



EMPIRE PATRIOT

Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Preserving the Past, Forming the Future

Vol. 26, Issue 1, July – September 2024

Summer Issue



David W. Powell, President

President's Report

Compatriots,

The summer is coming to a close and the September 7th Board of Managers meeting is rapidly approaching. Don't forget to register for the meeting at the Pegasus in Coxsackier, NY.

Several exciting events occurred this summer. On June 22, the ESSAR 250th Committee held an event at Fort Ontario to dedicate a bronze plaque dedicated to honor the memory of the citizens and soldiers from the State of New York who were imprisoned in the fort. Elements of the ESSAR Color Guard were present at both events. Thank you to 250th

Committee Chairman VP Tim Middlebrook and the entire 250th Committee on getting these projects off the ground and following through to completion.

The National SAR Congress was held this summer in historic Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Empire State Society had several members in attendance including Jeff Bedford, Binghamton Chapter VP, Leon VanWie, Chaplain, TI Chapter, Richard Rossin, Registrar, LI Chapter, Jonathan Goebel, ESSAR Secretary and past VPG, Tim Middlebrook, Capital Region VP, Joe Vermaelen, VPG North Atlantic District, and myself. Also in attendance were some dual state members such as NJSSAR State President who is a member of the Battle of Brooklyn Chapter. See photo below. More photos appear later in this issue.

Continued below.



Upcoming Events

ESS-SAR BOM Meeting

September 7, 2024
Pegasus Restaurant
Coxsackie, NY

SAR/DAR Commemorative of the Battles of Saratoga

September 15, 2024
Saratoga Historical National Park
Schuylerville, NY

Surrender Day Ceremony

October 17, 2024
Fort Hardy Park
Village of Schuylerville, NY

In this Issue:

Get Your ESS-SAR Patriot Certificate

Chapter News

History Corner: Battle of Stone Arabia

* * *



ESSSAR Members Attending the National Congress – Back Row: Jeff Bedford, Binghamton Chapter VP; Leon VanWie, Chaplain, TI Chapter; Robert Meyer, President NJSSAR and Battle of Brooklyn Member; Richard Rossin, Registrar, LI Chapter. Front Row: Jonathan Goebel, ESSSAR Secretary and Past VPG; Tim Middlebrook, Capital Region VP; David Powell, ESSSAR President; Joe Vermaelean, VPG Noth Atlantic District

At Congress, I attended two meetings of the Trustees, several business sessions of the delegates, a meeting about the museum's progress, a meeting about the new Youth Video Contest, the Donor Recognition Breakfast, two meetings of the Council of the State Presidents, the George Washington Foundation Luncheon and Meeting and several informal meetings. I also attended the dedication of a 250th Bench in York, PA. Congress this year had several optional tours including a trip to Valley Forge, a tour of Philadelphia, a tour lead by historian Roger Williams about the Philadelphia Campaign and a tour of historical Old York, PA. I attended the latter two tours.

The major news from the 2024 Congress was that the National Executive Committee made a motion to raise application fees from \$100 to \$150. A lively debate followed, and a very close vote was taken with the application fee increase passing by only a few votes. The fee increase, while painful, is designed to offset the cost of the genealogists reviewing and processing the applications. I remind you that the National Office previously had to reduce the genealogy staff to cut costs to stay within the budget and that has caused increasing delays in application approval times. Currently the backlog of applications has grown so long that the genealogy staff has temporarily stopped reviewing supplementals and turned their entire attention to new membership applications.

At Congress the Youth Video Contest Committee reported on the ongoing progress in getting this program launched. I believe this will be one of the SAR's most successful educational programs. Current challenges include choosing the platform for submission and how to check for the presence of any copyrighted materials that might appear in a submitted video. I will keep the ESSAR up to date on this program.

The museum board has committed to a "soft" opening of the SAR Educational Center and Museum in Louisville in the summer of 2026. The appropriation of \$5 million by the State of Kentucky has moved this forward. The museum is still short of funds in the amount of \$8.2 million. The "soft" opening will not include almost all of the digital and interactive components but will hopefully include the static displays. I will talk more about this museum opening at the September Board of Managers meeting.

Right on the heels of the National Congress was the Atlantic Middle States Conference in Williamsburg, VA hosted by the Virginia Society. At this event I gave the ESSAR State Report by PowerPoint to the President General and numerous other officers and attendees. This PowerPoint report included topics such as the Patriot burials program, the Merchant Marine Academy Peter Goebel Memorial Award, the History Award at West Point, Eagle Scout certificates, the ROTC/JROTC programs and the upcoming Battle of Brooklyn event.



Pres. Powell Giving the State Report at the AMSC.

To round the summer out, I had the pleasure of attending Patriot Burials Marker dedications at the Pioneer Cemetery in Sydney, NY hosted by the Binghamton Chapter and at the Mclean Cemetery in Mclean, NY hosted by the Finger Lakes Chapter.

At the Request of New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation I was the keynote speaker at the 247th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Oriskany where I spoke on the topic of "Commemoration, Relevance and Patriots." (See later article and photo),

I look for to seeing many of you in September at the Board of Managers meeting in Cossackie or at the September events in Saratoga. Please remember to honor our ancestors who by their sacrifices established the United States!

David W. Powell, President

Empire State Society, NSSAR

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

ESS-SAR Board of Managers Meeting in September

The Walloomac Chapter will host the Summer Board of Management meeting on Saturday, September 7, 2024 the Pegasus Restaurant in Cossackie, New York. The business meeting will begin at 11 AM followed by a buffet lunch. All members are invited to attend.

The invitation follows. To attend please print, complete the form below and RSVP by September 3, 2024.

Pegasus Restaurant

10885 Route 9W - Coxsackie, NY 12051
Phone 518-731-9200

*(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 Coxsackie, 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

ESSAR BOM MEETING SATURDAY- September 07, 2024

Hosted by
Walloodsac Battle Chapter, SAR

COST OF BUFFET IS \$32.00



**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 a la 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 \$32.00 _____ Using Facility only \$5.00 _____

Detach, fill in names / chapter, make check payable to "Walloodsac Battle Chapter, SAR".
Mail to: Duane Booth – PO Box 836, New Lebanon, NY 12125-0836 - Please, no later Sept. 03, 2024

The ESS-SAR in Action

ESSSAR Makes the News

ESSSAR President David Powell got the SAR on the News.

Powell had the honor of being asked by NY State Parks to represent the Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution as the Keynote Speaker at the 247th Anniversary of the Battle of Oriskany. In spite of the threat of rain the event, held on August 6th, had a great turnout and was covered by the local News.

Powell's words were entitled "Commemoration, Relevance and Patriots." A short section of the 12 minute speech included:

"I challenge each and every one of you to please share the names and individual stories of our patriot forefathers to future generations of Americans who will follow in our footsteps. It is not just history, but part of our American legacy. It must be our goal that the patriots of the American Revolution are never forgotten! We owe them so much, as they took a risk and a leap of faith and began a Nation, the greatest nation on earth, the United States of America."



Pres. David W. Powell giving the Keynote speech at the Commemoration of the Battle of Oriskany..

No "Auxilliary" or "Associate" Members Allowed

This subject appeared in a conversation thread on the National SAR officers Google group according to ESSSAR President Powell.

To quote the National Society:

"SAR Bylaws do not provide for "associate members." Chapters and State Societies may have "associates" or "friends" who attend meetings, march in parades with the color guard or generally support the chapter. However, the term "members" is reserved for gentlemen whose documented lineage has been approved by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. A chapter or State Society shall not collect dues from a non-member, but may collect the actual cost of printing and mailing a chapter or State Society newsletter."

Any state society or chapter constitution is subject to the National SAR Constitution and Bylaws, and cannot be in conflict with the NSSAR constitution. Any such provision in a chapter constitution or bylaws is invalid.

Chapters may have "Associates" or "Friends" but the term **Member or Membership** is reserved only for members granted membership in the society by the National Society and are in good standing.

We, as MEMBERS, should be proud of that fact. and the use of "Member" or "Membership" has specific legal meaning and should be protected and only used as authorized by the NSSAR.

If you feel strongly about this, you can of course, request using the proper channels, a vote on changing the National Constitution and Bylaws. Pres. Powell said he will assist you if you need the procedure defined.

ESSSAR Goal: Recruit, Retain, and Reinstatement

President Powell reminds the membership of the three “Rs” we need to focus on to grow our society. They are Recruit, Retain and Reinstatement. This all starts at the chapter level. Active and visible chapters recruit more members, but all chapters need to provide membership value in order to retain members. And reach back to lapsed members and get them reinstated. A reinstated member takes less work than recruiting a new member. Make the three “Rs” our goal for 2025!

Patriotic Business Honored



The Buffalo Chapter of the Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (ESSSAR) presented a Certificate of Commendation to Mr. Russell J. Salvatore to recognize his exemplary patriotism for displaying the American flag at the Military Park at Russell's Stake, Chops and More, 6675 Transit Road in Williamsville, NY.

The huge flag usually flown over Russell's Military Park was recently damaged by windstorms and is being repaired.

*Certificate of Commendation – (l -rt) Buffalo ESSSAR Chapter
Treasurer Gary Warren, Russell J. Salvatore, Buffalo ESSSAR Board
Manager Andrew S. Peirce, and Western NY ESSSAR VP Brent Downing*

Get Your ESS-SAR Patriot Certificate

This certificate is 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. This is an heirloom-quality document suitable for framing.

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, former Vice President of the Capital Region, ESSSAR., and former Empire State Society President.

Below is a sample of the Patriot Certificate, which will be printed on premium quality heavy paper.

Patriot Certificate



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 Kuman

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 your Certificate/s, please print and complete the following form.

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

More Photos from ESSSAR



SAR National Congress – Council of State Presidents



SAR National Congress – Delegates



Atlantic Middle States Conference – ESSSAR Members

Chapter News

Capital Region

- **Columbia Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter** – Two markers in the NYS Capital Region were recently unveiled by the Guilderland Historical Society and the Columbia Mid-Hudson Chapter SAR. The Patriot Burials marker pays tribute to Revolutionary War veteran John Vanderpool, who served with the 4th Regiment of the Albany County Militia. (photo and information from Facebook page.)



- **Saratogo Battle Chapter** – The chapter recently welcomed ten new members.
- **Schoharie Leather Stocking Chapter** – Chapter member Brian Braun and his wife Katherine purchased at auction and donated a possible Revolutionary War trunk to the Old Stone Fort Museum. The trunk contained a yellowed paper label with a note bearing the following description: “18th C. traveling trunk poss belonging to



Photo from Mark Stolzenburg

Peter Vroman of Schoharie.”

Colonel Peter Vroman was the commander of the Schoharie District militia of volunteer Patriot soldiers, of the Albany County Fifteenth Militia Regiment from 1775 to 1783.. The Schoharie District was part of Albany County during the Revolution until it became its own county in 1795

Walloomsac Battle Chapter – On August 16, 2024 the chapter participated in the 247th anniversary commemorative ceremony of the Battle of Benning in Walloomsac. The chapter representation was led by chapter president Michael Skelly, who as a member of the Color Guard participated in the two cannon salutes, with New York Color Guard Commander, Michael Companion. First VP Michael Golden, 2nd VP Peter Hormell, and compatriot Charles Crawford participated in the wreath laying ceremony. Compatriot Tim Mabee, and chapter Secretary Vic Twaddell also attended. Photo credits go to Vic Twaddell.



Central Region

- **Binghamton Chapter** – The chapter hosted the joint SAR/DAR annual picnic with the Tuscarora Chapter NSDAR on August 17, 2024. This year's Guest Speaker was Margaret Hadsell, Town of Vestal Historian, who shared a sampling of topics from her new bicentennial history, “Welcome to Vestal: A History and Reference.”

- **Thousand Islands Chapter** – On June 22, 2024 the chapter supported the State SAR in the dedication of an information placard at Fort Ontario.



Metropolitan Region

- **Battle of Brooklyn Chapter** – On August 15th, 2024, the chapter came together at the historic Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Staten Island to celebrate the 200th anniversary of General Lafayette's farewell tour of the United States. Invited by the United States Congress, Lafayette revisited the nation he had a hand in shaping, leaving a lasting impact on our nation's history and on Staten Island in particular.



Western Region

- **Buffalo Chapter** – The chapter dedicated a sign for POWs held at Grave Yard in Old Fort Niagara, NY during the American Revolutionary War.



- **Rochester Chapter** – The chapter participated in a number of events including the following: July 4th Parade in Canandaigua; French & Indian War re-enactment, July 5-7 at Fort Niagara; Fort Niagara event, – July 27th; and the Alexander Millener grave dedication, July 30 at Mt. Hope Cemetery, pictured below. This event was covered by local media.



History Corner

On October 19, 1780, the Battle of Stone Arabia occurred. Stone Arabia was a village about one mile north of Fort Keyser in Tryon County (modern Palatine Township, Montgomery County, NY). It was one of many communities attacked by Sir John Johnson and Capt Joseph Brant's raiding parties consisting of British Regulars, Indians and Loyalists.

Johnson's British force crossed the Mohawk River with the intention of burning the town of Stone Arabia as part of his campaign to destroy the homes of American patriots (rebels).

They followed a circuitous route across southern New York State, sweeping north up the Schoharie Valley. Then they entered the Mohawk Valley at Fort Hunter where they turned west towards the Canajohary/Palatine Districts. After camping over night they crossed the Mohawk River at Keator's Rift and burned Jellis Fonda's mill before continuing on to attack the settlement of Stone Arabia.

Brant and his men were in advance of the main body. The Americans were aware of this threat. Colonel John Brown commanding a force of Massachusetts and New York militia and rangers, had a 360-man garrison at a post at Fort Paris in Stone Arabia.

Misinformed by two British deserters as to the size of the approaching enemy, Brown believing he would encounter only one of Johnson's advancing detachments, not the whole force. Unfortunately, the information was wrong. Instead Col. Brown's Americans met with Johnson's main force, which outflanked and enveloped the patriots.

The enemy defeated the Americans in a running battle. American Col. Brown was killed and the patriots retreated to the two forts beyond Stone Arabia. There the patriots used cannons to end the British attack. However, Johnson's British force burned and completely destroyed the town of Stone Arabia, before continuing across the Mohawk Valley.

The Battle of Stone Arabia was a British Victory. At least it was not an American one. It is not hard to see why. There were 1,235 soldiers engaged, 875 British against 360 Americans. The British suffered an estimated 7 casualties, to the American 45 ones.

In later days American Brigadier General Robert Van Rensselaer pursued the Johnson's British forces but they escaped.

Sources:

www.battlefields.org/learn/revolutionary-war/battles/stone-arabia

www.mohawkvalleyhistory.com/destinations/listing/Battle-of-Stone-Arabia



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@att.net.

* * *