

The Gainesville Broadside

Gainesville Chapter ~ Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution

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William V. Carnes, Sr. ~ Newsletter Editor

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NATIONAL DEFENSE AWARDS LUNCHEON ON APRIL 12th ~

Just a reminder that this year's DAR National Defense Awards Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, April 12th, starting at 11:30 am, at the Capriccio room atop the University Centre Hotel, 1535 S. W. Archer Road here in Gainesville. **NOTE: This event will take the place of the regular April Chapter meeting – there will NOT be a meeting on the third Monday of April!**

This is where we routinely present the SAR Bronze and Silver ROTC Medals to deserving cadets at the Air Force JROTC unit at Buchholz High School, the Navy ROTC units at Gainesville and Eastside High Schools, and to the senior ROTC units at the University of Florida – Army, Navy/Marine Corps, and Air Force. Quite often, these awards are “re-presented” to the cadets at individual award ceremonies hosted by their respective units up through the end of May.

Please plan on attending this event to honor the fine young ROTC cadets. The cost is a modest \$10.50, but you must RSVP to Ms. Judith Trieglaff at 418-0930 or via e-mail at Booklvr42@aol.com. **Please RSVP by April 7th, and be prepared to pay at the door.**

WE'VE MOVED!

In case you missed that little sleight of hand, the Chapter has moved its meeting place from the Holiday Inn West to the Sheraton Hotel at 2900 S. W. 13th Street, opposite the Gainesville Sun building. It will still be a noon luncheon meeting on the 3rd Monday of each month but there are going to be several exceptions – please see details inside about some of our new events!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Jim Partin

We had our Chapter meeting at the Sheraton in March and I want to report that the food was terrific!!! The atmosphere and parking are also a 100% improvement over the previous meeting place at the Holiday Inn. Our next meeting at the Sheraton will be in June because we have a joint meeting with the DAR in April and a meeting at 1st Vice President Harry Hollien's house in May.

By the way, Congratulations are in order as Harry will soon be sworn in as our new Florida Society Vice President North Central Region. He will be responsible for several chapters which include Lake City, Gainesville, Ocala and a few others.

I NEED YOUR HELP. Our National Society is wanting to receive a list of all the Medals and Certificates that each of you have received from SAR. You will find a survey form just to the right of this column. Each of you should have received a Membership Certificate and a Rosette when you joined. Some of you will have purchased the Membership Badge (large and/or miniature), any Supplemental Ancestor Certificates, Medals and Certificates awarded on the Chapter, State or National level. The bottom line is that we need a list of anything you have that says SAR on it. It would be nice if you could make a photocopy of any Certificates so we can put them in your file kept by the Chapter Secretary. Please call, e-mail or post your information to Past President Vince Carnes, Sr. as quickly as possible.

Recruiting New Members - Your President, who also is the Registrar/Genealogist, needs help finding new prospects for membership in the Gainesville Chapter. I can't be the only person bringing in new members. If each of you will provide me with the names of someone you know who wants to become a member then I will help them through the application process. If you send me someone, then you will become their sponsor on the application. Call me at 377-4164 and I will get the application out to your friends.

Regards,
Jim

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Please note carefully the Chapter meeting schedule for the next several months, as there are several exceptions to our usual 3rd Monday rule and the typical [new] location of the Sheraton Hotel...

April

Wednesday, April 12th, 11:30 am
National Defense Luncheon ~ ROTC Awards
Hosted by the Gainesville Chapter DAR
Capriccio Room ~ University Centre Hotel
Southwest Archer Road

May

Sunday, May 14th, 1:30 pm
Picnic with Harry & Patti Hollien, co-hosted by
Keith, Kevin & Brian Hollien & George Knox
223 Southwest 43rd Terrace
(see map below)

June

Monday, June 19th, Noon Luncheon
Sheraton Hotel ~ Southwest 13th Street
Guest Speaker: Mr. Harvey Ward, Jr.
Masonic Signers of the Declaration of Independence

HELP ! ! !

INQUIRING MINDS...

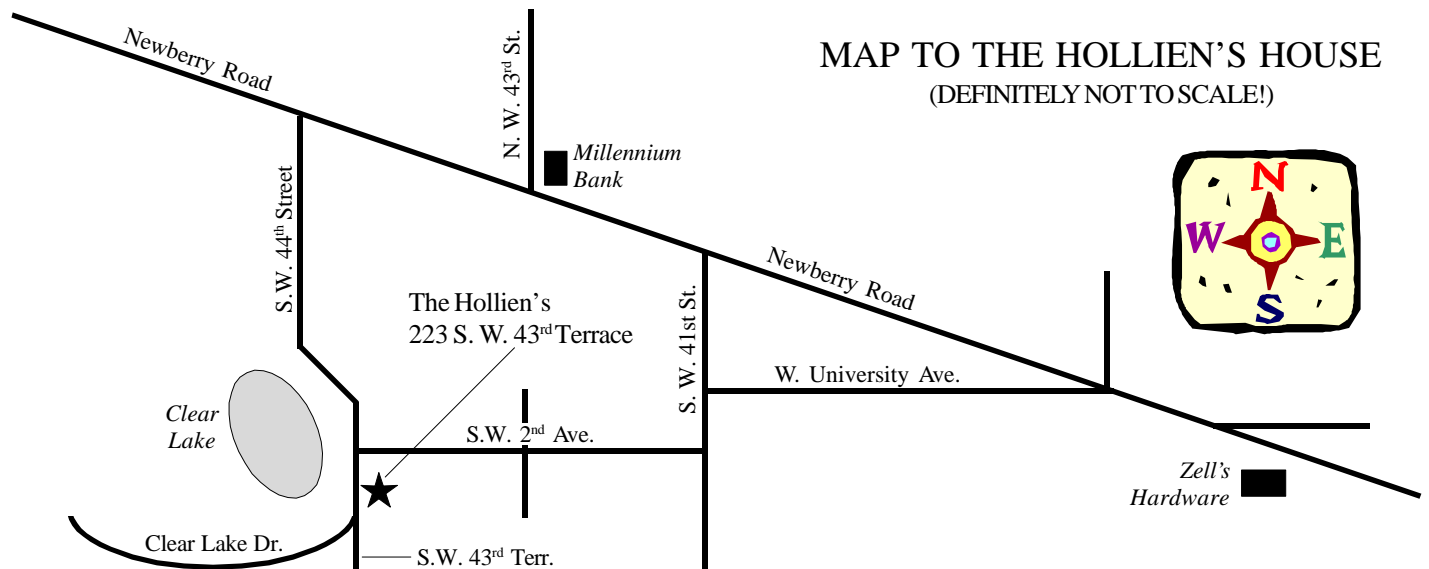
...at SAR Headquarters need to know what NSSAR medals and awards you have been awarded for a records update. These medals include, but are not limited to the following...

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- SAR Membership Medal & Certificate
- Patriot Medal
- Good Citizenship Medal (Silver or Bronze)
- Distinguished Service Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal (how many?)
- Liberty Medal (how many?)
- Law Enforcement Medal
- SAR Centennial Medal (1989)
- FLSSAR Centennial Medal (1996)
- War Service Medal (Which Wars?)
- Certificates of Recognition, Appreciation, etc.
- Outstanding Citizenship Pin
- Past President's Pin

Please contact Vince Carnes right away via and let him know what medals you have!

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Printing Presses Worked Overtime Turning Out Money

Adapted from Great Stories of the American Revolution, by Webb Garrison

Philadelphia 9 Oct. 1779

The press stops at 200 Millions, which I believe will be expended in December. Out of the 60 Millions which was heretofore called for from the states, only 3 Millions have been received. How the war can be carried on after December, I know not.

I do not expect the Treasury can possibly be supplied by the States 15 million per Month; North Carolina, I am confident cannot supply her Quota Monthly. I dread the consequences, but, as you say, "we must take events as they happen."

For God's sake come on to relieve me in Nov., but at the furthest the very beginning of December. In fact I cannot live here. The price of every necessary has advanced 150 times since we parted. I shall return indebted at least £6,000, and you very well know how we lived.

Do not mention this Complaint to any person. I am Content to sit down with this loss and much more, if my Country requires it. I only mention it to you to guard you against difficulties which you must encounter on your return here, unless the Gen. Assembly make suitable provision for yr. expenses, at least.

*Your affectionate and obedient ser't,
Corn Harnett*

As a delegate to the Continental Congress, Corn Harnett of N. Carolina sent the above warning to Dr. Thomas Burke, who was scheduled to take his place in Philadelphia. Money had been a problem from the start of the war, but after Gates' brilliant victory at Saratoga it became a matter of top priority.

At the beginning of the conflict, "hard money" – gold, silver and copper – consisted largely of British and Spanish coins, although some issued by Holland, France and Portugal were also in circulation. Spanish silver dollars were often cut into eight segments, or "bits," because coins of small value were scarce. Paper money, or currency, was issued by most of the colonies and by some banks and mercantile establishments.

Never available in quantities adequate to meet the needs of colonial commerce, English pounds – treated as equivalent in value to dollars – were frequently hoarded. Once the supply of European money was cut off, patriots continued for some years to express values in terms of the pound and the shilling; but there were not enough pounds and shillings on hand to fund the war effort, not to mention the needs of civilian commerce.

To make matters worse, most currency issued by the Continental Congress was hastily produced on whatever paper was on hand. Hence it took little skill to produce counterfeits that readily passed in trade. Most spurious bills of this sort were printed even more poorly than the genuine ones they imitated. In New York, however, merchants and bankers discovered during the spring of 1776 that some "very superior counterfeits" were in circulation.

George Washington took a hand in trying to catch the maker of the New York counterfeits, for the economy of the patriots' cause was threatened by them. Under his order, a military raiding party surrounded a house on Long Island and soldiers seized printing presses, counterfeit Continental currency, and an engraver named Henry Dawkins. He had learned to engrave upon metals in London and came to New York in about 1753, and was among the earliest engravers to work on copper in America. Consequently the bills produced by him were far superior to

ordinary counterfeits. After his arrest in May 1776, evidence suggested he may have been in the pay of British agents seeking to undermine the strength of Colonial currency.

If that was the case, the Redcoats were wasting their time and energy – Continental currency collapsed under its own weight. Soon after Harnett penned his warning paper money became all but worthless. Congress agreed to accept it in payments due to the national treasury from the states, but in order to be credited with a \$1,000 payment the state had to send in currency with a face value of \$40,000! In retaliation, most states began to refuse to accept Continental currency in payment of taxes.

Starting in 1777, Congress debated trying to prop up paper money by controlling prices, but no legislation was enacted. One desperate delegate complained that their inaction forced him to pay "no less than 21 pounds for the purchase of buttons for a servant's coat, a price that did not include having the buttons sewn on the garment." In Boston, Samuel Adams complained that he'd paid \$2,000 for a "suit of cloathes and one hat." Colonel Benjamin Hanks of Litchfield, CT, noted in his diary that "...flour has now reached \$1,575 a barrel." Haircuts ran \$150 and a pound of "rancid" pork cost \$375!

When goods became scarce and with paper money abundant, prices shot up with incredible speed. In Boston, a merchant sold a large barrel of rum for \$8,000. Six weeks later when the merchant needed an empty barrel, the original purchaser told him he could get back the barrel – minus the rum – for \$12,000!

Inflation proceeded at such a pace that in many localities it took \$200, \$300 or even \$400 to purchase what in normal times would have cost \$1! Continental currency was so depreciated and despised that many citizens came to refer to a piece of it as "shin plaster." That is, worthless except as paper with which to wrap a sore ankle to which salve had been applied. It was also the source of the expression "not worth a Continental," meaning valueless.

Throughout the colonies, interest in the armed conflict waned as the value of currency dropped to a point that made it virtually worthless. Barter became the standard form of securing food, clothing and other everyday necessities, and recruitment of fighting men lagged woefully. Many already in uniform refused to be paid with Continental currency, and members of some units deserted in a body when told that the paymaster had nothing else to offer.

Many Londoners rejoiced at an account – probably exaggerated but pointing directly at the Achilles heel of the rebellion – published in the *Royal Gazette*. According to it, "a large body of inhabitants with paper dollars in their hats paraded in the streets of Philadelphia" to dramatize the conviction that Congress was bankrupt.

Silver that flowed across the Atlantic in the wake of Benjamin Franklin's diplomatic coup in Paris made it possible to hold the Continental army together; but lacking access to hard money from any source, many civilians who counted themselves as stout patriots seemed almost willing to accept taxation without representation in return for a stable economy.

And just think – our Colonial forefathers hadn't even heard of automobiles, the IRS, or oil, or OPEC!!!