



# The Whig



The monthly newsletter and source of information for the  
St. Lucie River Chapter,  
Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution

October 2013

## President's Salvo



Gentlemen,

We are in the midst of gathering the 2014 dues payments. Usually we just let everyone pay when they feel like it, and we are usually trying to gather the last few payments after the December 1 deadline, but this year we are trying a slightly different tactic. We are letting everyone know that we need to pay those dues early. Please, get those checks in the mail.

If you are wondering why the push, next year I have volunteered to be State Secretary, and if elected, will be responsible for completing the annual report to National. With 33 Chapters and 1900 members, it can be a daunting task to have it ready by National's deadline, but I am hoping that I will not have a problem with the St. Lucie River Chapter.

Thanks to you all for your efforts.

Hall Riediger, President

## EMS and Fire Safety Awards



*From left to right: SAR Chapter President H. Hall Riedeger, MCFR Lieutenant Thomas Shimanek, MCFR Bureau Chief Doug Killane, and MCFR Division Chief Jon Belding.*

At the October 12, 2013 meeting, the St. Lucie River Chapter, Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution presented the following Commendation Medals.



The Emergency Services Commendation Medal, recognizing accomplishments and/or outstanding contributions in the area of Emergency Medical Services, was presented to Martin

County Fire Rescue Lieutenant Thomas Shimanek. Lieutenant Shimanek is a medical supervisor and is responsible for providing a higher level of advance life support care in the pre-hospital setting to seriously injured and ill victims. His duties include training and quality assurance for the emergency medical services provided in the field.

“During Lieutenant Shimanek’s time off, he volunteers a lot of time serving as a

*(Continued on page 2)*

To Visit the Chapter Website, go to:  
<http://www.stlucieriverflssarc.org/index.html>

## Seth Fields inducted into the SAR



Seth Cody Fields was inducted as a new member of the St. Lucie River Chapter, Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution on October 12, 2013. Seth is a descendant of Isaac Drake, a private soldier who served in Captain David Young's, Captain Jones Ward's, and Captain Hendrick's companies of the New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania lines.

Compatriot Fields volunteered to assume the duties of Color Guard Commander and Sergeant at Arms for the Chapter.

*From left to right: President Hall Riediger, Registrar Chuck McKinley, and new member Seth Fields.*



## In Memoriam—Doug H. North



Why this Memorial? Most of our current members don't know Doug H. North and are not familiar with his association with our Chapter of the SAR. He was a founding member of the Chapter and president in the 1994-95 period of our existence. He also held several other offices in both the State and local Societies before his health forced him to leave the SAR in 2011. It is difficult to look at our list of past and present officers and not

see Doug's name as a State or National Society Committee member or officer. He passed on August 25, 2013 and is now beside his wife in New York State. Doug was closely tied to the First Congregational Church, UCC. at Sadonia and Port St Lucie Boulevard. He was active in his church and participated in their Patriotic and spiritual services such as Independence Day and the four Chaplain's annual Service. Doug was an over 50 year Mason, a Veteran of WWII, and had a family with two sons. Doug also had a Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. *Jay Wise and Phil Carr*

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Medical Officer for Southeast Florida Honor Flight. Honor flight is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's World War II veterans for all their sacrifices...Tom's job on these flights is to ensure that these individuals are medically monitored so that they enjoy their special day", wrote Martin County Fire Rescue Chief Joseph V. Ferrara. "Our department is proud to have such a dedicated and hard working employee as Lieutenant Thomas Shimanek."



The Fire Safety Commendation Medal, recognizing accomplishments and/or outstanding contributions in the area of Fire Safety and Service, was presented to Martin County Fire Rescue Fire Prevention Bureau Chief Douglas Killane. Chief Killane's duties include fire inspection, plan and development

reviews, as well as coordinating public education of fire safety and prevention.

"In 2012, Chief Killane applied for and was awarded a grant to develop a side by side fire sprinkler demonstration prop. The prop was extremely beneficial at showing the public how sprinklers can save lives and prevent property damage. The prop was difficult to erect and required significant manpower to rebuild after each fire. Chief Killane researched the development of a permanent steel structure that could be used and not require such intensive manpower. The prop was constructed after some donations from the Utilities Department and a great design program. The prop is now a part of Martin County Fire Rescue's education program.", wrote Martin County Fire Rescue Chief Joseph V. Ferrara. "We are proud of the work he (Bureau Chief Killane) has contributed to making this a success."

## SAR News and Notes

- Col. Richard "Dick" Cole, one of the last four surviving Doolittle Raiders, and his grandsons Elliot and Nathan Chal, were inducted into the Simon Kenton Chapter, Kentucky Society on August 28, 2013 at the SAR Genealogical Research Library in Louisville, Kentucky. Read more at [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org) or click [here](#).

- "The Many Faces of George Washington", a nationally travelling exhibition that examines the multi-dimensional, real-life man behind the myth opens at the NSSAR National Headquarters on November 9, 2013 and will be on display through December 16, 2013. Read more at [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org) or click [here](#).

- Construction continues on Phase II of SAR National Headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky. Track the progress by viewing newly posted videos at the NSSAR website or by clicking [here](#).

- President General Joseph W. Dooley's presentation to the American Legion during their 95th National Convention in Houston, Texas can be viewed at [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org) or by clicking [here](#).

- Current membership in the FLSSAR is 1,855 members as of September 22, 2013.

## Events Calendar

November 9: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City \*  
Presentation to Veterans, Tom Gilmore presents a program on Bud Rockhill's Honor Flight trip to Washington.

November 11: Veteran's Day, Color Guard will be in Stuart for the Parade and Port St. Lucie at Veteran's Memorial Park. Contact Hall for the latest info.

November 16: Color Guard will be at the dedication of the Veteran's Memorial Bridge. More information later or contact Hall.

November 28: Thanksgiving

December 1: Deadline for receipt of annual dues

December 14: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City \*

December TBD: Ft. Pierce Christmas Parade

December 25: Christmas

January 11, 2014: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City \*

January 24,25: FLSSAR Board of Management Meeting, location TBD

February 8: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City \*

February 28 - March 1: Spring Leadership Meeting, NSSAR Headquarters, Louisville, Kentucky

July 18-24: 124th Annual Congress, Greenville, South Carolina

\* *Regular meetings start at 11:30 am unless noted.*

## Editor's Note

The next few months will offer our members an opportunity to interact with the community and represent the chapter at several activities across the area. I encourage all compatriots to attend meetings and/or participate in activities as their schedules allow. *WKH*

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## Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2013

Meeting called to order at 12:00 Noon

Invocation: Phil Carr

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: Bob Eisenhardt

Pledge to SAR: John Auld

Minutes of the January Meeting were approved, Joe Leinbach made the motion, Phil Carr seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted unanimous. Members present: Chris Wade, Hall Riediger, Jay Wise, Phil Carr, Bud Rockhill, Oscar Kraehenbuehl, Carl Dennis, Joe Leinbach, Chuck McKinley, John Auld, Seth Fields

Guests present: John Sheppard, Joe Ragan, Alice Rockhill, Mary Lou Fields Shelton, Ruth Ann Bachman, Bill Hartley, Barbara Hartley, Pat Eisenhardt, Grace Woodbern, Shirley Carr, Lindy Wise, BC. Dan Harshberger, Chief John Belding, Lt. Tom Shimanek, Tyler Shimanek, George Winterhing, B.C. Dan Killane, Susan Auld, Sandra Shimanek, Bruce Hershenover.

Meeting recessed for lunch.

Reopened meeting by calling everyone back to order.

Awards Presentations and New Members Inductions: Seth Fields Induction

Correspondence: Check out the NSSAR Website for the latest on the construction at the new building ([www.SAR.org](http://www.SAR.org)). Latest Posting was number 9. Really coming along well. Jay told me he received notice that our annual scholarship has been awarded; we will try and get the student to join us for a lunch. Next Saturday there will be a gathering at Palm Beach to Welcome home Honor Flights Vets.

Unfinished Business: Certificate of Appreciation to John Auld for his presentation in March.

Eulogy to Doug North.

New Business: Chris Wade and Jay are working on getting our Duck Money put back into a safe place, so I don't spend it all. Have either of you made any progress? Motion by Jay Wise and Bud Rockhill unanimous. Dues are due, and they have been trickling in. Please don't put off paying your dues until the last moment.

Reports membership: Chuck McKinley

Committee Reports: JROTC – Jay Wise

Eagle Scouts – Hall Riediger will present an award this afternoon to Paul Zackery Zuniga of Troop 445 for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Read Eagle project.

American History Teacher Award – those of you that attended the Constitution Week Luncheon had the opportunity to meet Don Zimmerman, who will be the Chapter entrant into the Tom and Betty Lawrence, American History Teacher Award. I am planning to have Don and his wife Karla to visit with us in December, so you all will be able to meet him. I will have more on this later.

Color Guard – Acting Commander Hall Riediger We will be forming up to participate in Veteran's Day in Port St. Lucie and Stuart. If you let me know you would like to participate I will make sure that you have the necessary information. Also in this line I am looking for a Color Guard Commander. I prefer an ex-military person but if you really want it you will be considered. **Announcement:** Seth Fields has volunteered to take Color Guard Commander job.

Habitat for Humanity – Joe Leinbach No possibility for February and January.

Veterans Affairs – Carl Ward will be back in November. I heard from him and he is in the last phases of clearing out of California.

Program: Martin County Fire Rescue: Commendation awards to Lt. Thomas Shimanek EMS and Bureau Chief Douglas Killane, excerpts of nomination letters are included in minutes.

50/50 Drawing:

Guy's Duck: \$35.00

Next Meeting: November 9, 2013 program will be presented by Tom Gilmore and will be about Bud Rockhill's Honor Flight Trip to Washington, D.C and the honoring of our Veterans.

Announcements:

We are taking volunteers i.e. nominations to be Chapter Officers for the 2014 to 2016 term. Please let me know if you would like to serve.

If you know about any ideas for a program please contact me so I can see about getting it set up.

Benediction Chaplin: Phil Carr

Recessional: Hall Riediger

"Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights and Independent Supreme Court and a Nation of Free Men".

Yours, Tom Gilmore, Secretary

## Major General Horatio Gates

Horatio Gates was a retired British soldier who served as an American Major General during the Revolutionary War. He was credited with victory in the Battles of Saratoga and blamed for defeat at the Battle of Camden. Gates was also involved in the 'Conway Cabal', an attempt to discredit and replace George Washington.

Gates was born in England about 1728. He obtained a military commission in 1745, serving with the 20th Foot in Germany during the War of the Austrian Succession, and was promoted to Captain of the 45th Foot in 1750. Gates later obtained a Captain's commission in a New York Independent Company.

During the French and Indian War, Gates served under General Edward Braddock in America. He was severely injured in the ill-fated Braddock Expedition. He was promoted to Major by the end of the war. Frustrated by prospects of advancement in the British Army, Gates sold his Major's commission and purchased a plantation in Virginia.

At the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War, Gates offered his services to George Washington, who urged the appointment of Gates as adjutant of the army. Gates was commissioned Brigadier General and Adjutant General on June 17, 1775. Gates is recognized as the first Adjutant General of the United States Army.

Gates' organization and administrative skills proved invaluable to the army, but Gates longed for field command. By June 1776, Gates was promoted to Major General and given command of the Canadian Department, then in disorganized retreat from Quebec. The retreat to Fort Ticonderoga brought conflict with the authority of Major General Philip Shuyler, commander of the Northern Department. It was decided Shuyler would command the department while Gates would command the Fort and the defense of Lake Champlain. Gates oversaw the enlargement of the American

fleet needed to prevent the British from taking control of the lake. The command of this fleet was given to Benedict Arnold. The fleet was defeated in October 1776, but it succeeded in delaying the British advance against Ticonderoga until 1777.

In 1777, Congress blamed Schuyler and Arthur St. Clair for the loss of Fort Ticonderoga, and gave Gates command of the Northern Department. Gates commanded the army during the defeat of General Burgoyne's invasion in the Battles of Saratoga. Gates and his supporters took credit for the victory, although military action was directed by commanders such as Benedict Arnold, Enoch Poor, Benjamin Lincoln, and Daniel Morgan. Arnold in particular viewed Gates as reluctant to attack and had taken the field and attacked against Gates' orders. John Starks' victory at the Battle of Bennington also contributed to success at Saratoga.

By resolution, Congress presented a gold medal to Gates to commemorate his victories over the British in the Battles of Bennington, Fort Stanwix, and Saratoga.

Flush with success, Gates began communicating with Congress directly, outside of the proper chain of command. He obtained appointment from Congress as President of the Board of War, filling the post while retaining field command. In addition to this conflict of interest, the post made Gates George Washington's civilian superior. Gates sought appointment as commander-in-chief, and took part in a campaign to replace George Washington. Washington learned of the affair through written remarks of General Thomas



Conway. Washington's supporters rallied to his aid, ending the 'Conway Cabal'. Gates resigned from the Board of War and was assigned command of the Eastern Department.

In May 1780, the fall of Charleston, South Carolina and the capture of General Benjamin Lincoln prompted Congress to place Gates in command of the Southern Department. Gates led forces south from North Carolina to face the British forces of General Cornwallis near Camden, South Carolina. In the Battle of Camden, Gates' army was routed, losing the baggage train and artillery, along with nearly 1000 men captured. Nathaniel Greene replaced Gates as commander on December 3rd, and Gates returned to Virginia.

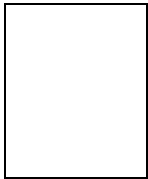
Congress passed a resolution calling for a board of inquiry to look into Gates' conduct, but withdrew the call in 1782. Gates rejoined Washington's staff.

Gates retired in 1784 and returned to his estate. He died on April 10, 1806. As a Major General, Gates is remembered for the valuable service he rendered.

*"Surrender of General Burgoyne" by John Trumbull, displayed in the United States Capitol Rotunda. General Horatio Gates is the central figure.*



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## **President's Brigade**

Those Compatriots whose extra financial support allows the Chapter to go the extra mile in it's efforts throughout the year. Please, if at all possible, help us out with a little extra.

### **Gold Medal**

Support of \$50 and above

### **Silver Medal**

Support of \$25 and above

### **Bronze Medal**

Support up to \$24