

Sons of the American Revolution

Palm Beach Chapter

Florida Society



The Patriot

P.O. Box 16735
West Palm Beach, FL 33416



Volume 22

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Number 01

SUPPORT YOUR CHAPTER, JOIN US ON

TUESDAY, January 19, 2016 @ 12:00 noon
THE EMBASSY SUITES
1601 Belvedere Road,
West Palm Beach

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER FATHER SEARS
“BIBLES & GUNS-RW CHAPLAINS”,
2016 OFFICERS INDUCTION & SPECIAL
RUMBAUGH ORATION!

Full Buffet Lunch & Beverages just \$28 inclusive.
Reservations required.

RSVP by Sunday, Jan. 17th, call: Don Lanman (561)-315-5073 or Gary Green (561)-968-5117

Guests are always welcome!

Please visit our Website: www.sarpbchapter.org

President's Message:

Happy New Year! I am honored and humbled to be your Chapter President and grateful to be surrounded by a team of selfless Chapter Officers who together, and with your support, continue to honor our Patriot Ancestors.

2016 promises to be another breakout year for our Chapter as we build our Chapter membership,

promote the vision and sacrifice of our Founding Fathers, and honor the accomplishments of the leaders in our community through our Emergency Responder recognition initiatives and Youth programs!

We intend to assure that each meeting features an interesting guest speaker as well as the special guests that we recognize for their contribution to our community.

The January meeting will feature an insightful presentation by special guest speaker; Father Sanford Sears on what I call “Bibles & Guns”, the role of Revolutionary War Chaplains. You will learn that these Chaplains not only served in a spiritual capacity but also as surgeons, moral boosters and in some cases soldiers.

In addition, State Senior Vice President Ray Wess will conduct the time honored ceremony to install your 2016 Chapter Officers. The meeting will also feature a special award winning Rumbaugh Oration by the talented Talia Fradkin, so RSVP right away.

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The Patriot
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the Palm Beach Chapter
Florida Society of
The Sons of the American Revolution



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PRESIDENT'S BRIGADE

The Chapter is most appreciative of the Compatriots of the Presidents Brigade who have donated additional dollars in support of the many Chapter civic programs for youth projects, certificates, medals, veterans programs and emergency responder recognition programs.

BRONZE \$50 - \$99

SILVER \$100 - \$199

G. Green
J. Harper
J. Curry
A. Griswold
T. Friend
H. Wynns
R. Culpepper
A. Dreyfoss
D. Coldwell
D. Shepherd

GOLD \$200 - \$499

R. Banta
W. Meakin
R. Beck
E. Buckley

PLATINUM - \$500

President's Message Cont. from page 1

As your new President, I am hopeful that we can continue our fellowship of like-minded individuals interested building our membership, honoring our community leaders, and supporting our country, its founding virtues and our patriot ancestors who risk all for a new vision of a country of the people, by the people and for the people.

My Officers and I, however, cannot do this alone. We need your support by attending meetings, serving on committees, providing financial support for our community programs and spreading the word about who SAR is and what we do for our community and country.

I have every confidence that we can continue to be the type of Chapter that is a model for others to follow, and I welcome your feedback, ideas, advice, and active involvement in Chapter affairs.

May we remember our departed Compatriots, honor our fellow compatriots and God bless the United States of America.

MEETING DATES

Winter & Spring meeting dates: **January 19th, 2016 Officers Induction Ceremony; February 16th**, Guest: Historian **John Stewart** presents a Jeffersonian perspective of George Washington; **March 15th; April 19th and May 17th.**

COMMITTEES

Volunteers Needed: Help with the Chapters committees! Pick one or several committees to help with including: **American History Scholarship, Eagle Scout Certificates, Fire Safety/Law Enforcement Commendation, Flag Certificates, JROTC, Knight Essay, Rumbaugh Oration, Liberty Tree, Flag Certificates, Chapter Events, Publicity, Membership, Patriot Bios, Speakers Bureau, Veterans Programs.**

Call Don Lanman or Ben Tidwell to help out today! It does not take much time and Chapter cannot do it without **YOUR** support!

STATE SOCIETY NEWS

All Compatriots are encouraged to attend the State Society Board of Management (BOM) winter meeting in Orlando February 5 & 6. The meeting is both fun and informational. Visit www.FLSSAR.org to register. Special room rates are available for members at The Florida Hotel & Conference Center www.thefloridahotelorlando.com.

RELIGION & REVOLUTIONARY WAR CHAPLAINCY, *by James E. Newell.*

Official actions pertaining to the RW chaplaincy.

After Lexington and Concord, great numbers of the parishioners remembered their Pastors' teachings and rallied to the cause. Others saw their Pastors enlist to shame or encourage their flocks to do likewise. At first, however, the chaplaincy was a totally unorganized system.

Some clergy were commissioned by governors, some were part of various militias, and some were commissioned by authorities in the national army. These men were officers of a regiment in the standard British system rather than members of a Chaplain's Corps per se. Their function rather than their rank justified their presence, and "they were motivated with the courage of a crusade and the unconventionality of a mission".

On **April 6, 1775**, the Connecticut Assembly appointed a chaplain to each of the six regiments of colonial militia at a salary of six pounds sterling. In July, they added additional chaplains, and in December, they raised the salary to twenty dollars a month plus a monthly grant of forty shillings for a supply pastor to cover their home churches. In Pennsylvania, many clergymen had been serving as temporary chaplains in local militia companies.

When the war began, the militia was reorganized and the chaplains were given permanent status. In early 1776, the Pennsylvania Assembly authorized appointment of one chaplain for each battalion of riflemen and musket men. These chaplains were to be selected by the field officers with the approval of the Assembly and were to receive twenty dollars per month. New Jersey never developed a system for giving official approval to chaplains with the result that many clergy crossed over to Pennsylvania

On **May 25th, 1775**, a committee of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts resolved to permit thirteen chaplains to be stationed with the encampment around Boston.

July 29, 1775 - On this date, which is considered the official birthday of the American Chaplaincy Corps, the Congress recognized chaplains in the national army with a rank equal to that of a Captain and a monthly pay of twenty dollars.

August 15, 1775 - Washington reported that fifteen chaplains were in service for twenty-three regiments and that twenty-nine regiments were without any. In September, there were twenty regiments supplied and twenty vacancies. The situation worsened over the fall and by January 9, 1776, there were only nine chaplains and eighteen vacancies. Washington thought that the pay was not enough and suggested a chaplain for each two regiments as a means of doubling the salary.

January 16, 1776 - Congress passed the "Chaplaincy Act" authorizing one chaplain for every two regiments for the "army at Cambridge." The pay was set at thirty three and one third dollars.

September 20, 1776 - Congress passed the "Articles of War" which was highly moralistic in tone, and while they didn't establish an organized chaplaincy, they did recommend diligence in services and established their authority over the chaplains in locations other than "the Army at Cambridge" (see January 16th). The articles also provided for fines or confinement for soldiers not attending services and for AWOL chaplains to be court martialed and fined a maximum of one month's pay. Washington was now of the opinion that one chaplain should not be expected to serve more than one regiment to prevent the possibility that some of the men would have a chaplain of a faith other than their own. Apparently, most of the units were fairly homogeneous as far as religion is concerned.

November 15, 1776 - Congress established the Navy Chaplaincy at a base pay of twenty dollars a month.

November 28, 1776 - Congress approved the Navy regulations, the second article of which reads:

"The Commanders of ships of the thirteen United Colonies are to take care that divine service be performed twice a day on board, and a sermon (implying an ordained clergyman) preached on Sundays unless bad weather or other extraordinary accidents prevent."

These are much stronger provisions than for the Army. They also had much stronger designated punishments. Article three reads:

"If any shall be heard to swear, curse, or blaspheme the name of God, the Commander is strictly enjoined to punish them for every offense, by causing them to wear a wooden collar, or some other shameful badge of distinction ... Commissioned officers forfeit one shilling for each offense, a warrant or inferior officer, six pence. For drunkenness, a seaman shall be put in irons until sober - if an officer he shall forfeit two days pay".

February 1777 - Congress reorganized the Army Chaplaincy service, requiring all chaplains to be commissioned by Congress. In addition, they extended services to garrisons, forts, hospitals, and to rifle and cavalry brigades. Prior to this only infantry and artillery units received chaplains. Several chaplains were assigned to linguistic service with the Indians, and Washington's desire was recognized with one chaplain authorized per unit.

April 1777 - Pay was increased to forty dollars per month.

May 27, 1777 - Congress decided upon only one chaplain per Brigade, to be appointed by Congress and with the same pay, rations, and forage allotment as a Colonel. Nominations were to be made by each Brigadier-General and Washington was directed to send in a list of all chaplains so that Congress could recommission the good ones and eliminate the bad ones.

September 11, 1777 - Congress ordered 20,000 Bibles imported for use by the Army.

September 18, 1777 - Congress created the Hospital Chaplaincy Corps with one chaplain for each of the four medical districts. The pay was to be sixty dollars per month, three food rations, and one forage ration.

1778 - New Commissions were issued to some and not others in completion of the orders of May 27, 1777.

1780 - Congress abolished the Hospital Chaplaincy for economy reasons and turned the responsibility for the hospitals over to the Brigade Chaplains.

May 8, 1781 - Washington was directed to re-arrange assignments to one chaplain per brigade. The dismissed were to receive a pension of one half a Captain's pay for life. No new chaplains were commissioned after this point. Since they were rarely in one place for services, it was decided that light dragoon units did not need a chaplain.

1782 - Congress determined that "Chaplains, Surgeons, or Hospital Officers who shall be captured in the future may not be considered prisoners of war.

1783 - Congress granted five years full Captain's pay to all retired chaplains previously entitled to half pay for life.

Military duties and appearance of the clergy.

The normal term of service for a chaplain at the start of the war was six months. Like the men who couldn't spare any more time away from their farms, the clergy were not paid by their home churches and were usually responsible for paying for their temporary replacements back home. A few served only during the week and returned home each weekend.

Throughout the Revolution, chaplains, although officers without rank, had no specified uniform. David Jones apparently wore an officer's uniform but without epaulets, changing to rougher clothes when serving as a surgeon. Most wore their usual civilian dress and there is one record of black material being issued to a

chaplain for the purpose of making a replacement set of clothes. On May 19, 1780, the Supreme Executive Council at Philadelphia "ordered that a suit of cloaths of Black be furnished by the State Clothier to the Reverend Mr. Samuel Blair, Chaplain to the Brigade of artillery, in the same manner as has been furnished to other Clergymen".

Universally in this era, chaplains bore arms, at least the sword of an officer and a gentleman, and occasionally a firearm as well. Jones carried a pistol and used it frequently. Many other Chaplains also used weapons upon occasion although it would seem that their normal post during and after a battle was with the wounded. "My station in time of action I knew to be among the surgeons" - John Gano. Ebenezer David died of sickness while working at a Hospital on March 19, 1778. Thompson notes that many chaplains served also as surgeons, and in fact, Robert Blackwell, James Sproat, David Jones and David Avery had each been trained as professional medical men as well as Clergy before joining the Army. Avery brought his own medical chest because of the lack of supplies in the Army.

The duties of a chaplain were not officially stated but, in broad terms, amounted to these: (1) Conduct divine services, (2) Obey superior officers and Congress, and (3) Act as a representative of God. Practically, they uttered prayers, usually before the reading of the orders in the morning, before a march and before roll call at night. They held Sunday services and officiated at funerals. They performed marriages, both within the camp and for nearby civilian church members who were without pastors. Evidently, American Protestant soldiers received Holy Communion in local churches, if at all, since the only record of a Protestant service of Holy Communion is in the diary of Philip Waldeck, a "Hessian". Roman Catholic soldiers were visited by French Catholic Chaplains who administered the Eucharist.

Daily life through selected personal accounts of Revolutionary War chaplains.

It is said of David Avery of Gaysboro Vermont, that he was "everything Washington wanted in a chaplain". Avery had served as Captain of a group of his parishioners, bringing them to Cambridge at which time they were assigned to Col. Sherburn's Rgt. and Avery became a full time chaplain. He was reported to be:

"Intrepid and fearless in battle, Unwearied in his attentions to the sick and wounded; nursing them with care and faithful to their souls as if they were of his own Parish." He had a "Love of Country so strong that it became a passion, was cheerful under privations, ready for any hardship, and never lost, in the turmoil of camp, that warmth and glowing piety which characterized the devoted minister of God".

He frequently rode beside Washington and often ate with him. At the attack on Trenton, he picked up a fallen musket and fired upon the Hessians.

Although the Navy regulations were more detailed than those of the Army, they also gave little guidance beyond the Sabbath sermon and daily services. The ship's captains were given a lot of latitude to draw up their own job descriptions for their chaplain. John Paul Jones sought a man with a set of qualifications that indicated that the chaplain would also be Jones' private secretary. The position was never filled because one of the qualifications was that the chaplain be Protestant and they were anchored in a French port at the time.

The most important function of the chaplains was, however, to conduct Sunday services including a Sermon of a practical nature that would meet the needs of the men (or of the Army) at the time. Services were usually held at 11:00 in the morning. The Reverend A.R. Robbins reports in his journal that:

"The music march up and the drummers lay their drums in a very neat style into rows one above the other; it often takes five and often the rows are very long, Occasionally they make a platform for me to stand on and raise their drums a number of tiers".

Normally services were held in the open. Rev. Gano was not in camp at Valley Forge during the Winter, because he realized that the men could not be expected to stand in the open for services . Having services was considered of great importance, however, and at Newbury at the Winter Encampment of 1780-1781, the army erected the usual huts "and one larger than the rest for a place of public worship on the Sabbath. Here three services a day were held, the chaplains from each Brigade preaching in rotation".

Occasionally, services were held in a nearby church building. Lt. William Feltman of the First Pennsylvania Rgt. noted in his Journal of 1781-1782, that on August 19th "... from the parade we marched to a church close by our encampment, where Doct. Jones (the chaplain) preached us a sermon".

A penalty was imposed for missing services; a few hours spent in digging out stumps. The matter of the lack of interest in services had been treated differently in previous years. In 1755, Chaplain Charles Beaty served a force led by Benjamin Franklin to guard the Northwestern frontier of Pennsylvania. At Franklin's suggestion, the chaplain served the daily rum ration to those who were in formation for prayers.

The sermon, itself, was usually of a practical nature in which the Chaplain would urge upon the men temperance, vigilance, cleanness, and honesty. Several typical sermon topics are as follows:

"He that is not with me is against me, and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." - Rev. Kirkland, 9/15/1776.

"This day shall be a memorial unto you throughout your generations." - Rev. Gano, 7/4/1776.

"Defensive War in a Just Cause Sinless" - Rev. David Jones to Col. Dewee's Regt., Tredyffrin, PA, 7/20/1775.

Told to dwell a little more on politics than usual, Gano, in 1779 at Canajoharie, preached on "Come go thou with us and we will do thee good, for he that seeketh my life, seeketh thy life but with us thou shalt be in safeguard" - 1st Samuel 22:23 (Bolton, 160). On another occasion, Gano was told that it would be a disaster if the six and nine months men did not reenlist. Gano told them that "he could aver to the truth that our Lord and Savior approved of all those who had engaged in His service for the whole warfare." The troops were amused by this stretching of the Word of the Bible but kidded each other into reenlisting anyway.

Reverend Gano, true to his own injunction, served the entire war and on April 19, 1783, under orders from George Washington, had the honor of announcing that the war was officially over and that the United States of America was free and independent. Afterwards, Gano assembled the officers and men who had survived the entire war and led them in a prayer of thanksgiving and peace.

Navy Chaplains

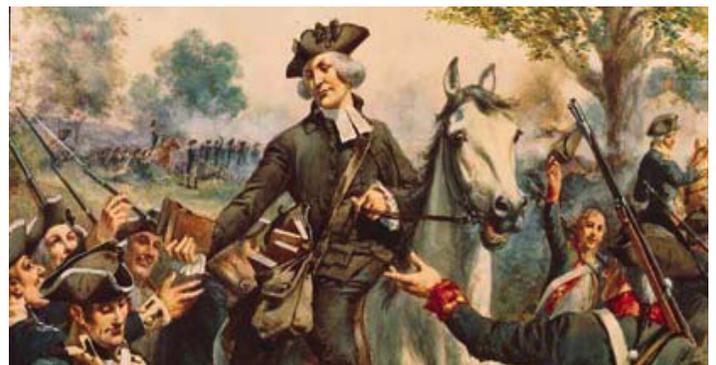
Despite the Navy regulations that required a chaplain on every ship, there were only two recorded Navy chaplains during the Revolutionary period. The first was the Reverend Benjamin Balch, a Congregationalist whose father had served in King George's War. Balch fought as a minuteman at the Battle of Lexington and served as an Army chaplain at the siege of Boston. On October 28, 1778 he reported aboard the frigate *Boston* at a pay rate of ninety shillings per month. After the *Boston* was captured he served on the *Alliance* along with his two young sons. He fought alongside the men in the capture of two British ships off Halifax and became known as the "Fighting Parson". One of his sons, William, became the first chaplain commissioned in the U.S. Navy in

1798 (ibid., 8). After Balch retired, the Captain of the *Alliance*, John Barry, appointed the second and last Navy chaplain of the Revolutionary War. Barry, an Irish Roman Catholic appointed the ship's surgeon, James Geagan, probably also Roman Catholic, as chaplain.

No discussion of Revolutionary War era chaplains would be complete without mentioning Chaplain Caldwell, a Presbyterian who was immortalized in Bret Harte's poem about "The Rebel High Priest." His church had been burned down by a Tory and his wife shot through the window of her house by Hessians. It was he who, when the troops slackened their fire due to a lack of paper for wadding, was reported to have run into a local Presbyterian church and brought out Watts Hymnals, crying "Give them Watts, boys, give them Watts".



Revolutionary War Chaplain
"Give them Watts, boys, give them Watts".



"One Nation Under God... God Bless America Boys"

YOUR SAR MEMBERSHIP!

Support your Chapter and Keep your SAR membership active... For Compatriots who have not sent in their annual SAR dues your membership in the SAR is no longer active.

To reactivate, please send in your \$75 annual membership dues immediately to keep your SAR membership active to SAR PO Box 16735 West Palm Beach, FL 33416-6735.

Thanks to your membership and additional donations, the *Palm Beach SAR* Chapter continues to promote the values of our *Founding Fathers* through important activities including: *Boy Scout and JROTC recognition, Rumbaugh and Knight Essay Youth contests, Police, Firefighter and EMT acknowledgement, and related community programs!*

CHAPTER MEETING DECEMBER 2015



President Green, Rumbaugh Oration Winner Talia Fradkin, VP Don Lanman



New Compatriots Induction:
VP Don Lanman, Gary Stellges, Robert Matyskiel II,
Adam Cass, President Gary Green



Kings Academy Annual Holiday Program