



# The Whig



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

December 2013

## President's Salvo



Gentlemen,

To begin, I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a healthy, prosperous and Happy New Year. We are beginning a year that I am hoping the Chapter will set new goals in public service, honoring students and veterans, and helping the less fortunate.

I wish to let everyone know that at least two of our family are having a difficult time right now. I hope that each of you will keep them in your prayers, so that they will recover from their infirmities and come back to join us at our meetings.

Past President Bob Donnahoo, who has been battling cancer, took a very bad fall on the 20th of December and is now in the trauma ward at Longwood Medical. Helen Pattison is having medical issues that are weighing heavily on her. Please keep both of these members of our family in your thoughts and prayers that they return to us healthy and whole.

Take care all, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Hall Riediger

## December 2013 Member Inductions

The St. Lucie Chapter, FLSSAR, had the honor of inducting two new members at the December meeting. We are delighted to welcome Bill Hartley and John Sheppard as new members.

Bill Hartley is descended from Henrick Williamson, who served from New Jersey.

John Sheppard is descended from Luke Ashburn, who served from Virginia.



*Bill Hartley being pinned by his wife Barbara*



*John Sheppard being pinned by his wife Cindy*

John Sheppard has volunteered to be the Chapter genealogist assisting Chuck McKinley in his duties as Registrar. It is great when the new guys jump in to help the Chapter.

To Visit the Chapter Website, go to:

<http://www.stlucieriverflssarc.org/index.html>

## Southernmost Battles of the Revolution

Spanish Florida had been part of Spain for over 200 years before it was ceded to England after the French and Indian War in 1763. So at the start of the Revolution, there were sixteen American Colonies. Thirteen rebelled, but East Florida, West Florida, and Canada remained loyal.

During the Revolution there were two major battles fought in the East Florida region and a number fought in the West Florida region. We are concerned with the East Florida region because these were fought by American forces while the West Florida battles were fought with Spanish Forces under the command of Don Bernardo Galvez. The first of the two battles was Thomas Creek on May 17, 1777 where approximately 110 Americans were ambushed by 200 British forces. The Americans were surprised and routed, and about 50 escaped by fleeing. The remainder were killed, wounded or captured.

This brings up a back story to the event. Two days prior to the Thomas Creek battle, an Indian raid on the small force had taken

place at Sawpit Bluff. One Indian was killed, and the patriot forces scalped and mutilated the body. The day of the Thomas Creek battle, the American forces had 8 killed, 9 wounded, and 31 captured. The Indians fell on the prisoners and wounded in retaliation, and began to kill them all. The English barely managed to save 16 of the Americans. This force numbered approximately 500, but the entire group never assembled into one unit, and was easily routed by the British. They eventually retired back to North Georgia.

The second battle was at Alligator Bridge on June 30, 1778. In this battle, approximately 3000 American patriots were to clear out East Florida of British forces and capture St. Augustine. They were opposed by 450 British regulars and South Carolina Royalists. An advance party of 300 Continentals under the command of Colonel Elijah Clark stumbled across a small party of British Forces called the Florida Rangers. The British retreated in good order to Alligator Bridge where the

remaining regulars were dug in with small breast works. A quick, sharp clash resulted with the Americans loosing 3 killed, 9 wounded, and 1 captured, with the British loosing 1 killed and 8 wounded. The Americans fled. The remainder of the 3000 men scattered across North Florida never managed to combine, and finally returned to North Georgia with the net result of loosing almost one third of their force to disease and casualties.

The City of Jacksonville and Duval county have purchased the Thomas Creek Battlefield area of 846 acres at a cost of 7.1 million dollars. It will be preserved as a wilderness park especially for horseback riding and hearty hikers. The Alligator Bridge Battlefield, only 10 miles away, is in the heart of the town of Callahan, Florida. The FLSSAR is presently looking into having the Southernmost Battles of the revolution recognized by the NSSAR, and hopefully we can do an annual event celebrating these battles.

*From a presentation by H. Hall Riediger*



## Habitat for Humanity

On December 21, 2013, the St. Lucie Chapter, FLSSAR, had the pleasure to participate in the dedication ceremony for Habitat for Humanity of a house rehabilitation done on Kentucky Avenue in Fort Pierce, Florida. Compatriot Jay Wise attended and presented the Troupe-Graham family with a new United States flag, a booklet on displaying the flag properly, and a copy of the United States Constitution.



## Events Calendar

January 11, 2014: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City \*  
Don Zimmerman, our Teacher of the year, and his Mrs. will be our guests.

January 24,25: FLSSAR Winter BOM Meeting, Orlando, FL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Editor's Note

This edition of The Whig closes out the calendar year 2013. We look forward to even bigger and better things in the future. We encourage all members to participate in activities or contribute their suggestions or ideas for the future.  
*WKH*

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Minutes  
December 14, 2013

Meeting called to order at 12:00 Noon

Invocation: Hall Riediger

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: Chuck McKinley

Pledge to SAR: Tom Barnhart

Minutes of the November Meeting were approved. Bud Rockhill made the motion, Carl Wade seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted unanimous.

Members present: Chris Wade, Hall Riediger, Phil Carr, Bud Rockhill, Oscar Kraehenbuehl, Carl Dennis, Joe Leinbach, Chuck McKinley, John Auld, Bill Hartley, Carl Wade, John Sheppard, Jim Simpson, Stephen Dillimuth, Tom Barnhart, Tom Gilmore  
Guests present: Cindy Sheppard, Alice Rockhill, Barbara Hartley, Betty McKinley, Grace Woodbern, Marge Bennett, Honora Gilmore, Judy Wade

Meeting recessed for lunch.

Reopened meeting by calling everyone back to order.

Awards Presentations and New Members Inductions: Induction of new members John Sheppard and William Hartley. (see photos)  
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.

We received a note from IRSC thanking us for our annual scholarship. We give out \$1,000 per year for student scholarships.

Unfinished Business: Joe Leinbach with Military Service Medal for his service in the US Navy. Joe was not present at the meeting.

New Business:

We have been asked to present Heroism medals to two FHP officers Sgt. Alvaro Feola and Trooper Robert Ivey for Their efforts saving a motorist from a burning car. This will be handled at the upcoming BOM with the medals being presented by the State President Ted Duay. Can we have a motion and second? Motion Tom Gilmore Seconded Carl Wade.

Reports membership: Chuck McKinley and Hall Riediger

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Chuck McKinley and Hall Riediger

Committee Reports:

JROTC – announce that Carl Wade has consented to be the JROTC chair and will handle the presentations of the SAR JROTC Medals to our area schools.

Eagle Scouts – Hall is setting up two that were past and going to cover those. A new Eagle will have an honor court in February we are setting that up now.

American History Teacher Award – Hall said, 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 January, so you all will be able to meet him. I will have more on this later.

Other Officer reports:

Color Guard reports: Acting Commander Hall Riediger

Program:

Hall Riediger did a Powerpoint presentation on “The Southern Most Battles of the Revolutionary War”

50/50 Drawing: Cindy Sheppard \$20.00

Guy’s Duck: \$22.00

Next Meeting:

January 11, American History Teacher Award. Don and Karla Zimmerman.

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: Hall Riediger

Recessional: Chris Wade

“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 Nathanael Greene

Nathanael Greene was the son of a Quaker farmer and smith. He was born August 7, 1742 at Potowomut, in the township of Warwick, Rhode Island. He was educated on general subjects including mathematics, history, and law. It is thought he became a member of the Rhode Island legislature. In 1774, he helped organize a local militia and began military study which led to his expulsion from the Society of Friends.

In 1775, he commanded forces from Rhode Island which joined the American forces at Cambridge. On June 22, he was appointed a brigadier general of the Continental Army by the Continental Congress. Washington assigned Greene to the command of the city of Boston. On the 9th of August 1776 he was promoted to be one of four new Major Generals and was placed in command of the Continental troops on Long Island. He supervised the placement of fortifications as well as the construction of redoubts and entrenchments. Illness prevented his taking part in the battle of Long Island. Greene was among those who advised a retreat from New York and the burning of the city, so that the British might not use it. Greene was placed in command of Fort Lee, and then in command of Fort Washington. He received orders from General George Washington to defend Fort Washington to the last extremity, and Congress passed a resolution to the same effect. Later, Washington wrote him to use his own discretion. Greene ordered Colonel Magaw to defend the place until he should hear from him again, and reinforced it to meet attack. Nevertheless, the blame for the losses

of Forts Washington and Lee was put on Greene, while Washington himself assumed the responsibility.

At Trenton, Greene commanded one of the two American columns. His column, accompanied by Washington, arrived first, and after the victory, he urged Washington to push on immediately to Princeton, but was over-ruled by a council of war. At Brandywine, Greene commanded the reserve. At Germantown, on march, Greene's command failed to arrive in good time, but on their arrival, Greene and his troops distinguished themselves greatly.

At the urgent request of Washington, he accepted the office of quartermaster general with the understanding that he should retain the right to command troops in the field. He commanded the right wing at Monmouth on the 28th of June. In August, Greene and Lafayette commanded an abortive mission to Rhode Island to cooperate with the French. In June 1780, Greene commanded at Springfield, New Jersey. In August, he resigned the office of quartermaster-general, after a struggle over interference in army administration by the Treasury Board and by commissions appointed by Congress. Before his resignation became effective, he presided over the court which condemned Major John André to death.

On October 14, he succeeded Gates as commander-in-chief of the Southern army, taking command at Charlotte, North Carolina on December 2. His army was weak and poorly equipped, and was opposed by a superior force. Greene decided to divide his troops, forcing the division of the British



troops as well. This risky strategy led to General Daniel Morgan's victory of Cowpens on January 17, 1781. On March 15, at the battle at Guilford Court House, North Carolina, Greene was defeated, but at a high cost to the victor. Three days after the battle, Cornwallis withdrew toward Wilmington. Greene's generalship and judgment were proven in the next few weeks, in which he allowed Cornwallis to march north to Virginia while he recovered the interior of South Carolina. Greene then gave his forces six weeks' rest, and on September 8, with 2600 men, engaged the British at Eutaw Springs and weakened the British to the point they withdrew to Charleston, where Greene penned them during the remaining months of the war.

Greene was an able, self-trained soldier, and is considered second only to Washington among the officers of the American army in military ability.

Greene died of sunstroke on June 19, 1786 at the age of 43.



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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