



# EMPIRE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Volume 11 Number 1

<http://www.sar.org/esssar/>

Winter 2009



## Tea, Tea, Glorious Tea!

Around this time last year, your editor attended an SAR function where the dinner speaker was one of those pseudo-historians who go about spewing hackneyed old myths and passing them off as historical fact in exchange for a free meal and a speaker's fee. I'm sure you know the kind of garbage I'm referring to - the old "you needed two opposing teeth to join the army" line, and of course the "nobody wore cotton because the cotton gin hadn't been invented" schtick, not to mention the hilarious old chestnut about German failing to become our national language by one vote. Those things are a pet peeve of mine, because since there are so few historians in the SAR, compatriots who hear that kind of rubbish tend to believe it. So, to set folks straight, periodically we'll explore a few of these nonsensical tales.

One of them that is often bandied about is that after the Boston Tea Party, everyone in America started drinking coffee, and we've been a nation of coffee drinkers ever since.

To quote a French lieutenant of the Soissonais Regiment in Rhode Island, 1780, in describing Americans and their way of life: "Their favorite drink seems to be tea, which is ordinarily served from four to five in the afternoon ... the mistress of the house does the

honors. She serves it to everyone present, and it is rude even to refuse it. Generally the tea is very strong ... They also drink very weak coffee ... those least well off always drink coffee or tea in the morning and would, I

believe, sell their last shirt to procure it. The use of sugar generally marks the difference between poverty and affluence.

### Tea and Coffee

Peter Stuyvesant is credited with bringing tea to America in the Dutch settlement of New Netherland around 1650. By the time the English took over the colony in 1664, they noted that the colonists drank more tea than all of England.

Legend has it that coffee, by comparison, was introduced into America by Captain John Smith who founded Jamestown in 1607. But we're not dealing with legend here, so let's look at hard facts. In 1652, the first coffee house opened in London, and by 1675 there were about three thousand of them in

England. Frequented by the likes of Samuel Johnson, they became such popular forums for learned discussion that they are dubbed "penny universities" (a penny being the price of a cup of coffee). The coffee house was no less popular in English America. In 1668 more coffee than beer was consumed in New York (old New

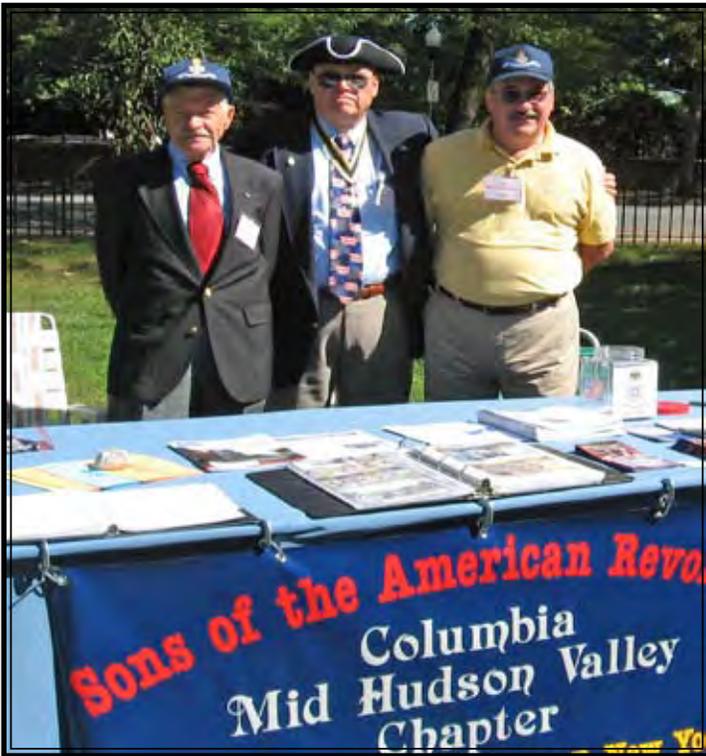
continued on page 3



A British satire of the "Edenton Tea Party"  
Philip Dawes. A Society of Patriotic Ladies, at Edenton in North Carolina. Mezzotint. London, March 25, 1775. Library of Congress, British Cartoon Collection. Prints and Photographs Division. LC-USZC4-461

## Columbia- Mid-Hudson Chapter

## Valcour Battle Chapter



l. to r. Earl Mack, Rod Andrews and Tim Middlebrook

At the 2008 WASHINGTON'S PROGRAM, the Valcour Battle Chapter members and guests met at the Elks Club in Plattsburgh. The speaker was John Krueger, an historian and Director of the Kent Delord House Museum, who spoke on Jonathan Potts, Head of the Northern Medical Division during the American Revolution. Nine times as many men died of various types of disease as died from combat in the Revolution.

A 40 year SAR membership pin was presented by **President Hays** to **Stanley Ransom**. Compatriot Ransom joined the SAR on July 7, 1965 (see photo below.)

Compatriot **Joshua Wingler** carried out the notable Military Timeline on Memorial Day weekend. The Timeline featured a display and demonstration of military firearms and weapons from the time of Samuel de Champlain's arrival on Lake Champlain in 1609 to the present day.

On July 11, 2009, the first Champlain celebration will begin on the Richlieu River in Canada to herald the coming in 1609 on that date of Samuel de Champlain. **James T. Hays, Major (Retd) William Glidden, John Krueger** and **Stanley Ransom** are planning activities and programs to commemorate this historic 400 year event.

SAR members and DAR members gathered at Clinton Community College on October 11, 2008, for the annual commemoration of the Battle of Valcour. Compatriot **David Glenn** addressed the group on the Battle of Valcour. ❖

The August 23, 2008 meeting was held at the Pegasus Restaurant in Coxsackie, NY. Total attendance was twenty five including ten members.

Three new Chapter members, **James Hadley, Louis Snell** and **Luther Martin**, were acknowledged for increasing our Chapter membership to forty-nine.

Mrs. Mary Lou Zimmermann, Regent, Hendrick Hudson Chapter NSDAR, was the guest speaker. She gave a talk on the history and background of the founders of Hudson, NY, including the history of the "Robert Jenkins House" built in 1811 and presented to their Chapter in 1900.

The last Chapter meeting of the year was held on December 6th at the Cappuccino's Restaurant in Red Hook. Eric Roth, Director of the Huguenot Street Society of New Paltz, was guest speaker. He talked about how the Huguenots, who settled in the New Paltz area 100 years prior to the Revolutionary War, had a lasting effect in the Hudson Valley. Two members, **Richard Wambach** and **Wylie Borum**, were honored for 20 years of SAR service and presented with certificates and pins. The Chapter set up an information booth at the Senate House Day in Kingston on September 20th and recruited two potential SAR members (see photo above.)

Our spring meeting will be held on April 4, 2009 at the Pegasus Restaurant in Coxsackie, NY. ❖

Stanley Ransom (right below) receives his 40-year pin from Chapter President James T. Hays,



Netherland.) Indeed, the place where the Boston Tea Party began in an upstairs meeting room, the “Green Dragon” (not the same one that’s there in Boston today, although tourists are told otherwise) was a coffee-house.

## Tax

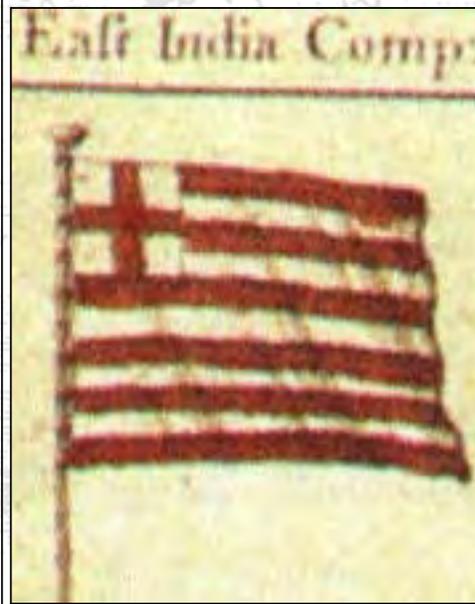
Tea had been taxed since 1767 with the Townshend Acts, and even after their repeal, the tea tax remained. Remember that old refrain from grade school: “In December of ‘73, into the harbor went the tea.” That’s approximately six years of living with the tea tax.

In 1771 Boston imported 265,000 pounds of tea, with John Hancock paying duties on 45,000 pounds. In New York, smuggling tea from the Dutch and Danish West Indies was a way of life. Tea imports from Britain sank from 320,000 pounds in 1769 to 530 in 1772. “In New York,” John Adams wrote in Boston in 1772, “they laugh at us.”

By 1773, Americans consumed 1.2 million pounds of tea a year: 275,000 came from England, 925,000 pounds were smuggled, mostly from Holland. Tea ranked fourth among the British exports to America.

The East India Company (EIC), was famous for paying incredibly large dividends to its shareholders, which included most of the peerage and power elite of Britain. By the early 1770s, it was on the brink of bankruptcy. In 1772, the company owed £1.3 million, much of it to the British government, and the Bank of England refused further credit. Worse, it had nine thousand tons of unsold tea in its London warehouses. To bail out the EIC (shades of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac!) Lord North unveiled the Tea Act of 1773. This scheme effectively made the government the EIC’s partner. It also tried to help reduce the tea surplus by proposing to repeal the three-pence-per-pound duty that the company paid to import tea to England. This would enable it to undersell competitors in Europe and America.

It was suggested to North that Britain should also remove the American duty, but North maintained the Crown needed the money to pay for the troops in America (in 1772, the tea duty had earned £400 after the expenses of collecting it were deducted - hardly enough to keep a single infantry regiment in rations for a month.) Someone else suggested keeping the British duty, to which no one in Parliament objected, and dropping the American duty. Finally, North admitted there were “political reasons” for retaining the American duty. Of course an exposition of those “political reasons” would take a book to explain, so I’ll get on about tea.



British East India Company flag, circa 1700. Look familiar? At least one scholar believes there is a connection between this and the Grand Union Flag that Washington raised when he assumed command of the army outside of Boston.

From the time the tax was first instituted in 1767, colonists boycotted tea subject to the tax. But there was no mass exodus from tea to coffee. As has been pointed out, they were already large consumers of coffee. Instead, they replaced imported tea in their diets with what were known as “liberty teas” made from local herbs and plants.

When war came, smugglers became privateers, New York fell into British hands, and the British Navy was abroad off our shores, not just a few revenue cutters. In such a climate, “liberty tea” became a staple.

## Liberty Teas

Tansy, lemon balm, lavender, catnip, and mint were already thriving in the family kitchen garden. Rose hips, goldenrod, bee balm, Queen Anne’s Lace, and chickweed could be found in the fields. Checkerberry and partridgeberry were waiting in the forest.

The most popular “liberty tea” was loosestrife, a four-leaved marsh or aquatic plant bearing pink or lavender flowers, that grew in soggy places throughout America, as it does today.

Another source of tea that was nearly universal was sassafras root. Put the root into a pot of water and bring to a boil, and you have a pink tea. The root can be used again and again.

## Regional Teas

In Appalachia a popular tea substitute was the leaves of either the pokeweed or the witherod; these substitutes were known as “Appalachian tea” or “Carolina tea.”

Up in Maine you would find “Labrador tea,” made from the leaves of two evergreen shrubs, *Ledum palustre* and *Ledum latifolium*.

In New Jersey and its environs a popular brew was “New Jersey Tea,” made of the fresh or dried leaves of a wild shrub, *Ceanothus americanus*. Before the Revolution, its roots were used to make a red dye, giving it the nickname “red root” and its bark was used to create a soothing gargle. Its white flowers grow in egg-shaped clusters, giving it a second nickname, “wild snowball.” An additional benefit to Revolutionaries was that it was native to the Americas. *Ceanothus* grows today throughout New England and Quebec.

In wooded areas from Newfoundland to Georgia may be found checkerberry, a tiny wildflower. Its delicious berry gives it the name “wintergreen,” and it is also known as “mountain tea.” The leaves of the checkerberry yield oil of wintergreen, used to flavor candy, chewing gum, and medicine. The Indians used both the dried leaves and berries of checkerberry to make teas for treatment of illness; the leaves have a flavor similar to that of sweet birch.

Oswego tea, or bee balm, a member of the mint family, grew wild in the colonies. Its red flowers could be found in cool, moist shaded glens and beneath trees. The Indians named it O-gee-chee or “flaming flower” and from its blossoms brewed a tea for colds and sore throats. The flower grew in great profusion at the site of a settlement on Lake Ontario in the 1700’s, and from the tribe that used it came the name of the city, Oswego. To make this tea yourself, dry the leaves on the stems for ten days in a well ventilated place. Remove the dried leaves, discarding the stems. Chop and brew as you would any bulk tea. The fresh (green) leaves may

be added to salad, fruit punches, or steeped in moselle or hock.

## Medicinal Teas

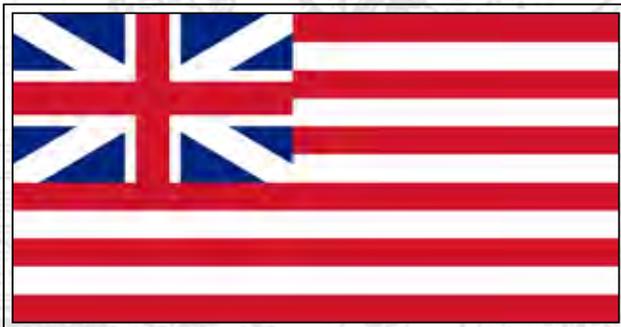
Ribwort is a plantain with narrow, ribbed leaves and a long stem; strawberry leaves, currant leaves, sages, thoroughwort, and raspberry leaves make excellent teas. Thoroughwort is native to North America, and has the nickname “boneset,” as draughts of it were believed useful for mending broken bones. Thoroughwort sports clusters of grayish-white flowers and a stem that passes through the blade of the leaf. Raspberry leaf tea was known as “Hyperion tea.”

Chickweed has white, star-shaped flowers, and grows four to eight inches tall. Today, chickweed is considered a worthless weed. But to 18th century folk “The young shoots and leaves of chickweed, when boiled, can hardly be distinguished from spring spinach. They are also deemed refrigerating, and nutritive, and an excellent food for persons of a consumptive habit of body.” An infusion made from the entire plant served as an eyewash. Chickweed tea was thought to relieve constipation and soothe upset stomachs, and

an ointment made from the leaves mixed with animal fat was used on varicose veins. A bit of grated lemon or orange peel accents the flavor of chickweed tea.

Feverfew had a reputation as a febrifuge (fever-chaser), a soporific (sleep inducer), and an analgesic (pain reliever). It was also considered antiseptic - that is, taken internally it was supposed to rid the body of ill humours; the colonials employed it in this connection after childbirth.

Mayweed, or camomile, which resembles a daisy, was a European transplant that spread throughout North America. It has bitter, strong-scented, white or yellow blossoms and feathery leaves. In the 18th century it was used for upset stomach and intestinal gas and to dissolve gallstones. Other uses were as a skin smoother and a hair lightener. Teas can be brewed from



The East India Company flag after the Acts of Union in 1704, which united England, Scotland and Wales. The cross of Saint George in the canton has been replaced by the “Queen Anne” flag. Now the resemblance to the “Grand Union” is clearer.

the dried leaves, flowers, and/or buds. The flowers may also be added to a hot bath.

Sweet goldenrod or “Blue Mountain tea” is known for its licorice scent; it is common throughout the eastern United States. Dry the leaves for tea. Another species of goldenrod was once considered a wound medicine; the flowers were brewed and this liquid was applied both externally and internally. Indians used a powder of crushed, dried leaves for human injuries and equine sores.

The woolly leaves of mullein were brewed for the treatment of lung complaints in both men and cattle, and to grow hair on bald heads.

Lemon balm, which colonial women used to attract bees to their gardens, was also infused as a tea. The rough leaves of this mint relative have a lemony flavor, and the tea made from them supposedly “strengtheneth the vitall spirits.”

### **Secrets of Brewing**

First of all, remember that, in general, dried leaves and flowers or herbs are four times as strong as the same measure of fresh leaves. In other words, 1/4 cup dried mint equals 1 cup fresh mint. A powdered (crushed) herb or flower is usually twice as strong as the same measure of loose dried herbs or flowers. Very few herbs age well. To find proportions that suit you, make a test brew. Into a small bowl or large mug or one-serving pot, pour 1 cup boiling water. Stir in up to 1/4 cup fresh leaves/flowers or 1 teaspoon to 1 tablespoon dried leaves. Infuse 3 to 5 minutes. Some mild leaves, like fireweed, may be infused as long as 10 minutes. Strain after the infusion is complete. Many herbals are better chilled; such as alfalfa-mint with ice. You might try adding a whole clove to the teapot, or combining flowers or leaves from a variety of plants for your own blend.

### **Edenton Tea Party**

Following the lead of Boston, there were tea parties in Philadelphia, Annapolis and elsewhere but not all tea parties were destructive. On October 25, 1774, fifty-one ladies of Edenton, North Carolina, met at the behest of one Penelope Barker, in the home of Elizabeth King, to express their indignation over the British tax

on tea. They resolved at this tea party (while drinking tea made from dried raspberry leaves): “We the Ladies of Edenton do hereby solemnly engage not to conform to the pernicious practice of drinking tea.” This is often cited as a landmark in the history of women's rights, as never before had women signed a political petition.

At this gathering cookies, made according to this recipe of Penelope Barker's, were served.

3 1/2 cups sifted all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
3/4 cup butter  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
2 cups brown sugar, firmly packed  
3 eggs

Sift together flour, baking soda, and salt. Set aside. Work butter and vanilla until soft, then add the sugar, a little at a time, while continuing to cream the mixture. Beat in eggs, one at a time, and stir in flour combination thoroughly. Divide dough in half, wrap each half in wax paper, and chill for several hours or until firm enough to handle easily. Roll out one portion at a time as thin as possible on a lightly floured board and cut with a cookie cutter. Place several inches apart on a greased cookie sheet and bake in a preheated 400° oven for 7 to 9 minutes. Makes 6 dozen cookies when a 2 1/2-inch cookie cutter is used.

[Editor's Note - 18th century recipes were not like the ones we know today. Such directions as “sweeten with sugar” or “pinch of salt” or “bake over a slow fire” were not uncommon, with authors assuming the reader (usually a close family member) knew what they meant. The above is an adaptation that modern cooks can comprehend. Sooo, don't berate me for thinking that 18th century cooks had waxed paper, chillers, etc. - I know better.]

The quote from the French lieutenant in the early part of the article came from John U. Rees, a member of the Company of Military Historians, who used it in his recent excellent article on Chocolate usage in the Continental Army, which appeared in an issue of the Brigade Dispatch, the newsletter of the Brigade of the American Revolution. Most of the remainder of the piece came from notes scribbled down over several decades, with the sources lost to sloppy record keeping on the part of your editor. ❀

## An American Soldier 1778

Friedrich von Germann was a captain of a regiment from Hesse-Hanau, one of the many German auxiliary troops hired by George III to fight in the American Revolution. He arrived in Canada in 1775, served in the southern campaigns, and was present at the surrender at Saratoga.

During the war, he painted a series of watercolors of American, British, and German soldiers. The rare manuscript division of the New York Public Library has a folio of the drawings that are most likely 19th-century copies of von Germann's watercolors, possibly by the artists E. Sack and Kail (whose names appear on the drawings). They were commissioned by the New York historian William Leete Stone to illustrate a personal copy of his translation of the famous Hessian commander's writings, "Memoirs, and letters and journals, of Major General Riedesel during his residence in America."

So few uniforms, or even detailed descriptions of uniforms, have survived to the 21st century that Germann's watercolors are a treasure trove of knowledge of what soldiers would have looked like during the American War for Independency.



## Congress' Own

### Part One of Two

"Congress' Own" Regiments consisted primarily of "Canadians", a term commonly used to refer to French-Canadians and Nova Scotians of French Ancestry, with Colonel James Livingstone and Colonel Moses Hazen in command of the First and Second Regiments. Another key player in the regiments was Captain Antoine Paulin, who in 1786 founded the hamlet of Corbeau. Corbeau is now known as Coopersville and is centered within the Town of Champlain, in the northern part of Clinton County.

In New France, as a French Regular, Paulin fought alongside the Troupe de la Marine, and New France's colonial militia. In 1756 he participated in the Battle of Oswego and in the following year, 1757, the siege and massacre of Fort William Henry.

In 1758 at Fort Carillon, now Fort Ticonderoga, Paulin along with 3857 troops under the command of Montcalm, repelled an attack by 15,000 British and American colonials under the command of General Abercrombie. However, a year later Montcalm suffered defeat and death at the Battle on the Plains of Abraham, as Quebec City fell to General Wolfe and his British forces. In 1760 Great Britain acquired by conquest the colony of New France, now to be called Canada.

In 1767 Paulin settled in Saint-Denis, north of Chambly. He remained active with the local militia and by 1775 as a Captain took up arms against the British in conjunction with the American invasion of Canada. In 1775 Paulin's company, an independent company of Canadian Volunteers, was annexed to Moses Hazen's Second Regiment during the advance of the American army through Quebec. Familiar with the territory, the regiment played a critical role in the capture of Chambly and St. John's on the Richelieu River. At Quebec City Paulin's company created a successful diversion for General Montgomery's movements, but the advance ended with Montgomery's death.

(to be continued next issue)

Bill Glidden, MAJOR ( R ) NYARNG  
Historian, NYS Military Heritage Inst  
Historian, Valcour Battle Chapter

[editor's note - an excellent book on the 1775 Expedition to Quebec may be found at: <http://www.americanrevolution.org/arnold.html> ]

## Saratoga Battle Chapter



(l-r) Duane Booth, George Ballard, Brett Trufant, Marion Walter, Charles Walter, Nancy Ballard & Mike Companion

Members of the Saratoga Battle Chapter were invited to join in a reenactment of the capturing of an original cannon by the American forces at Saratoga 231 years ago during the 2nd Battle of Saratoga. The event at the Saratoga National Historical Park (SNHP) was held before the cannon's return to its permanent home at the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont, Ohio. The event was held with the cannon placed at Breymann's Redoubt within 10-15' of its original placement.

October 17, 2008 marked the 231st anniversary of the surrender of the British at Saratoga. Again this year the surrender was commemorated with a ceremony at Schuylerville to help us all remember that historic day that turned the tide of the war in favor of the Americans. Members on hand to help celebrate were **Charles Walter, Rich Fullam, Mike Companion, George Ballard** and **Charlie King**.

Submitted By: **Duane Booth** ❧

## Long Island Chapter

*Countdown to 100!*

The Long Island Chapter, Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution was first chartered as the Huntington Chapter, on February 4, 1909. To celebrate, we are pleased to announce the:

*Long Island Chapter SAR  
100th Annual Luncheon  
Sunday, April 26th 2009*

To accommodate what we anticipate to be a large turnout for our 100th birthday celebration, Compatriot **Al Meyer** has booked the luncheon location in a very

beautiful setting. Recommended by Compatriot **Eugene Shreve** and his wonderful wife and DAR member Sue Ann Gardner Shreve, the Southward Ho Country Club,

Southward Ho is a private country club located in Bay Shore, New York. It was formerly part of the Hyde estate, which extended from the Great South Bay north to the Long Island Railroad tracks. Located on the property, not far from the clubhouse, was a working windmill. Southward Ho features an 18 hole championship golf course designed by renowned designer A.W. Tillinghast, clay and hard court tennis facilities, fine dining and functions, and swimming.

All ESSAR Compatriots should attend this once-in-a-lifetime event. Details of the luncheon, as well as other exciting events celebrating our 100th anniversary will be coming to you in the next few months in the newsletter as well as e-mail and U.S. Mail. Check

<http://www.longislandsar.org> for more information ❧

## Rochester Chapter

The Rochester Chapter held its annual Christmas gathering on 17 December at the FDR Restaurant with 32 members and guests present. This year we worked with Compatriot **Elijah Monroe**, our representative at the NYS Veterans' Home in Batavia, to gather useful items for the men and women resident there. We collected over a dozen Polartec lap robes, several hats, gloves and stockings for diabetics. Elijah delivered them to the Veterans' Home on behalf of the Chapter. Compatriot **Douglas Monroe**, Elijah's father, was a resident at the home for a while before he passed away last year, so helping to meet the needs of the veterans living at the Home has taken on a special meaning for the Chapter. We hope to make this an annual event.

"Old men are fond of giving good advice to console themselves for their inability to set a bad example."  
François, Duc de La Rochefoucauld

- Steve Clarke ❧

### Multi-tasking

While I write this letter, I have a pistol in one hand and a sword in the other.

Sir Boyle Roche 1743-1807

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Susan and I send a belated Merry Christmas and Happy Prosperous New Year to all of you and your families.

We have some interesting events coming up this year for our members. The first is a 100th Anniversary of the Long Island Chapter and I'm told the chapter is planning for a celebration on April 26, 2009 at a private Country Club. More details for this event will be coming soon.

The ESSAR is the host Society for the yearly Atlantic Middle States Conference which involves members from eight different Societies - D.C., Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Many of the NSSAR General Officers usually attend as well as the newly nominated NSSAR General Officers. Any SAR members can attend as well as their wives. After being unable to obtain the proper facilities, due to other conflicting events, we have settled on the Radisson Hotel in Rochester, NY located about two miles from the airport which should make it easier for those attending from a distance. The conference will be held on August 7-8, 2009 and more details will be available as we finalize all the arrangements.

The NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting is scheduled to be held in Louisville the first weekend in March and, unfortunately, it is the same weekend as the NYS Society CAR Conference. There is also a special 30th

Anniversary Ceremony being held in Louisville to mark their time that the headquarters has resided in that city. The date for that is February 3, 2009. The NSSAR Congress will be held in Atlanta, Georgia this year and details will be in the upcoming issue of the SAR Magazine. These are some of the upcoming events and if any of the chapters have anything special they will be celebrating or attending, make us aware of it.

One last reminder, our Empire Patriot Newsletter Editor has said he would only be able to take this position for about one year. If anyone is interested in this "job" please contact Ed or me. I'm sure Ed will be willing to "show you the ropes" to get you started.

Thanks again to you all for your interest in Revolutionary War history and your desire to keep your family genealogy alive for future generations.

My very best for a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year,  
Bill Woodworth

Sons of the American Revolution  
E-mail addresses for  
Officers of the Empire State Society  
2008-2009

President William J. Woodworth  
billsue3@juno.com  
V.P. Capital Jonathan E. Goebel  
goebel@taconic.net  
V.P. Central Dana K. Roecker  
danakr@adelphia.net  
V.P. Metropolitan Kenneth R. Stevens  
krstevens@mindspring.com  
V.P. Western Thomas H. Eckberg  
tomeck@ispflash.net  
Secretary Jonathan E. Goebel  
goebel@taconic.net  
Treasurer Logan M. Cheek, III  
lmc3@rochester.rr.com  
National Trustee William J. Woodworth  
billsue3@juno.com  
Alternate Trustee Richard W. Sage  
richardsage@earthlink.net  
Historian Robert J. Stackpole  
rbtjstack@aol.com  
Chaplain Kenneth F. Bailey  
kfrankbailey@yahoo.com

## Obituaries

Charles L. Briant Jr. Judge Briant graduated from Columbia in 1947. He had originally been a member of the class of 1944, but served in the Army Air Forces in World War II. In 1949, he received his law degree from Columbia. Richard M Nixon appointed Judge Briant to the federal bench in 1971. He was chief judge from 1986 to 1993, and remained a judge until last year.

Elbridge Milton Smith died in his 96th year. Elbridge received a BA degree in Economics and Sociology in 1935. He taught at the High School and college level and was an Army veteran of WWII.

Donald Peter Faulkner.

Morgan M. Seymour Jr., born December 7, 1928. He served in the US Army and worked as a railroad engineer for 40 years.

Douglas Monroe, died on 31 October 2008 at the New York State Veteran's Home in Batavia, NY.

Robert M. Duffy, 87, of Freeport, Illinois died in Freeport. Duffy served his country in the U.S. Army in Europe in World War II. For his service, he received the Purple Heart and numerous campaign medals. He was employed by the New York Telephone Company as a project manager for 29 years

Frederick A. Parker. Raised in China and Japan, graduated from The American School in Japan, Middlesex School, Harvard College and New College, Oxford. He was Governor of the Colonial Wars in the state of New York, President of the New England Society and current Commander of the Military Order of Foreign Wars.

Francis V. Reilley was buried at Saratoga National Cemetery with full military honors. A World War II Army Air Force veteran, he had been based in Lovenham, England.

Don Culyer, served in the Army at Headquarters 11th Armored Division during WWII. Don worked for the Russell, Burdsall and Ward Bolt and Nut Company for over thirty years. Don was an Eagle Scout Award and ultimately was awarded the Silver Beaver Award from the local District of the Boy Scouts of America. ❖

## Newtown Battle Chapter

At a chapter Awards Ceremony Service Awards ranged from 10 years to 50 years with **Sereno "Cy" Tanner** (50) and Past ESSAR President **Benjamin Dean** (45) receiving the highest. **Ben Dean**, a Past Chapter President will have 50 years SAR Service this year.

Our annual Chapter Christmas Party was another big success thanks to the membership. Every year we hold this event to give gifts to the Veterans at the Bath, NY VA Medical Center. Since starting this project, the members have donated over \$6000 in gifts and monetary gifts in saying "thanks" to the vets for all they've done for us. During our January Chapter meeting we will have as our guest speaker the woman in charge of receiving and distributing these gifts to the vets.

- Bill Woodworth ❖

## Syracuse Chapter

The quarterly lunch meeting of the Syracuse chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution was held in Pulaski. The event was held in the historic H. Douglas Barclay Court room. The Court House namesake himself joined the handful of members in attendance and spoke after lunch on his experiences in El Salvador as US Ambassador. The Pulaski Court house in Oswego County, NY was built in 1819 and was the quarters of the Court of Common Pleas that heard all of Oswego County's Revolutionary War pension applications. Hundreds of applicants testified in the very room where the luncheon was held.

On Friday December 5 the annual Christmas luncheon was held at the Corinthian Club in Syracuse, and many members of the SAR and DAR attended.

-Shawn Doyle, Registrar ❖

## New Internet Resource

Papers of the War Department, 1784-1800  
( <http://wardepartmentpapers.org> )

After a traumatic and devastating fire in 1800, many historians thought that the early files of the United States War Department were essentially lost forever.

(continued on page 10)

## Westchester-Putnam Chapter

The Westchester-Putnam Chapter Fall Luncheon meeting was held October 25 at the Brasserie Swiss Restaurant in Ossining.

Joe Schiavone, railroad historian and author of “The Old Put...” presented a DVD and slide show presentation about the old Putnam Division of the New York Central Railroad. Joe has made over 125 presentations about the railroad to various groups and his enthusiasm for his topic was evident. Recognizing his contribution, passion and commitment to local history education, the chapter awarded him the society’s Bronze Good Citizenship Medal.

The chapter has added two more new members, **Tomm Polus** of Katonah and **John R. Byers** of Scarsdale.



Elsie Lee, John R Byers, new SAR member and Ken Stevens, President, Westchester-Putnam Chapter at Scarsdale Golf Club.

## Walloomsac Battle Chapter

The Chapter’s Christmas Dinner set for December 11th was cancelled due to the horrific ice storm. But Chapter President John Sheaff and his wife Lois persevered and succeeded in getting chapter members and members of the Ondawa-Cambridge Chapter, NSDAR together for lunch at the historic Cambridge Hotel on Saturday January, 17, 2009.

The Chapter’s Annual Meeting will be held in April.  
Submitted By: **Duane Booth**



President Stevens presenting the Bronze Good Citizenship medal to Joe Schiavone.

President Stevens presented John’s membership certificate to him on December 13 at the Scarsdale Golf Club. President Stevens was also a guest speaker at the luncheon giving a summary of 2008 SAR activities at the chapter, regional, state and national levels. Welcome to Tomm and John!

### New Internet Resource

(continued)

Thankfully, the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University recently completed a decade long project to locate all of these records and place them online here. The collection is a very important one, because during this time period the War Department was responsible for Indian affairs, veteran affairs, and naval affairs. The project was begun in earnest in the mid-

(continued on page 11)



L-r Harold Owen, Duane Booth, Lewis Slocum, Philip Brown, John Sheaff, Peter Swano & Paul Loding

## Oriskany Battle Chapter

At SUNY in Utica in October, the chapter joined forces with the DAR and Oneida Indian Nation to crew a table at the Central New York Veteran's Expo.



l. to r. Darryl Hurst and Dennis Thorp, Oriskany Battle Chapter; Trudy Kennedy, DAR; Nate George, Oneida Nation.

At our fall meeting September 18, 2008 a new slate of officers was sworn in by V.P. Central **Dana Roecker**.



l. to r. V.P. Central Dana Roecker, Treasurer Tom Foley, President George Gydesen, 1st VP Dennis Thorp, 2nd VP Stephen Wilson, Registrar Darryl Hurst, Missing from Photograph is Jeffrey Wells Secretary and Robert Wollaber Chaplain.

### **New Internet Resource** (continued)

1990s and it involved visits to over 200 repositories and consulting over 3,000 collections in the United States, Canada, England, France, and Scotland. Now, visitors can browse through 55,000 documents, and also perform detailed searches, complete with links to digitized images of each document. Interested parties can also browse the collection by year or person of interest. In short, this is an extremely valuable project that will be of interest to those with a penchant for American history, and early American military history in particular.

## Editorial



I hate editorials, so this will be short and not-so-sweet.

This is the Winter, 2009 issue.  
Did you enjoy reading it?  
There WAS NO Winter 2008 issue.  
Did you even notice?

There was no winter issue in 2008 because there was no editor.

The odds are heavy on the morning line in Vegas that there will be no Winter 2010 issue for the same reason.

Would you like to enjoy reading future issues?

Then shrug off that reverie, tell yourself that any organization worth joining is worth working for and jump up and say YES! I want to be the first kid on my block to be editor of the Empire Patriot!

I want to be proud of the ESSAR, and I want to be proud of what I can do for my compatriots. I DON'T want the Empire Patriot to die a lonely and unmourned death at the foul hands of apathy and indifference.

***STAND UP AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!***



Sons of the American Revolution  
Empire State Society  
Ed St.Germain, Editor  
17 Riverview Farm Road  
Ossining, New York  
10562-1912

### Address Service Requested

On Tuesday, November 25, 1783 the last British soldiers left New York City. That evening, Washington and dignitaries celebrated at Fraunces Tavern.

225 years later to the day, on Tuesday, November 25, 2008, Washington and dignitaries celebrated at Fraunces Tavern.



On both occasions, thirteen toasts were drunk. Here they are, as reported in a New York newspaper a couple of days after the original event:

1. The United States of America
2. His Most Christian Majesty
3. The United Netherlands
4. The King of Sweden
5. The American Army
6. The Fleet and Armies of France, which have served in America
7. The memory of those Heroes who have fallen for our freedom
8. May our country be grateful to her Military children
9. May justice support what courage has gained
10. The Vindicators of the rights of mankind in every quarter of the globe
11. May America be an asylum to the persecuted of the earth
12. May a close union of the States guard the Temple they have erected to liberty
13. May the remembrance of this Day be a lesson to Princes