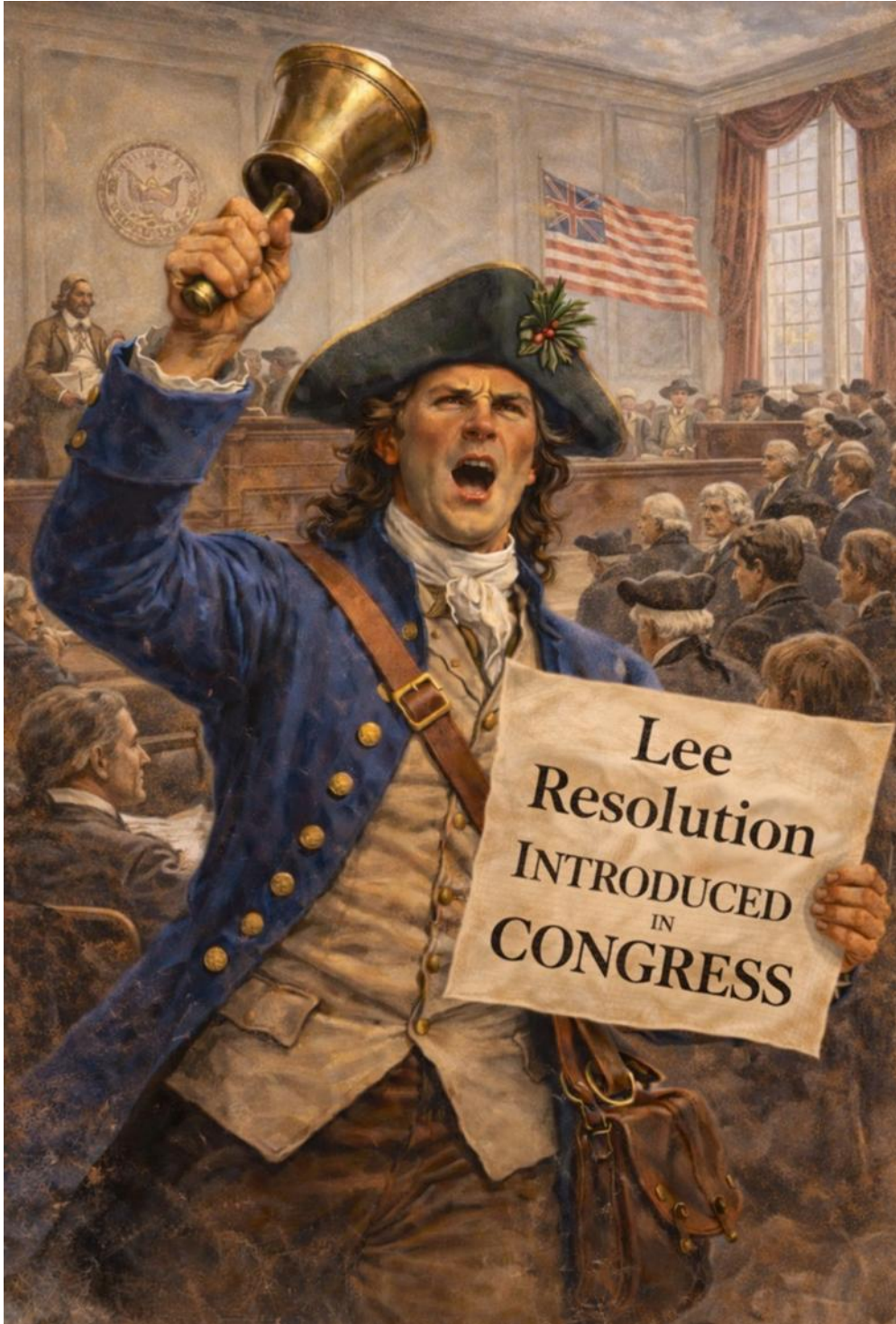






The Bell Ringer

page 2

2025 – 2027 Officers



President
Historian
RVP – East Central Region
Robin Preston
rlpreston0306@gmail.com
(832)655-4173



Treasurer
William "Billy" Morgan
wsmorganv@outlook.com
(407) 427-9692



Member-at-Large
Chaplain
Recording Secretary
Parliamentarian
Randal Allen
aerospace321@outlook.com -
(407) 909-9649



Patriot Medal Winner
Color Guard Commander
Phil Markoe
markoevikingsfan@aol.com
(407) 350-8143



Genealogist - volunteer
Registrar - volunteer
Harry Rinker
harrylrinker@aol.com
(407) 350-8143



2nd Vice President
Don LaJoie
grazingbuffalo94@gmail.com
(912) 580-9433



Corresponding Secretary
Gary Smith
trekker01@gmail.com
(214) 437-3577



Member-at-Large
Burt Fairchild
burtfairchild@gmail.com
(407) 415-5655



Sergeant-at-Arms
Michael Meyer
meyermi1775@gmail.com
(407) 452-2666



Webmaster
Michael Neal
michaelneal.cflsar@gmail.com
(386) 793-0331

www.cflsar.org
www.facebook.com/cflsar

What's Inside?

STARK Report Status.....3
Americanism Status.....3
Next Meeting4
Social Media4
Book Club Info4
HONOR Flight5

Liberty Tree Dedication5
Battle of Alligator Creek
Bridge Commemoration7
Reading the Declaration.....8
Something to Do.....9
Skeletons in my Closet.....12

It Happened 250 Years Ago ...14
Birthdays.....19
Ladies Auxiliary.....20



The Bell Ringer

page 3



Service to our Vets

If you have done something in the service of a veteran or veterans, no matter how small you believe your contribution may have been, please let us know. Small contributions add up to big points by the end of the year. We were the second-ranked chapter in the state in total points. Please email Phil Markoe or Robin Preston and inform them of your actions.

2025 Points over **43,271**

2026 Points over **4,834**

If you are a veteran and have not received a Service Medal, please notify Robin Preston so that we can obtain the medal you have earned through your service to America.

Americanism Report

Every year, we, as a chapter, are required to submit a report to the State and National Societies detailing our activities.

2025 Points over **10,535**

2026 Points over **8,102**



The Sons of the American Revolution promotes patriotism, serves the community, and inspires and educates the public about the American Revolution



America 250

Compatriots
(16.3% of Chapter Membership have medaled)

- Bronze – 11
- Silver – 6
- Gold – 6

Non-Compatriots

- Bronze – 3
- Silver – 2
- Gold – 3



The Bell Ringer

page 4

September 9 Chapter Meeting

Where: Winter Park Elks Club
4755 Howell Branch Road
Winter Park

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Meal Cost: \$25 per person (payable at the door)

If you plan to attend, RSVP to Phil Markoe – by voice or text **407.350.8143** or by email at markoevikingsfan@aol.com. It is important for Phil to get an accurate head count to the caterer, otherwise we can be charged more than we should be.

Chapter Website

www.cflsar.org

Social Media

Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/cflsar

The CFLSAR Facebook page has something new every day. Take a look at our page for yourself and encourage your family and friends to do the same.

Date of Inception – **15 NOV 2023**

Numbers of followers – **128**

Consecutive days with a post since inception - **926**

Total Posts since inception - **1369**

Views since inception– **61,912**

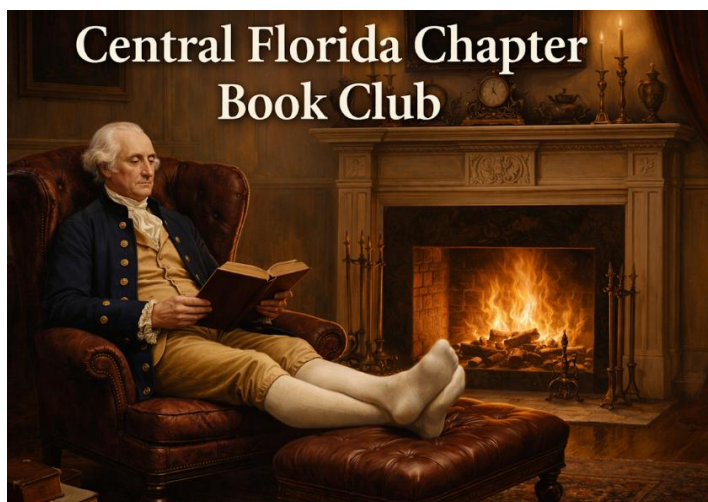
Views in 2026– **22,642** (as of June 24)

Average views per day – **67**

Average views per post – **45.2**

Most views in one day – **1236** (27 APR 2026)

Book Club Books for 2026



Central Florida Chapter Book Club

The Central Florida Chapter Book Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.

You can earn 3 America 250 points by attending.

You don't have to have read the book to attend.

Join via ZOOM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83529410287?pwd=fo4TRwmBBoE3mxZWmMvnWi8IGH6YpM.1>

JULY BOOK

The Battle for New York - Schecter



The Bell Ringer

page 5

May 27 The Villages Honor Flight



Even though the flight wasn't scheduled to arrive until 11:00 p.m., the die-hard Compatriots went anyway to welcome home American Heroes from their long day trip from Washington D. C.

Those die-hard Compatriots were, from left to right, Bill Elder (Daytona-Ormond Chapter), Gary Smith, Kelly Crumley (Daytona-Ormond Chapter), Randal Allen, and Phil Markoe.

THANKS FOR STICKING IT OUT, GUYS

Liberty Tree Dedication Presentation

June 15

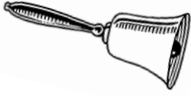


Randal Allen from our chapter and Ashlee Woodard from the Mary Virginia Cabell DAR Chapter made Liberty Tree presentations to the Longwood City Commissioners at their regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

All of this was in preparation for the Liberty Tree Dedication, which will be taking place at Reiter Park in Longwood on June 27.



Liberty Tree Dedication at Reiter Park in Longwood in 2 days.



The Bell Ringer

page 6



Liberty Tree and Marker Dedication

Saturday, June 27, 2026, at 5:15 p.m.

Color Guard Muster at 4:30 p.m.

Rock, Freedom, and Fireworks

Reiter Park
311 W. Warren Ave.
Longwood, FL





The Bell Ringer

page 7

Battle of Alligator Creek Bridge Commemoration

June 20, 2026



The 2026 Commemoration of the Battle of Alligator Creek Bridge was once again well attended by SAR, DAR, CAR, local officials, and the general public. There were at least 30 Compatriots in uniform.



Three members of the St Augustine British Regiment joined in the color guard. They were welcomed and told that even though they were British, they had nothing to fear today.

The best part of these ceremonies is the camaraderie on experiences before during and after the event..



Three color guardsmen attended all five of the battle commemorations during the 2025 – 2026 period. From L-to-R, Benny Raffield, Robin Preston, and Phil Markoe.



FLSSAR President Jonathan Hunt was one of those who addressed the audience.

Paul Tucker was the emcee of the event. He also led the group in singing the National Anthem.



Save a Date
Saturday, June 19, 2027
249th Anniversary



The Bell Ringer

page 8

Sharing the Spirit of America Reading the Declaration of Independence Across America



Let's read the Declaration of Independence at the same time as other Americans throughout the U.S. and its territories. 250 years, almost to the minute, after it was first publicly read.

July 8 at 6:00 p.m. for the Eastern Time Zone

The Central Florida Chapter will be using the **ZOOM** link below for our reading of the Declaration of Independence. Access to the meeting is limited to the first 50 who join.

ZOOM Link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85999936015?pwd=Kl60NwHug8bLF3V2JcFwnjbabFcNdN.1>

PASS CODE 418810

IMPORTANT NOTE: By attending this ZOOM meeting, you earn 3 America 250 points. If you are one of the 11 readers, you earn an extra 10 America 250 points. Let Randal Allen or Robin Preston know if you want to read 1 of the 11 sections of the document. Readers are also on a first-come, first-served basis.



The Bell Ringer

page 9



PART ONE

National Events are in
White letters, on a Blue
field

Date	What	Where	Chapter	NOTES
27-Jun-2026	Liberty Tree Dedication	Longwood, FL	Central Florida	5:00 p.m.
4-Jul-2026	Flag Raising - Belle Isle City Hall	1600 Nela Avenue, Belle Isle, FL	Central Florida	Flag Raising at 9:00 Muster at 8:00
8-Jul-2026	Sharing the Spirit of America. Reading the Declaration of Independence	Virtual	All	
9-Jul-2026	Naturalization Ceremony	401 W. Central Blvd Orlando, FL	Central	10:00 a.m.
18-Jul-2026	Liberty Tree Dedication	St. Augustine Beach	Mary Jefferson DAR	10:00 a.m. Lakeside Park
6-Aug-2026	Liberty Tree Dedication	Lake Nona VA Hospital - Orlando	Central - 3 DAR chapters	10:00 a.m.
13-Aug-2026	Naturalization Ceremony	401 W. Central Blvd Orlando, FL	Central	10:00 a.m.
9-Sep-2026	CFLSAR Chapter Meeting 4755 Howell Branch Rd.	Winter Park, FL	Central	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
10 - 13 Sep 2026	FSSDAR Fall Forum	OMNI Hotel Championsgate, FL		
17-Sep-2026	Naturalization Ceremony	401 W. Central Blvd Orlando, FL	Central	10:00 a.m.
30-Sep-2026	The Villages Honor Flight	Sanford Airport, Sanford, FL	Central, Daytona- Ormond	9:00 p.m.
10-Oct-2026	CFLSAR Chapter Meeting 4755 Howell Branch Rd.	Winter Park, FL	Central	11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



The Bell Ringer

page 10



PART TWO

National Events are in
White letters, on a Blue
field

Date	What	Where	Chapter	NOTES
15-Oct-2026	Naturalization Ceremony	401 W. Central Blvd Orlando, FL	Central	10:00 a.m.
15-Oct-2026	Black Powder Training	Chuluota Gun Club, Chuluota, FL		
16, 17 Oct 2026	FLSSAR Fall Board of Management Meeting	Embassy Suites Kissimmee, FL		
17-Oct-2026	Orlando Honor Flight	Orlando Airport		9:30 p.m.
28-Oct-2026	The Villages Honor Flight	Sanford Airport Sanford, FL		9:00 p.m.
5-Nov-2026	Naturalization Ceremony	401 W. Central Blvd Orlando, FL	Central	10:00 a.m.
11-Nov-2026	CFLSAR Chapter Meeting 4755 Howell Branch Rd.	Winter Park, FL	Central	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
10-Dec-2026	Naturalization Ceremony	401 W. Central Blvd Orlando, FL	Central	10:00 a.m.
19-Dec-2026	Wreaths Across America	Multiple Locations		
6-Mar-2027	Battle of Nassau Commemoration	Pompano Beach, FL	Ft Lauderdale	
3 - 7 Mar 2027	FSSDAR Spring Conference	OMNI Hotel Championsgate, FL		
14-Mar-2027	244th Anniversary Last Naval Battle	Merritt Island, FL	Brevard	10:00 a.m.

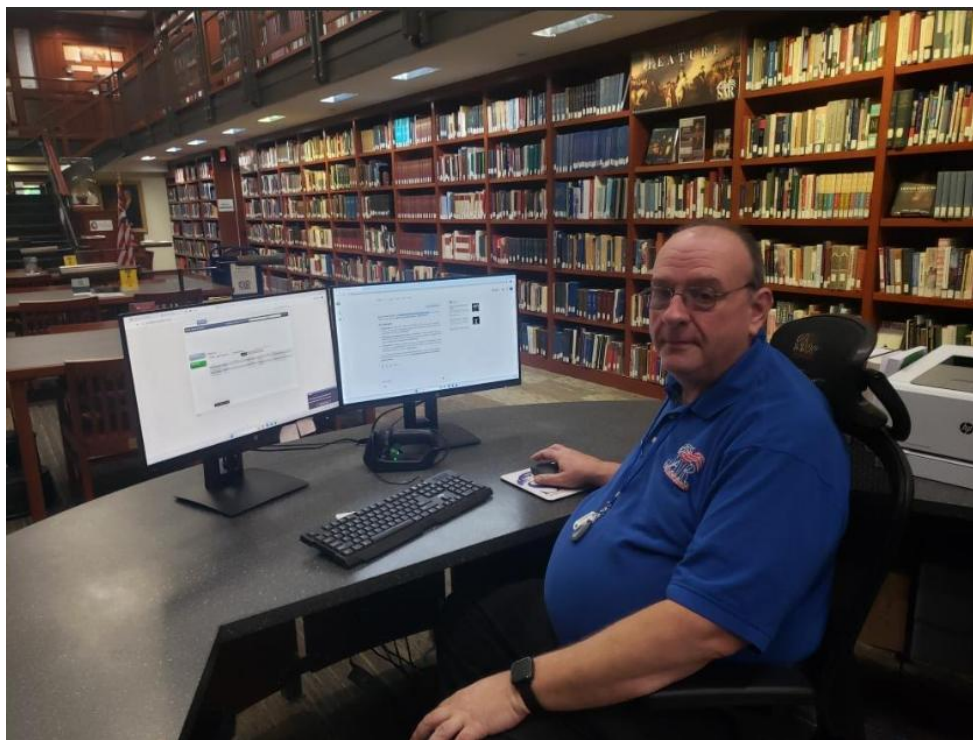


The Bell Ringer

page 11

How are you spending your summer?

Michael Meyer is doing something different



Part of what Compatriot Michael Meyer is doing this summer is spending time volunteering at the SAR National Headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky.

Michael is assisting in the genealogy library. He has been reshelving books and directing guests to areas of interest, helping them to find ancestors. He is also participating in the educational program.

Michael hopes that all his work will earn him some leniency in October, when he is slated to be executed for past infractions.

Come to the October 10 chapter meeting and see if Michael has earned his spot among the living.





The Bell Ringer

page 12

Skeletons in the Closet Ramblings of a SAR Registrar/Genealogist

No. 3

By and with permission of Harry L. Rinker



The SAR chapter registrar/genealogist performs three critical roles: first contact, cheerleader/salesman, and application wizard. The chapter registrar/genealogist is the primary contact for the applicant during the application process, which can take anywhere from a matter of days to several months, or even years. Since today's application process demands meeting high professional genealogical standards, the chapter registrar/genealogists must maintain high enthusiasm and responsiveness in acquiring documentation during the application process. He also serves as a cheerleader, touting the values of SAR membership and the benefits of becoming an active chapter member, as well as a seller of the Family membership program. Finally, the chapter registrar/genealogist must prepare a "complete," meaning almost every data line filled, application that will be approved and become a legacy application that can be used by future applications wishing to apply through it.

A chapter registrar/genealogist's job is done once an application is approved. Mentoring new members and retaining members are the

responsibility of the chapter president, members of the Executive Committee, and the membership secretary.

The chapter registrar/genealogist needs to be free to focus his attention on new regular, junior, memorial, and supplemental applications. New regular and junior member applications are his primary focus. Although the chapter registrar/genealogist oversees the preparation of supplement and memorial applications, they must not be completed at the expense of delaying new member applications.

A chapter/registrar should contact a prospective new member within 24 to 48 hours of receiving a membership referral from a chapter member, recruitment activity, state, national, or other source. The most effective approach is an informative, friendly, and enthusiastic email. In an age when most individuals do not answer their phones, phone calls can be used for follow-up but not as initial contact. Texting as a first point of contact is not recommended, but it can work as a follow-up.

The chapter registrar/genealogist has four contact goals: (1) obtain detailed contact information and explore what the applicant knows about his potential Revolutionary War ancestry, (2) develop a personal relationship with the applicant by learning about his interest and his family, (3) help him understand the value of joining and participating in the SAR, and (4) explain the documents needed to complete an application.

Most applicants, even those submitting a DAR or SAR application, usable or not, in support of an application, have little understanding of modern documentation requirements or the research skills necessary to prove a lineage, especially in the upper generations beyond the death certificate and census eras. As a result, the chapter registrar/genealogist needs to continually encourage and show them to obtain needed sources, as well



The Bell Ringer

page 13

Skeletons in the Closet Ramblings of a SAR Registrar/Genealogist

No. 2

By and with permission of Harry L. Rinker

as be willing to do “some” of the research (usually the heavy lifting) necessary to complete a successful application. It is critical that a positive “the task can be finished” attitude is essential.

Application information arrives sporadically. Each time the applicant provides a requested document or the registrar/genealogist finds a document, the information should be acknowledged or shared. The feeling that progress is being made, even slowly, is essential.

Finally, the chapter/registrar works best when his chapter recognizes and encourages his work. A few pats on the back go a long way. Including the registrar/genealogist in a member induction ceremony is also an excellent way to honor their involvement.

Maybe it's time to find out who is hiding in your closet



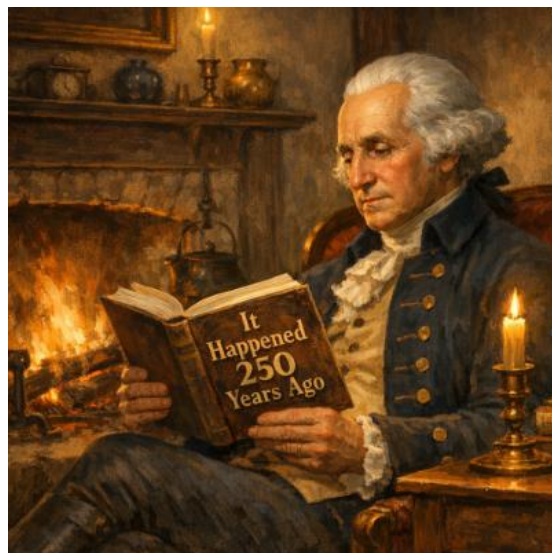
WHAT'S NEXT - Don't Shoot the Registrar/Genealogist or SAR Staff Genealogist Reviewer.



The Bell Ringer

page 14

It Happened 250 Years Ago



JUN 1776 - In June, British Lieutenant General William Howe left Canada with about 9,000 men heading to New York. It was planned that the Hessians and troops under Lt. Gen. Henry Clinton would also rendezvous in New York. Shortly after Howe left Nova Scotia, his brother, British Vice Admiral Richard Howe, arrived with transports of more men, and they immediately set off for New York as well.

By early June, Brigadier General Henry Knox reported that 19 mortars and 121 cannons, ranging in size from 3- to 32-pounders, had been mounted in more than a dozen batteries extending as far north as King's Bridge.

JUN 4, 1776 Ten British warships and thirty troop transports, led by Lt. General Henry Clinton, dropped anchor off a sandbar in the Charleston harbor, six miles southeast of the waterfront.

JUN 5, 1776 Continental Brigadier General John Sullivan arrived from Fort Ticonderoga with reinforcements and took command of Patriot forces.

JUN 5, 1775 — Stephen Moylan was appointed Quartermaster General of the Continental Army. However, due to his gross incompetence during the New York campaign, his tenure was brief. Thomas Mifflin was subsequently brought in for another eighteen-month stint.

JUN 7, 1776 - Lee Resolution

Resolved, that the United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.

That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances.

That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation.

Although simple in its wording, the Lee Resolution, also known as The Resolution for Independence, had a world-changing impact. It set the course for the writing of the Declaration of Independence and the eventual separation of the thirteen American colonies from the British Empire.

Richard Henry Lee proposed the resolution to the Second Continental Congress, following instructions from the Fifth Virginia Convention. It was a three-part resolution addressing independence, foreign relations, and the preparation of a confederation of the new independent states.

Congress decided to address each of the three parts separately. Action on the resolution was delayed for a few weeks while delegates sought instructions from their respective colonial legislative bodies on how to vote.

JUN 7, 1776 British Lt. General Henry Clinton sent a note under a flag of truce, requesting the defenders of Sullivan's Island to lay down their arms. The Patriots did not receive the message until the next day because they fired on the boat delivering it, which then turned around.



The Bell Ringer

page 15

It Happened 250 Years Ago

JUN 7, 1776 The British began landing forces on Long Island, South Carolina, which was thought to be within wading distance of Sullivan's Island.

JUN 8, 1776 Before Continental Brigadier General John Sullivan arrived, Brigadier General William Thompson dispatched 600 troops to Trois-Rivières to surprise the British force, believing it to be small. Unbeknownst to him, by June 7, around one thousand troops had gathered outside of Trois-Rivières, with additional reinforcements waiting on 25 ships anchored in the river.

Shortly after Sullivan arrived, he dispatched Thompson with an additional 1,600 men to follow the 600 men he had previously sent. Thompson caught up with the forward party on June 7. The combined force crossed the river at Point du Lac, just a few miles above Trois-Rivières, on the Saint Lawrence River.

The river crossing was observed by a local Canadian militia captain who quickly informed the British camp at Trois-Rivières. Unfamiliar with the terrain, Thompson relied on a local farmer to guide him. The farmer, no fool, led Thompson and his men into a swampy area, delaying them for several hours.

Having been tipped off to the Patriot advance, the British landed the troops that had been waiting on the ships. These troops formed battle lines on the road outside the village.

As Thompson's troops exited the swamp, they were met with grapeshot, which caused them to retreat back into the swamp. American Colonel Anthony Wayne encountered British Brigadier General Simon Fraser's troops when he emerged from the swamp. Wayne's men exchanged gunfire with the British before retreating.

The retreating Patriots sought refuge in a nearby wooded area. They could not reach the river without drawing fire from British ships, which drove them back into the woods. When they returned to their original landing spot, they found it occupied by the British. The only safe place for the Patriots was the wooded, swampy area.

The British had seized control of a bridge crossing the Riviere-du-Loup, blocking the Patriots' retreat to the north shore of the Saint Lawrence. Governor General Guy Carleton arrived late in the action and ordered the British to withdraw from the bridge.

At least 200 Patriots, including Thompson and seventeen of his officers, were captured before reaching the bridge. Those who were not captured made their way to Sorel; for some, it took three days. Briefly, Sullivan considered making a stand at Sorel. However, with smallpox cases, desertions, and the threat of the British fleet approaching, Sullivan decided it was better to leave.

On their way out of the province, the Patriots attempted to burn Montreal and destroyed boats on Lake Champlain that might have been of use to the British.

JUN 8, 1776 — American Major General Charles Lee arrived in Charleston with two thousand Continental soldiers from Virginia and North Carolina.

JUN 11, 1776 — Congress appointed a committee of five to draft a declaration of independence, anticipating the Lee Resolution's passage. The Declaration of Independence would serve as the formal document that announced and explained the Lee Resolution. The members were John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman.

JUN 12, 1776 — Congress created the Board of War. Originally, the Board of War was a standing committee. The committee was charged with oversight of ordinance and military stores.

JUN 13, 1776 — American Brigadier General Benedict Arnold wrote to Brigadier General John Sullivan, advising him to leave Canada while he still had an Army.



The Bell Ringer

page 16

It Happened 250 Years Ago

JUN 14, 1776 — British Lieutenant Generals Clinton and Cornwallis arrived at the Long Island camp. The next day, they were joined by troops from five transports. Over the following three days, ten guns and three thousand additional troops were unloaded onto the island.

JUN 14, 1776 — Early in the day, Carleton boarded the transport *Rousseau* at Trois-Rivières and ordered the boat to proceed westward, aiming to crush the American invaders once and for all. Accompanying him were ten thousand regulars, Canadians, and Indians, spread across more than sixty vessels and walking along the shoreline.

JUN 15, 1776 — At 7:00 p.m., Brigadier General Benedict Arnold and 300 Continentals left Montreal on eleven bateaux.

JUN 16, 1776 — The American privateer *Polly*, commanded by Capt. Francis Morgan attempted to navigate through British ships and enter Charleston Harbor. The *Polly* was carrying a valuable cargo of 300 barrels of gunpowder, 20 chests of cartridges, several hundred stands of arms, 90 barrels of rum, sugar, and gin from St. Eustacia.

The *Polly* ran aground near Stono Creek, and that night, the Patriots scuttled and abandoned her. The British ship *Bristol* sent eight boats, under the command of Lt. Molloy, to investigate and attempt to refloat the *Polly*. However, with five feet of water in her hold, they deemed it impossible. Consequently, they set her on fire, and she blew up.

JUN 17, 1776 — A Loyalist counterfeiter under arrest revealed that two members of Washington's personal security detachment, Thomas Hickey and Michael Lynch, were involved in a plot to sabotage the Continental Army. The investigative dragnet soon ensnared New York's mayor, David Mathews, who admitted funneling money from Royal Governor William Tryon to arm British sympathizers. This plot, later revealed to include George Washington's kidnapping or assassination, was foiled by the Committee for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies, led by John Jay.

JUN 17, 1776 — Generals Sullivan and Arnold reunited in St. Johns. Soldiers pried more than two tons of lead from the roof of a large house to melt into musket balls.

JUN 17, 1776 — British Lt. General Henry Clinton's plan to wade across the channel from Long Island to Sullivan's Island hit a snag. The water was seven feet deep, making it too deep to wade across, even without enemy fire.

JUN 18, 1776 — General Arnold held a war council, agreeing to abandon St. Johns and move twelve miles south to the small island of Île aux Noix at the mouth of Lake Champlain. The island measured one mile long and a quarter mile wide. Later that day, St. Johns was burned as the Continentals headed south. Simultaneously, Arnold rode north on reconnaissance, discovering three companies of British infantry about two miles from St. Johns.

Two burial pits were dug on the island. One was on the eastern half, where the New England and New York troops bivouacked, and the other on the western side, where the New Jersey and Pennsylvania troops bivouacked. Many of the deceased troops were placed in the pits without any record of their identities.

JUN 18 - 25, 1776 — Officially known as the Provincial Conference of Committees of the Province of Pennsylvania, it was a bit of a mouthful. One hundred and three delegates were appointed, with ninety-seven showing up to address issues related to Pennsylvania's support for independence. They met their objectives by doing the following.

- Declared that Pennsylvania was independent from Great Britain.
- Organized elections to select delegates to a Pennsylvania constitutional convention.
- Mobilized the Pennsylvania militia to fight in the American Revolutionary War.



The Bell Ringer

page 17

It Happened 250 Years Ago

JUN 20, 1776 — British Commodore Peter Parker brought ten warships across a tricky sandbar and into Charleston Harbor. The 270 guns of the British fleet had little impact on Fort Moultrie because the palmetto logs it was made of were soft. The cannonballs were absorbed by the logs. The fort's defenders, however, had better luck, as many of their cannonballs found their targets and inflicted damage. Several ships ran aground, and the British ship *Acteon* was so badly damaged that it was burned to prevent capture.

JUN 25, 1776 — British troop ships landed off Sandy Hook, New Jersey, within ten miles of Staten Island. By the end of August, the British had assembled the largest force they had ever had at one time during the Revolution. Lt. General William Howe led the first contingent of 130 ships, carrying 9,000 troops from Halifax, Nova Scotia. Over the next two weeks, he was followed by his brother, Vice Admiral William "Black Dick" Howe, with 13,000 troops and 150 ships; Sir Peter Parker with 3,000 men from South Carolina; and Commodore William Hotham from England, transporting 1,000 Guards and 7,800 German troops under Philip von Heister. By the time the entire British expeditionary force was assembled, it numbered 32,625 soldiers, 10,000 sailors, 2,000 marines, and 400 transports.

JUN 25 1776 — Île aux Noix was abandoned by the Americans as they began a one-hundred-mile journey down Lake Champlain and along the shores towards Crown Point. Since the fall of 1775, twelve thousand troops had marched into Canada. Although the numbers are imprecise, fewer than 9,000 are believed to have marched back.

JUN 27, 1776 — The Patriot force, commanded by South Carolina militia Colonel William Moultrie, consisted of about 430 Continental soldiers and militia from North Carolina and Virginia. Recognizing Sullivan's Island's strategic location at the entrance of Charleston Harbor, Moultrie decided it was an ideal site for a fort. Construction began in March 1776.

Fort Sullivan was square-shaped and constructed primarily of palmetto tree logs, sand, and wooden platforms. The palmetto logs formed two walls, sixteen feet apart, with the space between them filled with sand. Wooden platforms were placed on the sand and behind the walls.

The fort was protected by 21 cannons, consisting of seven 9-pounders, nine 12-pounders, and five 18-pounders. Major General Charles Lee arrived shortly after the British appeared outside Charleston Harbor. Believing the fort should be demolished, Lee was angered when Moultrie employed delaying tactics to avoid its destruction. On June 27, Lee decided to replace Moultrie, but because the battle began the next day, the replacement did not take place in time.

JUN 28, 1776 — The *Declaration of Independence* was presented to Congress for debate. Before its presentation, Franklin and Adams recommended only one change: Franklin suggested revising, "*We hold these truths to be sacred and undeniable*" to "*We hold these truths to be self-evident...*" Over the next few days, Congress made 85 additional changes, revising or deleting more than twenty percent of the document. The largest section, a twenty-seven-point indictment of the British government, remained largely intact. However, a 168-word section pertaining to the slave trade and the Anglo-Black alliance was reduced to seven words.

JUN 28, 1776 - At 9 a.m., one of the twenty Royal Navy ships fired a cannon, signaling the start of the attack. By 10 a.m., nine warships were anchored broadside to the fort. Both the British and Patriots opened fire simultaneously. Due to a powder shortage, the Patriots fired fewer shots but with greater accuracy and effect.

British Lt. General Henry Clinton attempted to use longboats and two sloops to cross to the north end of Sullivan's Island. His effort was thwarted when the Patriots struck his force with grapeshot and musket fire. Among those with Clinton was a law school dropout, Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton.

The British sent three frigates to attack the fort's main firing platform and block a possible retreat route. All three ships grounded on an uncharted sandbar, failing to reach their planned position.



The Bell Ringer

page 18

It Happened 250 Years Ago

Moultrie focused his efforts on two of the larger man-of-war ships. Chain shot destroyed most of the rigging of one of the ships, as well as much of the masts. Commodore Peter Parker sustained wounds to his thigh and knee.

There is a reason the flag of South Carolina features a palmetto tree. The English bombardment had little effect due to the sponge-like qualities of the palmetto tree logs from which Fort Moultrie was constructed. Unlike other logs that would shatter upon impact, the palmetto logs absorbed the cannonballs.

The cannon exchange continued until about 9 p.m., when darkness forced the British to move out of range. Over a nine-hour period, nine British warships fired more than twelve thousand cannonballs and exploding shells at Fort Moultrie, averaging more than one every three seconds. When it was over, the British reported 195 casualties, while the Patriots reported 37. Parker's flagship, the *Bristol*, was hit at least 70 times during the day-long exchange. The fighting was finally over.

JUN 28, 1776 — Continental Sergeant Thomas Hickey was executed by hanging in New York City in front of 20,000 people. He was a member of Washington's Life Guard. While in jail for passing counterfeit money, he told a fellow inmate about a conspiracy he was involved in.

There were many rumors about the plan. It was alleged that Hickey and his co-conspirators intended to kidnap and assassinate Washington and his officers, and blow up ammunition magazines. Hickey was the only conspirator court-martialed and was found guilty of mutiny and sedition. He became the first person executed by the Continental Army for mutiny and sedition. He wouldn't be the last.

JUN 29, 1776 — Signals from Staten Island indicated the British fleet had been spotted. That first day, 45 British ships dropped anchor. Within a week, 130 ships were off Staten Island, all under the command of Vice Admiral Richard Howe. They carried 32,000 soldiers and 1,200 cannons.

By the time the British arrived in New York, the civilian population had drastically declined. Before the war, the city was home to twenty-seven thousand people. When the British finally arrived, only around five thousand remained.

JUN 29, 1776 — Battle of Turtle Gut Inlet

This was an early victory for the Continental Navy and the future "Father of the American Navy", Captain John Barry. The battle resulted in the first American casualty of the war in New Jersey, Lt. Richard Wickes.

The British Navy blockaded the Delaware Bay with a fleet armed with over 240 cannons to prevent supplies from reaching Philadelphia. In response, the Americans placed chevaux de frise in the shipping channel.

Earlier in June, the American privateer *Nancy* was loaded with gunpowder and other supplies in the Caribbean, destined for Philadelphia. By mid-June, John Barry, captain of the fourteen-gun Continental Navy vessel *Lexington*, was alerted that the *Nancy* was en route and would need protection. The *Nancy* had a crew of just eleven and only six cannons. Two other vessels, the eight-gun *Wasp* and the eighteen-gun *Reprisal*, soon joined Barry. They all headed for Cape May. The British blockade force included the 28-gun *Liverpool*, the 32-gun *Orpheus*, and the 16-gun *Kingfisher*.

Late in the day of June 28, the British spotted the *Nancy*, sparking a chase. Captain Barry on the *Lexington* received a message via flag code from a lookout on Cape May indicating that the *Nancy* needed help.

In the early hours of June 29, the British blocked the *Nancy* from entering the Delaware Bay. In response, *Nancy* headed for Turtle Gut Inlet. Due to heavy fog, the *Nancy* soon ran aground, while the British ships stayed in deeper water.

While the British attempted to shell the *Nancy*, Captain Barry returned fire and began offloading the ship. *Nancy's* cargo, especially the gunpowder, was placed on longboats and ferried to shore. Local residents helped unload the boats and secure the cargo behind the dunes.



The Bell Ringer

page 19

It Happened 250 Years Ago

MAY 31, 1776 — Lt General Henry Clinton and his army set sail for Charleston, South Carolina. His armada consisted of fifty ships.



It's time to party. These Compatriots are celebrating a birthday during the next month.

July 1 – Randal Allen
July 3 – Robert Lanier
July 8 – Mark Dunaway
July 10 – Christopher Leffler
July 11 – Steven Harper
July 12 – Ira McCollum
July 13 – Don LaJoie
July 18 – Laurence Campbell
July 19 – Charles Daneen
July 20 – Frederic Gaines, Jr.
July 20 – John Kaster
July 20 – Joshua Rapp
July 20 – Steven Mill
July 20 – Sean Silvernail

July 22 – Ryan Pittendreigh
July 29 – Gary Smith
July 29 – James Cardinal
July 31 – Gilmore Daniel



The Bell Ringer

page 20

Here is an organization for the Ladies of our Chapter



Ladies Auxiliary of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (LAFSSAR) is a nonprofit association of women organized to assist, support and further the objectives of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (FLSSAR) - promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations. At the state level, we proudly support our FLSSAR Compatriots by encouraging SAR membership and by raising funds to further the Society's objectives.

The Auxiliary consists of members from all over the state. We host a luncheon meeting twice yearly (Spring and Fall) during the Florida SAR Board of Managers (BOM) meetings, and usually have speakers and other small service projects of interest. Fundraising activities during BOM weekends usually include drawings for baskets and silent auction items donated by SAR chapters or members. Some members wear Revolutionary era clothing to SAR events and in support of SAR color guard activities.

Members are invited to attend the National SAR Spring and Fall Leadership meetings in Louisville, KY and the annual National Congress held each summer in various locations. Special events are also planned at each Congress for the Auxiliary members. We encourage our members to do whatever they can to help with their local SAR Chapter activities. The auxiliary members can help with the youth programs, service projects, grave markings, chapter banquets, fund-raisers, school programs, etc.

Membership Highlights:

- ☛ \$10 annual dues
- ☛ Automatic membership in the National Ladies Auxiliary SAR without additional dues
- ☛ Membership and fundraising efforts support important Florida and National SAR projects
- ☛ Dual and out-of-state members are welcome
- ☛ No meeting attendance requirements
- ☛ No Revolutionary Period lineage requirements
- ☛ No age limit
- ☛ Entitled to wear the official Florida and National Ladies Auxiliary SAR pins
- ☛ Opportunities to earn certain SAR medals and awards for service to the Society
- ☛ Fun and friendships!

Scan for Membership
Application



SAR Ladies Auxiliary History:

1984: The first Ladies Auxiliary of the Sons of the American Revolution was founded in California

1998: The Ladies Auxiliary of Florida was organized

2003: The National Ladies Auxiliary of the Sons of the American Revolution was formed

Today the Florida Ladies Auxiliary is among 24 state organizations in Alabama, California, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin and a group of members at large who live in States without a Ladies Auxiliary.

If you are interest contact Kathy Markoe at daydreamr613@aol.com