

# The Gainesville Broadside

Gainesville Chapter ~ Florida Society Sons of the American Revolution

James D. Partin ~ Chapter President  
William V. Carnes, Sr. ~ Newsletter Editor

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## VETERANS' DAY SERVICES AT KANAPAHA PARK

Once again this past fall we were treated to wonderful weather, an overflow crowd, and a very moving memorial service at the Alachua County Veteran's Memorial at Kanapaha Park on Thursday, November 11th.

President Charles Rinek, 1st Vice President Harry Hollien, 2nd Vice President Henry Bariteau III, Past President William V. Carnes, Sr., and Compatriot George Knox were all in attendance. Vice President Bariteau was attired as a Revolutionary War subaltern and took his proper place of honor at the War's monument. At the appointed time, President Rinek, Vice President Hollien and Compatriot Knox placed the Chapter's floral remembrance in front of the monument (see photo at right).

The ceremony began at 11:00 am, the date and time of the armistice of the First World War, with the delivery of the American flag by the "Falling Gators" skydiving club. This was followed by a fly-by of four T-6 Texas trainers of World War II fame, followed by an immediate repeat fly-

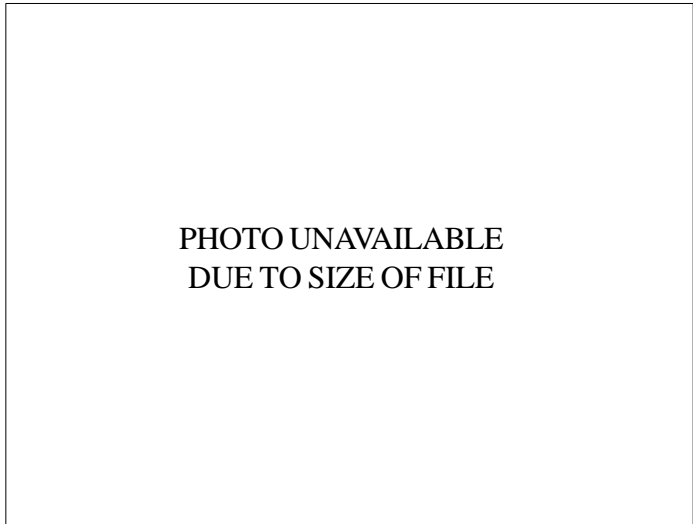


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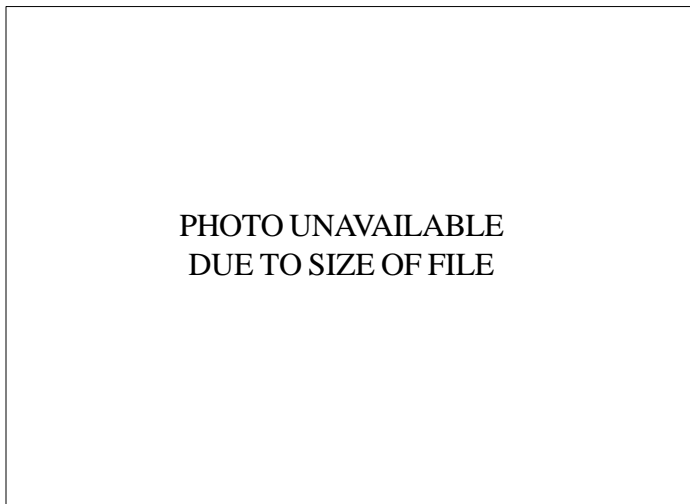


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by, but this time in a "missing man" formation, with one of the four aircraft making smoke and peeling out of formation in honor of a fallen comrade. The University of Florida Air Force ROTC Billy Mitchell Drill Team gave a performance of precision rifle drill, and the ceremony was rounded out with a patriotic speech and music by a local high school band and chorus.

At the conclusion of the service, the Gainesville Chapter honor guard gathered in front of the Revolutionary War monument – pictured at left are (l. to r.) 2nd VP Henry Bariteau III, President Charles Rinek, 1st VP Harry Hollien, and Compatriot George Knox. Past President Carnes was the "official photographer" for the occasion.

Such ceremonies are an integral part of the SAR's patriotic programs, and all compatriots are strongly invited and encouraged to come out to such events and support our Chapter's activities!



## Color Guard Commander's Column

It is with deep pride and a sense of accomplishment that I write this month's column.

First and foremost the Happiest of holiday seasons to each of you and your families. I think back over 1999 and what we as a chapter have accomplished. And like the entire theme of the season, without each member "giving" nothing could have been accomplished.

It seems that we as people only think about "giving" a few weeks of the year and that only around the Christmas season or during Birthdays and like special events.

Our Members know no such bounds when it comes to giving. From the dedication of Compatriot Page who facilitated our presence on our local PBS affiliate WUFT; to the never ending work of Vice President Hollien who endlessly reminds us of our meeting and procures our speakers; to Compatriot Rinek who participates in the Memorial Day Ceremony at the VA Hospital, to Compatriot McClendon who facilitates our presence at the Veteran's Day Ceremonies, our members give every day and selflessly. They know no bounds by set dates or by only at a particular time of the year. Our members give of themselves, their time and resources every day.

Our great leader George Washington gave of himself everyday. He served this fledgling country in the same spirit of greatness, without remuneration, or special consideration, all in the "service to my country" as he put it.

We can only aspire to imitative the great spirit of selfless giving that Washington established. All too often in today's society, people are driven by material wealth or want something in return for their efforts. It is only a few organizations, and individuals that recognize the impact and rewards of selfless service. So to you the members of the Gainesville Chapter of the Son's of the American Revolution, my most humble thanks and my warmest wishes for a most Happiest of Holidays, and coming the coming challenges.

Henry

## CHAPTER MEETINGS

Don't forget to jot down reminders about our Chapter luncheon meetings, the **3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month except tentatively February (Annual Meeting)**.

Once more, 1st Vice President Harry Hollien, has arranged some excellent programs for our new millennium:

### January 17th ~ Donald Loftus

"A Shooting & Gun Safety Program for Youth." Don Loftus is Director of Instructional Resources at the University of Florida. He holds, and has held, a number of elected positions in the North Central Florida Sportsman's Association; among them, he heads the NCFSA Youth Program.

### February 21st ~ Brian Ainsworth

"How to Preserve Photographs." Brian is a specialist at Harmon's Flare Pro Color Lab. His specialties include the care, preservation and restoration of photographs.

### March 20th ~ Dr. Carl Crandell

"Hearing in Older Adults." In his presentation, Dr. Crandell will also review how hearing and hearing loss affect psychological and social health. He is Associate Professor of Audiology at the University of Florida and has published and presented widely on the cited topics.

We think you'll agree that our schedule of presentations past, present and future have included many distinguished speakers and a diverse and interesting repertoire of subjects. Come...join us for lunch, and please bring your spouse, a guest, or perhaps a potential SAR member.

## NOTICE !!!

**IF YOU HAVE NOT YET PAID  
YOUR \$50 DUES FOR 2000, PLEASE  
SEND THEM RIGHT AWAY TO**

**SECRETARY CHARLES RINEK  
3627 N. W. 75TH TERRACE  
GAINESVILLE, FL 32606-5608**

*The Gainesville Broadside* is published quarterly, normally in January, April, July, and October, by the Gainesville Chapter, FLSSAR. Please send comments or articles to Editor William V. Carnes, Sr., 7711 Southwest 18th Place, Gainesville, FL 32607-3403, or call or fax to (352) 332-6150 or e-mail at [Clancairns@aol.com](mailto:Clancairns@aol.com).

# Tories Fled the Colonies Much as the Huguenots Did From France

*Excerpted from Great Stories of the American Revolution by Webb Garrison*

"I, Fletcher Simms, do solemnly swear in the presence of Almighty God..." Trembling visibly and turning his eyes from his accusers, Simms was sternly ordered, "Put your hand back on the Bible, sir, and pray continue at once!"

Simms swallowed, resumed the witness posture, and said, "...I will bear true allegiance to the state of Georgia, and in all things do my duty as a good and faithful subject of said state, and that I acknowledge the Thirteen United States of America, to be free and independent states; and that I will, to the best of my ability, when called upon, support and maintain said independency; and I likewise renounce, refuse and abjure any allegiance or obedience to George III, King of Great Britain, and that I have not, nor will not receive any protection from said George III, or any of the officers and servants of said King George."

Having completed his solemn oath, with left hand upon an open Bible and right hand raised, Simms was waved from the room by the inquisitorial committee of Augusta township, Chairman Condor Wilkes questioned the two "friends of freedom" whom Simms had brought along to attest to his zeal for the cause of independence; and when the friends were sent from the room he polled the committee and had Simms brought back.

"Young man," said Wilkes, "you are fortunate. You may rain in the township subject of course to duty if called upon by the militia. We commend your patriotic zeal!"

Had Simms been unwilling to take the full oath, or had he been unable to produce two or more witnesses to vouch for his patriotism, all of his possessions would have been seized and he would have been banished from the newly-created state of Georgia upon pain of death.

Enacted thousands of times in each of the states, the drama in which Simms was central took place far from major coastal cities. General John Burgoyne was correct in thinking that the only strong Tory enclaves outside New York were in the South, but he was wrong in believing that these groups were strong enough to help invading forces sweep through the country.

Prior to Bunker Hill, John Adams estimated that about one-third of all colonists opposed an open break with Britain. Some wanted only to be let alone and had no interest in the political or economic squabble that was brewing. Others were zealous Loyalists, ready to risk their lives and fortunes for their king and England. Of the latter group, an estimated 8,000 who were born in America were in British uniforms in 1780, a time when George Washington's forces had dwindled to about 9,000 men.

As tensions began to mount, vast numbers of Tories began to flee. Many were forced to leave when states adopted inquisitorial procedures much like those employed in southeast Georgia.

For the Loyalist in haste to get out of the country, two land routes were available: One led northward to Canada, and the other led south to British-held East Florida. At least 28,000 Loyalists are believed to have passed through New York City alone en route to Canada. Of these, an estimated 3,000 Blacks –

mostly ex-slaves whom the British freed when they ran away from rebel owners – eventually went to Sierra Leone. During one 12-month period, East Florida gained more than 7,000 new residents. Practically all were penniless refugees.

Nova Scotia, easily reached by ocean-going vessels, attracted hordes of exiles. In one frenzied period a flotilla of 18 ships crowded with Loyalists and their families left New York for Halifax. Soon that safe haven harbored so many refugees that their "tent city," sprinkled with old shacks, spread far from the beach.

Abigail Adams, who was in Halifax at the time, wrote, "there are but a few inconsiderable spots fit to cultivate, and the land is covered by a cold, spongy moss in place of grass. Winter continues at least seven months of the year; the country is wrapped in the gloom of a perpetual fog."

Additional bands of refugees turned to British-held islands in the Caribbean. Bermuda was an early and important haven. Many ex-Americans took up new lives in and near Nassau because any head of a family could claim 40 acres of free land. At least 6,000 one-time residents of the mainland colonies stayed in Bermuda. Others went to tiny Antigua, and some settled in Jamaica, largest British-held island in the Caribbean.

For example, Alexander Gardner left South Carolina for London, where he became president of the Royal Society and had a gardenia named for him. Massachusetts lost John Singleton Copley, its finest native painter – his son later became Lord Chancellor of England. Faculty members of King's College (now Columbia University) fled almost *en masse*. So did some of New England's most distinguished attorneys. Destined to become one of the most famous to flee, physicist Benjamin Thompson fled to London and reluctantly accepted a position in the Foreign Office. Most, however, found themselves to be social misfits unable to hold a job. Those who knew enough to do so applied to the British government for pensions or compensation for confiscated property. At least 5,100 claims were entered, for a total of just under 10,000,000 pounds. However, not quite one-third of those claims were honored; those whose claims were disallowed received no redress or aid.

Some present-day analysts insist that London was too far removed from the center of the conflict to understand its nature. According to such a view, the American Revolution, while directed against British officialdom, was also a civil war in which native-born citizens were badly divided. According to some estimates, Tories put at least 30,000 men into British uniforms for part or all of the conflict. Failure to exploit deep divisions present in every colony was a major factor in the failure of plans drawn up in London.

At the time, few outsiders learned that substantially more than 100,000 American-born Tories left their country eagerly or under compulsion. They formed an exodus comparable only to the flight of the Huguenots from France after Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes and began persecution of Protestants.

## SPECIAL REQUEST

Secretary Rinek needs to know what NSSAR medals you have been awarded.

Please contact him via mail (3627 N. W. 75th Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32606-5608),

via phone (352-373-7300), or via e-mail (rinek@gnv.fdt.net)

right away so he may update our Chapter's records.