

EMPIRE PATRIOT

Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Preserving the Past, Forming the Future

Vol. 15 Issue 2: October – December 2016

Fall Issue



Duane Booth

President's Message

Greetings Compatriots:

Our November meeting was hosted by the Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter at the Pegasus Restaurant in Coxsackie. Items addressed included the approval of our 2017 budget. We heard a wonderful presentation by Ms. Carol Gans about her light up a Teacher Program that provides solar powered lanterns for schools in Uganda. You, and / or your chapter, can sponsor a lantern for as little as \$50. If you are interested in donating to this project, contact me and I'll put you in touch with Carol.

We recognized WWII veteran Ralph P. Avery, a member of the Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter with a War Service Medal and certificate. Ralph served on a LCT (Landing Craft, Tank) on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Ralph, with the support and help of his loving wife Dot, told of his experience on that historic day. While he is proud and happy to have served our country he made it real clear to us that it was not an easy task. God Bless our military and our veterans for they endure and sacrifice much for our freedom.

I am happy to report that over 75 new membership applications were approved in 2016. As I write this message we are in the final stages of the 2017 dues collection so it is too early to say if we will have a net gain or loss in our membership. 2016 accomplishments at our society level included updating our Constitution and Bylaws & successfully hosting the Atlantic Middle States Conference. At the chapter level supporting community events, restoring graveyards and marking patriot graves seem to be popular chapter activities.

My very best to each of you for a healthy and successful 2017.

Fraternally,
Duane

Duane Booth
President
Empire State Society
Sons of the American Revolution

JOIN/RENEW SAR at www.sar.org/essar



Upcoming Events

March 25, 2017

ESS-SAR Board of Managers Meeting
hosted by Saratoga Battle Chapter
Pegasus Diner, West Coxsackie, NY

May 2017

ESS-SAR Board of Managers Meeting
hosted by Oriskany Chapter
Details TBA

* * *

November ESS-SAR Board of Managers Meeting

The Empire State Society November Board of Managers Meeting, hosted by the Columbia - Mid Hudson Chapter, was held on Saturday, November 5, 2016. at the Pegasus Diner in West Coxsackie, NY.



President Duane Booth opens the meeting.



Our host Tim Middlebrook, president of Columbia-Mid Hudson Chapter.



Some of the WODARS in attendance.

In remembrance of Veterans Day, the Empire State Society recognized a WWII Navy Veteran. Our honoree was Ralph Avery, a survivor of D Day. He and his wife Dorothy were our guests at lunch. Mr. Avery spoke to us about his experience during that historic battle.



Veteran Ralph Avery (r.) and wife.



Mr. Ralph Avery telling his story.



Mr. Ralph Avery, with his wife at his side, receives his SAR medal and certificate from pres. Duane Booth.

The Veterans Affairs Committee has been reorganized. Barry G. Brooks and Karl L. Danneil are co-Chairman, with Joseph A. Mancini and Eugene Erickson as members.

The VA committee is the liaison between State SAR and state veteran organizations such as the VFW, American Legion, and other Veteran Service Organizations.

The committee also communicates with the chapters, and can assist them in recognizing Veterans in the community as well as within the chapters, through presenting SAR war and military service medals and certificates.



(l - r) Barry Brooks, Joseph Mancini, Karl Danneil.

The new Constitution and Bylaws were approved at the May 14, 2016 meeting. Committee Members Ray Duncombe, Peter Goebel, and James Eagan were thanked for their work as well as Ray's wife Janice for her typing work. A copy of this very important document is now on our website at <http://www.ess-sar.org/>.

Our Guest Speaker was retired teacher Carol Gans of Hudson, NY. Ms. Gans is a volunteer with The Pallisa Project (an outgrowth of the Hudson Sister City Project Inc.) The Project assists teachers in Pallisa, east central Uganda. She talked about how through donations the city of 30,000 people now has a library. What teachers need now is electricity -- best supplied by solar powered individual lanterns.

Next Empire State Society SAR Board of Managers Meeting

The Saratoga Battle Chapter will host the next Empire State Society Board of Managers Meeting on March 25, 2017 at the Pegasus Diner, West Coxsackie, NY. Coffee and danish will be available at 10 AM during sign-in. The business meeting will begin at 11 AM with a buffet lunch following.

Please RSVP by March 21, 2017

The meeting is open to the general membership. Detailed information and reservation form is available at our website: www.ess-sar.org

ESS Announces New On-Line Mailing List Program

At the November BOM meeting the ESS Online Database and Technology committee announced that it has created a number of email distribution lists to make it easier to contact the various groups of Chapter officers, along with a list for the entire Board of Managers. Additionally, there are lists for the entire membership of each individual chapter. The goal is to make communication easier for the chapters.

Article by Erick Krueger, co-Chair ESS Online Database and Technology Committee,

Hello fellow compatriots,

For those of you who don't know me, I am a member of the Westchester-Putnam Chapter, a member of the ESS Board of Managers, and co-chair of the ESS Online Database and Technology committee.

That committee's charter over the past couple of years has been to revise and consolidate our Membership Databases into a single entity that is much more readily available to our Officers and membership. From there, we've been looking at ways to leverage technology for the Empire State Society SAR. Recently, one of the projects we undertook was to provide an automated mechanism to provide for email distribution lists for our Society. In this way, we are leveraging our membership database to maintain the list of members for each mailing list. If your email address changes and you let your chapter officers know, we can update our database, and it will automatically reflect in these email lists without any other intervention required.

This was presented to our ESS Board of Managers meeting earlier this month, and this email serves as an introduction to the new email list available to you.

There are a couple of ideas behind creating these lists:

- making it a bit easier on the State/Chapter officers to send information to our member compatriots
- perhaps even more importantly, making it easier on our chapters to communicate amongst themselves.

The list address for your chapter: i.e. compatriots@Valcour.ess-sar.org

This lists are not reserved strictly for the chapter officers, but anyone who is a member of the chapter may use it, and it will reach everyone within the chapter that we have a known email address. The idea here is that you just e-mail that one address and everyone receives it (you don't have to know their individual email addresses). I hope that this makes communications easier and hence fosters more communication and community within our Chapters and Society as a whole. I highly encourage using this to increase communication, but please keep in mind that this single email address represents every member in your chapter, and in some cases, that might be 100-200 people receiving your email. This isn't to discourage using the email lists, but just a reminder so please use it for topics that are SAR relevant or of interest to our SAR membership. I'm obligated to point out that there are, of course, topics which are not appropriate for these distribution lists; as a non-profit organization, we need to refrain from topics that could jeopardize that status, which include political discussions and the like.

A few of tidbits regarding using this email list:

1. You must send the emails from the email account that is registered with the SAR.
2. If you don't (#1), then it will be held pending a moderator approval to allow it to be sent to the group (you will be notified if this happens). This is to try and reduce outside spam hitting our email lists.
3. The moderator, right now, is me.

I hope you and your Chapter find this to be a useful tool. If you have questions or problems, definitely let us know and we'll see what we can do to resolve them.

Feel free to contact the Online Database and Technology Committee with any issue or questions you encounter:

Erick Krueger (erickkreuger@gmail.com)

Doug Gallant (dgallan1@nycap.rr.com)

Duane Booth (boots42@fairpoint.net)

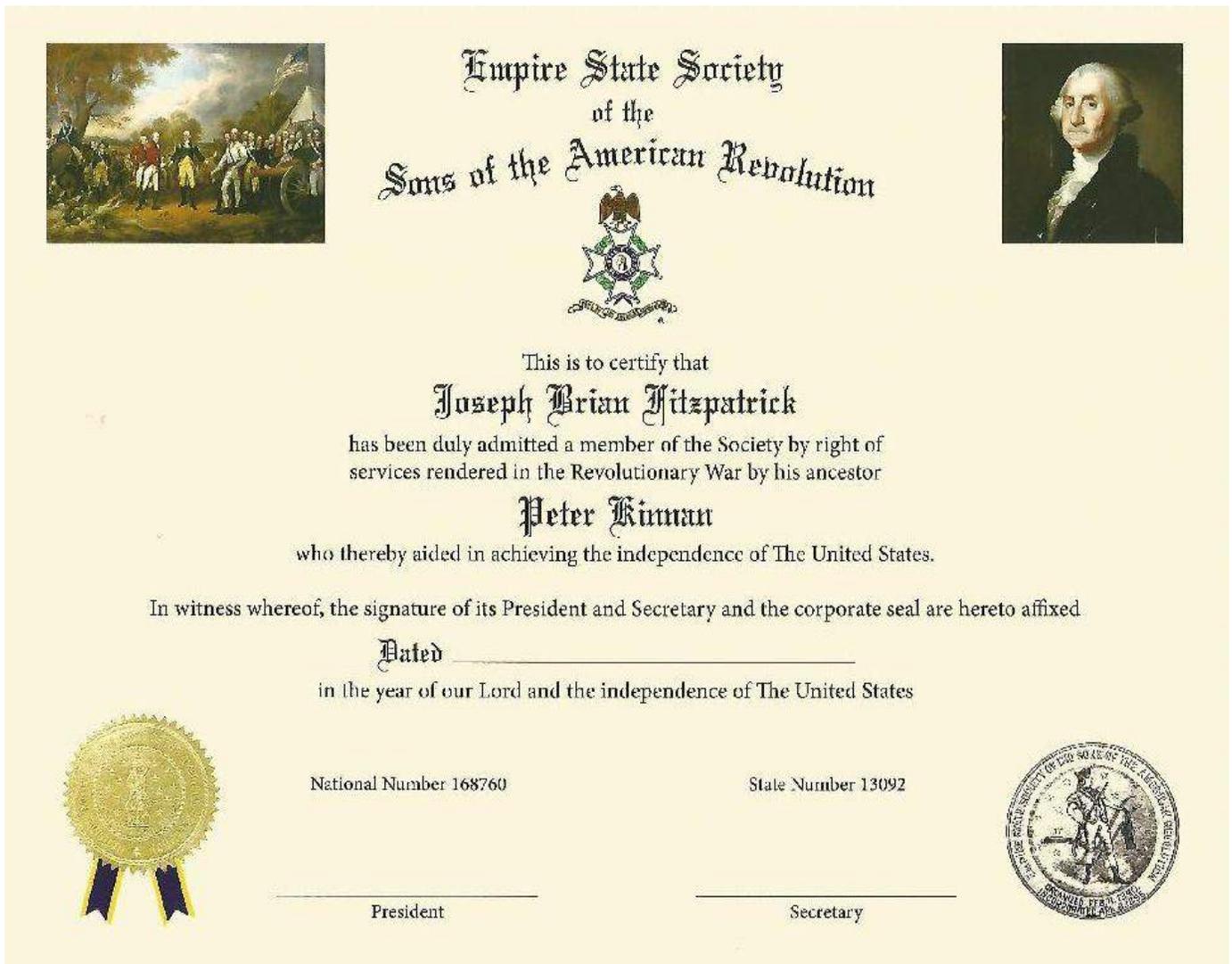
Dennis Booth (webmaster@ess-sar.org)

Empire State Society Offers Premium Patriot Certificates

To commemorate your ancestral patriot, the Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution has designed this beautiful certificate. Personalized with your name, your ancestors name, with your state and national member numbers. The certificate is custom printed using the highest quality professional equipment available.

Printed on premium quality heavy paper. A perfect reminder to you and your family who your revolutionary ancestor was. The price for this valuable family record document is very modest at \$20. Order yours today.

See a sample below.



The sample certificate is titled "Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution". It features a central crest with a shield, a plow, and a sheaf of wheat, topped with a crest. The text reads: "This is to certify that Joseph Brian Fitzpatrick has been duly admitted a member of the Society by right of services rendered in the Revolutionary War by his ancestor Peter Kinman who thereby aided in achieving the independence of The United States." Below this, it states "In witness whereof, the signature of its President and Secretary and the corporate seal are hereto affixed." The date is left blank, followed by "in the year of our Lord and the independence of The United States". At the bottom, it lists "National Number 168760" and "State Number 13092". There are two signature lines, one for the President and one for the Secretary. On the left side, there is a gold seal with a blue ribbon. On the right side, there is a circular seal of the Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution, featuring a figure on horseback and the text "EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION" and "FOUNDED 1889".

Empire State Society
of the
Sons of the American Revolution

This is to certify that
Joseph Brian Fitzpatrick
has been duly admitted a member of the Society by right of
services rendered in the Revolutionary War by his ancestor
Peter Kinman
who thereby aided in achieving the independence of The United States.

In witness whereof, the signature of its President and Secretary and the corporate seal are hereto affixed.

Dated _____
in the year of our Lord and the independence of The United States

National Number 168760 State Number 13092

President Secretary

To order, just print the following form and mail with your check as indicated.

Empire State Society SAR
Patriot Certificate

ORDER FORM

Please Print

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

National Number_____

State Number_____

Patriot Name_____

Chapter Name_____

Cost \$20.00 make check out to ESSAR

Send to : Schoharie L-S Chapter SAR
C/O Joseph B. Fitzpatrick
PO Box 193
Esperance, NY 12066

Chapter News

Capital Region Chapters

- **Columbia - Mid Hudson Chapter**



Members of the Chapter along with the Empire State President, participated in the Stoutenburgh Grave Marking Ceremony on Oct 1st in Hyde Park.

- **Saratoga Battle Chapter**

- On October 17th, 2016, the Saratoga Battle Chapter, SAR participated in the annual Surrender Day ceremonies at Fort Hardy Park in Schuylerville, New York. This annual event is sponsored by the Town of Saratoga and the Village of Schuylerville.
- November 12th, 2016 was the first time that a specific Veteran's Day event was held at the Saratoga National Historical Park. Michael Companion, the SBC 2nd Vice President and 2nd Continental Artillery member, read a list of American units engaged during the Battles. This was followed by a recognition of each branch of the Armed Forces including the Coast Guard. A veteran of each branch was asked to come forward and light a candle in a lantern representing his branch of service. The same was repeated for Gold Star and Blue Star mothers. Then there was a wreath laying at the SAR monument that consisted of members of the Saratoga Battle Chapter SAR, Saratoga Chapter DAR, and American Legion members from the Stillwater and Schuylerville Posts. A bagpiper provided by Saratoga Battle Chapter was utilized at different times.



SBC 2nd Vice President Mike Companion reading the list of American units engaged at the Battles of Saratoga



The Gold Star and Blue Star mothers along with an American Legion member standing with the lighted lanterns



Bagpiper Misha Murdoch

- **Valcour Battle Chapter** -- The December 13, 2016 meeting was the election of officers. The current officers were reelected for 2017. At the meeting Bob Arnold of the Education Committee reported that he is currently working with an area school to introduce a new educational program in partnership with the SAR. This spring the Valcour Battle Chapter will commemorate the tenth anniversary of its founding. The original charter ceremony took place on April 21, 2007.

- **Walloomsac Battle Chapter** -- On October 17, 2016 the Walloomsac Battle Chapter participated in the annual Surrender Day ceremonies at Fort Hardy Park in Schuylerville, New York. The event included 5th graders from Schuylerville Central and 4th graders from Salem Central who came to witness the reenactment of this historic event. Two of the Schuylerville students read essays they had written about the events leading up to surrender day and/or the people involved. Saratoga National Historical Park Ranger Eric Schnitzer and Town Historian Sean Kelleher recreated British General John Burgoyne sword surrender to American General Horatio Gates. Among the SAR attendees were Walloomsac Battle Chapter President John Sheaf, Saratoga Battle Chapter President Doug Gallant, Empire State Society President Duane Booth.



(l.-r) Walloomsac Battle Chapter Pres. John Sheaf, Saratoga Battle Chapter Pres. Doug Gallant, NSDAR Regent Heather Mabee, and NSDAR Regent Heather Maybee, and Empire State Society Pres. Duane Booth.

Central Region Chapters

- **Binghamton Chapter** -- Will hold its Annual Winter Lunch Meeting, a joint gathering with the Tuscarora Chapter NSDAR, at the Endwell United Methodist Church in Endwell, NY
- On August 27, 2016, the Binghamton Chapter hosted a ceremony honoring one of America's first veterans, Revolutionary War soldier William MacClure, by installing a memorial SAR marker at his Broome County grave in McClure, NY. The ceremony at the McClure United Methodist Church, was well attended, with around 75 people, including descendants of MacClure from Broome and Delaware Counties, as well as from Manhattan, Vermont and Texas. Descendant Dennis McClure, who now lives in VT, described how he uncovered the details of William's service over the course of over 50 years in order to establish him as an SAR Patriot, and our keynote speaker, the Honorable Clifford Crouch, NY State Assemblyman for the 122nd District, provided some remarks on the service of early military members.



Assemblyman Crouch (l.) posing with uniformed participants behind the newly dedicated marker



George Cummings, Descendant Dennis McClure (VT Society) and grandson observe the proceedings

Western Region Chapters

- **Finger Lakes Chapter** -- The Finger Lakes Chapter conducted a gravestone rededication ceremony in recognition of Revolutionary War veteran Zacheus Salyer on Sunday October 2, 2016, at Kings Cemetery, Ithaca NY.



- **Rochester Chapter** -- Photos of recent Chapter activities



Annual Holiday Dinner Meeting, Dec. 15th.



Wreath Laying Ceremony, War Memorial - Nov 11th.



Military Appreciation Night at Blue Cross Arena, Nov. 4th.



Daniel Richards Grave Dedication, Oct. 15.

Metropolitan Region Chapters

- **Stony Point Chapter -**
 - The Stony Point Chapter participated in the Veterans Day and the General Montgomery Day parades. The chapter's Christmas Brunch was held at the 76 House in Tappan, NY.
 - The Stony Point Chapter made a \$500 donation to the Palisades Parks Conservancy toward restoration of the Tower of Victory Building whose upper floor was damaged in the 1949 hurricane. Abraham Lincoln's son Tod Lincoln was instrumental in adding this impressive tower in the late 1860s at Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh.

History Corner

New York in the Revolution

The Battle of Minisink

The Battle of Minisink was a skirmish fought on July 22, 1779 at Minisink Ford (41°28'57"N 74°58'37"W), about fifteen miles northwest of Port Jervis, in Sullivan Co., NY. It was initiated by militia forces from

Orange county NY, commanded by Colonel John Hathorn of Warwick, together with a Sussex county, NJ, militia company led by Major Samuel Meeker. The action was in retaliation for the raiding and burning of Peenpack (now Port Jarvis), by Joseph Brant, a Mohawk Chief and British officer, and his band of Native American and Loyalist raiders.



Monument at site of the battle, now part of the Minisink Battleground County Park (photo wikipedia.org/wiki/BattleofMinisink)

The Minisink venture was ill-fated from the start. The Goshen NY militia force under Colonel Benjamin Tusten were over confident, and went to battle against his advise. Some of the Sussex, NJ militia under Colonel Hathorn deserted enroute. They were out numbered and short supplied for the battle.

The American plan was to ambush the British raiders. Unfortunately, shots were fired too soon, alerting the enemy, and costing the Americans the advantage of surprise. What followed was a heroic, though doomed battle by the Americans who fought for about four hours on a hill top surrounded by the enemy. Finally, out of ammunition, overrun by the Native/Loyalist force, the Americans fought hand to hand, but were defeated and massacred,. Forty-five Patriots died, including Colonel Tusten who refused to leave his wounded troops. Some Americans escaped and survived by hiding in the woods. Colonel Hathorn, although wounded, survived to write an official report of their defeat.

Today there is a park at the Battle of Minisink, dedicated to the brave men who fought and died in the only major Revolutionary War skirmish in the Upper Delaware Valley. The park is located off Route 97 on County Road 168 in the Town of Highland, NY

The following article was written by Compatriot William R. Poppino, Saratoga Battle Chapter SAR. Major John Poppino, his ancestor, was a farmer of French descent, a slim man about five feet tall. He reportedly also served in the French & Indian War. He died on March 7, 1828, about 100 years old.

The Battle of Minisink brought together the interactions of Col. John Hathorn of the Orange County Militia -- Fourth Regiment, Gen. George Washington, Dr. Benjamin Tusten, Major Gen. John Sullivan and Brig. Gen. James Clinton. enlisted man Benjamin Davis, and my relative, Major John Poppino, Jr. For the British, the Focus was on Col. Joseph Brant and his Mohawk Indians of the Iroquois Confederacy.

Col. John Hathorn's Fourth Regiment was formed in 1775 -- the largest of four in Orange County. Enlistments were from two weeks to eight months but the total was maintained at about 1700 men. Fort Washington on the NW corner of Manhattan Island was captured by Gen. William Howe on Nov. 16, 1776 so the presence of militia in nearby Orange County was timely.

Urged by the citizens of Goshen to meet the threat of Indians crossing the Minisink Ford on the Delaware River, some 120 men left on horseback. They were met by about 60 Mohawk Indians and 27 British Tories. A lone musket shot by an American spoiled any surprise and the battle was on -- for nearly four hours on July 22, 1779. There was hope that elements of Washington's Sullivan Campaign, to occupy western NY, would arrive to support. Fearing defeat, the men did not retreat, but scattered -- each on his own. Forty four Americans were massacred and their bones were not recovered for 43 years.

Born in 1743, Lt. Col. Benjamin Tusten of the Goshen Regiment was primarily a physician. Though urged to depart by Col. Hathorn, he died at Minisink Ford after refusing to leave the wounded. Hathorn suffered three wounds himself but managed to escape along with 26 others. Uninjured, Maj John Poppino lay down beside a log and covered himself with leaves for two days to be sure the Indians had gone. Later his crusty wife heard his familiar knock and said: "Come in John Poppino -- dead or alive".