



# The Whig



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

September 2015

## President's Salvo



Gentlemen,

The Constitution Week Luncheon was a well-attended event at the Monarch Country Club. Many thanks to Bobby Hoffman, Sheila Carr, Lynnann White, Colleen Kimball, and all the DAR ladies who worked so hard to make this a grand occasion. Mayor Greg Oravec and his spouse Tonia came from Port St. Lucie to present the Constitution Week proclamation on behalf of the City Council. Stephanie Neff, Hidden Oaks Middle School civics teacher, delivered a dynamic multimedia presentation of how she teaches 7th graders about the Revolutionary War. Our Florida SAR President Larry Fehrenbaker was so impressed, he has recommended we nominate Stephanie as Florida History Teacher of the Year, which we will do. Stephanie will also be at our January meeting. Martin County Superintendent of Schools Laurie Gaylord attended. It is great to see that our educators support the teaching of the Constitution

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## Constitution Week Luncheon

The annual Constitution Week Luncheon was held on Saturday, September 12th at the Monarch Country Club in Palm City. This year's event was hosted by the Halpatookee, Jupiter Lighthouse, Okeechobee, and Saint Lucie River Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution as well as the St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR. Florida SAR President Lawrence Fehrenbaker and wife attended.

Port St. Lucie Mayor Greg Oravec presented a proclamation on behalf of the Port St. Lucie City Council and spoke of his love of the Constitution.

The guest speaker was Stephanie Neff, Hidden Oaks Middle School Civics Teacher, who addressed attendees on the topic "Civics Teaching to Teens". Also in attendance were Hidden Oaks Middle School Principal Jeri Eckler and Martin County Superintendent of Schools Laurie Gaylord.

By invitation, Stephanie Neff recently attended the Florida Supreme Court's 2015 Teaching Institute, a prestigious honor, and she briefly spoke of her experience. Mrs. Neff presented attendees with her process of teaching civics to teens, which involves



*Stephanie Neff*



*Chapter President John Auld with Mayor Greg Oravec, Roberta Hoffman, and Hall Riediger*



*South Fork High School Color Guard*

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

## President's Salvo



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and the values that it represents for all Americans. A number of our members attended additional Constitution Week events throughout our area.

I was invited by Lt. Colonel Matt Saxton to speak on September 15th with the Advanced US History course at Fort Pierce Central High School. The discussion included the Presbyterian Church Seceder movement for religious freedom in Scotland and in America, and the military history of my patriot, Alexander Burns, who served in the First Pennsylvania Rifle Battalion, commencing June 25, 1775.

Regular monthly meetings resume October 10th at Manero's in Palm City. We will honor Law Enforcement officers from the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office and the Port St. Lucie Police Department. Please plan to attend either in colonial uniform or blazer. We meet the second Saturday of every month October through May. Our membership in the past two years has exploded from 48 to almost 90. Please attend and welcome our new members.

Sincerely,

John Auld  
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## Constitution Week in Fort Pierce



This year is the 228th year of a celebration of the creation of the Constitution of the United States, as it was created on Sept 17, 1787 and was not ratified until the following year on June 21, 1788. For the 20th consecutive year, the FLSSAR and the St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR have participated in joint celebration activities with several chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution in our area to commemorate Constitution Week, including the Cora Stickney Harper Chapter in Fort Pierce, Okeechobee Chapter, and the Halpatiokee Chapter in Stuart. On the morning of September 12th, an event was held at the Fort Pierce Farmers Market and attended by several Chapter members. The Chapter SAR Colors were carried by Jack Irvin, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jay Wise, and Joe Regan played 'Taps' on a bugle provided by Compatriot Carl Wade. The Color Guard was provided by the Coast Guard Contingent from the Port, there were attendees from the St. Lucie County Commissioner's Office, several Veterans Groups, and the Seal Museum. Fort Pierce Mayor Linda Hudson, a member of the DAR, gave a nice speech about the Constitution and its predecessor, the Magna Carta, which is 800 years old this year. Additional Chapter members in attendance were Chuck McKinley and Chris Wade.

On September 17, St. Lucie River Chapter members Jay Wise, Chuck McKinley, and Joe Regan also participated in the Ringing of the Bells ceremony hosted by the Cora Stickney Harper Chapter, DAR on the Fort Pierce riverfront, in commemoration of the creation of the United States Constitution.



*Compatriots Joe Regan, Chris Wade, Jack Irvin, Chuck McKinley, and Jay Wise with Regent Karon Drew, Cora Stickney Harper Chapter, DAR*



*Chuck McKinley with members of the Coast Guard Color Guard*



*Members of the Cora Stickney Harper Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution with Compatriots Jay Wise, Joe Regan, and Chuck McKinley*

## Constitution Week Luncheon

*(Continued from page 1)*



frequent use of modern technology and less reliance on the use of textbooks. For her efforts, Stephanie Neff was presented with the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal as well as a gift from the SAR, and was presented with an American Flag flown over the United States Capitol by the DAR. It is always an honor to recognize teachers who continue to teach our youth the Constitution and the values it represents for all Americans.



*Stephanie Neff and Chapter President John Auld*



Additionally, the St. Lucie River Chapter presented three deserving ladies of the DAR with the following awards:

The Martha Washington Medal was presented to LynnAnn White and to Colleen Kimball. This medal is given to a lady over 18 years of age in recognition of outstanding service to the SAR.



*LynnAnn White, Colleen Kimball, and Roberta Hoffman with Hall Riediger*



The Daughters of Liberty Medal was presented to Roberta Hoffman. This medal is given to a lady in appreciation for her unselfish devotion, tireless efforts and assistance to the SAR, and who has dedicated her time, energy, ability and/or finances to the organization in support and furtherance of the stated objectives of the National Society, SAR. This medal is the highest lady's medal that can be awarded.



*Hall Riediger with Florida SAR President Lawrence Fehrenbaker and wife Jeanne*



*Sheila and Phil Carr*



*John and Cynthia Sheppard*



*Jack Irvin and Hall Riediger*



*Joe Leinbach and Oscar Kraehenbuehl*



*Judy and Carl Wade*

## Habitat for Humanity



The St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR had the pleasure to participate in a new Habitat for Humanity dedication ceremony held on September 22, 2015 at the home of the Mirtha Norvil family in Lake Park. Activities were pre-coordinated by Compatriot Jay Wise with Bob Calhoun and Donna Weatherington of the Habitat of Humanity organization of St. Lucie County. Compatriots Jack Irvin, Chuck McKinley, and Joe Regan participated in the ceremony.

The Norvil Family was presented with a United States Flag, flagpole bracket, booklets on displaying the flag properly, and a copy of the United States Constitution. Mirtha's daughter Jesse participated by holding the flag and also placing it in the bracket.

*Mirtha Norvil with daughter Jesse*



## Port Saint Lucie POW/MIA Activity



Compatriots Jack Irvin, Carl Wade, Joe Regan, and Chuck McKinley attended a POW/MIA ceremony on the 19th of September at 7 PM at the Veterans Park in Port St. Lucie. This ceremony honors all veterans from WWI up to the present day and was chaired by the St. Lucie Vietnam Veterans group and assisted by other veterans groups and JRTOC Units from the area. Candles were lit by different veterans groups and the JROTC for each period. This followed with a roll call of all missing POW/AWOL personnel from the state of Florida for the Vietnam era only and is conducted in September every year

across the Our Great Nation. This was a beautiful ceremony for all to behold as it demonstrated our feelings for lost and missing soldiers from the Vietnam era, but also applies to other conflict periods as well. All SAR chapters participate in Veterans activities across the nations as does our local St. Lucie River, SAR chapter.



## Liberty Tree Memorial

PLANTED IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE TRAGIC EVENTS ON  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.

Located at Riverside Park in Sebastian, Florida, at US#1 and SR# 520. The inscription on the plaque reads as follows:

Liberty Tree Memorial

"The American Liberty Elm was named after the "American Liberty Tree": Our Country's First Symbol of Freedom. On the morning of August 14, 1753 the people of Boston awakened to discover two effigies suspended from an elm tree in protest of the hated Stamp Act. From that day forward, that elm became known as "The Liberty Tree". For the next ten years, it stood in silent witness to countless meetings, speeches and celebrations, and often served as the rallying place for the Sons of Liberty. In August of 1775, as a last act of violence prior to their evacuation of Boston, British soldiers cut it down because it bore the name "Liberty".

Elm Research Institute, Westmoreland, New Hampshire



## A History of the St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR

*The following is a transcribed copy of a speech and a letter from Edward N (Bud) Casey that was written for the Chapter's 5th Anniversary on February 12, 1994.*

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The letter was dated November 27, 1988. It read, in part, "Dear Compatriot. Your presence is requested at a pre-organization meeting for the purpose of establishing a new chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) in the St. Lucie/Martin County area."

For some time, members living in St. Lucie and Martin counties had been driving to Vero Beach or to West Palm to attend SAR meetings. Either way it was a long way to go and, for some, it was too far. They simply paid their dues and didn't attend the meetings.

"The meeting time is 2:00 PM, Sunday, 11 December 1988, at the First Congregational Church in Port St. Lucie," the letter continued. It was signed by a man who is known in the Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution, Stanley A. Evans, Chairman of the Target Cities Committee.

Compatriot Evans' committee had been charged by the State Society to investigate certain areas in Florida, with an eye on the possibility of forming new chapters. As one of the fastest growing areas in Florida, or in the nation for that matter, the Treasure Coast seemed fertile ground.

The first pre-organization meeting was held at the appointed time and place. Present at that meeting were the following members of SAR:

Guy S. Athearn  
Edward N. Casey  
William M. Cox, Jr  
Richard T. Diekmann  
Stanley A. Evans  
Robert J. Lessa  
Joseph Margraf  
William F. Moore  
William R. Stevens

It should be noted that beside Compatriot Evans, two of the members in attendance were officers of the Florida Society. Compatriot Athearn was State Chaplain and Compatriot Stevens was Registrar of the State Society.

Also present at that first meeting was Martha York Clements, representing the Daughters of the American Revolution, St. Lucie River Chapter, and the following prospective members of SAR:

Russell A. Browne was accepted to membership at the first meeting of the chapter. He served the chapter well as a member and, one year, as Chapter Secretary. He is now deceased. Donald Crislip had a problem proving his eligibility for membership and has lost interest in the organization. The third prospective member attending the first meeting has also served the chapter well. His name is Doug North and he is currently the 6th President of the St. Lucie River Chapter. Another lady also attended. Margaret Browne is a member of DAR and wife of the late Russell Browne.

Rev. Diekmann, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Port St. Lucie, served as chairman of the first meeting. He convened the meeting, offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. He then introduced Stan Evans and turned over the meeting to him.

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The first order of business was selecting a name for the new chapter. Other names suggested were: The Indian River Chapter. However, that name wasn't considered suitable since the Indian River begins up in Brevard County; the St. Lucie Chapter seemed to neglect members and prospective members residing in Martin County. So it was decided that the name ST. LUCIE RIVER CHAPTER best described the area from which the chapter would draw its members. The beautiful St. Lucie River finds its pathway to the sea through both St. Lucie and Martin counties.

It should be noted that the St. Lucie River Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, primarily owes its existence to one man. He is Compatriot Guy Starbuck Athearn. Although Compatriot Athearn discussed the organization of a new chapter with several other future chapter members, it was he who had the idea and began the wheels turning through his contacts in the State Society. And it was through his organizational skills and hard work, which continue today, that the chapter was formed and has grown with vigor.

The first officers of the chapter were elected at the first meeting. They were:

President - Guy S. Athearn  
1st Vice-Pres. - Richard T. Diekmann  
2nd Vice-Pres. - William F. Moore  
Secy./Treas.. - Edward N. Casey

And, as you may be sure, "a hat was passed" that day to collect enough money to get the new chapter underway. The amount collected was \$21.00.

Compatriot Stevenson discussed the proper completion of applications for membership. On behalf of the DAR, Martha Clements welcomed the new SAR chapter. After agreement to meet again at the same place, the meeting was adjourned.

At the second pre-organization meeting on February 5, 1989, Compatriot Stanley Evans reported on the motion made at the recent Florida Society Board of Management meeting. That motion, "To present a charter to the newly formed St. Lucie River Chapter," passed without dissent. Then Compatriot Evans presented a check from FLSSAR to the new chapter in the amount of \$400. That check was to help defray the costs of the American Flag, the SAR Flag, flag poles and bases and other necessary incidentals. After discussion of some other matters of a routine nature, the second pre-organization meeting was adjourned by acting President Guy Athearn.

The St. Lucie River Chapter became an officially installed Chapter of the Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution, at the Charter Presentation Ceremony held on Saturday, February 18, 1989, almost exactly five years ago. That meeting was held at 7900 South U.S. 1 in Port St. Lucie, Florida, next to the Port St. Lucie Best Western Motel. The restaurant has since changed hands and is now called "The Sizzler."

The Charter Presentation Meeting was called to order by Raymond A. Haas, President of the Florida Society, SAR. A color guard from the JROTC unit at Fort Pierce Westwood High School presented the colors and the flag of the SAR.

The new chapter officers were sworn in and charged by President Haas. He also presented to Compatriot Athearn the SAR Chapter President's Medal and neck ribbon. It is interesting to note that, in the confusion of the Chapter Presentation Ceremony, the Charter, itself, was forgotten. And so, President Haas also presented to Compatriot Athearn a blank sheet of paper, in lieu of the Charter. No one was the wiser,



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Barbara Ferguson and Martha Clements presented to President Athearn a new gavel on behalf of the St. Lucie River Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. That gavel is still the one in use today by the Chapter President. New member, Compatriot Russell A. Browne, was presented with his membership certificate, card, and rosette and welcomed to membership by President Haas.

Several dignitaries were present at the meeting. Besides Compatriots Stanley Evans and William R. Stevenson, previously mentioned,

other Florida Society Officers in attendance were Regional vice-President, Russell Ford and Glenn Arter. Also present was Compatriot Richard Friberg, National Vice President of the South Atlantic Division, SAR. Other dignitaries included Mrs. Nedra Bachler, Vice-Regent of the Halpatiokee Chapter, DAR, of Stuart, Florida, and William McChesney, Mayor of Port St. Lucie. Compatriot Lunsford Healy, Immediate Past President of the Florida Society gave the address which was concerned with George Washington.

A minimum of fifteen members is required for a new chapter to apply for a charter. An effort has been made to identify those fifteen "Charter Members," It has not been an easy task because of last minute transfers to and from the chapter and outright confusion, at the time on both local and state levels. The following list of probable "Charter Members." It is thought to be reasonably accurate.

Rev. Guy S. Athearn  
Robert O. Brown  
Russell A. Browne  
Edward N. Casey  
William M. Cox, Jr.  
Gen. William HI Craig, U.S.A.  
Rev. Dr. Richard T. Diekmann  
Edwin L. Glasscock

John Kalloch  
John E. Larkin  
Joseph Margraf  
William F. Moore  
Dr. Clarence F. Pusey  
Norman W. Reed, Jr.  
William H. Vining

[Please note: All of these charter members are now deceased.]

It may, or may not, be significant that the St. Lucie River Chapter's first three Presidents were ministers of the gospel. They were Compatriots Guy Athearn, Rick Diekmann and Steven Pillsbury. Certainly their godly guidance established a firm foundation for the fledgling organization. And the "devil's trap" of fiscal irresponsibility was often avoided by their willingness to take up a collection.

Today, the St. Lucie River Chapter is a thriving, growing robust organization, one of the most active in the Florida Society. It shall continue in that tradition as long as its members care and are willing to work toward its worthy goals.

Written and delivered at the  
Chapter's 5th birthday celebration  
on February 12, 1994 by  
Compatriot Edward N. Casey  
St. Lucie River Chapter  
Sons of the American  
Revolution


*This information is presented as a result of a collaborative effort by several chapter members to document our Chapter History and was forwarded by Chapter Historian Jay Wise.*



## SAR News and Notes

- ShareFile! What is that? To find out about PG Tom Lawrence's efforts to engage membership, check the NSSAR website at [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org) or click [here](#).

- SAR Fall Leadership "Cemetery Preservation 101" Workshop. Read about a potential new SAR resource on the NSSAR website or by clicking [here](#).

 - Join the Library on Facebook. An "SAR Library Sons of the American Revolution" Facebook page was recently set up. Find out more at [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org) or by clicking [here](#).

- The Fall 2015 edition of *The Patriot* is available from the FLSSAR website or by clicking [here](#).

## Events Calendar

October 10: Regular Meeting, Law Enforcement Awards for St. Lucie County, Manero's, Palm City\*

October 23-25: Fall BOM Meeting, FLSSAR, Orlando, Host Region is TBD.

November 11: Veteran's Day

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

November 26: Thanksgiving

December 12: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City\*

December 25: Christmas

January 9: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City\*

February 13: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City\*

March 12: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City\*

April 9: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City\*

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

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

## 2016 Membership Dues



It is that time of year again. 2016 dues will be \$70\*. Dues may be paid to the Treasurer at regular meetings.

*\*Note: NSSAR Dues (not FLSSAR or SLRSAR) were raised \$5 at the 125th Annual Congress*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Copy or print this page, fill out, include check for \$70, and Mail to:  
 Compatriot Chris Wade  
 628 Bentpaddle Lane  
 Port St. Lucie, FL 34983

### Editor's Note

It has been a busy time, causing *The Whig* to be slightly larger than normal. Our Chapter enjoyed a large turnout for the Constitution Week Luncheon. Regular meetings begin on October 10th. Please plan to attend. *WKH*

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## Past PG Butler Writes Award Winning Book

**Title:** Galvez  
**Sub Title:** Spain - Our Forgotten Ally In The American Revolutionary War: A Concise Summary of Spain's Assistance  
**Author:** Judge Edward F. Butler, Sr.  
**Purpose:** HRM Felipe VI de Borbon, King of Spain personally asked the author to write the book.  
**ISBN:** 978-0692-03088-2  
**Publisher:** Southwest Historical Press, PO Box 170, 24165 IH-10 West, #217-170, San Antonio, TX 78257

**Genre:** History of the American Revolutionary War  
**Theme:** Without Spain's Assistance, the US might still be flying the English flag.  
**Overview:** Spain was just as valuable an ally to the US as was France

**References:** 360 pages - 214 footnotes - 37 pages of Appendices, with hundreds of names of Spanish patriots

**Awards:** "Best Revolutionary War History Book in 2014", award by Order of the Granaderos de Galvez.

**Summary:** The Spanish King during the American Revolutionary War, Carlos III, was the much older uncle of King Louis of France. In 1761, Spain and France entered into a "Borbon Family Compact", which was a mutual defense treaty. By the 1763 "Treaty of Paris" settling the French and Indian War, Spain was granted all land west of the Mississippi River. Spain and England had been at war about 2/3 of the time for several hundred years. Spanish treasure ships from Mexico and South America to Spain were being attacked and captured by British pirates and privateers.



When Carlos III appointed Bernardo de Galvez as Governor of Louisiana in 1776, he told Galvez to prepare for war with England. Galvez immediately began to recruit a "militia". Cash, arms, ammunition and supplies from Spain began arriving at New Orleans and Philadelphia in 1776, and continued throughout the war. Spain and France each donated 1,000,000 Livres to the American cause.

By the time Spain declared war on England in June, 1779, Galvez had an army of over 1,400, including Spanish soldiers, Canary Islanders, Acadians ("Cajuns"), free Negroes, Germans and Indians. The book covers the battles in which Galvez and his troop seized British forts at Manchac and Baton Rouge, LA; Natchez, MS; Mobile, AL; and Pensacola, FL. Galvez showed an uncanny talent as a commander.

Galvez' actions in North America removed the threat of a second British front from either the west or south, and kept the Mississippi - Ohio River Rivers open for supplying George Washington at Ft. Pitt, and Gen. George Rogers Clark at Ft. Nelson in current day Louisville. Spain and England were involved in a world war. Spanish army and navy units battled the English in the Mediterranean, Central America, India, South Africa, and the Philippines. The world wide battles prevented hundreds of war ships and tens of thousands of British troops from being available to send to the colonies. About 17,000 Spanish soldiers fought the English in North America during the war.

Galvez and his army captured several thousand British prisoners (2,500 in one day) and hundreds of English ships - 55 in one day - together with large quantities of cannon, cannon balls, rifles, ammunition and military supplies.

**Impact:** Now, Hispanic children in the US, instead of feeling disengaged with the nation, can feel like they are a part of our country, knowing that many of their ancestors played a vital role in this nation gaining its freedom from England.

**To Order:** The Book sells for \$29.00; The book in color on CD costs \$15.00; purchase both the book and CD for \$39.00. Order from Southwest Historical Press, PO Box 170, 24165 IH-10 West, Suite 217-170, San Antonio, TX 78257.

**Web Site:** More information can be found on the web site at [www.galvezbook.com](http://www.galvezbook.com).



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## President's Brigade

### Gold Medal

Oscar Kraehenbuehl

John Auld

Carl Wade

Jay Wise

### Silver Medal

Hall Riediger

### Bronze Medal

Sheila Carr