



The Whig



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

April 2014

President's Salvo



Last Salvo

Hello Gentlemen,

I am very pleased and a little saddened to be writing this last Salvo. It has been a pleasure to serve the St. Lucie River Chapter for these many years as an officer, and now I move on to being an advisor, assuming the Director at Large position, so that I can aid those taking over the reins. I do not wish for you to think that I am giving up serving the SAR, as I am now stepping down from being Treasurer of the Florida Society and at the same time stepping up to being Secretary of the Florida Society. It is a major step, but it will allow me to be of greater service to more people.

Thank you all for supporting me over these last 13 years.

Sincerely,
Hall Riediger

JROTC Awards



Cadet Sergeant Major Robert Hopkins with Compatriot Carl Wade

On Wednesday March 19, 2014, the St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR was proud to attend the Port Saint Lucie High School JROTC Awards Ceremony hosted by JROTC Senior Instructor Major Richard Thompson, USA Retired. The 10:30 am ceremony was held in the high school's auditorium.

Compatriot Carl Wade, Chapter JROTC Committee Chairman, joined about a dozen veteran organizations in presenting awards to selected cadets.

Compatriot Wade presented the SAR Bronze ROTC Medal and Certificate to Cadet Sergeant Major Robert Hopkins.

The certificate read in part: "... in recognition of outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing and excellence, thus exemplifying the high ideals and principles which motivated and sustained our patriot ancestors."



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

Bruce Herchenroder inducted into the SAR



The St. Lucie River Chapter, Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution, is delighted to welcome a new member to our organization.

Bruce Herchenroder was inducted as a new member of the St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR on April 12, 2014. Compatriot Herchenroder is a descendant of George Burkhart, a Captain of militia from Frederick County, Maryland. Patriot Burkhart was recommended as Captain of a company of militia, endorsed on a commission dated 13 October, 1777.

From left to right: Registrar Chuck McKinley, new member Bruce Herchenroder, and President Hall Riediger



Seeking out New Members

Chapter Registrar Chuck McKinley and Compatriots Jay Wise and Carl Wade began an initiative to solicit new members for the St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR.

On April 20, 2014, the trio of Compatriots set up a tent at the Ft. Pierce Farmers Market in an effort to introduce our Chapter to those who may be unfamiliar with it and to provide information about the qualifications for membership and the steps to become a member of the SAR.

We salute the efforts of these Compatriots.

Members wishing to participate in future events should email or phone Registrar Chuck McKinley.



Compatriots Carl Wade and Jay Wise with Registrar Chuck McKinley seated out of view.

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SAR News and Notes

-Registration is open for the 124th Annual Congress to be held in Greenville, South Carolina. Find the registration form on the NSSAR website or click [here](#).

-President General Dooley attends dedication of monument honoring James Forten, Black Hero of the American Revolution. Find out more on the NSSAR website or click [here](#).

-President General Dooley meets with Irish Ambassador in preparation of the SAR May 2014 trip to Ireland. Find out more on the NSSAR website or by clicking [here](#).

-The Spring 2014 edition of The Florida Patriot is available for download from the FLSSAR website or by clicking [here](#).

-Compatriot Presidents of the United States. Sixteen Presidents of the United States have been members of the Sons of the American Revolution. Find out which Presidents were members by visiting the NSSAR website or by clicking [here](#).



-Compatriot **Medal of Honor** Recipients. There are 26 known compatriots who have received the nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor, representing conflicts from the Civil War to Vietnam. To find out which compatriots received the Medal of Honor, visit the NSSAR or click [here](#).

Events Calendar

May 10: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City *

May 26: Memorial Day, Remembrances will be held in Port Saint Lucie and in Stuart.

June 14: Flag Day

July 4: Independence Day, Annual Color Guard event information will be available.

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

September TBD: Annual Constitution Week Luncheon with the Treasure Coast DAR Chapters will be held at Monarch Country Club. More information will be

available.

September 26,27: Fall Leadership Meeting, NSSAR Headquarters, Louisville, Kentucky

October 3-5: Fall 2014 BOM Meeting, Host Region is TBD.

October 11: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City *

January 30-31: Winter 2015 BOM Meeting, Host Region is TBD.

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

Editor's Note

Our Chapter will be evolving as we change our Chapter Officers. This is the last edition of *The Whig* to be issued during the tenure of President Hall Riediger. For many years, Hall was also the editor of *The Whig*. For one who has given so much, we extend our sincerest thanks. *WKH*

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Minutes

April 12, 2014

Meeting called to order at 12:00 Noon

Invocation: Jay Wise

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: Paul Alexander

Pledge to SAR: Seth Fields

Minutes of the March Meeting were approved; John Auld made the motion, Jay Wise seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted unanimous.

Members present: Bud Rockhill, Jay Wise, John Auld, Joe Leinbach, Carl Wade, John Sheppard, Chuck McKinley, Seth Fields, Tom Barnhardt, Carl Dennis, John Auld, Rod Graves

Paul Alexander who attended meeting is a member of the Palm Beach Chapter. Rod Graves, long time member, is joining us again.

Guests present: Jack Irving, Jane Barnhart, Judy Martin, Bridget Richards, Mason Pratt (new member), Alice Rockhill, Kim Herchenroder, Susan Auld, Grace Woodburn, Joe Regan, Nancy Moore

Meeting recessed for lunch.

Reopened meeting by calling everyone back to order.

Awards Presentations: Bob Donnahoo memorial will be held in May. Bruce Sherman Herchenroder was welcomed as a new member.

Correspondence: Check out the NSSAR Website for the latest on the construction at the new building (www.SAR.org). Latest Posting was number 11. Really coming along well. It has a future vision section so you can see what is coming up in the future.

Unfinished Business: To date, the following compatriots have volunteered to operate the chapter; President, John Auld. Vice President, Chuck McKinley, Second VP, John Sheppard. Secretary, Tom Gilmore. Treasurer, Chris Wade. Directors at large, Hall Riediger, Jay Wise, Genealogist, John Sheppard, Registrar, Chuck McKinley.

New Business: Hold chapter elections, ask for nominations from the floor three times. The NSSAR has received an offer for the old headquarters of 1.2 million dollars, timing could not be better as money will be needed to finish the present construction. It is coming along really well with the interior build out underway.

Reports membership: John Sheppard

Registrar Reports: Chuck McKinley

JROTC – Carl Wade.

Eagle Scouts – Hall stated nothing at this time although he is setting up one that was past and going to cover that one.

Florida Good Citizenship Certificates will go out in the next week to all of the Elementary Schools and Middle Schools.

Other Officer reports:

Color Guard reports: Acting Commander Hall Riediger

Memorial Day May 26 presentations in PSL and Stuart.

Habitat for Humanity, Joe Leinbach

Program:

Member Patriots. I know John Auld has done this, and Chuck McKinley has suggested this and I am going to give a short presentation of what we are talking about. I can go on for some time, but I will be short.

*Joseph Sturtevant, Sr. Sgt. 1st Mass Militia Plymouth County

*Joseph Sturtevant, Jr. Soldier 5th Mass Light Infantry under Col. Rufus Putnam 1781 to 1783.

*Job Philbrook, Sr. Maine Penobscot Expedition

*Job Philbrook, Jr. Maine Penobscot Expedition, 5 year old

*Levi Hall, Maine 12th Mass Line 1776 to 1779, letter from General Wadsworth.

*John Besse Musician 1st Mass Militia Plymouth County.

*James Murdonck Lt. 1st Mass Militia Plymouth County.

*Jon Knowles Soldier 2nd New Hampshire Rgt. Enough Poor died Sept 1776, Portsmouth, NH smallpox.

*Sion Knowles Soldier 1st New Hampshire Rgt. Cols. John Stark, Joseph Cilley, Alexander Scrammel and Henry Dearborn. Served from May 1775 to December 1783.

*Joseph Jones Maine, Captain 12th Mass. Line

50/50 Drawing: Alice Rockhill \$17.00

Guy's Duck: None this time.

Next Meeting:

May 10th, 2014. Installation of Officers, Chapter Awards.

Announcements:

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

May 2,3 & 4 is the Board of Management/Annual Meeting. Should be a good one as there is a floor fight threatened and they are always fun. If you are going to attend, let me know so I can make sure we use all of our votes.

Benediction Chaplin: Jay Wise

Recessional: (I can't read the name)

"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

General Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben

Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben was born September 17, 1730 in Magdeburg, Prussia, now Germany. His father, a Lieutenant, was a military engineer. Young von Steuben served as a volunteer with his father in 1744 during the War of Austrian Succession. In 1746, he entered the Prussian Army.

Originally an infantryman, his skills at organization led him to become a staff officer. In 1761, he was promoted to Captain, seeing service in the Seven Years War. He became aide-de-camp on Frederick the Great's staff, receiving specialized warfare training. At wars end, the army was downsized and von Steuben was unemployed.

In 1764, von Steuben was appointed chamberlain to Josef Friedrich Wilhelm of Hohenzollern-Hechingen and later was made a knight of the Order of Fidelity, when von Steuben began using the title "Baron".

Looking for new employment, Baron von Steuben travelled to Paris in 1777 where he met with French Minister of War, Claude Louis, Comte de Saint-Germain, who recommended him to Benjamin Franklin. Benjamin Franklin, Arthur Lee, and Silas Deane were American commissioners to France. After an extended period, von Steuben was given letters of introduction and passage to America.

On February 5, 1778, von Steuben met the Continental Congress. Accepting his service as a volunteer, von Steuben was sent to join General George Washington and the Continental Army at Valley Forge. Franklin's letter of introduction described von Steuben as a Lieutenant General in the King of Prussia's service, an exaggeration.

Communicating with von Steuben proved difficult as a translator was required, but Washington wished to take advantage of von Steuben's experience, and in early March, asked him to serve as Inspector General, overseeing the training and discipline of the army. Beginning with a model company of 100 soldiers, von Steuben instructed them in drill, maneuver, and a simplified manual of arms (through interpreters). These men were then sent to other units of the army to provide training and instruction until the entire army was trained. Von Steuben introduced a system of progressive training for new recruits. Von Steuben re-introduced the use of the bayonet as a fighting weapon. Additionally, he reorganized the camps, including repositioning kitchens and latrines to greatly improve sanitation.

General Washington was impressed with von Steuben's work and successfully petitioned Congress to permanently appoint von Steuben Inspector General with the rank and pay of a Major General.

During the winter of 1778–1779, von Steuben prepared *Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States*, which outlined training courses and administrative procedures. In numerous editions, this work remained in use until the War of 1812.

In 1780, von Steuben sat on the court-martial of the British Major John André, captured and charged with espionage in conjunction with the defection of General Benedict Arnold.

In November 1780, von Steuben was sent to Virginia to mobilize forces in



"Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben"
by Charles Willson Peale

support of Major General Nathanael Greene's army. For various reasons, von Steuben struggled in this post and was replaced by the Marquis de Lafayette in April 1781. After some service, von Steuben took sick leave later that summer.

On September 13, 1781 he rejoined Washington's army, commanding a division at the Battle of Yorktown. His men were in the trenches when the British offer to surrender was received.

Von Steuben gave assistance to Washington in demobilizing the army in 1783 and helped plan for the future defense of the nation. He was discharged from the military with honor on March 24, 1784.

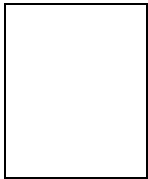
He became an American citizen by act of the Pennsylvania legislature.

Von Steuben established residency in New York. Congress ultimately granted him a pension of \$2500.

General von Steuben died at Utica, New York on November 28, 1794.



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Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution
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President's Brigade

Gold Medal

Jay Wise

Hall Riediger

Carl Wade

William Hammond

Silver Medal

Bronze Medal