



EMPIRE PATRIOT

Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Preserving the Past, Forming the Future

Vol. 18 Issue 1: July 2018 – September 2018

Summer Issue

President's Message



James Eagan

We Won!

I'm pleased to announce that our Empire State Society SAR won the Jersey Devil Award for having the most attendees that traveled the furthest at the 2018 Atlantic Middle States Conference in Newport News, VA.

The 2019 Atlantic Middle States Conference will be in Newark, DE.

The Fall Leadership and Trustees meeting was held in Louisville, KY, on September 27 through 29th. The second floor build out of the NSSAR headquarters is taking place and a cell tower is to be installed to generate revenue. The focus of President General Alter's term will be the areas of Communication, Membership Growth and Retention, Educational Outreach, Public Service Recognition, Veteran Recognition and Support, and Youth Awards & C.A.R. as published in the NSSAR magazine. The proposed By-Law change to let adopted children become members failed overwhelmingly.

Thank you to Vice President General P. Goebel for the report.

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



Upcoming Events

November 3, 2018

ESSAR Board of Managers Meeting
hosted by Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter
Coxsackie, NY

Saturday, March 2019

ESSAR Board of Managers Meeting
Date/Details TBA
hosted by Saratoga Battle Chapter

Saturday, May, 2019

Empire State SAR Annual Meeting
Date/Details TBD
hosted by the Oriskany Battle Chapter

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September ESSSAR Board of Managers Meeting



President John Eagan (l.) opens the meeting and Secretary Jonathan Goebel takes the minutes.

The Empire State Society Fall Board of Managers Meeting was held on Saturday, September 16, 2018 in Plattsburgh, NY. The Valcour Battle Chapter hosted the meeting at the Valcour Brewing Company in the renovated historic "Old Stone Barracks."

President Eagan announced that he will not be running for re-election. He appointed a nominating committee to select candidates for the upcoming vacancies for 2019-2021.

Awards

President Eagan presented two awards.

Secretary Jonathan Goebel received the NSSAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal for his work with the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA). Manager Thorn received his Supplemental Certificate.

Eagan recognized Manager Wayne Thornton for his American Red Cross award. Thornton had been presented the Clara Barton Volunteer Leadership Award by the ARC. See Who's News below for details.



Jonathan Goebel (rt.) receives his NSSAR medal



Thorn (rt.) receives his Supplemental Certificate.

Fall ESSAR Board of Managers Meeting

The Empire State Society will hold its next Board of Managers Meeting, hosted by the Columbia - Mid Hudson Chapter, on Saturday, November 3, 2018, in Cossackie NY. The meeting and buffet at the Pegasus Diner. Sign in, coffee and danish at 10 AM. The 11:00 A.M. business meeting will be followed by a buffet lunch.

Get Your 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. Order yours today.

See sample below.



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.

When you purchase a certificate, five dollars of the purchase price is donated to your chapter. Please use the following form to order your Patriot Certificate.

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

Who's News

What's happening with our members



Wayne G. Thorton, Registrar of the Finger Lakes Chapter.

Compatriot Wayne Thorton, Registrar of the Finger Lakes Chapter, and a ESS-SAR Western Region Manager, has been recognized by the American Red Cross for his outstanding support of their Southern Tier Chapter.



Red Cross Certificate

According to the *Ithaca Journal* newspaper, Thurston is a volunteer for the American Red Cross as a Disaster Action Team member, emergency preparedness volunteer and blood transport specialist.

Chapter News

Capital Region Chapters

- **Columbia-Mid Hudson Chapter --**
 - The chapter has 17 new members
 - Will host the November ESS-SAR Board of Managers Meeting
- **Saratoga Battle Chapter -**



(L-R) Christopher Oxaal, President Douglas Gallant, Treasurer David Flint, Registrar Tom Dunne, Tim Mabee and Nicholas Oxaal at the New Citizen Ceremony.

Once again this year the chapter celebrated Independence Day on at Saratoga National Historical Park with a Citizenship Ceremony and traditional reading of the Declaration of Independence. Twenty immigrants from countries all over the world became citizens of the United States of America.

This special event was organized by the Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, Children of the American Revolution, Friends of Saratoga Battlefield and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The League of Women Voters were on site with voter registration forms for anyone interested in registering.

- We participated in the 24th annual Turning Point Parade in Schuylerville, NY. on August 5th.
- The annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Saratoga Battlefield, was held on September 16th.
- We welcomed six new members, one transfer and one dual state member.
- In Memoriam -- our esteemed member Harry G. Taylor passed on at the age of 94.

- **Schoharie-Leatherstocking Chapter --**

- The Chapter participated in the Town of Charleston’s Memorial Parade.
- We attended the Historical Marker dedication ceremony with members of the Stone Arabia and the Tryon Militia.
- We are also assisting with the restoration of Christophel Ryn (Rhine) grave area.



Town of Charleston's Memorial Day Parade.



Tryon Militia firing salute at the Historical Marker dedication .



Schoharie - Leather Stocking chapter at Charleston Dedication Ceremony.

- **Stone Arabia Chapter --**

- Participated in the dedication ceremony for the Town of Charleston Historical Marker.
- Conducted a wreath laying at the grave of Colonel John Brown.

- **Valcour Battle Chapter --** The 2018 Battle of Valcour commemoration was held at Clinton Community College on Thursday October 11th.

- **Walloomsac Chapter --** Due to ill health president Sheaf has asked that someone accept his President position. The chapter will hold a meeting to see if it can continue.

Central Region Chapters

- **Oriskany Battle Chapter -**

- On September 30, 2018 the chapter joined with ESS-SAR president Jim Eagan, Thousand Island Chapter SAR; and DAR chapters James LeRay de Chaumont, and General William Floyd, in the grave marking for Ephraim Owen in the Old Glendale town of Martinsburg cemetery The ceremony included a dedication of a flagpole honoring Owens who served on Martha's Vineyard with the Massachusetts Militia.



(l-rt) Parks Honeywell, Thousand Island Chapter; George Gydesen; State President James Eagan; and Tom Foley at the grave marking of Ephraim Owen



Tom Foley(l.) and George Gydesen,(rt.) pay their respects at the grave site of patriot Ephraim Owen.

- The Oriskany Battle Chapter held a meeting, had a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolutionary War in Rome, NY, and had a wreath-laying ceremony at the Oriskany Battlefield.
- Chapter president George Gydesen presented a check to the Old Glendale cemetery to help with its upkeep.
- **Thousand Islands Chapter --**
 - Old Glendale Cemetery in Lewis County was the site of an event on September 30 to honor Ephraim Owen, a patriot who has recently been discovered to be buried there. Members Dan Ames, Bruce Coyne, Jim Lathan, George Gydesen and Parks Honeywell attended the dedication as well as ESSAR pres. Jim Eagan.
 - Annual meeting and awards -- The slate of officers presented to the membership for approval: Steven Guy was awarded the Chapter distinguished service award. Mary Erskine-Coyne, LeRay de Chaumont Chapter, NSDAR received the Lydia Darragh Medal for Outstanding Service to the Chapter

Metropolitan Region Chapters

- **Long Island Chapter --** The chapter contestant placed tenth in the national ROTC/JROTC contest.
- **Stony Point Chapter**
 - For the fifth year the chapter jointly sponsored the Rockland County High School History Conference for all advanced placement students in the county.
 - The chapter's Color Guard took part in several ceremonies, including the Army's Birthday celebration at West Point, the Memorial Day ceremonies in Stony Point, The Highland Falls/West Point July 4th. Parade, and the General Montgomery Parade in Montgomery, and Orange counties.
- **Westchester-Putnam Chapter --**
 - Purchased a Walk of Honor brick
 - Donated \$100 to the John Jay Society, C.A.R.
 - Has one new dual member, and two prospective members

Western Region Chapters

- **Buffalo Chapter --** Celebrated its 125th anniversary on October 14th
- **Newtown Battle Chapter --** With regret the chapter announced the passing of two of its members.
- **Rochester Chapter --**
 - Rochester chapter welcomed its 140th member.
 - The chapter held grave dedications for Samuel Lindsley, and Thomas Cooley, and a rededication for Sgt. David Bissell. (See Bissel's story in the History Corner)



Chapter members marching in.



Musket salute.



Thomas Cooley's grave (center stone)

- Other events included Brockport Tower Clock Dedication, July 18th, and Canandaigua 4th of July Parade.



Brockport Clock Tower in background.



Canandaigua July 4th parade.

History Corner

New York in the Revolution

Submitted by Michael Tunison, Rochester Chapter

The Rochester Chapter conducted a grave rededication ceremony for Sgt. Danneil Bissell (1754-1824) who served as a spy for Gen. George Washington. Sgt. Bissell is one of only a few soldiers to be honored with Washington's Badge of Merit, the Precursor of today's Purple Heart Medal.

Sgt Daniel Bissell, A Spy for George Washington

Sgt Bissell enlisted in the Connecticut Militia in July 1775, serving in Company 4 of the 8th Regiment commanded by Col. Jedediah Huntington. In April 1776, he reenlisted as a corporal in the 5th Connecticut Regiment of the Continental Line. He was in the Battles of White Plains, Trenton, and Monmouth, where he had a narrow escape when a musket ball grazed his cheek. He was promoted to sergeant in September 1777, while serving under the command of Captain David Humphrey, General Washington's Aide-de-Camp.

In the summer of 1781, while encamped near White Plains, Sgt. Bissell was entrusted with a dangerous mission. Under the direct orders of Gen Washington, Bissell posed as a deserter and spied behind British lines in New York City from August 14, 1781 to September 29, 1782. During this time he served in the British Infantry Corps.

Sgt. Bissell memorized everything he was able to find out and then made his way back to friendly lines where he was placed under arrest until Washington verified his story. He was able to furnish important information concerning British strength and fortifications, provided maps of the enemy's positions, and descriptions of two British forts, including placement of cannons.

On June 8, 1783, at Washington's headquarters in Newburgh, New York, Sgt. Bissell was honored for his exemplary service with a Badge of Merit, presented by Washington himself. Sadly, after he moved to Upstate New York, Bissell's Badge of Merit and accompanying certificate were destroyed in a house fire in 1813.

Daniel Bissell died August 21, 1824, and is buried in Allens Hill Cemetery, Town of Richmond, Ontario County, New York.



Sgt. Bissell's grave site with commemorative markers, the SAR marker is 2nd from right