



# The Whig



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

February-March 2014

## President's Salvo



Gentlemen,

It has become that time again, where we are going to elect new officers for the 2014 through 2016 years. We have a wonderful slate with people who have a lot of energy and are looking to move the Chapter to new heights.

President: John Auld  
Vice president: Charles McKinley  
Secretary: Tom Gilmore  
Treasurer: Chris Wade  
Directors at Large:  
Jay Wise and Hall Riediger  
Chuck McKinley will continue being our Registrar and John Sheppard has volunteered to be our Genealogist.

Many thanks should be given to these people for stepping forward to run the Chapter for the next two years, and we can give a show of support by attending the next meeting and voting for them and the in May attending for their installation.

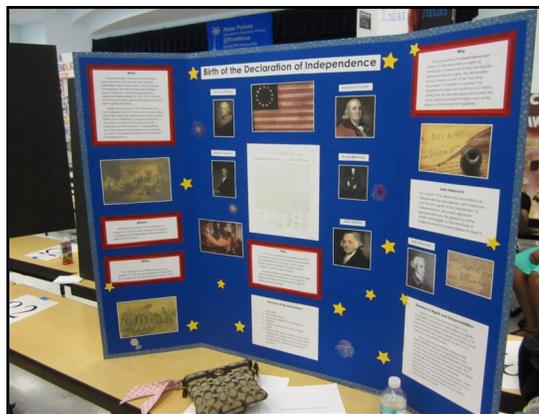
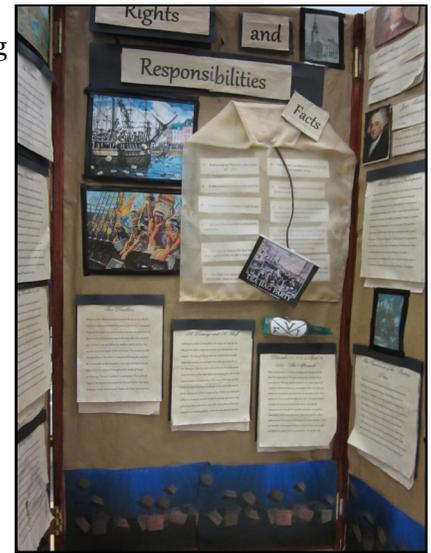
Thank you,  
Hall Riediger

## 2014 St. Lucie County History Fair

On March 1, 2014, the St. Lucie Chapter, SAR was proud to be invited to participate in judging contest entrants in the 2014 St. Lucie County History Fair. The event was held at Palm Point K-8 School in Port St. Lucie. The St. Lucie Chapter, SAR, also awarded prizes for first, second, and third place. First place, with an award of \$100, went to the "Boston Tea Party" project by 4 students from Southport Middle School, Alexandra Barrios, McKenzie Kicker, Eden Varrey, and Jade Groth. Second place, with an award of \$50, went to the "Declaration of Independence" project from St. Lucie West by Julietta Holligan. Third place, with an award of \$25, went to the "Declaration of Independence" project from the College of the Treasure Coast by Emily Aspromallis.

A special thanks goes to compatriots Hall Riediger, Chuck McKinley, and Oscar Kraehenbuehl for their participation.

*Clockwise from top, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place*



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

## In Memoriam— Robert W. Donnahoo



Robert W. Donnahoo, Jr., husband of 56 years of Penny Zimmermann Donnahoo went to be with our Lord on February 20 after a valiant battle with cancer. Mr. Donnahoo was born in 1936 in Inman, SC to the late Dorothy and Robert Donnahoo. His mother passed away 2 days later and he was raised by his grandparents, the late Agatha and Charles Donnahoo. He grew up in South Carolina and Georgia and moved to Riverton, NJ in 1954. He graduated from Palmyra High School and attended Rutgers University and Rider College. He retired as Assistant County

Treasurer for Burlington County, NJ. Left to cherish his memory are his wife Penny, son Robert W. III of Port St. Lucie, FL, daughter Dorothy Matteo and her husband Michael of Mt. Pleasant, SC and grandchildren Carolina and Ian Donnahoo and Christopher and Sarah Matteo. He was preceded in death by his beloved son Kenneth Donnahoo. Bob was very active in the community and was Past President of the Palmyra School Board, Councilman and Past President of the Palmyra Borough Council, Past President of Kiwanis Club.

He was Borough Administrator for Palmyra and Township Administrator for Delran, NJ. Bob was an Enrolled Agent for the Internal Revenue Service and a member of National Association of Enrolled Agents, National Society of Tax Professionals, Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation and the National Society of Accountants. Bob was raised a Master Mason in Covenant Lodge, Palmyra in 1966 and was a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Southern, N.J. He was a member of Crescent Shriners and became its Potentate in 2000. He was a past Treasurer of Crescent Shriners, Treasurer Emeritus of Burlington County Shrine Club and a member of Crescent Shrine Yacht Club. He was an associate member of Amara Shrine in Palm Beach Gardens, FL, Past President of St. Lucie County Shrine Club, member of Amara Mariners, Past President Treasure Coast Billiken Club. He was also Past Director of the Crescent Court, Royal Order of Jesters, Kachina Club, Royal Order of Scotland, Chapel of Four Chaplains and El Hajj. Bob devoted many countless hours and passionate service to the Shriners Hospitals for Children. He was instrumental in the expansion of a new operating room and a new PICU Pediatric Intensive Care Unit). Bob was most gratified to see life changing results to the many children that were cared for at the hospital. He was awarded Emeritus status after 9 years of service. He was also Past Treasurer for the Philadelphia Hospital. One of Bob's finest qualities was that he always thought of others first. When his grandchildren lived in various parts of the country, he was determined that they would always get to be with each other and this brought the grandchildren closer together. Bob always had time and energy for anyone in need and will be missed by countless friends around the country. He was always happy and brightened each life he touched. Bob was a Past President of the St. Lucie River Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution and served as the JROTC Chairman for several years. He had a Revolutionary uniform and wore it to many functions. Bob was a 50+ member of Calvary Presbyterian Church, Riverton, NJ. Relatives and friends are invited to a Celebration of Bob's life on March 8 at 11 a.m. at the St. Lucie County Shrine Club, 4600 Oleander Ave., Ft. Pierce, FL. In lieu of flowers, remembrances can be sent to the Shriners Hospital for Children, Attn: Terry Diamond for the X- Ray renovation project, 3551 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19140 or the Treasure Coast Hospice, 1201 SE Indian Street, Stuart, FL 34997.



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**Minutes**

February 8, 2014

Meeting called to order at 12:00 Noon

Invocation: Phil Carr

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: Joe Leinbach

Pledge to SAR: Carl Wade

Minutes of the January Meeting were approved; Bud Rockhill made the motion, John Auld seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted unanimous.

Members present: Bud Rockhill, Jay Wise, Chris Wade, John Auld, Phil Carr, Oscar Kraehenbuehl, Joe Leinbach, Carl Wade, John Sheppard, Chuck McKinley, Hall Riediger, Tom Gilmore

Guests present: Alice Rockhill, Joe Reagan

Meeting recessed for lunch.

Reopened meeting by calling everyone back to order.

Awards Presentations and New Members Inductions: Chris Wade with certificate from National for military service.

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 10. Really coming along well. It has a future vision section so you can see what is coming up in the future. We received a letter from Charles Riegle on American History Teacher, plus a thank you from Don Zimmerman.

Unfinished Business: To date, the following compatriots have volunteered to operate the chapter; President, John Auld. Vice President, Open. Second VP, John Sheppard. Secretary, Tom Gilmore. Treasurer, Chris Wade. Directors at large, Bob Donnahoo, Jay Wise.

New Business: Need to know who wants to do History Fair? It will be on Saturday, March 1 @ 8:30 AM at Palm Pointe K-8 School in Tradition, 10680 Academic Way, PSL. Jay discussed the issuance of Flag Certificates. Read a letter from Ted Duay concerning Chuck Sweeney and the Society President Flap.

Reports membership: Chuck McKinley. John Sheppard made an opinion report to the group.

Committee Reports:

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.

American History Teacher Award – Hall read letters and the secretary will keep a file for future reference.

Other Officer reports:

Color Guard reports: Acting Commander Hall Riediger

Habitat for Humanity, Joe Leinbach

Program:

Hall Riediger and Tom Gilmore did a special George Washington back and forth reading of interesting facts about our first President and founding father. These were taken from a book entitled; “Washington” by Ron Chernow.

50/50 Drawing: Carl Wade \$13.00

Guy’s Duck: \$15.00

Next Meeting:

March 8, 2014

Announcements:

We are taking volunteers i.e. nominations to be Chapter Officers for the 2014 to 2016 term. We still need a Vice President, a person who wishes to be chapter President in the future and a Second Vice President for a person who really wants to wait for the future. 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 Benjamin Lincoln

Benjamin Lincoln was born January 24 1733 in Hingham, Massachusetts, the son of wealthy Suffolk County parents. Lincoln received an education and followed his father into public life, becoming town constable at age 21. He joined the Suffolk County militia and was elected town clerk of Hingham. Lincoln became a patriotic voice for the local citizens and was elected as a representative to the provincial assembly and promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the militia.

The provincial assembly was dissolved and reformed to become the Massachusetts Provincial Congress, the government for the entire colony with the exception of British held Boston, and Lincoln rose in prominence. In January 1776, Lincoln was promoted Major General of the Massachusetts militia, attending to the colonies coastal defenses. Lincoln lobbied for a commission in the Continental Army. He was placed in command of a brigade of state militia requested to join Washington's army at New York. Lincoln took part in Washington's northward retreat. He was present at the Battle of White Plains. Upon the expiration of his troops' enlistments, Lincoln returned to Massachusetts to take command of new

recruits. Congress commissioned Lincoln a Major General on February 14, 1777.

Commanding at Bound Brook, New Jersey, Lincoln barely escaped capture as his force, badly outnumbered and nearly surrounded, was defeated by Lieutenant General Lord Charles Cornwallis at the Battle of Bound Brook. Lincoln managed a retreat with most of his command.

In July, Lincoln was sent to General Philip Schuyler to defend upstate New York against an advance by General John Burgoyne from Quebec. Lincoln coordinated the New England militia, including those under General John Stark, who refused to place his forces under Lincoln's command, having resigned his continental commission over a perceived promotional slight. Stark won a victory at the Battle of Bennington operating independently. Schuyler was replaced by General Horatio Gates, who ordered Lincoln's force to join him as Gates' army fought the Battles of Saratoga. Gates dismissed General Benedict Arnold after the Battle of Freeman's Farm and Lincoln was placed in command of the army's right. At the Battle of Bemis Heights, Lincoln was in command of defenses as



*"Benjamin Lincoln" by Charles Willson Peale*

other elements advanced on the British. The following day, Lincoln led a force to fortify the ford at Fort Edward, and while encountering a British company, Lincoln's ankle was shattered by a musket ball. Lincoln learned of Burgoyne's surrender while receiving treatment at Albany.

Lincoln was appointed commander of the Southern Department in September 1778. In October 1779, Lincoln partnered with French ships and troops under Vice Admiral Comte d'Estaing to lay siege to Savannah, Georgia. American forces attacked, but were unable to break British defenses. The siege failed as d'Estaing departed rather than risk his ships during the hurricane season. Lincoln removed his command to Charleston, South Carolina. The city of Charleston came under attack in March 1780 by British forces from New York under Lieutenant General Sir Henry Clinton. With Charleston under siege, Lincoln attempted to negotiate the evacuation of the city, and later attempted to negotiate a surrender. On May 12, 1780, Lincoln was forced to unconditionally surrender, being denied the traditional honors of war by Clinton. Surrendering over 5000 men, the loss was one of the worst Continental defeats of the war.



*"Surrender of Lord Cornwallis" by John Trumbull, displayed in the United States Capitol Rotunda. General Benjamin Lincoln is the central figure.*

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Lincoln was paroled and awaited exchange. Requesting a court of inquiry, none was formed and no charges were brought against him. In November 1780, he was exchanged for British Major General William Phillips and Baron Friedrich von Riedesel. Lincoln spent the winter recruiting troops in New England before joining Washington's army outside New York.

In August 1781, Lincoln moved south as Washington attempted to trap Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia. Lincoln commanded the 2nd Division of the army at the Battle of Yorktown. As the British were forced to surrender, Washington, in a meeting with Cornwallis, demanded the same harsh conditions that the British had required of Lincoln at Charleston. On October 19, 1781, the

British formally surrendered. Cornwallis did not attend the ceremony, sending his second in command, General Charles O'Hara. O'Hara first attempted to surrender to French Lieutenant General Comte de Rochambeau, but was directed to the Americans. Washington refused to receive the sword of O'Hara, directing it to be presented to General Lincoln instead, now his second in command.

In October, 1781, Benjamin Lincoln was appointed the first Secretary of War by Congress.

In 1787, Lincoln was elected Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts.

Benjamin Lincoln died at Hingham, Massachusetts on May 9, 1810

## SAR News and Notes

-A new video of the construction of the National Headquarters has been posted. Video number eleven may be viewed on the NSSAR website at [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org) or by clicking [here](#).

-233rd Anniversary: Victory at the Battle of Cowpens  
A video of President General Joseph Dooley of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution leading

the 233rd anniversary celebration of Patriot victory at the Battle of Cowpens Jan. 18 may be viewed [here](#).

-The 2014 SAR Annual Conference on the American Revolution will be held June 20-22, 2014. The program will be "Women in the Era of the American Revolution". Details may be found at the NSSAR website at [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org) or by clicking [here](#).

## Events Calendar

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

May 2-4: Spring 2014 BOM/Annual Meeting, Host Region is the Southeast.

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

July 4: Independence Day

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

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

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

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

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

## Editor's Note

With the saddening news of Compatriot Robert Donnahoo's passing, and the cancelling of the Chapter's March meeting so members could attend the services, the decision was made to combine the February and March newsletters into one. *WKH*

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### **Director at Large**

***In Memoriam***  
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## President's Brigade

### Gold Medal

Jay Wise

Hall Riediger

William Hammond

### Silver Medal

### Bronze Medal