



EMPIRE PATRIOT

Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Preserving the Past, Forming the Future

Vol. 20 Issue 4: July – September, 2020

Summer Issue



George Gydesen, President

Message from the President

We are pleased to announce the Empire State Society Board of Managers Meeting. It's September 19th, 2020, at 11:00 am.

A hearty "Huzzah" to VP Central Dave Powell and his Syracuse Chapter officers and members who are making this possible.

Our Patriot ancestors had initiative. They used every tool available to them. We, too, must be prudent but innovative, and rise to the challenge of the times. So, in view of the ongoing COVID-19 situation ESS-SAR has decided to hold our rescheduled Meeting in a new format. To facilitate participation, the event will be a hybrid one: a limited actual meeting combined with a virtual electronic one. A further explanation of the procedures is given in the registration details in this newsletter.

Your participation is important. We have a change to the ESS-SAR By Laws to be considered and voted upon. There are two proposals to be discussed.

Stay safe, keep all the safety procedure in place - protect yourself and your neighbors. But remember, no one gave our Patriot ancestors permission to start a Revolution, or to win it. Do what must be done. We are today's Patriots.

George Gydesen

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



Upcoming Event

September 19 2020 -
Board of Managers Meeting
hosted by the Syracuse Chapter at
the Half-Shire Historical Society,
Richland, NY

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ESS Annual Meeting Scheduled for September – New Format

Sept 2020

- **Saturday, Sept 19, 2020 - Empire State Society, SAR Annual Meeting**

The Syracuse Chapter will host the Empire State Society Board of Managers Meeting on Sept 2020 at the Half-Shire Historical Society in Richland, NY. Coffee and danish will be available at 10 AM during sign-in. The business meeting will begin at 11 AM with a served lunch following.

Important Notice about this Meeting:

This meeting will be presented by a 'HYBRID' method. The State President and other officers are attending live in person at the Half-Shire. A link will be provided for Managers and members unable to attend to participate on a virtual platform. The virtual attendees will be able to see the live meeting and will be able to speak to the live attendees. At present, a method for virtual attendees to vote is being researched.

Please review the Reservation form for additional detail.

Amendment to By Laws

In accordance with proper procedure the following motion is hereby published in the Empire Patriot newsletter and will be voted upon at the next Board of Managers meeting.

PROPOSED BY-LAWS AMENDMENT

Section X Quorums

1. Fifteen (old: Twenty-one) members of the Society shall constitute a quorum at its annual meeting or any special meeting of the Society.

Proposals to be Discussed

Proposal to Consider Virtual Meeting / Tele-Conference Meetings

The Covid-19 pandemic showed us that there is a need to consider updates to our bylaws so that we can hold virtual and / or teleconference Board of Manager meetings. Through temporary New York State legislation we can hold these types of meetings through December 31, 2021 and that makes the September 19th hybrid meeting possible. However, as the legislation is not permanent and the issue of non-physically attended meetings is important, a resolution will be made to allow us to amend the bylaws so that we can hold meetings in that manner. If the Board votes to accept the proposal either in its original format, or in an amended format, the affected bylaws changes will be considered at the 2021 annual meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

Proposal to Consider Establishing a ESS-SAR Award to Honor the Spirit of Patriotism

The Spirit of Patriotism – courage, initiative, and self sacrifice is as crucial to our time as it was to our forefathers. Today we face the peril of pandemic. We always face the short mindedness of governing bodies and activist groups who want to limit our freedoms and destroy our valued history. Let us recognize those chapters (and individuals) who most exemplify our founding principles by establishing an "Empire Patriot Spirit" award to honor and support them. See the Editorial for further information.

Reservation Form follows

*EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING – September 19, 2020*

Hosted by Syracuse Chapter
Half-Shire Historical Society
1100 County Rt 48 Richland, NY 13144
www.halfshire.org - Shawn Doyle - spdinpul@hotmail.com

NOTE: Meeting Reservations Needed by September 1, 2020

Lodging:

- 1) Tailwater Lodge in Altmar (big discount if you are a Hilton Rewards member)
- 2) Sanctuary Inn in Pulaski
- 3) Super 8 Hotel in Pulaski
- 4) If you prefer to be closer to Syracuse there are ten hotels off Carrier Circle at NYS Thruway Exit 35

Important Notice about this Meeting:

This meeting will be presented by a ‘HYBRID’ method. The State President and other officers are attending live in person at the Half-Shire.

A link will be provided for Managers and members who are unable to attend in person to be able to participate on a virtual platform. The virtual attendees will be able to see the live meeting and will be able to speak to the live attendees. At present, a method for virtual attendees to vote is being researched.

It is required that all officer and chapter reports be supplied to George Gydesen via email by Friday, September 10th so that they can be emailed to the Board before the meeting.

Proposals regarding two Bylaw changes are expected:

1. To reduce the annual meeting quorum from 21 to 15 members
2. To allow future virtual only meetings.

Schedule:

Socially distanced gathering with coffee, tea, pastry at 10 a.m. Meeting follows at 11 a.m.

Lunch to be served AFTER the business meeting.

Served Meal: Due to cautions around Covid-19, the lunch will be served to the table instead of the traditional buffet lunch. London Broil, roast chicken, herbed potatoes, seasoned shrimp, prosciutto wrapped asparagus, stewed carrots, tossed salad, homemade gingerbread, dessert, and drink.

Directions:

From the north: I-81 south to exit 36, Pulaski. Take a left at the top of off ramp. Travel 5 miles east on county Rte. 2; at the “T” in the center of Richland, turn left (north) and go about 500’—the building is on the right.

From the south: I-81 north to exit 36, Pulaski. Take a right at the top of off ramp. Travel one mile until the first left turn, cross River and go around the transfer station, turn right, on to Centerville Rd, then left on to Peck Rd. At the end of Peck Rd. turn right onto County Rte. 2 and enter Richland hamlet. Turn left at the “T” and building is 500’ on right.

(Reservations - RSVP By Sept 1, 2020 – Make Checks Payable to Syracuse Chapter SAR. If you have a meeting credit form the cancellation of the March meeting, you will still need to register!)

MAIL TO: Tom Henry 103 Kline Road Pennellville, NY 13132-3180

Email: Tom_henry@peoplepc.com

Name: _____ Lunch (\$25)
Name: _____ Lunch (\$25)

Questions?

David Powell, President, Syracuse Chapter,

dpowell@sytekconsultants.com

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

Activities during the shutdown



ESS George Gydesen and C.A.R. Senior State President Sara French.



Manager Tom Foley and Empire State Society George Gydesen attended Fort Klock opening Day on the 4th of July.



Empire State Society president attended a meeting with the Holland Patent chapter DAR and C.A.R. Senior State President Sara French. C.A.R. State President Geoff Cundall, ESSAR President George Gydesen, Holland Patent Chapter DAR regent Beverly Sifried, DAR District 5 Leader Diane Miller.



August 6th 243rd year since the Battle of Oriskany Empire State Society President Gydesen and manager Tom Foley placed a Wreath at the Oriskany Battle monument.



As we were placing the wreath the Air National Guard did not forget either and did their annual fly over to honor the Heroes that fell here August 6th 1777.



August 16th President Gydesen placed a wreath on the Grave of General Nicholas Herkimer who died August 16, 1777 due to wounds received at the Battle of Oriskany. Some of the Attendees included Past OBC President Bob Wilson, ESS President George Gydesen, Manager Tom Foley and Vice President Central David Powell.

One of Our Own Succeeds!

Submitted by: Past President Duane Booth



Geoffrey Robert French "Geoff" Cundall was installed as President of the New York State Society Children of the American Revolution on July 22, 2020. The installation was done via internet because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Geoff is the son on Dr. Sara L. French, Senior President of the N.Y.S.S.C.A.R. Geoff joined the SAR on November 04,

2015 as a junior member of the Columbia-Mid Hudson Chapter. Geoff and his Mom reside in Syracuse but because his Grandfather, Dr. Robert L. French, was a member of the Columbia Chapter it was decided to establish membership there. In the fall of 2019 Geoff joined the Syracuse Chapter with dual chapter status.

Geoffrey's primary patriot is Benjamin Griswold, a private who served from Massachusetts. Benjamin Griswold was his Grandmother Esther (Griswold) French's NSDAR patriot. Geoff also has a supplemental on his Grandfather Dr. Robert L "Bob" French's patriot, Nathaniel French, who served as a private from Massachusetts. Some of us remember Bob French, who was active in the SAR and served as Central Region, VP (before the Capital Region was formed).

As C.A.R. State President Geoff has a state project. Geoffrey's project is named "HATS OFF TO HISTORY" and is described as follows:



New York State Society Children of the America Revolution HATS OFF TO HISTORY!

All proceeds benefit the State Project to restore an 1824 Bicorn Hat in the New York State Museum Military Costume Collection. The hat was worn by Lt. Col. Jonathan Tayler Cooper when he commanded the escort for the Marquis de Lafayette on his visit to Albany NY in 1824. The hat is too fragile to be on display and conservation will allow it to be included in the 2024 Bicentennial exhibition commemorating Lafayette's return to the USA

Geoff needs to raise money to help get this hat restored. You can help him reach his goal by buying some pins and / or making a donation. The form to order is on the next page. Remember with the pandemic our State Society and chapters may not be able to host Geoff where he could make a presentation and sell his pins.

Please help Geoff, fill out the form below and submit it today!



New York State Society Children of the America Revolution

HATS OFF TO HISTORY!

State Project Sales order

Project Pin: Logo, 1.25" clutch back (above design) _____ x \$5.00 = _____

Shipping: (see below) _____

Total: _____

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip + 4: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

C.A.R. Society, DAR or SAR Chapter receiving Credit:

Mail to: Dr. Sara L. French, 4899 Crestwood Ln, Syracuse NY 13215 or e-mail drsarafrrench@gmail.com

Shipping: 1-3 pins: \$2.00; 4-6 pins: \$3.00; 7-9 pins: \$4.00. For pin orders over 10, please call 315-569-1101 for options.

Payment: Make check payable to N.Y.S.S.C.A.R.

PayPal to drsarafrrench@gmail.com (please include name & society/organization in comments)

Valcour Chapter Presents Declaration of Independence

submitted by Russell Craig

I would like to report a very successful July 4th reading of the Declaration of Independence ceremony. Much thanks to Co-Chair Bud Smith, Color Guard Charlie Mitchell and Josh Wingler, and reader John Krueger (guest). We had over 40 people in attendance and many favorable comments. Cal and Judy Castine recorded the entire ceremony. Those who did not attend can go to **Hometown Video (a group in Youtube.com)** and select it to view. This type of program goes on all over the nation and is presented in the National magazine. We can proudly say we are on the “map” for doing this patriotic event and will be submitting it to State AND National real soon!



John Krueger, (ctr.) guest speaker, reading the Declaration of Independence



Attendees participating in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Color Guard at attention for the Pledge of Allegiance

History Corner

The following story is submitted by the Columbia – Mid Hudson Chapter, with permission from the Chatham Press.

Son of the American Revolution

Exhaustive ancestral research leads to exclusive group membership for Chatham resident William “Steve” Thorne.

Do you have a Patriot Ancestor? It will take a complex and thorough search to see if your roots trace back to someone who participated in the forming of the country. Finding one (or more) makes you eligible for membership in very exclusive clubs: The Sons, Daughters or Children of the American Revolution. Let’s meet a man who has done this and now helps others join the Sons of the American Revolution, the largest male lineage organization in the U.S.

Hours of research

Hitting that spot meant hours of research that took him to the New York State Library at the State Education Building, where searching archives is “a little tough” as regulations allow taking in only a notepad and wooden pencil to keep track of what you find with. “The Genealogy Library is great,” he said, “It has the Dewey Decimal System and card catalog and has tons of old newspapers and microfilm readers. You have to have some idea what you are looking for,” due to the quantity of documents to go through. Courthouses are sources of birth certificates and tax records and church records or even historical society information are more places to trace lineage.



Patriot graves – Sons of the American Revolution member William Thorne shows the grave of Revolutionary War veteran John Cornelius in the small White Mills Methodist Church cemetery. Fellow Revolution fighter Edward Dorr is also buried in the abandoned graveyard.

<p>One ancestor he found is David Lyon, a Lieutenant in the Second Regiment of the Westchester Militia; when not active with that or busy with farm work he watched for road activity of British troops and Tory militia. Another, Elisha Pratt, was a member of the “Committee of Correspondence” for the King’s District which covered what is now Austerlitz and Canaan, and a Lieutenant in the 17th Regiment Militia. His stone marker can be found in the Spencertown cemetery against the back wall of the church. A third, Isaac Clark, was also in the 17th and is also buried in Spencertown.</p> <p>Other ancestors He discovered a previously unknown ancestor, Colonel Jacob Klock, commander of the Second Regiment of the Tryon County Militia at the Battle of Oriskany. Further searching traced a straight family line from William Thorne, Signor (Senior) in 1657 whose signature is the third on the “Flushing Remonstrance,” in which Flushing residents requested a ban on Peer Stuyvesant’s insistence that they follow the Dutch Reformed religion.</p> <p>The SAR does not require governmental records but each applicant has to provide documentation back through the gen-</p>	<p>erations to prove their claim to a patriot ancestor. Their application must be printed on watermarked archival paper, signed by the applicant and two sponsors, go to the state organization for signatures and then be sent to the national organization for approval, which can take a couple of months as genealogists check that the proofs are valid. As Registrar of the area chapter, Mr. Thorne makes sure that a prospective member’s documentation is good and the paperwork is correct before their application is submitted. There is no limit on the number of ancestors that can be documented, a gentleman he met at the Atlantic Middle States Conference received an award for having 75.</p> <p>Founded in 1889 The SAR was founded as the Sons of Revolutionary Sires on April 30, 1889, by a group of men in San Francisco. In 1971 Rodney Gage of Valatie, Charles Barnard of Claverack, Louis Stone and Bob French of Ghent, Philip Egan, Albio Travis and Charles Nichols started what is now called the Columbia-Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter. It includes four counties and has 78 members. SAR has 50 societies and over 500 local chapters, several international societies and numerous prominent members including 16 presi-</p>	<p>dents and Sir Winston Churchill. The group focuses on educational outreach initiatives that expand historical knowledge and promote American patriotism. Among programs that encourage young people to explore both American and their own history are The Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout Program and The George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay contest which give the opportunity to win awards of up to \$10,000. Other historical goals include preserving records relating to, and commemorating and providing memorials for people and events of the American Revolution. They were a major force behind the construction of the National Archives and its collection of historic documents.</p> <p>The old White Mills Methodist Church cemetery at Route 203 and Pond Hill Road is the final resting place of two Revolution veterans: Edward Dorr and John Cornelius.</p> <p>They lie in a sadly overgrown back area under stones whose words are almost worn away by the weather, but flags fly in holders that bear the SAR seal. Fellow veterans lie in the Chatham and New Concord cemeteries. Is there a Patriot American in your past? Start digging – you may be eligible to join this singular group.</p>
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Editorial

Empire Patriot Spirit

“What if they held a Revolution and nobody came? “

Would we have the courage, conviction, and willingness to sacrifice that our Patriot ancestors did? Some of us have that “Spirit of ’76”. The Thousand Islands Chapter was willing to take a risk and put on a meeting for us. The Valcour Chapter took a chance and went ahead with their inaugural 4th of July public event – and 40 people came. Which other chapters had the courage to stand up and do things in the face of the current situation?

Where were we in July? I signed up for the July board meeting. God willing, I’ll be at the September one. I hope to see my fellow board members there.

This Editor believes that the “Spirit of ’76” is as crucial to our time as it was to our forefathers. Today we face the peril of COVID -19. We are always faced by the short mindedness of governing bodies and activist groups who want to limit our freedoms and destroy our valued history. **Let us recognize those chapters (and individuals) who most exemplify our founding principles. I propose the ESS-SAR establish the “Empire Patriot Spirit” award for that purpose.** Stand with me. I ask for your vote and your commitment to honor the Spirit of Patriotism.

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