



St Lucie River Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



"WHIG"

October 2019



Presidents

Salvo

Compatriots,

1) Please try to attend our next few regular meetings. We will be continuing our discussions of recommendations from "The Chapter Survey". Be there so we can hear your ideas and recommendations.

2) Take 10 minutes of your time and read a heartwarming article in our latest SAR Magazine entitled "Independence Day A Time to Reflect on America"

Quote: To the world, you may be just one person but to one person you may be the whole world.

Anon .

Chapter Meeting—Saturday—October 12, 2019



Chapter President Chuck Berger



Members prior to meeting



Registrar and 2d Vice President Bill Sander



Registrar Bill Sander introduces new member Michael McMahon



Michael McMahon is sworn in as the newest member of the St Lucie River Chapter.



Ms. Rebecca Kuchar pins the SAR Rosette on Compatriot Michael McMahon.



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Minutes of the October 12, 2019 Meeting

The Board of Directors minutes from **10/10/2019**. Meeting held at Pig & Cattle Restaurant. In attendance: Chuck Berger, Robert Beasley, Hall Riediger, John Auld, Jim Linn, and Bill Sander. There were 2 motions:

MOTION 1:

Each Committee chair shall submit minutes by email to the Secretary at least 7 days prior to the monthly Saturday meeting. Moved by Chuck Berger, second by Robert Beasley, passed 6-0. Email to Secretary: jhauld@gmail.com. The Secretary shall timely send all committee minutes to all members prior to the monthly meeting. Intent: all members get the info, and no lengthy presentations are needed during the meetings, expedites meeting. Committee chair’s: if you have nothing to report, please send an email stating: NO REPORT. The intent of this motion is: there will be no verbal reports hereafter.

MOTION 2:

The Treasurer shall reimburse the Registrar approximately \$100 for purchase of Ancestry.com membership. This will be an annual expense. Moved by Jim Linn, second by Robert Beasley, passed 6-0.

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SAR Meeting 10/12/2019:

The October 12, 2019, SAR meeting began at 11:00 AM and adjourned at 1:00 PM. There were no presentations.

The meeting program was planned to be Law Enforcement Recognition Day however Port St Lucie and Fort Pierce did not respond despite repeated attempts to obtain their participation. The St Lucie County Sheriffs Department was scheduled to attend but at the last minute they were forced to cancel their participation. The SLC Sheriff has indicated that they will attend our December meeting when we are scheduled to recognize the Firefighters of St Lucie County.

Members and Guest present:

John Auld, Robert Beasley, Chuck Berger, James Linn, Michael Linn, Jack Irvin, Bill Cassada, Michael McMahon, and guest Rebecca Kuchar, Steve Trimble, Hall Riediger, Bill Sander, Robert Howard and guest Lynn Howard.

At the SAR meeting 10/12/2019, it was moved and seconded to approve motions 1 and 2. Both were approved with no dissent.

New Motion: To allow children members 12 and under to have lunch at \$10. Moved by Riediger, second by Bill Sander. Carried with no dissent.

These 3 motions are in effect immediately on 10/12/2019.



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Minutes of the October 12, 2019 Meeting—Continued

Registrar Bill Sander introduced and swore in Michael McMahon. Michael’s SAR Rosette was pinned on by Ms. Rebecca Kucher. Michael’s father Arthur, who lives in Arizona also became a member of the St Lucie River Chapter at the meeting.

Jack Irwin made a presentation of military related events in the coming months. If interested, contact Jack directly.

There were discussions as a result of the August survey. Suggestions included: having fewer meetings, changing location for meeting/lunch. The majority indicated that St. Lucie West Blvd. area would be a reasonable location and about halfway or less travel for most members. Some members present indicated that \$20 per person for lunch is too expensive. Most present indicated lunch at 11:00 am, meeting thereafter, and adjourn no later than 1:00 PM. Some present thought that 2 hours was too much time. Some members commented on the lack of presentations related to 1775-1783.

Note: Secretary John Auld is also past President. He has requested Jim Linn and Bob Hess to take part and serve on the nominating committee for 2020 elections. Candidates for nomination will be presented at March meeting, voted on in April meeting, and sworn in at May meeting. Any member may propose himself as a candidate for a 2 year term. Any member wanting to serve may contact John Auld at jhauld@gmail.com.

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Upcoming Events

November 2, 2019—Monthly Meeting—Speaker scheduled is Professor Walter Judd.

November 11, 2019—Veterans Day Activities in Stuart and Port St Lucie.

Stuart activities include a Veterans Day Parade on Monday, November 11, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Route is from Amerigo Avenue to Memorial Park. Participants must arrive between 9:00 and 9:15 for positioning.

Port St Lucie activities at Veterans Memorial Park on Monday, November 11th at 11:00 am for this special service to honor those who have served. The United Veterans of Port St. Lucie will provide a moving tribute. Seating is limited, bring a lawn chair.

December 7, 2019—Monthly Meeting—First Responder Recognition Day also a brief presentation by Compatriot Hall Riediger.

January 4, 2020— Monthly Meeting—Compatriot John Auld will give a presentation on one of his ancestors and his participation in the march to Québec.

February 1, 2020—Monthly Meeting—Compatriot and Judge Mike Linn will give a presentation on the Pros and Cons of the Second Amendment.



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Upcoming Events Continued

March 7, 2010—Monthly Meeting - Compatriot Robert Beasley will give a presentation on the Battle of Moores Creek, NC in which his ancestors participated. **Nomination for Officers for 2020 –2022**

April 4, 2020— Monthly meeting— **Election of Officers for 2020—2022**—Speaker to be determined

May 2, 2020—**Swearing in of newly elected officers**—Last meeting before the Summer—Speaker to be determined.

If you would like to volunteer to give short presentation on your ancestor or any part of the events that transpired in the United States during the Revolutionary War period or the events leading to the Rebellion or it’s aftermath please contact me at rb4348@att.net.

Volunteers are also need to be Committee Chairman, see President Chuck Berger for details or contact him at opastuart2004@yahoo.com

Officers

President

Charles A Berger

First Vice President

Robert E Beasley, Sr

Second Vice President

Bill Sander

Secretary

John Auld

Treasurer

James Linn

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Hall Riediger - John Auld

Registrar/Genealogist

Bill Sander

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Sergeant at Arms/Photographer

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Hall Riediger

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Editor

Robert E. Beasley, Sr

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[Article from National Park Website](#)

A Capsule History of The War

The American Revolution was an event of sweeping worldwide importance. A costly war that lasted from 1775 to 1783 secured American independence and gave revolutionary reforms of government and society the chance to continue. At its core, the war pitted colonists who wanted independence and the creation of a republic against the power of the British crown, which wanted to keep its empire whole. At certain times and in certain places, Americans fought other Americans in what became a civil war. From the family whose farm was raided, through the merchant who could not trade, to the slave who entered British lines on the promise of freedom, everyone had a stake in the outcome.

1763-1774 From Protest to Revolt

Britain's victory in the Seven Years War ended her contest with France over North America but began a new conflict with her colonies. Many colonists questioned Britain's decision to keep an army in postwar America, and almost all of them opposed Parliament's effort to finance that army by taxing colonists. They petitioned against the 1764 Sugar Act, which imposed import duties, and the 1765 Stamp Act, which imposed direct taxes on the sale of playing cards, dice, newspapers, and various legal documents. Parliament could not tax them, the colonists insisted, because they had no representatives in the House of Commons, and British subjects could only be taxed with the consent of their elected representatives. When Parliament refused to back down, colonial mobs forced stamp distributors to resign. Direct action by interracial urban mobs was a frequent occurrence in the lead-up to the Revolution. Parliament repealed the Stamp Act in March 1766, but also passed a Declaratory Act affirming its complete authority over the colonists. The next year, it sought to raise revenue through new duties on glass, lead, paint, paper, and tea, known as the "Townshend duties." The colonists responded with a coordinated refusal to import British goods. British troops sent to Boston to enforce the duties only added to the tensions. Ill will between civilians and British troops led to an incident on March 5, 1770, where British troops fired on an unruly mob, killing five people. Local radicals called it the "Boston Massacre." In that same year, Parliament repealed all the Townshend duties except that on tea. In 1773, Parliament reaffirmed the tax on tea and passed a Tea Act designed to help the British East India Company compete with smuggled tea. Colonists in some ports forced tea ships to return to Britain without unloading. That strategy failed in Boston, so a crowd thinly disguised as "Indians" dumped the imported tea into the harbor. Parliament responded to the "Boston Tea Party" with the Coercive Acts (called by the colonists the "Intolerable Acts"), which closed the port of Boston and changed the form of government in Massachusetts to enhance the Crown's power. It then appointed Gen. Thomas Gage commander of the British Army in America and governor of Massachusetts and placed that colony under military rule. In response, 12 colonies sent delegates to a Continental Congress that met in Philadelphia in fall 1774 to coordinate support for the "oppressed" people of Massachusetts and opposition to the Coercive Acts. The Congress adopted a colonial bill of rights and petitioned Britain for a redress of grievances.



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1775 The War Begins

In late April 1775, Gen. Gage sent British troops to seize colonial military supplies and arrest opposition leaders in the towns of Lexington and Concord, west of Boston. The military clashes there and along the British retreat route began what became the Revolutionary War. News of the fighting spread quickly, and volunteer soldiers rushed to a provincial camp in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Soon this force had the British army bottled up in Boston, at that time a peninsula with just one narrow link to the mainland. Meanwhile, other colonial forces took the British forts at Ticonderoga and Crown Point in New York, seizing valuable military supplies. The Second Continental Congress, after assembling on May 10, took charge of the makeshift Massachusetts force and appointed Virginian George Washington to command this "Continental Army."

" In June British troops frustrated an American attempt to fortify Breed's Hill overlooking Boston but suffered heavy losses in the "Battle of Bunker Hill." Thereafter, Gen. William Howe replaced Gage as commander of the British forces. In July, Washington arrived at Cambridge and began a rigorous program to discipline the American army. Late in August, Congress sent troops to take Canada, an operation that would take the rest of the year and end in disaster. But, as the year closed, American troops under Col. Henry Knox began dragging 55 cannons from Ticonderoga to the siege at Boston.

1776-1777 The War's Early Stages

The year 1776 started badly for the colonists, who suffered a bitter defeat at Quebec, which dashed hopes of drawing Canadians into the conflict and opened the northern frontier to British attacks. In February, however, American supporters crushed loyalist forces at Moores Creek Bridge, N.C. In late March, the cannon from Ticonderoga allowed the Continental Army to force the British out of Boston, and in June, American forces repulsed a British attack on Charleston, S.C. In June and July, the British began assembling one of the largest naval and military forces ever seen in North America at New York. Meanwhile, the Congress at Philadelphia approved the Declaration of Independence, which was read publicly to Washington's troops in New York. After a costly defeat at Brooklyn Heights on Long Island, Washington managed to cross the East River back to Manhattan. He retreated first north, suffering defeats at Harlem Heights and White Plains, then down into New Jersey as the British captured Forts Mifflin and Mifflin on opposite sides of the Hudson River and took control of Manhattan Island. Washington finally crossed the Delaware River into Pennsylvania; then, after even he feared the cause was almost lost, scored critical victories at Trenton, N.J., in late December and Princeton, N.J., in January, stopping the downward spiral. Soon Washington's army went into winter quarters at Morristown, N.J.

In 1777, Britain tried to isolate radical New England from the other colonies by sending a force under Gen. John Burgoyne down from Canada to the Hudson River. Troops under Gen. Howe sailed from New York toward Philadelphia, by way of the Chesapeake Bay. They captured Philadelphia, but by then Howe was unable to reinforce Burgoyne, who surrendered his much-diminished army to Continental soldiers and local militiamen at Saratoga, N.Y., in October. After that victory, the French negotiated an alliance with the Continental Congress, greatly reducing Britain's



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chances of victory. Not only would French military and naval forces become available to the Americans, but Britain now faced a worldwide war and could no longer focus only on North America. Meanwhile, after being defeated by Howe's forces at Brandywine and Germantown in Pennsylvania, Washington's army went into winter quarters at Valley Forge, low on food and other necessities. There, German-born "Baron" Friedrich Wilhelm Augustus von Steuben drilled the troops, providing a discipline that would prove useful the following year.

1778-1781 The British Adopt a Southern Strategy

The year 1778 brought a major change in British strategy. Britain had failed to subdue New England in the war's first phase, and conventional warfare in the middle colonies had not reinstated the crown's authority. Following France's entry into the war, Britain decided to concentrate on holding the southern colonies. It also made sporadic raids on northern ports and, with the help of Indian allies, on the frontier. Meanwhile, Gen. Henry Clinton replaced Gen. Howe as overall British commander. To counter the British activity in the West, which centered on their forts at Detroit and Niagara, George Rogers Clark in spring 1778 assembled a force of about 200 men. Through forced marches, bold leadership, and shrewd diplomacy with Indian leaders, Clark captured the British posts of Cahokia and Kaskaskia on the Mississippi River.

He then moved on to take Vincennes on the Wabash River. The British recaptured Vincennes but held it only briefly. Although he never captured the British stronghold at Detroit, Clark's actions relieved much of the pressure on the frontier and were the first steps in breaking Britain's hold on the Northwest Territory.

Believing the South to be home to many secret loyalists and hoping to keep the region's timber and agricultural products for the Empire, the British sent an expedition that captured Savannah, Georgia, in December 1778. At first, the British concentrated on taking territory with regular army forces, then organizing loyalist militia bands to hold the territory while the army moved on. This strategy largely succeeded in Georgia but broke down in the Carolinas. The British scored a major victory with the capture of Charleston, S.C., and its 5,500 defenders in May 1780. Instead of discouraging patriot resistance, the fall of Charleston stirred it up and led to the formation of irregular militia bands to make hit-and-run attacks against the occupiers. The British had enough soldiers to move through the Carolinas and establish forts, but not enough to protect their loyalist supporters or establish effective control. As soon as the British army moved on, loyalists were at the mercy of their pro-independence neighbors.

After Gen. Clinton sailed for New York in June 1780, Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis, took command of British forces in the South and soon routed a patriot force under Gen. Horatio Gates at Camden, S.C. Even the virtual elimination of a second American army just three months after their triumph at Charleston did the British little lasting good. Small militia bands under commanders like Francis Marion, Thomas Sumter, and Andrew Pickens continued to attack isolated British forces. In October, patriot militia from both the Carolinas and Virginia defeated a loyalist army under British Col. Patrick Ferguson at Kings Mountain, South Carolina, putting an end to organized loyalist activity in the state, and giving a large boost to American hopes.



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Following Kings Mountain, Gen. Nathanael Greene arrived in North Carolina to reorganize the southern American forces. Soon thereafter, in January 1781, a combined force of Continental and militia troops under Daniel Morgan beat a British army at Cowpens, South Carolina. In March, Cornwallis and Greene tangled at Guilford Courthouse (present-day Greensboro), North Carolina. Cornwallis won a tactical victory, but one-quarter of his men were killed or wounded. After shifting to the coast at Wilmington, N.C., he decided to move his army north to Virginia. Greene then turned his attention to retaking South Carolina, capturing one by one the isolated British posts, including a 28-day siege that resulted in the British abandoning Ninety-Six.

Cornwallis's shift to Virginia resulted from frustration with the situation in the Carolinas and a hope that he could combine with Gen. Clinton's forces and win a decisive victory over Washington's army. Washington was then encamped in New Jersey, engaged in planning for an attack on the British in New York in combination with the Comte de Rochambeau's French army. A large French fleet under the Comte de Grasse had already left France with orders first to take control of the seas in the West Indies and then to support Washington and Rochambeau's operations. In August, Washington learned that de Grasse was headed for the Chesapeake Bay and saw a chance to destroy Cornwallis before he could be reinforced. Leaving a small force to watch over New York City, Washington moved his remaining Continentals and the French troops toward Virginia.

Meanwhile, Cornwallis occupied and fortified Yorktown and Gloucester on opposite banks of the York River. A small Continental and militia force under the Marquis de Lafayette kept Cornwallis's army occupied until Washington could concentrate his forces in Virginia. The British sent a fleet under Admiral Graves from New York to relieve Cornwallis, but the French fleet engaged it at the Naval Battle of the Capes. Graves returned to New York with his damaged fleet, leaving Cornwallis trapped at Yorktown. At the end of September, with heavy cannons landed under the protection of the French ships, the allied forces began the siege of Yorktown. As the bombardment grew heavier and his attempt to break out from the Gloucester beachhead failed, Cornwallis had no choice but to order his subordinate Brig. Gen. Charles O'Hara to surrender his army of 8,000 to Washington on October 19, 1781.

End Game

Yorktown was a great victory for Franco-American arms, but it was not conclusive. The British still occupied New York City, Wilmington, Charleston, and Savannah, and there was no immediate prospect of the Americans taking these cities. However, the British were hard pressed by years of war, and the government in London saw that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to replace Cornwallis's army. The British public was also reaching the limits of its willingness to pay taxes to support the American war. Realizing that the costs of the war were greater than the potential gain, the British government entered into peace negotiations, with Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay representing the United States. The Treaty of Paris, signed in September 1783, officially ended hostilities, recognized American independence, and made the Mississippi River the new nation's western border. It also allowed Britain to retain Canada and returned Florida to Spain. The failure of the British to withdraw from forts in the northwest with "all convenient speed" and difficulties with Spain over the navigation of the Mississippi River would require more negotiations, but American independence, virtually unthinkable in 1763, had been achieved.

Above article reprinted from the National Park Service Website at: https://www.nps.gov/revwar/about_the_revolution/capsule_history.html