

HISTORY OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE FLORIDA SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

At the September FLSSAR BOM, 1998, James E. Wilson, then President of the Brevard Chapter suggested the formation of a Ladies Auxiliary. FLSSAR President Edward Sullivan appointed Jim chairman of a committee to investigate the possibility. Carl Hoffmann, President General 1997-1998, volunteered to serve with Jim on the committee as he was instrumental in getting NSSAR Bylaw #28 passed which provides for the organization of Ladies Auxiliaries at State or Chapter level. Jim contacted members of the California Ladies Auxiliary and received more information.

Jim conducted a survey of the wives of the members of the Brevard Chapter and determined there was an interest in organizing a Ladies Auxiliary. On October 5, 1998, interested ladies were invited to his home to discuss and organize an Auxiliary. The meeting was attended by Mildred Wilson, Celia Roberts, Betty Tipton, Jean Buchanan, and SAR members Joseph Tipton and Jim Wilson.

Bylaws, prepared by Jim based on those of the California Auxiliary, were discussed, and accepted by those present. The purpose of the organization was stated: 1) to maintain a nonprofit association of women interested in the objectives and activities of the Florida Society, Sons of the American Revolution, 2) to stimulate greater interest in and support of FLSSAR, 3) to assist the FLSSAR in the promotion of membership and in furthering the objectives and patriotic activities of the Society, and 4) to provide educational activities for the wives, and other interested relatives of the FLSSAR members.

The organizing officers were: President, Mrs. James Wilson (Millie); 1st Vice President, Mrs. Wayne Wilson (Ella Marie); 2nd Vice President, Mrs. John Dibble (Beverly); Secretary/Registrar, Mrs. Joseph Tipton (Betty); Treasurer, Mrs. Reid Bailey (Melba); and Parliamentarian, Mrs. Donald Buchanan (Jean).

Membership in the Auxiliary was open to any female relative, by blood or by marriage, of an SAR member in good standing, including widows of deceased members -who were in good standing at the time of their deaths. Lineage to the Revolutionary Period was not required.

The Brevard ladies met monthly immediately prior to the Chapter luncheon meetings. They helped decorate tables for the SAR meetings, contributed door prizes, and helped with the George Washington's Birthday Ball. Some of the members also participated in parades on Patriot's Day and St. Patrick's Day. They raised money for a Brevard Booster Club, which was later turned over to the Brevard Chapter.

At the FLSSAR BOM in Ft. Lauderdale in April, 1999, a change in the FLSSAR Bylaws was approved to allow a Ladies Auxiliary of FLSSAR, primarily due to the efforts of Jim Wilson and Carl Hoffmann, and membership began to expand in all areas of the state. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (LAFLSSAR) was registered with the State of Florida in Tallahassee on July 30, 1999, as a nonprofit organization. LAFLSSAR has adopted a silhouette of Abigail Adams as our identifying emblem, used on our stationery, membership pins, etc. This is different from either California or Ohio.