



EMPIRE PATRIOT

Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Preserving the Past, Forming the Future

Vol. 14 Issue 2: October – December 2015

Fall Issue



Duane Booth

President's Message

I hope that each of you has had an enjoyable summer. Spring, summer and fall are our busiest seasons for SAR events here in NY. I have heard about many successful chapter events and I've had the privilege to participate in many events and to attend chapter meetings. Our Long Island Chapter hosted our September Board Meeting at Oyster Bay and it was a resounding success - in fact it "sold out" with more than 100 SARs, DARS and C.A.R.s in attendance. In addition to our meeting we held a ceremony at President Teddy Roosevelt's grave and then toured his summer home, Sagamore Hill.

Thanks to Erick Krueger, Doug Gallant and Webmaster Dennis Booth, our online database is now a reality. Many chapter treasurers are using the database to submit 2016 dues reports and find that it saves them a lot of time. State and chapter officers can view almost real time membership data that within

days syncs with National's records. They can print and down-load rosters independently rather than ask the state database managers for them. Chancellor Ray Duncombe and VPG Peter Goebel have been a great help in updating our Constitution and Bylaws. I am very hopeful that the revisions will be on the ESS website by January, finalized at the March meeting and be voted on by you on the May 2016 ballot. Of course I continue to thank Karl and Eleanor for restarting this newsletter. These are not the only things happening.

At our November meeting the Board approved a recommendation made by Investment Committee Chair Wesley Oler and his committee to restructure some of our investments to generate income that will add to the amount available for society and chapter projects. Youth Committee Chairs Jim Eagan (Knight Essay), Brent Downing (ROTC / JROTC) and Jonathan Goebel (Orations) asked chapters to get their submissions to them timely for evaluation. Dave Shields, Chair of the Eagle Scout Committee was not with us but the same need for timely submission of entries exists there too. Past President Bill Woodworth is ordering a supply of our label pins. Chapter presidents will be informed when the pins are available. Joe Fitzpatrick is still taking orders for our Empire State Society certificates (see the summer issue for details) that are very suitable for display.

As I mentioned in my last report we are the host society for the 2016 Atlantic Middle States Association Meeting. The *correct meeting dates* are Friday and Saturday August 12-13, 2016 at what is now the Radisson Hotel in Albany but was formally the Holiday Inn. The meeting program is advancing nicely and hopefully by January we'll start to advertise and promote it. You are all welcome and encouraged to attend.

As I close this message I am thankful for all of the support that I've received since becoming president. Know that I appreciate your membership in the SAR as does our Board of Managers. On behalf of the officers and board I extend our very best wishes for a blessed holiday season and a healthy and successful 2016.

Duane Booth, President
Empire State Society
Sons of the American Revolution

NSSAR website www.sar.org
Empire State Society: www.ess-sar.org



Upcoming Events

March 26, 2016

ESS-SAR Board of Managers Meeting
Pegasus Restaurant
West Coxsackie, NY,

May 14, 2016

ESS-SAR Annual Meeting
Hosted by the Oriskany Battle Chapter
details TBA

August 12-13, 2016

Atlantic Middle States Association
Meeting -- hosted by ESS-SAR
Radisson Hotel
Albany, NY

September 17, 2016 (tentative)

ESS-SAR Board of Managers Meeting
hosted by Valcour Battle Chapter
details TBA

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125th Anniversary of the SAR Celebration a Success



Attendees outside the Theodore Roosevelt House, Oyster Bay, NY

The Empire State Society together with the Long Island Chapter hosted a successful Board of Managers meeting in Oyster Bay, New York, on September 12th, 2015. At the meeting we celebrated the 125th Anniversary of the SAR and honored Compatriot Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States and signer of our National Charter. The day began with the meeting at the Matinecock Presidential



Laying a memorial wreath at President and Mrs. Roosevelt's gravesite.



Duane Booth (2nd l.) at the Roosevelt tombstone.

Masonic Lodge. After the luncheon, we adjourned to Youngs Cemetery, where we laid a memorial wreath at President and Mrs. Roosevelt's gravesite. The celebration concluded with a visit to Sagamore Hill, the "summer White House" where President Roosevelt spent much of his time and where he passed away.

SAR members participated in assisting National Park Rangers in folding the American flag at the close of day. Eleven DAR chapters, New York Department DUVCW President Eileen Sleekman and members of Kady Brownell Tent #36 DUVCW came out to celebrate alongside us, as well as former President General Stephen Leishman and SAR Foundation Board member Rick Hollis.

Empire State Society Fall Meeting

The fall meeting of the Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution was held on November 14, 2015 at the Pegasus Restaurant, in West Coxsackie, NY. The event was hosted by the Columbia-Mid Hudson Chapter.

During the meeting the Patriot Award was presented to Timothy Millbrook, President of the Columbia-Mid Hudson Chapter, SAR and Treasurer of the ESSAR.



Duane Booth gives the Patriot Award to Tim Millbrook the November 14th. meeting.

Next Empire State Society Board of Managers Meeting

The Saratoga Battle Chapter will host the next Empire State Society Board of Managers Meeting on Saturday, March 26, 2016 at the Pegasus Restaurant in Coxsackie, NY. Coffee and danish will be available at 10 AM. The business meeting will begin at 11 AM, with a buffet lunch following.

The meeting is open to the general membership. Please RSVP by March 21; detailed information and reservation form is available at our website: www.ess-sar.org.

Chapter News

Capital Region Chapters

- **Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter**

- The Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter held its final meeting of the 2015 on September 26th with 34 present
- The Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter together with the The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum presented a lecture on "The Revolutionary War in the Hudson Valley" with Chapter compatriot Robert Ulrich. The lecture took place on October 20, 2015 at the Henry A. Wallace Center, Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Home, in Hyde Park, NY.
- The Chapter hosted the ESS SAR Board of Managers Meeting on November 14, 2015 at the Pegasus Restaurant in Coxsackie, NY.

- **Saratoga Battle Chapter**

- The Saratoga Battle Chapter is proud that sons of two chapter compatriots were elected to significant positions in the Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.). Congratulations to Mr. Nicholas Oxaal elected President of the New York State C.A.R. Nicholas is son of Compatriot Ford Oxaal. And congratulations to Mr. Benjamin Gallant, elected President of the Schuyler Society C.A.R., son of our compatriot and chapter Treasurer Doug Gallant. Best Wishes to both young men and their families.
- The Chapter recently welcomed 9 new members: William F. Davidson III, William F. Davidson IV, Albert E. Doring, Gregory C Hickok, John D. Lacy, Edward D. Munger Jr., Nicholas F. Oxaal, Mark J. Quebe-deaux, Jamex T. Van Auken. Albert and Nicholas are Junior Members. We also welcome back reinstated member Rober G. Miller, who originally joined in 1982.

- The Saratoga Battle Chapter took part in the annual Turning Point parade in Schuylerville, NY, on August 2, 2015, commemorating the American Victory at the Battle of Saratoga, NY on October 17, 1776. The SBC again joined with the Walloomsac Battle Chapter for this event; participation included a float and a large contingent of members. NYS DAR Regent Martha Crasper joined with us.
- On September 20, 2015 the Saratoga Battle Chapter joined with members of the Walloomsac Battle Chapter in the annual commemoration of the Battles of Saratoga, with a wreath laying at the Saratoga Battlefield National Park in Schuylerville NY



Members of the Saratoga Battle Chapter participating in the Annual Turning Point Parade.

• Schoharie Leatherstocking Chapter



Wait Family Certificates --(From left to right) Joseph Fitzpatrick (VP Empire State Capital District), daughter Mary, sons Albert and James, Jeffrey, and Dr. Brenda Wait.



Vietnam Vet Recognized -- Compatriot William T Vazal. receives the NSSAR Combat Military Certificate and Combat Medal with the Vietnam Bar from Joseph Fitzpatrick.



Certificate Presentation -- Compatriot John R Maxwell receives a NSSAR Certificate from Joseph Fitzpatrick (VP Empire State Capital District). John is a descendant of Patriot Joshua Maxwell who served in the American Revolution as Private in Capt. Maybery's Company and Col. Francis's Regiment.



Timothy Murphy Park and Monument Dedication - (l. to r) Dennis Foland, James Buzon, Joseph Fitzpatrick, William Vazal, and Elbridge Smith (Treasurer of the Hawaii SAR), members of the Schoharie Leather Stocking Chapter of the SAR who attended and participated in the dedication ceremony.

- **Valcour Battle Chapter**



Craig Russell shows off the pierced lantern he made.

- The Valcour Battle Chapter participated with the DAR in a genealogy workshop held on November 7, 2015. As a result DAR has a potential five new members, and SAR a potential of four.
- The Valcour Battle Chapter held its November meeting on the 14th, at The Ground Round Restaurant, in Plattsburgh NY.

Richard Ward presented a slate of officers for 2016. Historian Glidden spoke about a book *Between Two Worlds ...how the British became Americans* by Malcom Gaskill. It explores the 17th century, from Jamestown and Plymouth Rock to King William's War and the Salem Witch Trials.

We will be participating in the 2015 Wreaths Across America program to be held 12 December, 12:00PM, in Plattsburgh. Our symbolic wreath will be placed by the marker of an "Unknown"

Compatriot Craig Russell made a pierced lantern which was given to ESS President Duane Booth. Three Huzzahs for Craig...he is also the Valcour Battle Chapter incoming president.

- **Walloomsac Battle Chapter** -- Members of the Walloomsac Chapter the joined with those of the Saratoga Battle Chapter in the annual commemoration of the Battles of Saratoga, with a wreath laying at the Saratoga Battlefield National Park in Schuylerville NY on September 20, 2015.



Annual commemoration of the Battles of Saratoga.

Central Region Chapters

- **Oriskany Chapter** -- The Oriskany Battlefield Chapter invited the Syracuse Chapter over to a picnic at Fort Herkimer Church. Terry Sheldon gave a talk on the importance of pastors in the revolution. This was followed by a tour of the General Herkimer Home. Bob Gang, Bill Billingham, Palmer Shupe and Jerry Orton attended this event from Syracuse Chapter.

- **Syracuse Chapter**

- 2015 Aug 27 – Sep 7 – Jerry Orton assisted members of local DAR chapters in setting up the booth for the NYS Fair. Prints of scenes from the Revolutionary War, obtained from the John Sheaff Collection, were on display at the fair booth. A large number of compatriots from the Syracuse chapter and neighboring chapters volunteered to man the booth in four-hour shifts.
- 2015 Oct 17 – Shawn Doyle hosted the fall chapter meeting at the Halfshire Historical Society. Compatriot Bill Pomeroy gave an interesting talk on the Pomeroy Foundation and the historic roadside marker program. Bill fully explained the process for applying for Pomeroy Foundation Grants and encouraged all in attendance to submit applications for funding their projects. A number of Oswego County historians were present.
- 2015 Nov 7 – The chapter manned a table at the Veterans Expo at the Fairgrounds. Compatriots Bill Knowlton, Rich Remling, Dick Gunsalus, Ken Sweet and Jerry Orton attended. Jerry did a fine job of setting up the displays on the table and Ken Sweet's War of 1812 sword and his 18th century hatchet were a big hit.

- **Thousand Islands Chapter** -- Members of the Chapter including Parks Honeywell and Bruce Coyne, president and registrar respectively attended the Syracuse Chapter picnic.

Metropolitan Region Chapters

- **Long Island Chapter** -- The Chapter hosted the September ESS Board of Managers Meeting in conjunction with a ceremony at President Teddy Roosevelt's grave and a tour of his summer home, Sagamore Hill. Teddy Roosevelt was a member of SAR. More than 100 SARs, DARs and C.A.R.s attended.
- **Westchester - Putnam Chapter** -- Photo from the chapter's November 21, 2015 meeting



Genealogist; John Byers and Barrie Mabie.

(Back Row) Merry Philips, Recording Secretary; Hudson River Patriots Chapter NSDAR; Kari Weis, Registrar HRPC NSDAR; Joe Cralle; Philomena Dunn, Regent HRPC NSDAR; John Ludlum, Treasurer, W-PC SAR; Ed Leonard; Steve Smalley; Eric Krueger, Secretary, W-PC SAR; and Brook Hanna, Regent, White Plains Chapter, NSDAR.

Meeting -- (Ft. Row) Janice Smalley, Treasurer, Hudson River Patriots Chapter NSDAR; Jack Ludlum; Walt Ludlum, VP, Westchester- Putnam SAR; Peter Goebel, VP General - North Atlantic District NSSAR; Duane Booth, ESS-SAR President; Allan Warnecke,

Western Region Chapters

- **Rochester Chapter** -- Photos of some recent Chapter activities



Tombstone Dedication at Miller Barker Cemetery



Veteran's Day Ceremony, November 11, 2015



Honoring our Veterans at Rochester Honor Flights

Who's News

What's happening with our members



Vets Honored --Karl L. Danneil (l.) and Patrick J. Festa (r.), recognized for their military service during the Vietnam War by Regent Susan Hare, GPG Chapter NSDAR.

Compatriots Karl Danneil and Patrick Festa, members of the Saratoga Battle Chapter, were among four Veterans recognized for their military service during the Vietnam War at a commemorative lunch given by the General Peter Gansevoort Chapter NSDAR. Certificates and gifts were presented by the DAR and the Schuyler Society, its C.A.R. group, during a Veterans Day event on November 14, 2015 in Cohoes, NY.

Vietnam Veterans were selected for recognition because this is the 50th. commemoration of the start of the Vietnam War.

Danneil is an in-country Veteran who served in the US Army at White Sands Missile Range, in New Mexico. Festa is a former US Marine who served in Vietnam. Both Veterans continue their patriotic service. Danneil is a VAVS (VA Hospital Volunteer Services Representative) with AMVETS. Festa volunteers at the Solomon National Cemetery.

History Corner

New York in the Revolution

New York City played a more significant role in the American Revolution than most Americans realize. Perhaps its part is overlooked because there are aspects of its role in the war that many are glad to forget. For example, The Battle of Brooklyn (aka Battle of Long Island) in August 1776 was not exactly an American triumph. In fact General Washington's, troops, outflanked and outgunned, were forced to retreat, leaving the city in enemy hands -- a British base of command until the end of the war.

Secondly, many of the most important revolutionary sites in New York City today were outside of it then, and did not become part of NYC until the five boroughs were united in 1898 forming the present city.

Thirdly, NYC has not preserved many landmarks to remind us of its role in the battle for independence. The real estate market won over the history market long ago. Nevertheless, there are sites and particularly information, worth investigating.



(Map from <http://www.nyfreedom.com/>)

Despite being a British stronghold, New York City does have significant Patriot Revolutionary War history. Thanks to a website, New York Freedom Trail (<http://www.nyfreedom.com/>), it is easy to find the historic locations. Beside the above map, the website also gives directions and other useful information.

There are 19 sites along the New York Freedom Trail. Starting from the North, they are:

1. Hessian Huts -- replica huts, open to the public
2. Fort Washington -- a plaque marks Ft. Washington, highest spot in Manhattan
3. Morris Mansion -- extant, open to the public
4. Harlem Hights -- plaque on the Math Building, Columbia University
5. Central Park -- no marker at McGowan's Pass, just foundation ruin of a later Convent
6. City Hall Park -- may be under construction
7. St. Paul's Church -- extant, only surviving church from the Revolution
8. Trinity Church -- rebuilt, many monuments
9. Federal Hall -- a statue of George Washington out front of new building, free tours
10. Golden Hill -- a mural overlooks the spot
11. Fraunces Tavern -- reconstructed building, museum run by Sons of the Revolution
12. Bowling Green -- a faded stone in the grass
13. Liberty Island -- Statue of Liberty (Bedloe) Island today
14. Fort Green -- Prison Ship Martyrs Monument
15. Battle Pass -- a plaque marks the spot
16. Old Stone House -- extant, tours available
17. Battle Hill -- it's in Greenwood Cemetery today
18. The Narrows -- a plaque marks the spot
19. Conference House -- extant, tours available

So, the next time you're in NYC, remember the American Revolution. There are sites to see.

Source: The Freedom Trail, <http://www.nyfreedom.com/>

Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation - October 3, 1789

(The Heritage Foundation)

Following a resolution of Congress, President George Washington proclaimed Thursday the 26th of November 1789 a day of "public thanksgiving and prayer" devoted to "the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be." Reflecting American religious practice, Presidents and Congresses from the beginning of the republic have from time to time designated days of fasting and thanksgiving (the Thanksgiving holiday we continue to celebrate in November was established by Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War and made into law by Congress in 1941).

In setting aside a day for Thanksgiving, Washington established a non-sectarian tone for these devotions and stressed political, moral, and intellectual blessings that make self-government possible, in addition to personal and national repentance. Although the First Amendment prevents Congress from establishing a religion or prohibiting its free exercise, Presidents, as well as Congress, have always recognized the American regard for sacred practices and beliefs. Thus, throughout American history, Presidents have offered non-sectarian prayers for the victory of the military and in the wake of catastrophes. Transcending passionate quarrels over the proper role of religion in politics, the Thanksgiving Proclamation reminds us how natural their relationship has been. While church and state are separate, religion and politics, in their American refinement, prop each other up.