



The Whig



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

February 2017

President's Salvo



Gentlemen,

First off, I wish to thank my fellow Compatriots for assisting me in the operation of the Chapter in my absence. I had surgery on my foot the last week of January and am presently constrained to my home with limited mobility, not to mention another 5 weeks of hyperbaric chamber treatment. Our two Vice Presidents, Chuk Berger and John Sheppard, as well as Steve Laster are doing an excellent job in carrying on our activities, not to mention they are also increasing the number of members in the Chapter to almost to the Century Level with the ones in the approval cycle.

We had fifteen members plus spouses attend the Okeechobee Joint SAR/DAR meeting, which was great.

I should be able to do more activities by the May meeting, which I hope will be a good one. We are

(Continued on page 2)

Okeechobee Joint SAR/DAR Meeting



On February 11, the St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR held the annual joint meeting with the Okeechobee Chapter, DAR. We began having an annual joint meeting some three years ago when the state assigned Okeechobee County to the St. Lucie River Chapter. We had a Liberty Tree placed in the local veterans' park in 2008, and the Chapter presents JROTC awards to the local high school. We are actively recruiting new members from the Okeechobee area and would like to have enough members to form an Okeechobee SAR Chapter to complement the DAR chapter.

The St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR had the honor to welcome new member Jay Pruden. Jay was sworn in at the meeting and had his rosette pinned by wife Gayle. Jay is descended from Shawhan Darby, a private from Pennsylvania.

Compatriots Jack Irvin and Jim Pippin presented the War Service Medal and Certificate to Jay Pruden for his service in Iraq and in the Global War on Terror. Jay is a retired Marine Corps CW4 Chief Warrant Officer. We now have three Warrant Officers in our chapter including Jack Irvin of the US Army and Cark Wade of the US Navy.

Compatriots Irvin and Pippin also presented a Military Service Medal and Certificate to compatriot Paul Avant in recognition of his service.

A Silver Good Citizenship Medal is to be awarded to retired Okeechobee Sheriff Paul May, who was unable to attend the meeting. The medal will be mailed to him.



New member Jay Pruden with Second Vice President John Sheppard



Compatriots Jim Pippin, Jay Pruden, and Jack Irvin



Compatriots Jim Pippin, Paul Avant, and Jack Irvin

(Continued on page 4)

President's Salvo

(Continued from page 1)

calling it the Spring Fling and it will be held at a local park. We intend to have some burgers, hotdogs, and soft drinks at a reasonable cost. This will include a spouse or a friend as well as children. Since we will be meeting in a public outdoor environment, I will ask for members to wear Colonial attire, a display of our various flags, a table with a display of Colonial weapons, etc. Hopefully we can have some compatriots participate in some Colonial cooking such as some vegetables or soups or perhaps a dessert. It is hard baking on a BBQ grill, so we will have to do this beforehand. I have a cd with some ideas and some recipes as well. That is where we will need some help, so you can email us if you are interested in helping.

Sincerely,

Chuck McKinley
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History Fair Chapter Awards



On February 15, the St. Lucie County History Fair winners from the January activity were presented their awards by Compatriot Chuck Berger in a ceremony at Fort Pierce Central High School. Compatriots Rob Bonvie and son Conner also attended. The school's auditorium was filled with all of the participants and their parents and school officials as well. The winners were each awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and a check for \$25.00, which made them happy. We believe this was the highest number of Chapter awards to date, as there were seven recipients for five projects selected based on relevance to Revolution era themes. The topics selected were as follows:

- Taking a Stand against the Tea Act
- John Hancock-A Revolutionary Hero
- Sybil Ludington: A Ride to History
- Valley Forge
- Sons of Liberty

The school program for the History Fair lays out topics for students to choose from. There seemed to be more topics on the Revolutionary era this year, so we also awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to Kate Ems of the Board of Education, focal point for the History Fair. This is an annual participation activity for the Chapter that helps encourage interest in our country's early history. At present, Martin and Okeechobee Counties do not participate in the state activity. We have included one of the topics from the History Fair in this Whig, as I thought it fell into the category of "I Didn't Know That".

Chuck McKinley

Four Chaplains Memorial Service



The 74th anniversary Four Chaplains Memorial Service was held at the Temple Beth El Israel in Port Saint Lucie on the February 5. Our chapter's colors were present as was as other veterans groups belonging to the UVPSL, who chaired the ceremony. The highlight was a presentation of The Legion of Honor Award by Director Larry Wadnick of the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation to Dr. Shamsher Singh, a Port Saint Lucie Dermatologist. Dr. Singh emigrated from India some 45 years ago and has a deep admiration for the United States and its veterans. He is a very strong supporter of the Boy Scouts and Honor Flights.



In reviewing past recipients of the award, it was noticed that the award for 1996 was given to Dr. Richard Diekmann and Rev. Guy S. Athearn, the originator of "Guy's Duck". Amazingly, both men were founding fathers of the St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR. Such is the heritage of this Chapter. It is an honor to continue in their manner, and show our deep reverence for our nation's deceased veterans from all conflicts.

Sybil Ludington



I thought this information would be of interest to our Compatriots. It was obtained based on a topic/presentation that a Student did for the St. Lucie County History Fair. I believe that some of us did not know that someone other than Paul Revere was involved in warning Citizenry of the British presence in the area. These American Revolutionary War Facts were taken from the following web page which also includes other 'American Revolutionary War Women Facts' which may be of interest to the reader. *Chuck McKinley*

<http://www.american-revolutionary-war-facts.com/American-Revolutionary-War-Women-Facts/Sybil-Ludington-Facts.html>

Sybil Ludington Facts

Introduction

Sybil Ludington was an American Revolutionary War Woman who became famous for her horseback ride through upstate New York to warn militia that British troops were raiding and burning Danbury, Connecticut. What makes her ride even more impressive than that of Paul Revere's ride is that she was just a kid of sixteen when she heroically rode a treacherous forty miles during the middle of the night. To find out where her route took her, how she fended off outlaws during her ride and why there was such confusion over the spelling of her name, read the interesting facts and information on the life of Sybil Ludington below.

Sybil Ludington Early Years

- Sybil Ludington was born on April 5, 1761 to Henry and Abigail Ludington.
- Sybil was the eldest of twelve children.
- Colonel Henry Ludington, Sybil's father, was a volunteer militia officer and community leader who went on to become an aide to General George Washington.



Statue of Sybil Ludington by Anna Hyatt Huntington

Sybil Ludington's Ride

- When Sybil's father got word that the British were attacking Danbury, she volunteered to ride through the countryside and alert the militia, knowing they needed to muster as many troops as possible.
- Sybil's ride on the night of April 26, 1777 took her through the towns of Kent, Mahopac and Stormville bringing her through both Putnam and Dutchess Counties in New York.
- During her late-night ride through the rain, which began at 9 PM, she managed to fend off British soldiers and loyalists as well as outlaws that didn't side with either the British or the Americans. She traveled with a stick and used it as necessary to defend herself against attacks.
- Some historians believe that along Ludington's journey, a man offered to ride with her but she instead sent him east to warn the town of Brewster.
- When she arrived back home about 400 troops had gathered at the Ludington residence to fight the British.
- Although the militia was not able to defend Danbury against attack, they were able to force the British to retreat in what became known as the Battle of Ridgefield.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 1)

The St. Lucie River Chapter, SAR was pleased to present the Martha Washington Medal, in recognition of outstanding service to the SAR, to Ruth Pippin of the Okeechobee Chapter, DAR and to Cindy Sheppard of the Halpatiokee Chapter, DAR. They have spent a lot of time helping to research and prepare prospective new member applications and coordinating SAR/DAR joint activities.

A slide show presentation was given by Compatriot Hall Riediger, FLSSAR Secretary, describing colonial attire worn by soldiers and militia, both officers and enlisted. Hall explained the significance of colors for different parts of the uniform and which colors were assigned to the different colonies.



Compatriot Hall Riediger

Compatriots and their spouse who attended were John and Cindy Sheppard, Jim and Ruthi Pippin, Jack and Sandy Irvin, Phil and Sharleen Avant, Rick and Letta Jordan, Gary and Kathy Miles, Jay and Gayle Pruden, Robert and Laura Vandevender, Steve and Diane Laster, and guests Ed and Susan Hawley. Compatriots Chuck Berger, Hall Riediger, Chris Wade, John Auld, Bill Sander, Robert Eisenhardt and Joe Regan were also in attendance.

After the meeting, many of the attendees continued on to feast at the fabulous Golden Corral buffet.



(Continued from page 3)

Sybil Ludington Interesting Facts

- Ludington's hometown, once named Fredericksburg, was renamed Ludingtonville to honor Sybil's heroic acts.
- Interestingly, Sybil Ludington's name is not found on any official documents spelled as Sybil. The spelling on her tombstone says Sibbell, while her sister went by the spelling Sebil. To make things even more confusing, some documents suggests she spelled her own name as Sebal, yet she is also appears on historic records as Sibel and Cybil.
- At the age of twenty-three, Ludington married Edmond Ogden, a famer and innkeeper. They had only one son named Henry.
- Sybil Ludington died on February 26, 1839, at the age of 77. She was buried in Patterson, New York, at the same cemetery as her father.

To Visit the Chapter Website, go to:

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

SAR News and Notes

-The 127th Annual SAR Congress will be held June 7-13, 2017 in Knoxville, Tennessee. Find out about the scheduled activities by visiting the NSSAR website as www.sar.org or by clicking [here](#).

-Updated SAR Mentor Initiative Program and Membership Committee Details. President General J. Michael Tomme's SAR mentor initiatives are a part of the Americanism Contest, effective January 1, 2017. Points are awarded for an active program, and for each documented mentor-mentee relationship. An outline of the program is posted on the SAR Membership Committee page and through ShareFile in the Members' section of the SAR website.

-The SAR Handbook contains the official policies, procedures and protocol for the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. It provides official guidance for the National Society's operation, programs, and activities. The policies contained in the Handbook are

established by the: (1) Annual Congress, (2) Board of Trustees, (3) Executive Committee, (4) National Headquarters staff, and (5) Standing, Special Advisory and Program Committees. The SAR Handbook (2016 Edition) contains the seven volumes: Digital copies of the SAR Handbook are accessible for reading and available for download from the NSSAR website. Members must log in first. Visit www.sar.org for more information or click [here](#) (must be logged in).

-The SAR utilizes genealogy in establishing "the lineal descendant of an ancestor who was at all times unfailing in loyalty to, and rendered active service in the cause of American Independence." The Genealogy Committee created the Genealogy Committee Policies Manual and the Application Preparation Manual to assist in training SAR Registrars and SAR Genealogist with the accepted policies of the Society. Those wishing to learn more or to download the latest manuals may visit the NSSAR website or may click [here](#).

Events Calendar

March 18: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City*

April 8: Regular Meeting, Manero's, Palm City*

May 13: Spring Fling, Port St. Lucie Veterans Park, 11-3.

May 19-21: Spring 2017 BOM Meeting, Kissimmee. Host region is the SE.

May 27, Veterans Appreciation Ball Game, Mets Stadium, Port St. Lucie

May 30: Memorial Day, Parade/Ceremony in Stuart and Ceremony in Port St. Lucie.

June 11: Flag Day Ceremony, Elks Club, Ft. Pierce

June 7-13: 127th Annual SAR Congress, Knoxville, Tennessee

June 14: Flag Day

July 4: Independence Day

July 7-13: 127th Annual SAR Congress, Knoxville, Tennessee

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

Editor's Note

We wish a speedy recovery to Chapter President Chuck McKinley as he deals with medical issues. Thank you to all Compatriots who have stepped up to ensure Chapter events continue as scheduled in his absence. *WKH*

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Gold Medal

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