adams' recollection many years later, he gave the following reasons: "Reason first: you are a Virginian and a Virginian should appear at the head of this business. Reason second: I am obnoxious, suspected and unpopular. You are very much otherwise. Reason third: You can write ten times better than I can." There was yet another reason which Adams left unspoken. He was already a member of more than 20 committees and that week he would be assigned yet another, the very important Continental Board of War and Ordnance. Jefferson could not recall that conversation but did remember that he was asked to write the draft.

The tall, red-head consented and retired to his room. There he sat in a Windsor chair which could be turned 360 degrees. With a portable desk of his own design on his lap, he penned what we now call The Declaration of Independence. From time to time, the Virginia delegate consulted his comrades and finally passed it around for any suggested changes. With such extraordinary minds and learning among the committee members, there were bound to be changes, primarily in wording. Jefferson had no books to consult, but he obviously borrowed from his own writings, and from others, in particular a "declaration of rights" for Virginia drawn up by Washington's neighbor George Mason. The timely piece appeared in the PENN-SYLVANIA EVENING POST of 12 June. Mason wrote, "All men are born equally free and independent, and have certain inherent natural rights . . . among which are the enjoyment of life and liberty." Similar phrases had been written by Pennsylvania delegate James Wilson in 1774.

The 18th Century is known as the Age of Enlightenment. Most of the learned men of the age had all been influenced by thinkers of the age which included John Locke, David Hume and Henry St. John Bolingbroke whose ideas were erected on the foundation of natural law laid down in the previous century by Sir Isaac Newton and his fellows. John Locke reasoned that if natural law governed the physical universe, then the best government was one founded on natural law. The radical idea is commonplace today. The old idea called the Divine Right of Kings, was that all earthly authority rested in God's appointed prince on earth, the king, who governed under God's law, was answerable only to his Creator, and knew what was best for his people. Truth be known, the concept of natural rights were simply "in the air" at the time, much as democracy which is part of our value system today. Men discussed, hashed over, and argued about Locke in every corner of the colonies without ever having read John Locke's 1st or 2d Treatises on Government.

Unfortunately for the theory of the Divine Right of Kings, history bubbled over with examples of incompetent, immoral, selfish monarchs whose primary motivation was to remain in power as long as possible before passing the crown to a favored heir. Locke was quite blunt in asserting that all valid government resides in the hands of the people who, in turn, have the natural right to "life, liberty and property." Jefferson wrote that governments derive their "just powers from the consent of the governed" and took this idea a little further down the pike with the expression, "We hold these truths to be self-evident (Jefferson first penned it as 'truths to be sacred and undeniable' then drew a line through the phrase and wrote the more succinct 'self-evident') that all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Jefferson then gets to the heart of the matter. What are the people to do when their ruler(s) no longer pursue those objectives for the people? They have the right, indeed the obligations to "alter or abolish it and to institute a new government." In other words the Committee wished to show that their actions were not acts of rebellion; they were expressions of a just revolution. Like the good lawyer he was, Jefferson put plenty of evidence in his brief to support his assertions. The king had: sent armies to the colonies without their consent, abolished governments without their consent, imposed taxes without their consent, etc. The only place Parliament is mentioned is in "He [the king] has combined, with others, to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution,"

The document is more, much more than our Declaration of Independence. Jefferson wanted the entire world to know that we believed that all government should rest upon the consent of the governed and that we were taking up arms to defend ourselves from a tyranny. The Declaration was presented to the 2d Continental Congress on 28 June. After some debate and some changes, the Congress took Richard Henry Lee's resolution to declare independence off the table and passed it on 2d July. Thus July 2 is actually the date in which Congress voted to declare independence. On the 4th of July, Congress passed the Committee's document which is actually entitled "A Declaration by the Representatives of the United States of America in General Congress Assembled."

The ideas have endured for 238 years and are as vital and fresh today as they were in 1776. No document has had more of an impact on the desires and aspirations of people around the world as has our Declaration. After it was passed, Congress charged that we should celebrate it every year on July 4. For many decades after the ending of our Revolutionary War, the highlight of the celebrations across the land was the reading of the document by each

community's best orator. Unfortunately that tradition has been largely lost. This writer suggests that it be resurrected.

For further reading

Bernard Bailyn, THE IDEOLOGICAL ORIGINS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Carl Becker, THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Walter Isaacson, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Dumas Malone, JEFFERSON THE VIRGINIAN (volume 1 of his 6 volume monumental work, JEFFERSON AND HIS TIME

David McCullough, JOHN ADAMS

Merrill D. Peterson, THOMAS JEF-FERSON AND THE NEW NATION

Garry Wills, INVENTING AMERI-CA: JEFFERSON'S DECLARA-TION OF INDEPENDENCE

Jefferson Is Innocent! The Unframing of a Legend

By John M. Stewart - St. Petersburg Chapter

How many people have heard that Mr. Jefferson fathered children by a slave girl he owned? How many

have heard of James Callender? Sally Hemings? Maria Reynolds?

It all started with James Thomson Callender, an impecunious and disreputable journalist, a drunkard, and an unprincipled blackmailer.(1) Disappointed in his application to President Jefferson for the job of Postmaster for Richmond, and the money it would bring, he began to attack his former benefactor. He wrote in the Richmond *Recorder*:

"It is well known that the man, whom it delighteth the people to honor, keeps and for many years past has kept, as his concubine, one of his own slaves. Her name is Sally." (2) Callender claimed that she had a son named Tom, who strikingly resembled the President, and that the "wench" had borne Jefferson several other children." (3)

This character assassination of the new Republi-

can President delighted the defeated Federalists and their editors piled on with glee. Here's a sample of dusky Sally doggerel:

Of all the damsels on the green, on mountain or in valley, A lass so luscious ne'er was seen, as Monticellian Sally. Yankee doodle, who's the noodle? What wife were half so handy?

To breed a flock of slaves for stock, a blackamoor's the dandy. (4)

The Jefferson family did not want to talk about the vicious rumor. Many years later, Mr. Jefferson's grandson cast blame on the nephews, Peter and Samuel Carr, who were the children of Mr. Jefferson's sister, Martha. His granddaughter suggested Mr. Jefferson's younger brother, Randolph, who was known to habitually carouse with the slaves on Mulberry Row. Mr. Jefferson, himself, would not dignify the slander with a response at the time, but later denied it in his July 1, 1805 letter to his then Secretary of Navy, Robert Smith.

But seventy years later, it was stirred up again by the oral testimony of Madison Hemings when the *Pike County Republican (Ohio)* newspaper reported on March 13, 1873:

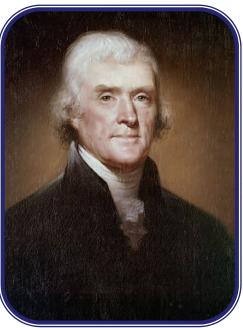
"In Paris my mother became Mr. Jefferson's concubine, and when he was called back home, she was enceinte by him. Soon after their arrival [back in Virginia] she gave birth to a child of whom Thomas Jefferson was the father. She gave birth to four others and Thomas Jefferson was the father of all of them."

Well, not everybody was disposed to take the word of an aged man possibly looking for self-aggrandizement, so the controversy died down again.

In time, it was dealt with in a scholarly and exhaustively researched way by Dumas Malone in 1970. For

more than 40 years, Professor Malone made Thomas Jefferson his life's work. Malone's six-volume Jefferson biography remains a most majestic and comprehensive source on Jefferson's life. He writes in *Volume Four:*

"They [the slanders] cannot be proved and certain of the alleged facts were obviously erroneous. They are distinctly out of character, being virtually unthinkable in a man of Jefferson's moral standards and habitual conduct. To say this is not to claim that he was a plaster saint and incapable of moral lapses. But his major weaknesses were not of this sort; and while he might have occasionally fallen from grace, as so many men have done so often, it is virtually inconceivable for this fastidious gentleman whose devotion to his dead wife's memory and to the happiness of his daughters and grandchildren bordered on the excessive could have carried on through a period of years a vulgar liaison which his own family could not have failed to detect. It would be as absurd as to charge this consistently temperate man with being, through a long period, a secret drunk-



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ard."(5)

But, shortly thereafter, the nasty rumor sprang up again. Fawn M. Brodie, in her sensational book of 1974, "Thomas Jefferson: An Intimate History" wrote:

"If the story of the Sally Hemings liaison be true, as I believe it is, it represents not scandalous debauchery with an innocent slave victim, ...but rather a serious passion that brought Jefferson and the slave woman much private happiness over a period lasting thirty eight years." (6)

Her approach was to psychoanalyze Jefferson through his letters to get at his hidden passions. It is interesting to note that she has degrees only in English and taught history at

UCLA, not psychology for which she has no apparent credential. It is also revealing for her inner passion that she refers to herself in her own Foreword as a "scandalmonger." (7) But, apparently people like scandal and her book was a bestseller and a basis for further attack.

In 1997, "relying heavily on Brodies's scholarship, Professor Annette Gordon Reed published *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings* using her legal training to make a more compelling case that it was "possible" Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings began a sexual relationship while in Paris.(8)

Later, Professor Gordon-Reed wrote a new book, *The Hemingses of Monticello*, that simply assumed that the paternity of all of Sally's children had

been proven and went on to tell the story of those children and their descendants."(9) Her new book received virtually every award for which they might have been eligible, including the 2009 Pulitzer Prize in History, the National Book Award, the National Humanities Medal from the President of the US, a half-million dollar "genius grant" from the MacArthur Foundation, and induction into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Harvard University appointed her to three professorships, including in law and history.(10)

In 1998, it was possible to read in the newspapers that DNA tests reported in the prestigious science journal, *Nature*, had confirmed that President Jefferson had fathered at least Sally's youngest child, Eston; and that the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation agreed.(11)

Then, using Monte-Carlo statistical analysis and a Bayesian argument, Fraser Neiman, a member of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation panel of experts, published a 2000 study to show that it was next to impossible that anyone other than Jefferson fathered each of Heming's children. Due to unfamiliarity with Monte-Carlo statistical analysis and Bayesian induction, many scholars and media, assuming anything mathematical must be decisive, took this to be the final nail in Jefferson's coffin.(12)

But gradually the pendulum began to swing back toward Mr. Jefferson's innocence. Unhappily, it is swinging slowly, in the public mind, as the mainstream media is loath to publish news which contradicts its current 'politically correct' way of thinking. But it definitely is swinging, as the following demonstrates.

In 2001 came The Report of the Commission of Independent Scholars. The public was not satisfied with, and a little uneasy about, the excesses of the pro-paternity parade. So these thirteen highly qualified, nationally prominent Jefferson Scholars were selected and convened to review the question in an assuredly disinterested manner. They came to a startling conclusion. "They thought it likely that Jefferson did not father any of Hemings's children" (13) and with one exception, "our individual

conclusions range from serious skepticism about the charge to a conviction that it is almost certainly untrue."(14) Twelve of thirteen independent votes for "not guilty" are overwhelmingly short of being convicted 'beyond a reasonable doubt.'

With the Commission's help, the world began to understand the truth. The actual final report of the DNA concluded that one of the more than two dozen Jefferson men known to have been in Virginia at the time of Eston Hemings's conception was almost certainly Eston's father. Based on the scientific evidence alone, the probability that Estons's father was President Jefferson was about 4 percent. The

oral tradition passed down by generations of Eston Hemings's descendants was that he was not the child of President Jefferson, but rather of an "uncle." So Randolph is the only potential father who fits all of the evidence.(15)

In 2005, Cynthia Harris Burton writes a book the title of which says it all: *Jefferson Vindicated: Fallacies, Omissions, and Contradictions in the Hemings Genealogical Search.* (16)

Now for the *coupe de grace* to the nasty rumor: Dr. M. Andrew Holowchak's Framing a Legend comes out in 2013.(17) He brings impressive credentials with "five academic degrees in psychology, philosophy, and the history and philosophy of science with which he has taught and/or authored books about logic, critical reasoning, ethics, ancient philosophy, psychoanalysis, Freud and Thomas Jefferson."(18) In it he cautions "not so fast." "He examines the claims by Professor Gordon-Reed, and several other prominent scholars in the propaternity camp, and he painstakingly reveals error after error. He draws upon his knowledge of ancient and modern Greek, Latin, ancient history and philosophy, and logic to expose careless scholarship and-to put it in his words, "shoddy reasoning." Then he goes farther. "The reason for her selective approach to history....is clear. Gordon-Reed, a black woman herself, has a social, not an

historical agenda – namely, to change the way blacks are viewed by historians."(19) In his words, "racial bias abounds in her work."(20)

Brodie, a UCLA professor during the iconoclastic 1970's, according to John C. Miller in the "Wolf by the Ears," (21) is guilty of piling "implausibility upon implausibility." Clifford Egan writes, in the Social Science Journal a piece entitled "How Not to Write a Biography: A Critical look at Fawn Brodie's Thomas Jefferson," "to Brodie's factual errors, contradictions and cavalier use of evidence must be added another sin – the injection of contemporary issues into evaluating the past." (22) Dr. Holowchak reveals Brody's bias by showing how she made up what she needed but didn't find, and ignored what she found that didn't support her thesis. Her bias seems to be gender, as she criticizes all the prior male historians as protectionist. All in all, her work now has been discredited completely by serious scholars.

Regarding the mathematical proof, Dr. Holowchak exposes it to be a clear example of 'garbage in, garbage out,' or to use his word, "humbug." (23)

The written testimony of Madison Hemings is examined in light of his meager education and found to leave "little reason to doubt that the account was written down with political bias by Samuel Wettmore, the editor of the paper, a publication with political motives that were anti-Jefferson"(24) It is highly doubtful that the slave Madison Hemings ever knew the word "enceinte" or even "concubine."

So, in summary, Dr. Holowchak reviews in great detail and depth the case for and against Jefferson's fathering any children by his slave, Sally Hemings. In his compelling book, Dr. Holowchak "unframes" Jefferson by exonerating him by reviewing and examining all the evidence and exposing the immorality of agenda-driven scholarship. It is a refreshing accomplishment in this day of liberal insistence on 'politically correct' thought, enforced by media and biased academic punishment.

Of course, all during this raging controversy, one never hears about Maria Reynolds. She is the married woman who had an illicit three year affair with Alexander Hamilton, for which he publically apologized, ending any hope of denial as to the truth of that enduring sin.(25) Is salacious gossip really that more interesting than salacious fact?

It is fitting that Dumas Malone should be allowed the final words in this matter. The professor put the matter into perspective by placing it into the larger context:

"Miscegenation was [only] a legend in his [Jefferson's] case, but its existence in the plantation households he knew best was an undeniable fact. He was a victim of the slave system he abhorred, though not in the way his political enemies asserted at the time, or that certain moral and social reformers claimed afterwards" (26).

FOOTNOTES

- 1. Holowchak, Dr. M. Andrew. *Framing a Legend* Prometheus Books (Amherst NY 2013) p. 69
- 2. Callender, James. "The President Again" *The Recorder* Richmond, VA Sept. 1802 p. 1
- 3. Malone, Dumas. *Jefferson the President* Little, Brown & Co. (Boston 1970) Vol. 4 p. 212
- 4. Brodie, Fawn. "Thomas Jefferson: An Intimate History (New York: W.W. Norton 1974) p. 472
- 5. Malone. Vol. 4, p. 214
- 6. Brodie. "Thomas Jefferson: An Intimate History p. 17
- 7. Ibid. p. xiii
- 8. Holowchak Framing a Legend p. 14
- 9. Robert F. Turner, Chairman, Jefferson-Hemings Scholars Commission. Foreword to Holowchak *Framing a Legend* p. 15
- 10. Ibid. p. 15-16
- 11. Holowchak Framing a Legend p. 21
- 12. Ibid. p. 21
- 13. Ibid. p. 245
- 14. Ibid. p. 246
- 15. Turner Foreword to Holowchak Framing a Legend. p. 10-11
- 16. Ibid. p. 11
- 17. Holowchak, Dr. M. Andrew. *Framing a Legend* Prometheus Books (Amherst NY 2013)
- 18. Turner Foreword to Holowchak Framing a Legend. p. 11
- 19. Ibid. p. 16
- 20. Holowchak Framing a Legend. p. 119
- 21. Ibid. p. 55-56
- 22. Ibid p. 56
- 23. Ibid. p. 188
- 24. Ibid p. 45
- 25. Chernow, Ron. *Alexander Hamilton*, The Penguin Press (New York NY 2004) p. 364
- 26. Malone. Vol. 4, p. 498

About the Author: Mr. John M. Stewart is the Chaplain of the St. Petersburg Chapter of the SAR, and a former President of both that Chapter and the Palm Beach Chapter. He has studied, lectured about, and impersonated Thomas Jefferson before appreciative audiences for decades. He is a 1965 graduate of the University of Virginia.

Are you up to date?

One of the Medals and Awards Committee's (MAC) charges is to ascertain that Compatriots receive from FLSSAR the proper recognition one is eligible to receive from the society. In order for the MAC to ensure Compatriots receive the proper medal and award, the individual compatriot needs to verify that their awards record is current. Every FLSSAR member should have a username and password which will permit them to access their awards history/log on the FLSSAR website (flssar.org). If one does not have a username/password, they can be obtained by accessing the "members only," page by clicking the blue

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"members only" tab at the top of the flssar.org homepage. Upon accessing the "members only" page, click the hyperlink, "Already a Member? Sign in here," located in the upper left corner of the page under the three soldiers graphic. On the FLS-SAR Members Only Login Page, click the blue hyperlink "Request your Password from Webmaster," to request a username and password. If you have a username and password, enter them where indicated.

After logging-in and entering the "Admin Database Main Page," click the first hyperlink, "Update your own information." This takes one to the "Super Member Own Information," page. On this page, verify that all of one's information is listed and correct any errors or add any missing information. Clicking the blue tab, "Awards & Medals," opens the submenu "Awards and Medals," where one may update their awards information. IF ONE IS UNABLE TO UPDATE their awards information, contact your Chapter Secretary and send him a list of those Awards & Medals that should be entered. Your list should identity whether it was presented by NSSAR, FLSSAR or your Chapter and the date presented. If the medal has an Oak Leaf Cluster, identify the number of clusters and whether they are bronze or silver.

Keeping one's Awards and Medals log up to date, will help the Medals and Awards Committee ensure that each Compatriot receives the correct award.

Now that I Have it, Where do I Wear it...?

This is a question that is asked by new Compatriots and others after being awarded a new medal or in some instances purchasing a medal. The question has been asked frequently since the introduction of the Distinguished Service Medals and the Roger Sherman Medals. Every NSSAR approved medal has a designated "SAR Precedence" and a medal is worn according to the medal's precedence to other medals. A specific medal's "SAR Precedence," may be found in *Volume V: Individual Medals and Awards* in the latest revision of the NSSAR Official Handbook (edition 2013.2). This newest version of the NSSAR Handbook may be found on the National website: http://www.sar.org/SAR Handbook. This site contains the post 2014 Spring NSSAR Leadership Meeting revisions of the 2013 edition.

The Distinguished Service Medals (DSM) have three different precedence positions: the National Society DSM is designated number 6, the State DSM is designated number 9 and the Chapter DSM is designated number 11. The Chapter DSM is now placed before the SAR Meritorious Service Medal (precedence number 12).

The Roger Sherman Medals (RSM) have three different precedence positions: the National Society Gold RSM is designated number 13, the District and State Silver RSM is designated number 14 and the Chapter Bronze RSM is designated number 25.

Another new medal and award for women is the Lydia Darragh Medal and that has received precedence number 36.

For specific information on the precedence position of medals issued by State Societies commemorating specific events such as National Congresses or National in recognition of specific campaign funds or youth programs, individuals should consult the National Handbook and specific State Societies to confirm the precedence order within the State's precedence grouping.

Whenever receiving a new Medal Award, one should always consult the NSSAR Official Handbook to verify the Medal's precedence order and wear it correctly and proudly.

FL88AR 8PRING BOARD OF MANAGEMENT (B.O.M.), MEETING MINUTES, MAY 02 & 03, 2014 ORLANDO, FLORIDA

President Ted Duay opened the meeting at 2:45PM on Friday, 02 May 2014 after a quorum was certified by Secretary Steve Williams. The invocation was given by Chaplain Richard Hagerman. Parliamentarian Randy Moody led the pledge of allegiance. Recording Secretary Ray Wess led the SAR Pledge. President Duay recognized first time attendees and national officers, Randy Moody – Vice President General, Mike Tomme – Registrar General.

Minutes were previously distributed for review; approval was accepted with no corrections.

Unless otherwise reported herein, all officer and committee reports are contained in the SPRING BOARD OF MANAGEMENT & ANNUAL MEETING, PROCEEDINGS, (Blue Book)

Senior Vice President Steven Williams reported that a successful Regional Vice Presidents meeting was held this morning.

Treasurer Hall Riediger reported on a discussion held in the Executive Committee recommending that Phil Tarpley purchase the old worn out printer for \$150.00 and purchase a new printer costing about \$300.00 for the printing of the Proceedings, (blue book) and to be approved by the Executive and Finance Committee. Treasurer Riediger so offered the motion and it was seconded by Jim Parton. The motion passed.

Treasurer Riediger also spoke on the subject of purchasing a new microphone and sound system for the FLSSAR. A motion was offered by Jeff Sizemore to research and purchase, with the approval of the finance and executive committees, a new sound system if a donation does not come to fruition, not to exceed the purchase price of \$1000.00. Carl Hoffman seconded the motion. The motioned passed.

President Duay discussed that PEPCO is being bought out and the FLSSAR will receive the proceeds of their holding to be invested in the fund for Florida's Future.

Treasurer Riediger reported that the FLSSAR has about \$18,000.00 remaining for the rest of the year and the Society is in excellent financial health.

Richard Young, Chairman of the Audit Committee reported that the results of the FLSSAR audit showed no irregularities and all necessary IRS forms have been submitted. A formal report will be included in the published FLSSAR Proceedings book.

Meeting was recessed at 4:26PM

Meeting was reconvened 1:30PM, 03 May, 2014

President Duay announced that a quorum continues from earlier meeting

Vic McMurry offered a motion for all FLSSAR fees and dues for prospective and current members to be waived for the next fiscal year for 100% combat disabled veterans who are permanent residents of the State of Florida. This waiver is not automatic but must be requested on a case by case basis. The burden of proof lies with the prospective and current member. The motion was seconded by Luke Lloyd. The motioned passed.

David Ramseur announced the winners of the FLSSAR Americanism Elementary Poster Contest. 1st Place – Naples Chapter contestant, 2nd Place – Withlacoochee Chapter contestant, 3rd Place – Clearwater Chapter contestant, Honorable Mention – Saramana Chapter contestant.

President Duay announced the formation of the new FLSSAR ad hoc committee, Operation Ancestor Search and Chairman Steve Brook

Chuck Sweeney offered a motion to separate the Veterans Affairs Committee into two separate committees, The Veterans Recognition Committee and the Veterans Affairs Committee. The motion was seconded by Vic McMurry. The motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45PM

FLSSAR Annual Meeting - 03 May 2014, 3:00PM

President Ted Duay called the meeting to order and Rev. Richard Hagerman gave the invocation. Parliamentarian Randy Moody led in the Pledge of Allegiance and Secretary Steve Williams certified a quorum.

Chairman of the FLSSAR Nominating Committee, Phil Tarpley, read the list of nominees for FLSSAR office:

President – Steven Allen Williams

Senior Vice President – Lawrence Gene Fehrenbaker

Secretary - Hermann Hall Riediger

Treasurer - W. Richard Young

Executive Committee, Member-At-Large – Victor George McMurry

RVP, NW - Robert Royal Canavello

RVP, NC - Earle Scott Bushnell

RVP, NE - James Gaskins

RVP, EC – Jeffrey L. Sizemore

RVP, WC – Danny Robert Hooper

RVP, SE – Raymond Francis Wess

RVP, SW - Lee Matson

Recording Secretary – Raymond Francis Wess

Chancellor - Carl K. Hoffmann

Registrar – Raymond Clyde Lantz

Chaplain - Rev. Richard Hagerman

Genealogist - Richard Bruce Cardell

Historian - Ralph Daniel Nelson

Editor, The Florida Patriot – Jeffrey L. Sizemore

Sergeant-At-Arms – Joe Herman Hill

Webmaster - Earle Scott Bushnell

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Trustee Nominee – Philip Herbert Tarpley

National Trustee (Alternate) Nominee – Lawrence Gene Fehrenbaker

As per FLSSAR by-law, the list was published to the FLSSAR Secretary.

President Ted Duay asked for additional nominations from the floor. Carl Hoffman nominated Charles "Chuck" Sweeney for FLSSAR President. Vic McMurry seconded the nomination. After asking three times, there were no other nominees from the floor for President.

Ray Wess offered a motion to allow each candidate for President to express their vision, goals and objectives for their FLSSAR term before the voting body, not to exceed five minutes with no questions. The motion was seconded by Carl Hoffmann. The motion passed.

President Duay announced the voting rules and procedures including the distribution of ballots by the Sergeant-At-Arms, Joe Hill. President Duay also announced that anyone who has paid current Florida Dues is eligible to vote. President Duay announced the "vote tellers", Mike Tomme Registrar General, Daniel Woodruff, President, South Carolina Society, and Mark Anthony, Secretary, South Carolina Society. Each candidate chose an observer. Chuck Sweeney chose Phil Tarpley and Steve Williams chose Bob Humker.

Parliamentarian Randy Moody administered the oath to the vote tellers. All completed ballots were given to the Sergeant-At-Arms and were subsequently given to the vote tellers in front of the assembly. The tellers and observers left the room to count the votes.

President Ted Duay explained and defined Bylaw #23 as it relates to investment policy of the SAR and the fact that it diminishes the power of the trustees and the elected George Washington Foundation Board. Secretary Williams stated that it was approved at Congress and explained that three quarters of the State Societies must approve it for it to become law. Motion made to approve the ratification of NSSAR Bylaw #23 amendment. Motion offered by Roland Downing and seconded by Chuck Sweeney. Motion failed.

The vote tellers and observers reported the results of the election. Steve Williams was elected as President for 2014-2015. The tellers reported that there were no illegal votes.

President Duay ordered that the ballots be destroyed.

Don Green offered a motion to accept the remaining nominees as announced by acclamation. Scott Bushnell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Steve Williams reported on an Executive Committee recommendation to the by-laws committee to change the quorum at National Trustees meeting from 11 to 20 as referenced in Bylaw #29. Steve Williams offered a motion and Carl Hoffman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Duay also discussed recommendations to change the bylaws allowing the national board of trustees to meet telephonically. Carl Hoffmann offered a motion to reflect the change and Rick Hollis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Rev. Richard Hagerman gave the benediction

President Duay adjourned the meeting at 4:37PM

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED BY DAVID KELSEY AND TREASURER HALL RIEDIGER , FI-

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NANCE COMMITTEE, TO BE A MATTER OF RECORD FILED WITH THE SPRING 2014 BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING MINUTES:

Solicitation of Contributions

Florida Dept. of Agriculture

Due: 8/1 each year

Status: current, Filed 2013

Annual Repot (re: incorporation)

Florida Department of State

Due: 1/1 to 5/1 each year

Status: Current, Filed March, 2013

990 EZ for 2013

IRS & Florida Atty. General

Due: 5/15/14

Status: Current, Filed March 2014

Consumers Certificate of Exemption (Sales Tax)

Florida Dept. of Revenue

Due: Every 5 years

Status: Current, filed 7/31/2010, expires 7/31/2015

Change of Registered Agent

Florida Dept. of State

Due: Filed as Necessary

Status: H. Hall Riediger, Registered Agent

All documentation is in good order, current, and being main-

tained by the Treasurer.

Special meeting held at the annual FLSSAR Installation Banquet

After his welcoming comments, President Duay announced that incoming President elect Williams would be holding a special meeting to elect the Nominating Committee for 2014-2015. Once he was installed, President Williams opened the special meeting and noted that there was a quorum present. He announced his proposed selections for the Nominating Committee, commenting that all had agreed to serve:

The names of members proposed by President Williams are; Lee Matson, Robert Folk, James Gibson, James Gaskins, and Theodore Duay III.

President Williams asked for additional nominations from the floor three times. There were not any additional nominations and the proposed compatriots were elected to the 2014-2015 Nominating Committee by those in attendance.

President Williams subsequently adjourned the special meeting.

Report from the Meetings Arrangements Committee...

The **Meetings Arrangements Committee** has been reviewing "Requests for Proposals," (RFP) from Hotels and Conference Centers in the greater Orlando and Central Florida area for the FLSSAR 2015-2016 Board of Management and Annual meetings. The committee has received 14 proposals and

over the summer will conduct selected on-site visits to those venues that have been deemed as meeting our requirements. These top tier facilities will be presented to the FLSSAR membership for discussion and final selection of the 2015-2016 host venue during the October 3-5, 2014 BOM.

From a review of the proposals, it is very apparent that our meeting expenses will increase in 2015-2016, and most likely continue to do so in future years. These increases are reflective of the hospitality industry in general, as they strive to keep pace with labor, management and food costs and still be competitive. The greatest increase has been in the food and beverage (F&B) expenses and the minimum F&B expenditures required in providing us with meeting rooms at no charge. The increase in F&B costs should not come as any surprise with the continued escalation in food prices, especially beef. Most likely, unless the society's members are willing to pay a significantly greater amount for beef entries, beef most likely will not be an option for our catered meals in the future.

In soliciting RFP from hotels/conference centers, the committee has had as their goal the objectives of selecting facilities which are centrally located, well maintained, provide tastefully prepared food, attentive service and value for our members. The FLSSAR membership and historical attendance at past meetings, has restricted our considering some quality smaller facilities and conversely, we are not large enough to be competitive with other larger convention groups in being offered the lowest group rates, for the selected times of our meetings and with our preference for central Florida.

Consideration had been given to using multiple geographic locations within a given year for our meetings, but doing so greatly compounds the difficulty in the planning of meetings and not being offered the most competitive rates.

The Meetings Arrangements Committee will endeavor to provide the FLSSAR membership, a choice of acceptable quality venues from which to select our site for the 2015-2016 meetings at our October BOM meeting

Lawrence G. Fehrenbaker, Sr. Chairman Meetings Arrangements Committee

Four Women in the Revolution

Hannah Arnett - PROUD, FEARLESS WOMAN SPEAKS MIND. Thus the Los Angeles Times's headline in 1776 read. Or, would have if time machines existed, not to mention the newspaper. Arnett (1733-1823) was honored for preventing a group of Elizabethtown (now Elizabeth) men from proclaiming their loyalty to Great Britain in exchange for "protection of life and property." Arnett overheard the men who were meeting in her house discussing the offer. Storming into the meeting, she called them traitors and cowards. The men, citing poor battlefield reports of the ill-equipped Patriots. They were thinking about giving up and returning to the British side by signing a Proclamation of loyalty to Britain. Hannah called them cowards, which they might have become. Her husband Isaac tried to get her to leave the room, but she continued to berate the men and announced that she would leave her husband if he deserted the Revolutionary cause. Finally the men refused the offer. The meeting ended with the men deciding to continue the fight. It's a good thing they did. Thanks to Hannah, the move towards independence would continue. White and Isaac and three of their children who died in infancy are buried in the cemetery.

A marker on the cemetery wall of the First Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth, New Jersey that is now too worn to read orig-

inally read in part, "Near here rests Hannah White Arnett...Her patriotic words, uttered in the dark days of 1776, summoned discouraged men to keep Elizabethtown loyal to the cause of American independence."

Martha Bratton (née Robertson/Robinson c. 1749/50 – 1816) was an American patriot during the Revolutionary War.

Martha was married to Colonel William Bratton. While he was serving in the American forces, he left a large supply of gunpowder at their home in North Carolina. The British were informed about the presence of this cache and moved to seize the supplies. As there was insufficient time to evacuate the material, Martha instead blew it up, timing the explosion to coincide with the arrival of the British troops. Confronted with threats of harsh punishment, she told the British: "Let the consequence be what it will, I glory in having prevented the mischief contemplated by the cruel enemies of my country".

On another occasion, the British questioned Martha as to her husband's location. She refused to reveal his position, even as a British soldier held a reaping hook at her throat. That night, through a family slave "Watt", she sent a message to her husband about where the British were staying, prompting a surprise attack by the patriots. The battlefield included her home; she put her son in the chimney to prevent him from being injured by stray gunfire. The victorious patriots housed a number of captured British soldiers in the Bratton home.

After Martha's death in 1816, her son inherited her home and later converted it into a school for girls. At an anniversary celebration in Brattonsville, South Carolina (named after the couple) in 1839, a toast was dedicated to the memory of Martha Bratton, praising her as "so faithful a wife, so firm a friend to liberty!"

Rebecca Motte - Rebecca Brewton Motte (1737–1815) was a plantation owner in South Carolina, patriot in the American Revolution, namesake of Fort Motte and mother-in-law of Major-General Thomas Pinckney. Rebecca was the daughter of Robert Brewton a wealthy resident of Charleston, South Carolina. She married Jacob Motte (1729–1780) in 1758. Jacob was a plantation owner and involved in politics. The Mottes had seven children two of whom died young and two daughters who married Thomas Pinckney in 1779 and 1797.

The Mottes were living at Fairfield Plantation (Charleston County, South Carolina) on the South Santee River outside of Charleston by 1758 and also in town until Jacob died of illness in 1780 leaving Rebecca to inherit the plantation and 244 slaves. Although Rebecca Motte didn't start the fire, she provided the needed ingredient. She helped set fire to her own home. Now, why would she do such a thing? Well, her home situated high above Charleston, South Carolina, was ideally suited for a fort. So, the British moved her out. They moved in. But, not for long. The Patriots needed the British out. They planned to burn the house. Rebecca wanted her home back so badly that it did not matter if it burned. So, she provided the fire arrows for the task. The British moved out quickly. The Patriots moved in even more quickly, saving most of the house from destruction. For their efforts, Rebecca served them a meal in her reclaimed house.

Elizabeth Burgin - Little is known about Elizabeth Burgin except that she played a significant role in aiding American soldiers who were prisoners of the British during the Revolutionary War.

During the Revolutionary War, the British held many American prisoners-of-war on prison ships in the New York Harbor. On the ships, the quarters were crowded and the prisoners were given little food or water. Diseases like small pox and yellow fever spread easily and over seven thousand prisoners died while on the ships.

A resident of New York, Burgin was able to help the prisoners by visiting them and bringing them food. One evening when she returned home from visiting a prison ship, an American officer asked to meet with her about a plan to help the prisoners escape. The British only allowed women on the prison ships, so the officer wanted Burgin to alert the prisoners to be ready for the escape and to help with the plan of smuggling them off the ship. Burgin complied and helped more than 200 prisoners escape over the next several weeks. Because of her part, the British offered a two hundred pound reward for her capture. This amount was equal to twenty years of pay for a British soldier, so there was a great incentive for them to try to capture her. Burgin narrowly escaped being captured and left the area. Burgin wrote to General George Washington, asking for his help now that the British had all of her possessions.

General Washington wrote to the Continental Congress about Burgin's role: "Regarding Elizabeth Burgin, recently an inhabitant of New York. From the testimony of our own (escaped) officers...it would appear that she has been indefatigable for the relief of the prisoners, and for the facilitation of their escape. For this conduct she incurred the suspicion of the British, and was forced to make her escape under disturbing circumstances." In 1781, the Continental Congress awarded Burgin with a pension for her part in helping the Patriots' cause.

Sources: Women in the American Revolution and Wikipedia.

The Price They Paid

By E. Brooke Harlowe

Have you ever wondered what happened to those men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the Revolutionary Army, another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or the hardships of the Revolutionary War.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners, men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags. Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward. Vandals or soldiers or both, looted the properties of Ellery, Clymer, Hall, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Ruttledge, and Middleton. At the Battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis, had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. The owner quietly urged General George Washington to open fire, which was done. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt. Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months. John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his grist mill were laid waste. For more than a

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year he lived in forests and caves, returning home after the war to find his wife dead, his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. There were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of the Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

They gave us an independent America. Can we keep it?

On at least one website, Gary Hildreth, of Erie PA, is listed as the author of "The Price they Paid".

Here is what I have been able to find based on a few hours in my university's limited library and the book, "The Signers of the Declaration of Independence", by Robert G. Ferris and Richard E. Morris of the U.S. National Park Service (Arlington, VA: Interpretive Publications, Inc., 1982). NO SIGNER WAS KILLED OUTRIGHT BY THE BRITISH.

Lets examine some of the statements more closely. "Five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died." This passage, to me at least, implies that the signer were captured under charges of treason and died under torture. Five signers were indeed captured by the British, but not necessarily as traitors.

Richard Stockton (NJ) was the only one who was probably captured and imprisoned just for having signed the Declaration of Independence.

Ferris and Morris also note that he was not well treated in captivity and was in ill health when released. He never completely recovered. He did not die in prison, however. George Walton (GA) commanded militia at the Battle of Savannah in December, 1778. He was wounded and captured at that time. Thus he would have been considered a prisoner of war, not a traitor. He was released within a year, which implies that his signature on the Declaration was not as important a factor in his captivity as his active military role in defending Savannah (prisoners of war were exchanged on a regular basis, a traitor would have been hanged). Walton lived to serve as Governor of Georgia and U.S. Senator, dying in 1804.

Thomas Heyward, Jr., Arthur Middleton, and Edward Rutledge (SC) were all captured at the Siege of Charleston in 1780. They were held at St. Augustine (then under British control) until September 1781 with other Continentals.

Two months after his release, Arthur Middleton returned to Philadelphia to resume his seat in the Continental Congress. Despite the destruction of his estate, he was able to rebuild it and live there until his death in 1787.

Edward Rutledge sat in the State Legislature from 1782 to 1798. He was elected Governor of South Carolina but died before completing his term...in 1800. Ferris and Morris report that he died a very wealthy man.

Thomas Heyward, Jr. served as a circuit court judge from 1782 to 1787. He served as a state legislator at the same time. Heyward lived well into the 19th century, dying in 1809.

I checked about 8 general histories of the American War for Independence and one or two specialized works on the southern campaigns. None of them even mentioned that signers had been captured at Charleston or Savannah, let alone mention that any were singled out for harsh treatment. This seems to indicate that their capture was part of the "normal" course of war, not a special effort.

After the British took Charleston, Gen. Sir Henry Clinton had men of military age left in the city rounded up. Most were

released soon after, including most of the militia troops. He had originally allowed the officers to keep their swords, but changed his mind when they began to shout rebel slogans. Only the Continental troops were held for any length of time (Middlekauff, The Glorious Revolution)

I found only one reference to the treatment of prisoners from the southern campaigns, in Lynn Montross, "Rag, Tag, and Bobtail". This work states that the continental troops from the siege of Charleston were held on prison ships. Conditions were poor and about a third of the prisoners died. If one takes the word "torture" to mean pain and suffering, then I suppose these men were tortured. To my mind, however, torture implies an intentional infliction on pain, usually either to extract information or to punish. I have found no evidence of the latter.

Here is an interesting passage from Larry G. Bowman, North Texas St. Univ., on Prisoners of war: "Prisoners of war did suffer during the American Revolution. No other conclusion can be reached regarding the welfare of captives on both sides. Men were beaten, deprived of food by corrupt officials, denied bedding and clothing, and harassed in other ways but, fortunately, such incidents of outright cruelty were not routine events. Actually, most of the suffering of the men came from the more subtle torment usually brought on by neglect on the part of their captors. Neither the American nor the British authorities sought to induce suffering among the men in their prisons, yet men did want for basic services. The shortcomings on both sides of the conflict in providing for the captives was evident, but the motivations behind the failures were not evil or vindictive in their origination. Neither party entered a program of deliberately tormenting prisoners." Encyclopedia of the American Revolution, v. II, p. 1334 (New York: Garland Publishing, 1993).

So, when Hildreth writes, "But they signed the Declaration of Independence, knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured." The British undoubtedly put a price on the heads of rebel political officials (not just signers) and the signers no doubt feared that the British would make good on the threat. The reality is, however, that none were executed for their treason.

Let's look at another assertion....Nine of the fifty-six fought and died from wounds or the hardship of the Revolutionary War. On my list two were wounded in action, but NONE DIED OF WOUNDS. My count shows 17--not 9--men who held commissions (or did medical duty) during the war. With the possible exception of Thomas Lynch, Jr. and Gwinnett, I would not say that any death here was attributable to the war with the British. Gwinnett's death, though, is hardly glorious: (1). Josiah Bartlett (NH) as surgeon with Gen. John Stark's troops at Bennington. Bartlett declined national offices (citing fatigue or ill health) but remained active in state affairs and died in 1794. (2). Button Gwinnett (GA) in a failed campaign to take St. Augustine. Killed in a duel precipitated partly by an argument over military strategy in 1777.(2a). George Clymer served with the Pennsylvania militia. Died in 1813. (3). Thomas Heyward, Jr. (SC). Wounded in 1779 near Port Royal Island, SC. Recovered and served in the siege of Charleston. Died 1809. (4). Thomas Lynch, Jr. (SC) Military career cut short by illness in 1775. He then was elected to the Continental Congress. In an attempt to restore his health, he left for the West Indies, but was shipwrecked and killed in 1779. (5). Arthur Middleton (SC) Captured at the siege of Charleston. (6). Lewis Morris (NY) Brigadier General of Westchester Co. troops during the NY invasion. After the war, he served in state government and was active in public affairs. Died 1798. (7). Thomas Nelson, Jr. (VA) commanded the Virginia militia. Served in several campaigns in Virginia, includ-

ing Yorktown. Nelson's retirement from public life was financially motivated. He died in 1789.

(8). William Paca (MD) Served in the Maryland militia. After the war, he was active in MD. affairs and served as a Federal district judge after the Constitution was ratified. Died in 1799.(9). Caesar Rodney (DE). Brigadier General of militia. Active in campaigns against Loyalists in Delaware. Despite having advanced skin cancer, Rodney served as president of Delaware, and speaker of the state senate until his death in 1783. (10). Benjamin Rush (PA). Appointed surgeon general of the Middle Department of the Continental Army. Resigned after 8 months in a dispute over charges he made that the medical corps was not run properly. Extremely active in public affairs, both medical and governmental, Rush died in 1813.(11). Edward Rutledge (SC) Served at the battle of Port Royal Island (1779). Captured at the siege of Charleston. See above.(12). James Smith (PA) Brigadier General of militia. Practiced law until he retired at age 82 in 1801. He died in 1806. (13). George Walton (GA) Colonel of militia. Wounded at the Battle of Savannah, 1778. Died in 1804. (14). William Whipple (NH). Brigadier General of militia. Saw quite a bit of active service, including the Saratoga and Newport campaigns. Died, aged 55, in 1785. (15). William Williams (CT). Colonel of militia to 1776. Mostly active in state affairs, he died in 1811. (16). Oliver Wolcott (CT). Rose to Major General of militia. Wolcott served in the Saratoga campaign and the defense of Ct. against loyalist raids from NY. Lived to attend the Constitutional Convention and to serve as Governor of Ct. Died 1797.

Some, like John Hart or Thomas Nelson, died of fatigue or exhaustion brought on by travel and active service. In that sense, the war may indeed have shortened their lives. Then again, how can we know in an age where illness was so common place. By the way, would we accept "fatigue" as a cause of death today? Or would we find some more precise explanation. In any case, I don't know if I would list this cause of death in the same sentence as a reference to battle service.

Now...Let's look at some of the personal stories told....Carter Braxton of Virginia, wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the sea by the British navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags. Ferris and Morris tell a similar story, but watch the twist: "The War for Independence brought financial hardships to Braxton. At its beginning, he had invested heavily in shipping, but the British captured most of his vessels and ravaged some of his plantations and extensive landholdings. COMMERCIAL SETBACKS IN LATER YEARS RUINED HIM." (p. 42).

If Braxton sold his home, he did not sell all of them. This entry also notes that Braxton was able to retain his family seat at Chericoke, and died in his Richmond townhouse.

No doubt Braxton's fortunes were changed by the war, but can we say, truthfully, that his death in poverty was entirely due to the sacrifices of war???

Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

So far, this is correct. But Ferris and Morris state that McKean was able to rebuild his fortune" "McKean lived out his live quietly in Philadelphia. He died in 1817 at the age of 83, survived by his second wife and four of the 11 children from his marriages. He was buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery. HIS SUB-STANTIAL ESTATE CONSISTED OF STOCKS, BONDS, AND HUGE LAND TRACTS IN PENNSYLVANIA (p. 102). British soldiers looted the properties of Ellery, Clymer, Hall, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Ruttledge and Middleton. Also William Floyd (NY), John Hart (NC), William Hooper (NC), Philip Livingston (NY), Lewis Morris (NY).

Oddly, enough, however, the British had the opportunity to loot the homes of several very prominent signers and did not do so. Although the British evacuated Boston before the signing, why didn't the British vandalize the homes of well-known rebels such as Sam Adams and John Hancock during their occupation of Boston? The British occupied Philadelphia through the winter of 1777, yet the homes of Benjamin Franklin (who surely must have been public enemy #1), James Wilson, Benjamin Rush, Robert Morris. James Wilson's home was attacked by Americans, including militiamen, during food shortages in 1779 (does it count if the suffering was caused by your own side?).

Thomas Jefferson was almost captured at Monticello. Why didn't the British burn the estate?

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr. noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. The owner quietly urged General George Washington to open fire, which was done. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt. Ferris and Morris also repeat this story, although they qualify it as "family legend". Nelson was unable to rebuild his fortunes after the war and did indeed die in poverty.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The British jailed his wife, and soon after she died. This is true. Although Lewis lived until 1802 (and was 89 when he died), he essentially retired from public life after his wife's death.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his grist mill were laid waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home after the war to find his wife dead, his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. The story is essentially true, but Hart survived two years after his return from exile, not a few weeks.

Morris and Livingston suffered similar fates Philip Livingston, a member of the extremely influential NY Livingston family, had several properties in New York and Brooklyn that were occupied by the British. He sold other properties to support the war effort before fleeing the British occupation of NY. He died, at the age of 62, in 1778.

There were two signers of the Declaration surnamed Morris. LEWIS Morris of New York, had to flee his home, Morrisania, which was damaged in the British occupation. Ferris and Morris note that he was able to rebuild Morrisania.

Robert Morris, of Pennsylvania may be even more intriguing. Generally recognized for his fundraising efforts during the war, he was later accused (though vindicated) by Thomas Paine of profiteering. As Superintendent of Finance (1781-1784) he was responsible for keeping the young country afloat financially. In 1789, he declined to serve as Secretary of the Treasury (Alexander Hamilton got the job), but served instead as a Senator from PA. Morris' own financial dealings were not as successful. He speculated on western lands on credit, lived extremely well, and embarked on an ambitious home building project. All of this led to personal bankruptcy and time in debtor's prison in 1798. His wife was granted a pension that sustained the family. Robert Morris died in 1806.

So there you have it. A grain of truth in everything, but some broad wording that makes for a good story but an inaccurate portrayal of our founders.

<u>Source:</u> www.connecticutsar.org/articles/price_paid.htm. Reprinted per permission.

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Chapter Challenge -Americanism Contest Form

The contest now uses the NSSAR Americanism/ President's Streamer Contest form. This form collects basically the same information that was collected in prior years.

What information is needed to be gathered consists of Media (Newspaper, radio, & TV) coverage of SAR activities (NOT meeting announcements); members' speaking engagements; Support of DAR/CAR such as attending meetings; all Youth programs (Eagle Scout, Knight Essay, Rumbaugh Speech, Americanism Poster, and ROTC contests) and specifically listing the youths for each youth program; Public Service Programs (Law Enforcement, Fire safety, EMS or Heroism) with the names of the honorees; Parades, Wreaths Across America, and other ceremonies); granting of scholarships; Points earned in the Stark Award report; attendance at Special Observances (Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Constitution Week, Last Naval Battle, etc.); Grave Markings; the awarding of SAR medals and Certificates; National offices held & National Committee memberships; Membership growth (new members and reinstatements); Attendance at State, District, and National meetings; and finally, cash & non-cash donations to the SAR.

Each chapter should remember that when they participate in any activity or make any donation to the SAR that activity needs to be reported to the chapter secretary for compilation of the 2014 Chapter Challenge-Americanism contest. The chapter then submits the form to National for entry to the National competition AND to the state committee for our compilation of the Florida State Society entry to National.

Richard Q. Fowler Newsletter Award Contest Results

This year's competition using the same format and scoring that National uses for their Newsletter/Publication contest was modified from the previous method of calculation to consider just 4 issues which the chapter's editor chose for the contest. The judges for this competition who recused themselves from judging their chapter's newsletter were:

Larry Fehrenbaker - Naples Norm Myers - Central Florida Paul Pardee - Withlacoochee Mel Sellers - Lakeland Jeff Sizemore - Central Florida

This year only 19 of our 33 chapters entered this contest as represented by these chapter representatives. The scores are shown below as 'grades.' each newsletter issue had a possible perfect score of 120 points; for the 4 graded issues, the total would be 480 points. The chapter newsletter's final grade was calculated like this:

Total points awarded divided by **total possible points** = a percentage grade.

As will be noticed, scores were too close to call for some winners such that the committee chose to split the prize money amongst the tied chapters.

Brevard - 1st Place
St. Lucie River - 2nd Place
Central Florida - Tied 3rd Place
Naples - Tied 3rd Place
Saramana - Tied 4th Place
Jacksonville - Tied 4th Place
Lake-Sumter - Tied 5th Place
Caloosa - Tied 5th Place
Withlacoochee - Tied 5th Place
Flagler - Tied 5th Place
Clearwater - Tied 6th Place
Gainesville - Tied 6th Place

In Memoriam -Compatriot William 'Bill' Fuller

William M. Fuller, 90, passed away on Tuesday, March 12, 2014.

He was born in Johnson City, NY on July 30, 1923. He served his county for 26 years as an Air Defense



Officer, including seven years as a Senior Paratrooper, with the 82nd (All-American) Airborne Division earning three battle stars in World War II in the Battle of the Bulge, the Ardennes, the Huertgen Forest and Central Germany. In the early 50s, he served with the 11th Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY. During the Korean Conflict, 1951-1952 he earned four battle stars. Other

decorations included the Army Commendation Medal and the Belgian Fourraguerre. Following military retirement in 1968, he became a real estate broker. During the next 22 years, he owned and managed several successful real estate companies.

Bill was a member of Theta Delta Chi. He was a Past Master and life member (MIP) of Palma Vista Masonic Lodge, No. 205 and Palm Bay Lodge, No. 397. He was a life member 32nd Degree of the Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Miami. He was a Past President of the Cape Canaveral Chapter, National Sojourners and a member of the Heroes of '76 Patrick AFB. He was a Compatriot in the Brevard Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, a member of the Military Officers Assn of America and was a life member of VFW Post #8191. An active Shriner, he was a Past Commander of the AZAN Legion of Honor, Past Commodore of the AZAN Yacht Club. He was Potentate of AZAN Shrine, A.A.O.N.M.S., Melbourne in 2004.

Bill is survived by his loving wife of 25 years,

The New FLSSAR Mail Lists

As a result of the recommendation out of the Spring BOM that FLATalk be discontinued and the use of the Mail List creation capability of our Web Host, two Mail Lists were created for two distinct and separate purposes: a Mail List for delivery of the link to the electronic version of The Florida Patriot and a Mail List for dissemination of important Florida Society news such as, but not limited to, Bylaw amendment proposals which are required by Florida's Bylaws, the calling of Special Meetings which is required by Florida's Bylaws, BOM meting information, other significant items. Both these lists are moderated which means that messages will only be sent if they conform to the range of subject matter mentioned above.

All Florida Society members with e-mail addresses were sent a message to confirm addition to the particular Mail List by clicking the hypertext link within the message.

Why are we doing this? It is excessively expensive to USPS Mail Bylaws proposals to 1800+ members to fulfill the notification requirements as laid out in the Bylaws. Similarly, it is also expensive to USPS The Florida Patriot when we can save money by e-mailing the link for the electronic version. To use e-mail to distribute the items using an individual's e-mail service requires that the message meet the ISP's mail requirements for number of recipients per e-mail message and the number of recipients per day. To send a message and cover the numbers of recipients mentioned above requires 10 to 15 messages spread over 2 to 3 days. This is time consuming and can result in the mail service locking up. It also creates problems when an individual recipient has a mail service that counts as SPAM any

message with a certain number of recipients on that message sometimes as few as 50 recipients. Then that member doesn't get the message.

Using a Mail List which sends out individual messages to all on the Mail List prevents all of the problems described



Are You Eligible?

Do you have a Revolutionary Patriot in your family tree? Membership in the Sons of the American Revolu-

tion (SAR) honors and preserves the legacy of your Patriot Ancestor. Over two hundred years ago, American Patriots fought and sacrificed for the freedoms we enjoy today. As a member of SAR, through participation in the Society's various programs and activities, you can continue this legacy by actively supporting historic preservation, promotion of education, and patriotic endeavors. For membership information, go to http://www.flssar.org/





Following the British surrender at Yorktown in 2006, I ended nearly 25 years of traveling and selling my wares. Since that time my focus has been to make clothing items on demand for both re-enactors and museums. Whether I was The Little Village Tailors, Heritage Clothiers or now, I wish to create for you, impeccable, historical clothing to fit the 20th century physique. Please explore my web site at www.just2tailors.com and see what I have to offer YOU.

CALLING HOURS: 9am - 7pm EST, but I prefer e-mails so that I can keep sewing.

5elves@bellsouth.net



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In Memoriam – Frank H. Dunagan, Sr.



LTC Frank Havard Dunagan Sr., US Army (Ret.), of Cocoa Beach, FL died Saturday, June 14, 2014. Colonel Dunagan was born February 9, 1930 in Rutherfordton, NC. He was an Eagle Scout, attended Oak Ridge Military Institute, and entered ROTC at UNC and NC State where he was sports editor, and social director of Lambda Chi Alpha Frater-

nity. He served with the US Army Ordnance Corps. In 1952 he went to Korea. At Sandia Base in Albuquerque, NM he met and married Mary Elizabeth Lockridge in 1956. Frank was transferred a year later to Seneca Ordnance Depot, New York, then to Germany. He served a tour of duty at Aberdeen, MD and Fort Sam Houston, TX. Frank attended Airborne Training at Fort Benning, GA., and after earning his Jump Wings, was sent back to Germany. He served with the German Army and a British Army unit. Frank was sent to Vietnam in 1967, to 4th Transportation Command in Saigon. He was responsible for munition ships with ammo distribution for Army, Air Force and Navy. After Vietnam he was transferred to Picatinny Arsenal, NJ, serving as Inspector General. His last tour of duty was at Kwajalein Missile Test Range. working on the Sprint Anti-Ballistic Missile Defense Systems. Frank's military decorations include Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and National Defense Medal.

Frank retired from the Army after 20 years of service and took a job with Martin Marietta Aerospace in Orlando on the Patriot Missile Systems for 20 years. He retired in Cocoa Beach, FL. Frank was an avid tennis player. He served as leader of his tennis clubs, and treasurer of his condo for 15 years. He was an active member of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officer's Association of America, serving as secretary, entertainment chairman, and publicity, was an editor of the monthly newsletter the "Intercom". Frank was a member of Riverside Presbyterian Church.

Frank joined the SAR in July of 2007 under his Patriot Ancestor James Baber of Virginia. He served as 1st Vice President of the Brevard Chapter from 2012 to 2014. He was a member of the Brevard Color Guard and received the SAR Bronze Color Guard medal in 2011. He also was a member of the Florida Veterans Battalion and received the NSSAR Certificate of Patriotism in the NSSAR Viet Nam War Veterans Corps in 2013.

Many people know what the words Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage mean. Frank's life is a testimony to living up to them. He was a true American Treasure. Frank has 4 children, 12 grandchildren, and 6 greatgrandchildren. Frank is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mary, and children, Frank Jr., Debra Underwood, Timothy, and Daniel. Frank is preceded in death by his father, Stover Poe Dunagan, mother, Ruby Dunagan, and brother, Stover P. Dunagan Jr.

In Memoriam -Thomas Joseph McElroy, III



Thomas J McElroy III went to be with the Lord on April 16, 2014. Tom was a beloved son, brother and uncle. Survived by parents Thomas and Vivian, brother –Tim, sisters—Vivian, Tricia, Terry (Husband Paul Tierney) and Gwyn (husband Sam Wakil). Nieces –Kelly Frye and Samantha Wakil.

Nephews—JT Frye and Brandon Wakil.

Tom was born on Staten Island, New York and moved with his family in 1972 to Casselberry, Florida. Tom graduated from Lake Howell High School's first ever graduating class in 1977. He was on the swim team and was a powder puff cheerleader and looked super cute in the cheerleader uniform. Tom served as Private First Class in the Unites States Army from 1977-1980. He graduated from the University of Central Florida in 1985 with his BS in Business Administration.

Tom was a realtor for many years in the Central Florida area and he helped many to realize their dreams of home ownership. He was active in the Casselberry Rotary, Chamber of Commerce and attended Northland Church services. He was a member of the Central Florida Sons of the American Revolution along with his father and brother Tim. Tom loved the beach, surfing, motorcycling, riding his bicycle on the beach, boating with his brother and his friends, fishing, scuba diving, lobster trapping and eating. He enjoyed exercising and could be found walking the neighborhood at 3 am even after Chemo Therapy ." Tom was a great brother who left large shoes to fill", states his brother Tim. Tom was very handy and worked hard for his parents, sisters and friends.

Tom loved the VA and all his fellow veterans; he received excellent care and support from all the doctors, nurses and volunteers. He chose to go to the Hospice of the Comforter House facility for his last days on earth because he had toured the facility with the Casselberry Rotary and the group donated money to support the cause. Tom requested that everyone remember him healthy, happy and smiling.



In Memoriam -Paul 8. May



Paul S. May, who was born in Jacksonville, Illinois, died on May 25th, in his 90th year. In WW II, Paul was a replacement in the army's 456 AAA Battalion and traveled with them from Utah Beach until the end of the war in Germany. GI training led him to K.C.,

Mo. where he met and married Gladys Eidson, the mother of his two sons, Richard and Bradley. After her death he met and married Janet (Preston) Rollo. They lived in Fairway, Kansas until retiring to the outskirts of Sanford, Florida. His 50 years as an avionics technician encouraged years of traveling the world while also enjoying water and winter sports. Upon coming to Florida, he joined the Central Florida Sons of the American Revolution and served as chapter historian for many years.

He is survived by Janet, his sister Nancy Purvis of Dallas, Texas, brother, Don May of Crofton, Md. and a large group of loving nieces and nephews. All were aware of his patient, gentle kindness in sharing his knowledge with them. A Memorial Service was held at the Baldwin Fairchild Oaklawn Chapel, Sanford, Florida on June 2, 2014, followed by burial in the U.S. National cemetery at Bushnell, Florida.

American Revolution Notes

By Robert Yarnell – Tampa Chapter

Even though it had been over a year since Lexington and Concord, many members of the Continental Congress still hoped for reconciliation with England. In fact, while several motions for independence had been placed on the floor, none had been seconded, so the matter had not even been officially debated.

That changed on June 7, 1776 when Virginia moved that "these colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states." Massachusetts seconded the motion and the matter was now on the floor. Congress then made three important decisions; first, it appointed a five man committee to write a report outlining the reasons for the separation. Second, it declared a 3 week recess so members could get instructions from their home states. Third it was decided that any vote in favor of independence must be unanimous.

Unlike today, members appointed or elected to

Congress from the various states were required to vote according to instructions received from their state legislatures. While some were "free agents", most were not and several states did not have instructions on independence. For Example, Connecticut's representatives had instructions to vote no if the measure was introduced by a New England state, but to vote yes if the measure was introduced by a state outside of New England. Thus, since Virginia made the motion, Connecticut was now a yes. Also during the recess, New Jersey sent a new delegation with instructions to vote yes.

During the next three weeks, the committee went to work. While Thomas Jefferson was the primary draftsman, John Adams and Ben Franklin offered advice and did some preliminary editing of the draft.

July 1, 1776 was the date set for debate on the issue. John Dickinson of Pennsylvania spoke for several hours in the morning arguing against independence. When he finished, John Adams rose to give the argument in favor. More debate and more questions from members followed these speeches.

Voting took place in the early evening and two votes would need to be taken. For the purposes of debate, the Congress had resolved itself into a committee of the whole house. So, first, the measure had to be voted out of committee and then a final, binding vote would be taken.

The result of the first vote was 9-2 with one abstention and one state divided. The two no votes were Pennsylvania and South Carolina. The abstention was from New York which had yet to receive instructions on how to vote. Delaware's delegates were free agents. There were three of them—2 in favor and 1 against; one of the "for" votes being Caesar Rodney who had gone home ill. The Pennsylvania delegates were also "free agents" and their internal vote had been 4-3 against. Since Congress had decided that the vote had to be unanimous, two of those votes would need to be changed before the vote on the 2nd as well as South Carolina's. And, what to do about Delaware? Without instructions would New York vote no since it had no authority to vote yes? So, it was decided to postpone the official vote until the following, day, July 2, to allow Caesar Rodney to return and to give the members time to digest the events of the day.

No one wrote anything down and we have no records of the conversations that undoubtedly went on in the taverns in Philadelphia on the evening of July 1st. If any promises or deals were made we will never know that either. What we do know is that when the official vote on Independence was taken on July 2, the vote was 12-0 in favor. Caesar Rodney rode through a rain storm to be there for the vote. New York decided that even though they could not vote yes, that did not mean they had to vote no. Only 5 of the Pennsylvania delegates showed up on the second and therefore Pennsylvania's vote was 3-2 in favor. The other two members sent word they were indisposed. And, in the interest of unanimity and not wanting to be the state that stood in the way, South Carolina changed its vote. So, on July 2, 1776, by unanimous vote,

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the Continental Congress declared 13 English colonies in America free and independent states.

That evening, John Adams wrote to Abigail "The second day of July...will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. ... It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports; belles, bonfires and illuminations from one end of the continent to the other from this time forward forever more." Yes, July 2nd is Independence Day.

Once the measure was adopted, the members began to look at the committee report and spent the rest of July 2, all of July 3 and part of July 4 making changes and editing the report. In some cases entire paragraphs were removed. In other places, it was a matter of adding a word here or taking out a word there. In the early afternoon of July 4, with everyone now satisfied with the wording, Congress adjourned.

It was not until Congress reconvened in early August that members put their names to the committee report, by then known as the Declaration of Independence. And since members arrived at different times during that week, they simply added their signatures as they showed up.

Most people are familiar with the painting showing the Declaration being presented and with others showing the great signing event. When the large picture, that now hangs in the rotunda of the capitol in Washington, DC, was sent on a nationwide tour in the 1820's, it stopped in Boston. John Adams was still alive and the artist wanted his opinion. After looking at the painting Adams said "I do not know if it is good art, I do know it is bad history. The event you have pictured never happened."

There you have it. July 2nd is Independence Day and July 4th is the day the committee's report was approved. So whether you celebrate on July 2nd, July 4th or both, remember, in August 1776, when they signed, they were indeed pledging their "lives, fortunes and sacred honor."

<u>About the Author:</u> Mr. Robert Yarnell is the Past President of the Tampa Chapter of the SAR. At present, he serves as chapter historian and is a History Teacher at the St. Petersburg College.





On behalf of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, we would like to welcome the following individuals for joining the SAR.

These individuals are as fol-

lows:

Glen Alan Hampton Galen Reid Simpson Joseph Ian Michel Robert Hampton Denham Benjamin David Ralston David Lee Ralston Thomas Alan Denham Michael Walston Seitzinger Stephen Gregory Reed Loyal Gordon Bassett, II Kent Joseph Anderson Nicholas Copeland Fritsch William Alfred Dyer Jeffrey George Heinrich Scott Douglas Reed Andrew Jackson Knight, II David Allan Hiles James Dwight Hiles Andrew Frederick Hiles Thomas Clark Graver, Jr. John Clapper, III Richard McCallum Geib Brandon Christopher Haney Garrett Glenn Sears Jonathan Charles Oglio Andrew Lindenmuth, Jr. Mason Andrew Brown Andrew Lindenmuth Charles Philip Foster Ernest Lynn Maney Clifford Wayne Lanham Kenneth Lee Aubrey William Patrick Niemann Wesley Patrick Niemann Marvin Hartley Graham Brian Evan Niemann Patrick Alan Niemann John Montgomery Wade Thomas Patterson Maney Kenneth Lee Tindall **Edward Arthur Maney** Timothy Corbin Lewerenz Christopher John Lewerenz Jonathan Eric Lewerenz Terry William Schaefer Brian Keith Craig William John Simmons Trevor Wayne Crosby Johnny Ray Crosby John David Swaringen

Lake-Sumter Caloosa Caloosa Tampa Brevard Brevard Tampa St. Augustine Jacksonville South Shore Saramana Clearwater Lake-Sumter **Naples** Jacksonville Jacksonville Naples **Naples** Naples Palm Beach Naples Caloosa Saramana Lake-Sumter Tampa Naples Naples **Naples** Tampa Tampa Brevard Saramana Clearwater Clearwater Palm Beach Clearwater Clearwater St. Lucie River **Emerald Coast** Saramana **Emerald Coast** Lake-Sumter Lake-Sumter Lake-Sumter Saramana Lake City Saramana Flagler Flagler St. Lucie River

David Eben Mann, Jr. David Eben Mann, Sr. John David Phelps Joseph David Craig Anderson Clark Ellis Richard Joseph Burns, Jr. Richard James Williamson Mason Patton Pratt Jade Alexander Pratt **David Charles Thomas** Andrew Taylor Thorpe Bernard William Wolff Donald Benjamin Gregg Guy Mitchell Rush Erik Tyrone Pratt Mark Edward Idle George Thomas Youstra Paul Brian DiNardo Thomas Avery Olsen Kevin Vincent Desmarais John William Salko Joseph Theodore Lundquist, V Joseph Theodore Lundquist, IV Caloosa Richard Hamer Wynn, Sr. Michael Curtis Tholen Parker Lucas DeMent Mark Robert DeMent John Herrick Embree John Harlan Martin Miles David DeMent

Pensacola Pensacola Saramana Lake City St. Lucie River Daytona-Ormond Lakeland St. Lucie River St. Lucie River Gainesville Caloosa Miami Ft. Lauderdale Ft. Lauderdale St. Lucie River Withlacoochee Clearwater Clearwater Jacksonville Brevard Central Florida Caloosa Jacksonville Saramana St. Augustine St. Augustine Clearwater Tampa St. Augustine



On behalf of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, we offer our condolences to the family members of the following SAR Members that have passed away over the

past year. These individuals are as follows:

Judson Duley Lincoln Richard Charles Russell Lewis Joseph Graber Hildreth Caldwell Bailey Robert Allen Raup Robert Wilbur Donnahoo, Jr. Thomas Joseph McElroy, III Luther Kay Jennings Michael Timothy Frayn William Marion Fuller Robert Burdett Histed Frank Havard Dunagan, Sr. George Samuel Darby Paul S. May Withlacoochee Central Florida Saramana Naples Clearwater St. Lucie River Central Florida Central Florida Tampa Brevard Lakeland Brevard Brevard Central Florida

EAGLE SCOUTS RECOGNIZED BY THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

On April 5th, Arthur Hays, the Boy Scout Liaison for the Clearwater Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, presented newly advanced Eagle Scouts Bernard Anthony Kazmierski III, Anthony Zsido



and Caleb Nagel with Certificates of Recognition for outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership and citizenship. This award

is earned by successfully attaining the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America, that of Eagle Scout. The awards were presented at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony held at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Seminole, which sponsors Troop 431.

The Eagle Scout service projects for all three Scouts required that each Scout plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a project helpful to any religious institution, any school or to their community. The projects selected and approved by the Scouts involved significant planning, expense and numerous volunteer hours to complete.

Bernard Anthony Kazmierski III, age 18, improved upon an existing garden center pavilion structure at Pinellas Hope by enclosing it with appropriate materials to convert it into a greenhouse for plants with a seed and tool storage area. Bernard has earned 30 merit badges and camped out over 100 nights as a Boy Scout. Bernard is a senior at St. Petersburg Collegiate High School and is dually enrolled at St. Petersburg College. He has a 4.25 GPA and will receive his Associates degree upon graduation from high school. He is a member of the National Honor Society and Phi Theta Kappa, a community college honor society. Bernard, who aspires to become an architect, is the son of Bernard and Mary Kazmierski of Seminole.

Caleb Nagel, age 17, refurbished the outdoor cooking area at Heritage Village. He designed and built a large sturdy table for visitors to use in meal preparation and a large cabinet for storage of heavy black pots

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in the historic style. He also capped off a water supply with a wooden barrel, adding a spigot for washing and fire control. Caleb has earned 29 merit badges and has camped out over 100 nights as a Boy Scout. Caleb is a junior at Seminole High School, where he participates in the Center for Education and Leadership by taking all Advanced Placement (AP) classes and is dually enrolled in St. Petersburg College. He is a member of the Spanish National Honor Society, is a member of the track team and is a member of the Web Design Club. He aspires to obtain a Master's degree in criminology and become a federal agent with a specialty in profiling criminal behavior. Caleb is the son of Glen and Denise Nagel of Seminole.

Anthony Zsido, age 18, designed, fabricated and installed five benches on a 1½ mile long bird watching trail at the Nature Preserve located next to the Florida Botanical Gardens in Largo. The benches were designed from materials expected to last 15-25 years. Anthony has earned 39 merit badges and has camped out over 200 nights since beginning his Scouting journey as a Cub Scout in 2002. In 2010, he attended the National Jamboree in West Virginia celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. Anthony is a senior at Seminole High School, where he played football for three years. He plans to attend St. Petersburg College and major in nutrition or physical therapy. Anthony is the son of Dan and Michele Zsido of Seminole.

All three of these exceptional young adults are second generation Eagle Scouts, having followed in their father's Scouting footsteps.

There are 325 requirements to the path of Eagle Scout. Of every 100 boys who join scouting, fewer than five will attain the rank of Eagle Scout.

EAGLE SCOUT RILEY MICHAELS RECOGNIZED BY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Eagle Scout Riley Michaels, son of Jeffrey and Laura Michaels of Seminole, was presented with an Eagle Scout Certificate of Recognition from the Clearwater Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution for outstanding leadership and citizenship as demonstrated by his attainment of the rank of Eagle Scout.

SAR Compatriot Art Hays presented the certificate at Riley's Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony on May 17



at the Freedom Square Retirement Community's Roskamp Auditorium. Oakhurst United Methodist Church in Seminole sponsors Boy Scout Troop 355.

Riley began his scouting journey as a Cub Scout with Pack 355 in

2006. In 2008, Riley crossed over to Boy Scout Troop 355. He earned 36 merit badges and participated in many local troop camping trips and other outdoor activities. He has camped out over 60 nights since becoming a Boy Scout, including summer excursions at Camp La-No-Che in Paisley, Florida, Camp Shands in Lake Butler, Florida and Camp Thunder in Molena, Georgia. He also participated in four Cub Scout Family Camps at Camp Soule in Clearwater.

Riley has held several troop leadership positions, including that of Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader and Troop Musician. He recently became a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 355.

His Eagle Scout leadership service project involved planning, organizing and constructing a meditation garden at the Bay Pines National Cemetery in St. Petersburg. This included the installation of a walkway of paver bricks, two sturdy weatherproof benches and landscaping at the Commitment Shelter in the cemetery. Riley performed fundraising and received substantial support for his project from Evergreen Tree Service, who provided the pavers and mulch; from Scott Milford, who fabricated the metal for the bench bases and helped assemble the benches; from Decks and Docks Lumber Company, who donated most of the lumber; and from Glenn Darcanglo, who donated the cement to secure the bench bases in the ground. Many other volunteers helped with Riley's project.

Riley, age 17, is a junior at Seminole High School. He is a member of the National Honor Society, The Tri-M Music Honor Society, and is the Drum Major for the Seminole High School Marching Band. He is also a member of the Wind

Ensemble and Jazz Band.

Riley plans to join his sister, Sarah, at Florida State University when he graduates from high school. He aspires to a career as an officer in the U.S. military.

There are 325 requirements to the path to Eagle Scout. Of every 100 boys who join scouting, fewer than five will attain the rank of Eagle Scout.

Clearwater Chapter Sons of the American Revolution brings Operation Ancestor Search to local Veterans Hospitals

Operation Ancestor Search is the National Society Sons of the American Revolution patriotic program that provides genealogy training and assistance to our nation's injured military service members. The Clearwater Chapter Sons of the American Revolution with the help of its Registrar – Genealogist Parks Honeywell and other Chapter volunteers have started working with veterans at the James A Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, Fl. and currently meeting with officials at the C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center in St. Petersburg, Fl. Many of our Wounded Warriors have a long road to recovery and this program allows them some time to not only take their minds off their rehabilitation but to discover themselves through family history.



<u>Above Photo:</u> Clearwater Chapter members Pat Niemann and Parks Honeywell greet Rep. Bilirakis, Co-chairman of the Congressional Veterans Affairs Committee at his Annual Veterans Resource Fair. Operation Ancestor Search was highlighted in discussions with the Congressman.

CLEARWATER ISSUES PROCLAMA-TION HONORING THE FOUNDING OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

On April 16, 2014, members of the Clearwater Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) were in attendance at the Clearwater City Council meeting. After Mayor George Cretekos opened the meeting, he called the Color Guard to come forward. Mayor Cretekos read a proclamation honoring the National Society of

the SAR on their 125th Anniversary of the founding of the organization. The SAR was founded on April 30, 1889, one hundred years after the inauguration of George Washington.

The Sons of the American Revolution is the leading male lineage society that perpetuates the ideals of the war for independence. As a historical, educational, and patriotic, non-profit corporation, the SAR seeks to maintain and expand the meaning of patriotism, respect for our national symbols, the value of American citizenship, and the unifying force of "e pluribus unum" that was created from the people of many nations -- one nation and one people. Men and boys who are interested in documenting their relationship to their American Revolutionary War ancestors and in joining an active group with similar interest are encouraged to call Parks Honeywell at 727-372-4641. The Clearwater Chapter serves the communities of Northern Pinellas and western Pasco counties. Activities include a variety of programs that promote the patriotic, educational and historical interests resulting from the American Revolution.



Above Photo: Left to right: George Pratt, Hoyt Hamilton, James Gibson, Jay Polglaze, Mayor George Cretekos, Doreen Hock-DiPolito, Nelson Jantzen, Bill Johnson and Dan Hooper

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION RECOGNIZES CLEARWATER CHRISTIAN COLLEGE FOR FLAG PATRIOTISM

The Clearwater Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution presented Chief Terry D. Baumann and his staff at the Campus Security Department of Clearwater Christian College with a Certificate of Commendation for exemplary patriotism in the display of the Flag of the United States of America. The presentation was made on

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April 23, 2014 by SAR Compatriots Dr. Bob Cundiff and Dan Hooper during an awards ceremony at the college. The certificate was accepted by Chief Baumann on behalf of his staff of 28 stu-

dents who comprise the Campus Security Department.

Chief Baumann remarked that the large 12' by 18' U.S. Flag flown on campus is cared for by his staff at the Campus Security Department. He added that some of his staff are members of the college's Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps and others are veterans of various branches of the U.S. military, all of whom are familiar with the proper care, handling and display of the United States Flag.

Baumann, also a former student at Clearwater Christian College, acknowledged that the college is proud to display the United States Flag, properly, both during daylight hours and in the evening with illumination. The Clearwater Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution serves the communities of northern Pinellas and western Pasco Counties. The SAR promotes the patriotic, educational and historic interests resulting from the American Revolution.

President General Dooley Honored at Chapter Dinner Meeting



The St. Petersburg Chapter hosted a reception and dinner in honor of President General Joseph W. Dooley on Saturday March 22, at the St. Petersburg Country Club's main banquet room. The event was designed to be festive as well as reflective of the dignity associated with a President General's visit.

More than 80 attendees visited with friends, enjoyed the fellowship of Compatriots, DAR leaders, and C.A.R members in a setting of camaraderie and celebration of our nation's heritage.

Compatriots and guests enjoyed an excellently prepared dinner, to the accompaniment of patriotic background music provided by a live chamber music duo on violin and cello.

The visitation of a sitting President General to a

chapter is a rare and unique event which created considerable interest and excitement. Conducted within the format of a special chapter meeting, the event involved the SAR, DAR and C.A.R. and focused on honoring the achievements of the President General during his term in office, and recognizing his service to the NSSAR and our nation as leader of the country's preeminent male lineage society.

The evening began at 4:45 PM with a private reception hosted for the President General by St. Petersburg Chapter Past President John Stewart. At 5:45, Vice President General Moody, South Atlantic District, and Chapter President Charles R. Butler escorted President General Dooley to the main lobby reception desk where the President General greeted members of the James McMullen Chapter, Children of the American Revolution and thanked them for their participation in the evening's events.

The President General was then escorted into the main banquet room where he joined the waiting reception line, personally greeting more than 80 invited guests, many of whom had traveled significant distances to be in attendance.



The head table included Charles Butler, St. Petersburg Chapter President and host for the evening, President General Joseph W. Dooley, Vice President General Dr. Randy Moody and Mrs. Moody, Indiana State Society President William Sharp and

Mrs. Sharp, and West Central Florida Regional Vice President, Danny Hooper

Three Officers of the St. Petersburg Chapter, SAR in the audience were recognized: Chaplain John Stewart, Registrar Will Scott, and Vice President, Hardy Bryan.

Special recognition was made of the contributions made by Compatriot Jerry Hale from the St. Petersburg Chapter; although his wife Pat Hale of the Boca Ciega Chapter DAR was unable to attend due to illness, she was recognized with the Chapter's grateful appreciation as well.

Author Jack and Mrs. Jean Nida were also so recognized. Jack is a long time genealogical researcher, author and educator, and soon to be a Compatriot of the SAR who traveled from West Virginia to meet the President General and be in attendance for this special event.

Following remarks by President Butler, and a quotation from President George Washington about taking pride in being an American, the meeting re-

cessed for dinner service.

Upon reconvening, President Butler introduced Dr. Randy Moody, Vice-President General, South Atlantic District who presented Greetings from NSSAR National Headquarters to the assembly, and introduced President General Dooley. The audience greeted the President General with an extended standing ovation.

President General Dooley spoke dynamically for about 30 minutes about lessons drawn from ancient history and how they are instructive to the SAR today. The President General easily captured the attention of the audience and he received enthusiastic applause at its conclusion. Additionally, the President General provided copies of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence to attendees, discussed The NSSAR's new Center for Advancing America's Heritage, and commented on his recent article in The SAR Magazine concerning the signet ring of George Washington.

At the conclusion of President General Dooley's remarks, President Butler presented him with a Certificate of Honorary Membership in The St. Petersburg Chapter along with a membership card. President General Dooley recalled that he had been a member of the chapter in past years and was pleased to be reconnected with his Compatriots.



Gifts of Caswell & Massey #6 cologne, aftershave and bath soap were then presented to the President General who graciously accepted them and extended his personal appreciation to the St. Petersburg Chapter for hosting the evening's event.

Following President General Dooley's acceptance comments, he presented President Butler the *Aide-de-Camp* lapel pin in recognition of his personal service to the President General. The unique pin is awarded at the sole discretion of the President General for special service, and its design reflects the personal coat of arms of President George Washington.

St. Petersburg Compatriots Patrick Craig and his father Alan Craig, his wife Vanessa, DAR and senior leader of the James McMullen Society C.A.R., and daughter Jenna a C.A.R. member, managed attendee check-in and table direction. In addition to the Craigs, Colleen Pauley Perry, Shannon Muldrow, and Compatriot Steve Muldrow, Michael McGinn and Agnia

McGinn as well as all the members and families of other local N.S.C.A.R. societies provided outstanding contributions to the success of the event.

Aaron Snowden Chapter News



The first quarter of 2014 saw several significant events for our chapter. We had a 100% membership renewal for the New Year. January saw an excellent program by Mrs. Deborah Sams originally from England who discussed the process and procedures she recently went thru in obtaining her United States citizenship. In February our SAR chapter partnered with the DAR chapter to celebrate George Washington's birthday with a Birthday Cherry Pie Program. . Two new members were inducted during the March meeting. Dr. Richard Clincy and his son Kevin, an ROTC student at Navarre High School in Navarre, Florida were recently approved. To commemorate Presidents Day, chapter members adjourned to the cemetery for a 13-star flag raising ceremony over Revolution War patriot Aaron Snowden's grave. Following the ceremony and program, while departing the cemetery, members noticed the flag poles display at the entrance with a badly frayed American flag. Members happen to have a new American flag, which was used to immediately replace the frayed flag. The cemetery custodian was notified and greatly appreciated the gesture.

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FLORIDA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

REGISTRATION FORM

Fall BOM Meeting October 3-5, 2014

The Florida Hotel and Conference Center at the Florida Mall, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, FL 32809

Name:National Number:				Chapter: Date:		
Emergency Contact:				Phone:		
•	ration confirmation and up					
_I prefer to use MY OWN name tag for the BOM			BOM	_ I Require a hai	d copy Of BOM Proceedings – "E	lue Book"
BOM Voti	ing Authority (Article II,	Section I, FI	LSSAR ByLaw	rs):		
Select ONE: FLSSAR OfficerFLSSAR Comm		ommittee Chair	FLSSAR Past Pro	esident		
NoneChapter PresidentChapter Past Presi Patriot MedalFL National Trust		Chapter Pas	st PresidentChapter Delegat			
		l Trustee	Incumbent/Past NSSAR Officer			
I Plan on a	ttending the following BO	M Sessions (s	select as many a	as you want)		
Executive CommitteeF		Regional	VP Meeting	Registrar Session		
Eag	le Scout Committee					
The Bang	quet meals (below) incl	ude:		oice of vegetable ee, Iced Tea, Wa	/starch, Chef's choice of desse ter.	rt, Bever-
Oct. 4 th	Member Meal Choice	None	Chicken Parme	esan - \$38	Amount =	
Saturday						
Banquet	Guest Meal Choice	None	Chicken Parme	esan - \$38	Amount =	
Dietary Alt	ternative meals are only: _	_Vegan	Vege	etarian	_ No Gluten	
Registration Fee - SAR Members Only - \$10.00					=	
Grand Total (Dinners & Registration Fee)				=		
MEAL RE	ESERVATIONS MUST	BE RECEIVI	ED ON OR BE	EFORE January 1	9, 2014	
Meal addi	tions / changes / cancella	tions must be	received 72 h	ours prior to BO	<u>M.</u>	
days of ma	l your registration via US iiling, call 772-336-0926. 3e, call 772-336-0926.	PS and do NO If you registe	OT receive a co er by e-mail and	nfirmation via e-n d do NOT receive	nail (you must list an e-mail addre a confirmation via e-mail within 1	ss) within 4 day of send-
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Make your check *payable* to "Treasurer FLSSAR". Send to:

FLSSAR Meetings Arrangements Committee

% Hall Riediger Phone: 772-336-0926

1702 SW Nantucket Ave. E-mail: allriedi42@bellsouth.net

Port St Lucie, FL 34953

Please request a "Read Receipt" so that you will know that your file was received.

Pictures from the BOM Meeting & Annual Meeting - May 2014



If you have pictures or articles, you would like included in future editions of the FLSSAR Florida Patriot, please send them to Jeff Sizemore, Editor at swampfoxeditor@cfl.rr.com. Articles about your Chapter, historical topic book reviews, and historical/patriotic articles are greatly appreciated.

The pictures displayed herein this edition of the FLSSAR Florida Patriot were taken by Frank Nolte and Jeff Sizemore



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FLSSAR Spring BOM & Annual Meeting
The Florida Hotel & Convention Center
October 3 - 5, 2014

(Room Rate = \$117.00 per night R8VP by 9/22/2014) 800-588-4656

1500 Sandlake Road Orlando, FL 32809

FROM INTERSTATE 4 WEST - (from Tampa): From I-4, take exit #74 (Sand Lake Road). At the bottom of the ramp, turn right and continue on Sand Lake Road approximately 5 miles to Orange Blossom Trail (US 441-17-92). Turn right (south, go to the second light (Sun Life Path) and turn left into the Florida Mall. Continue straight, then follow signs to the hotel.

FROM INTERSTATE 4 EAST - (from Daytona Beach and downtown Orlando): From I-4, take exit #80, Orange Blossom Trail (US 441-17-92). The exit ramp will merge with south bound traffic on Orange Blossom Trail. Continue south for approximately 5 miles. Go through the intersection at Sand Lake Road (SR 482), continue to the second light (Sun Life Path) and turn left into the Florida Mall. Continue straight, then follow signs to the hotel.

FROM THE FLORIDA TURNPIKE, NORTH OR SOUTH: From the Florida Turnpike, take exit #254, Orange Blossom Trail (US 441-17-92). Follow signs for "North-East 441." Continue straight on Orange Blossom Trail to the third light (Sun Life Path) and turn right into the Florida Mall. Continue straight, then follow signs to the hotel.