



EMPIRE PATRIOT

Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Preserving the Past, Forming the Future

Vol. 21 Issue 4: April - June 2021

Spring Issue



Joseph B. Fitzpatrick, President

Message from the President

Brother Compatriots:

Thank you for electing me Empire State Society President for the next two years. I want to thank the Nominating Committee for their work. I know it is not an easy task locating Compatriots to serve on the State level. Thanks to the Syracuse Chapter for hosting the meeting. The food was excellent. A special thanks to State VP Compatriot David Powell for setting up and running the Empire State Society meetings this past year.

As we all know the President is just the head. He requires the help, support and guidance of the Board and former Presidents, if this Society is to move forward into the future. It was their dedication, knowledge and hard work that has made this Society what it is today.

It has also been an honor to serve with these Compatriots over the years, many whom have become good friends.

During my term of office I intend to attend at least one meeting of each of our chapters. I will be sending a request for information when chapters will be holding their meetings.

I am also requesting Presidents reach out to their membership in an attempt to have younger members serve on the different Boards and positions, not only at the Chapter level, but also the State. We need these members to become active, otherwise the NSSAR along with its Societies and Chapters will cease to exist.

Stay safe,

Joseph B. Fitzpatrick, President
Empire State Society, SAR



Upcoming Event

September 11, 2021
ESS-SAR Board of Managers Meeting

hosted by the Walloomsac Battle Chapter, at the Pegasus Restaurant in Cossack, NY.

September 19, 2021
Annual Wreath Laying at Saratoga National Historical Park

conducted by the Saratoga Battle Chapter

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JOIN/RENEW SAR at www.sar.org/find-your-chapter/NY

Empire State Society Annual Meeting

A hybrid Empire State Society Annual Meeting was held on May 22, 2021 at the Half-Shire Historical Society in Richland, NY. The event was hosted by the Syracuse Chapter. Outgoing President Gydesen presented a number of awards and certificates of appreciation to members and a WOSAR. State President of the Children of American Revolution spoke and sold her fund raising pins. Compatriot Joseph B. Fitzpatrick was elected ESS-SAR president for a two year term.



Opening of the Annual Meeting -- President George Gydesen presiding

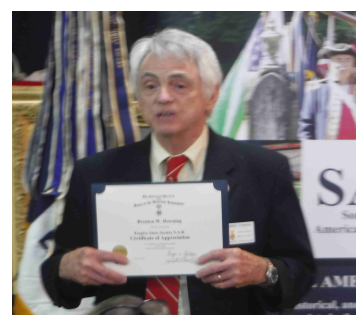
Gydesen concluded his presidency by presenting several Certificates of Appreciation.



ESS Chancellor Raymor B. Duncombe (rt.).



Karl Danneil (rt.), co-chair Veterans Affairs Committee.



Brenton W. Downing, (rt.) chair ROTC and JROTC Committee.



Eleanor Morris (rt.) (WOSAR Karl Danneil) co-editor of the ESS-SAR *Empire Patriot*.



Duane Booth, (rt.) former ESS-SAR president.



Timothy S. Middlebrook, (rt.) Executive Committee.



Former ESS-SAR president Duane Booth (7th from rt.) installs new officers and board members.

Guest speaker was C.A.R. State Society President Elizabeth Oxaal.



C.A.R. State Society President Elizabeth Oxaal displays her fund raising pin.



After the installation of Pres. Fitzpatrick (l.) he presented former President George A. Gydesen (rt.) his National Past State President Medal and Certificate.

Next ESS Meeting Scheduled for September

The Walloomsac Battle Chapter will host the Empire State Society Board of Managers Meeting on September 11, 2021 at the Pegasus Restaurant in Cossack, 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.

Reservation must be received no later than Sept 8, 2021.

The reservation form follows.

Pegasus Restaurant

10885 Route 9W - Cossackie, NY 12051

Phone 518-731-1620

(From the South: NYS Thruway to Catskill Exit 21, take Rt. 23 east to Rt. 9W, go north 8 miles, on left)

(From the North: NYS Thruway to Exit 21B, take Rt. 9W south for 5 miles, on right))

Motels available in Cossackie, NY order online for better rates

Holiday Express - one tenth of a mile north off Exit 21B on 9W- Phone 518-719-1999

Best Western – two tenths of a mile south off Exit 21B on 9W- Phone 518-731-8100

ESSSAR BOM MEETING SATURDAY- September 11, 2021

Hosted by

Walloomsac Battle Chapter, SAR

COST OF BUFFET IS \$25.00

10:00 AM SIGN IN

COFFEE & DANISH until 11:00 AM

GENERAL MEETING 11:00 AM

Buffet Menu

Chicken Marsala

Roast Beef with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy

Mixed Veggies, Tossed Green Salad, rolls & butter.

Dessert- Apple Pie al a mode

Includes Coffee, Tea, Milk, Tax and Gratuity

Any wine, beer or alcohol drinks or extras, pay cash to the Server.

\$5.00 EXTRA CHARGE AT DOOR FOR UNSCHEDULED ARRIVALS

FOR NON-EATING ATTENDEES - \$5.00 CHARGE FOR USE OF FACILITY

Name _____ Chapter _____

Name _____ Chapter _____

Name _____ Chapter _____

Buffet \$25.00 _____ Using Facility only \$5.00 _____

Detach, fill in names / chapter; make check payable to “Walloomsac Battle Chapter, SAR”.

Mail to: Duane Booth – PO Box 836, New Lebanon, NY 12125-0836 - Please, no later Sept. 08, 2021

The ESS-SAR in Action

by Joseph Fitzpatrick

May 22nd the Empire State Society Board of Officers for 2021-2022 were installed by former ESSAR State President Duane Booth.

I attended the Syracuse Chapter's meeting June 26th with VP David Powel I had the honor of meeting several members who were in attendance.

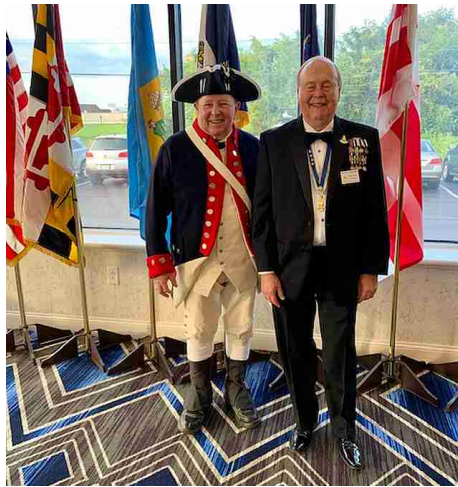
July 11th attended the Oriskany Chapter meeting at Fort Klock and present a check from the ESSAR to the Fort Klock Restoration Committee.

July 17th attended the grave dedication ceremony for Patriot Nicholas Warner with Schoharie Leather Stocking Chapter President Joseph Sicluna. The ceremony was held in Cobleskill NY by the DAR Christian Brown Chapter.

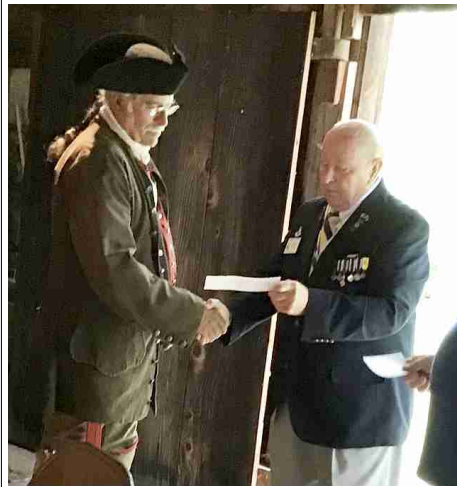
August 14th I attended the Atlantic Middle States Conference at Baltimore Maryland and gave the ESS-SAR yearly report. I will speak more about this at our meeting on September 11th



Former ESS-SAR State President Duane Booth (3rd rt.). installs the Empire State Society Board of Officers for 2021-2022.



AMS Convention – Pres. Fitzpatrick (l.), Chancelor Duncon Good.(rt.).



Pres. Fitzpatrick (rt.) presents check to the Fort Klock Restoration Committee.



Wreath placement by Pres. Fitzpatrick at Bennington Dedication.



Pres. Fitzpatrick (2nd rt) at the grave dedication ceremony for Patriot Nicholas Warner with Schoharie Leather Stocking Chapter Pres. Joseph Sicluna (rt.).



Members of the DAR Christian Brown Chapter held the ceremony for the Warner grave dedication.



Oriskany Chapter meeting issuing the SAR oath of membership to the Riley family.

Get Your ESS-SAR Patriot Certificate

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. When you purchase a certificate, five dollars of the purchase price is donated to your chapter.

This beautiful heirloom certificate was designed by compatriot Joseph B. Fitzpatrick, President of the Leather Stocking Chapter, and Vice President of the Capital Region, ESSAR. Please use the following form to order your Patriot Certificate today.

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 ESSSAR

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** – The chapter held a grave marking on June 12, 2021 for Capt. George Pepperrell in Highland Falls, NY. The chapter also held a Pomeroy Sign unveiling.



Capt. George Pepperrell grave marking.



Pomeroy Sign unveiling.



Chapter members, Red Hook Mayor, and Dutchess County Executive.

- **Saratoga Battle Chapter** – The Saratoga Battle Chapter, the Walloomsac Battle Chapter, and their Color Guards participated in a ceremony conducted by The General Peter Gansevoort Chapter, NSDAR to mark the grave of the African-American patriot Cato Freedom (Freeman) at the Butternut Valley Cemetery in Burlington, Otsego Co., New York on July 24, 2021. He was a Private in the 3rd Connecticut Continental Regiment.



Color Guard at Cato Freeman grave dedication.



Attendees at the ceremony conducted for the grave marking of patriot Cato Freedom.



GPG Chapter member, Mrs. Joyce Armstrong, Freedom's descendant.

- **Walloomsac Battle Chapter**

- The chapter co-sponsored the Annual Battle of Bennington Commemoration, on August 16, 2021.
- The chapter is sponsoring the Fall ESS-SAR Board of Managers Meeting on September.



Students at the Commemoration

Central Region

- **Binghamton Chapter** – On September 28th. 2021 the chapter will celebrate the 242nd anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Newtown, which took place on September 29, 1779.
- **Oriskany Battle Chapter** – Descendants of Sabin Tabin Johnson gathered at his grave site on May 31, 2021.



Descendants at the Johnson grave site with chapter Pres. George Gydesen (rt.).



Decorating the Sabin Tabor Johnson grave site.



Final Musket volley for Sabin Tabor Johnson.

- **Syracuse Chapter** – Photos from some chapter events.



Bob Gang at Rome Cemetery Dedication.



Girl Scouts examine Bob Gang's hat.

- **Thousand Islands Chapter** – A grave stone and some of the Pomeroy signs placed by the chapter.



A new VA sign for Nathaniel Plumb Sr., Brownsville Cemetery.



Brookside Cemetery.



Kelsey Brice Cemetery.



Old Theresa Cemetery.



Evergreen Cemetery.



Carprnter Cemetery.



Carpenter Cemetery.



ESS-SAR member stands to honor all Veterans.

Metropolitan Region

- **Stony Point Chapter** – Congratulations to chapter Compatriot Bob Marino, a proud father. Bob's son SFC Robert Marino was the US Army military Drummer at the Super Bowl.



SFC Robert Marino (rt.)

Western Region

- **Finger Lakes Chapter** – The chapter held an outdoor meeting on June 5, 2021 at Stewart Park, Ithaca, NY.
- **Rochester Chapter** – On September 11, 2021 the chapter will hold a meeting and Groveland Ambuscade Sign and Pavilion Dedication in Groveland.

Who's News

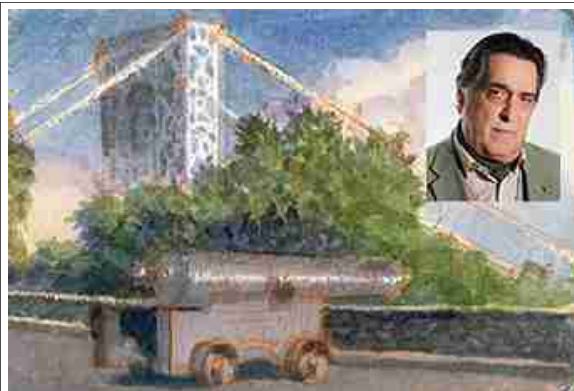


Photo from Handel Kron 2021 News pic.

Compatriot James Lancel McElhinney, Saratoga Battle Chapter, has been invited to deliver this year's Handel-Kron Lecture for the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College, at 7:00 pm EDT on Wednesday, September 29, 2021. Subject: Discovering the Hudson Anew: Exploring History and the Environment from an Artist's Perspective.

It's a free virtual event, open to the public. Pre-registration is required. A Zoom link will be sent to registrants the day of the event. Register at:

www.maristconnect.marist.edu/handelkrom2021

History Corner

New York in the Revolution

Van Schaick Mansion, Strategic Headquarters for the Battle of Saratoga

excerpted from <http://www.spindlecreek.net/V.S.Mansion>

Nearly one third of all the battles fought during the American Revolution took place in New York State. The most significant of these battles was the battle of Saratoga fought and won in October 1777. It is called the turning point of the Revolution.

The American strategy for defending upstate New York against the British was formulated at the Van Schaick Mansion on what is now Van Schaick Island, in Cohoes, NY.

The war unfolded in the summer of 1777 when British Gen. Burgoyne began heading south along the Hudson River,



Photo from the Van Schaick Mansion Project



Plaque at the Van Schaick Mansion.

capturing Ft. Ticonderoga and Ft. William Henry. In August 1777 American Gen. Schuyler retreated from Fort Edward to Van Schaick Island with 5000 poorly equipped and hungry men. But in their retreat they destroyed bridges and obstructed roads behind them to delay Burgoyne. The island was an ideal military stronghold, due to its location and geographic position along the Hudson River between New York City and Canada. It was there that Schuyler established the headquarters for officers at the Van Schaick mansion.

Schuyler's initial strategy was to engage Burgoyne's men at the first ford of the Mohawk on Van Hoevers (Havers) Island (now Peebles Island), and earthen fortifications were constructed there. Later, a site further up the Hudson at Bemis Heights was selected for the confrontation by Generals Montgomery, Schuyler, Gates, Stark, Morgan, Gansevoort, St. Clair and Benedict Arnold, who planned what became the Battle of Saratoga, at the mansion.

General Burgoyne continued his path of destruction south along the Hudson River, bound for the Van Schaick Mansion. With summer passing and word spreading that the British and the Americans would have a great battle on Van Schaick Island, more troops arrived, from as far away as Maine to camp near the mansion and train, bringing the number to upwards of 8000 men.

Morale was boosted by the command of General Gates (who assumed command on August 15, 1777) and the victories at Bennington and Oriskany. Some of the troops would remain at the mansion site until October 1777, covering the rear forces of the Continental army and securing a fall-back position in case the battle with Burgoyne would compel a retreat.

On September 9, Gates knew that Burgoyne was close. To further throw the British off their plan, Gates moved his men off Van Schaick Island and onto the farmlands in Stillwater where the American troops turned the tide of the war with their victory in the Battle of Saratoga. It was said that Gen. Schuyler's military skill, and strategy formulated at the Van Schaick mansion, were key to this triumph.

The Van Schaick Mansion was named to the National Register of Historical Places in 1970, to the New York State Revolutionary War Heritage Trail in 2008, and in 2013 was named a member of the "NYS Paths to History" and is a historic monument. It is owned by the General Peter Gansevoort Chapter, NSDAR and is opened regularly to the public.

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Note from the Editor: If your chapter would like to have your stories, events and photos published in the *Empire Patriot* send your material to Editor Karl Danneil at kdanneil@fairpoint.net