



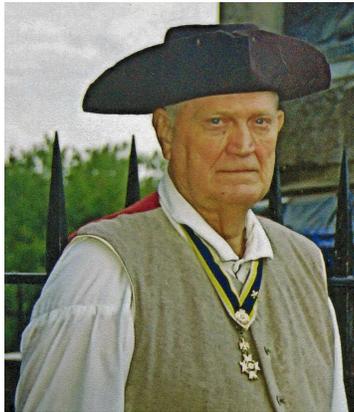
EMPIRE PATRIOT

Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Preserving the Past, Forming the Future

Vol. 21 Issue 2: December 2020

Holiday Issue



George Gydesen, President

Message from the President

Message for Christmas and the New Year

To all the membership of the ESSAR
Christmas greeting and every good wish
for the New Year.

This is the season to rejoice in the birth of
Jesus Christ. I am reminded of a prayer by
Rev. Arron Maddox.

Christmas greeting and every good wish for the New year.
I trust the gift of God's great and holy love will be in all our
hearts and lives at this blessed season. Our Lord Jesus Christ
came to bring peace on earth and good will among men
This is the hope of life now and that hereafter. God Bless us all.

Good thoughts and good will to all.

This past year has been one of shutdowns and cancellations. Even
through this we got work done. We passed our quorum change and
an amendment to the constitution allowing virtual meetings and
voting. Hopefully this next year we will be able to resume in-person
meetings or Hybrid meetings.

Stay Safe Stay Healthy and remember this season.

Merry Christmas And a Happy New Year
George Gydesen



Upcoming Event

March 27, 2021

Board of Managers Meeting
hosted by the Columbia-Mid
Hudson Chapter
Pegasus Restaurant
Coxsackie, NY

May 22, 2021

ESS Annual Meeting
hosted by the Syracuse Chapter
Half-Shire Historical Society
Richland, NY.

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

Empire State Society Fall Meeting

The Fall hybrid meeting of the Empire State Society SAR Board of Managers on November 7, 2020, scheduled for the Pegasus Restaurant, Coxsackie, NY, was revised into a virtual only one on the same date.

The ESS-SAR Board of Managers Special Meeting required to vote on the amendment to the by laws changing the Quorum and approving the use of virtual meetings was held and both amendments were approved.

The approved changes are as follows:

SECTION X QUORUMS

Fifteen members of the Society shall constitute a quorum at its annual meeting or any special meeting of the society

SECTION IV MEETINGS

Subsection 7:

7. It is the intention of Section IV that all meetings either regular or special are to be held in the State of New York with the physical attendance of the members. However, the President, in consultation with the Executive Committee may determine due to existing circumstances, that any meeting of members may be postponed or canceled and may be held partially or solely by electronic communication such as Zoom or any other electronic platform. The platform on or by which the meeting is held shall be considered the place of the meeting. It shall be verified that each person participating in the meeting electronically is a member and that each participating member is given a reasonable opportunity to engage in the meeting including an opportunity to propose, object to and vote upon any action to be taken by the members and to see, read or hear the proceedings of the meeting substantially concurrently with the proceedings. A record shall be made of the proceedings consisting of minutes containing any votes or other actions taken by electronic communication. All notice and posting requirements contained in Section IV shall be adhered to for all non-physical attendance meetings.

If a biennial election is scheduled and then canceled and the ballots have not yet been mailed, the election shall be canceled and current officers and managers shall remain in office until the next year's annual meeting. If ballots have been mailed and the biennial election is then canceled, the election process shall continue with modification as described in Sections VII and VIII of those By-Laws.

SECTION VII VOTING PERSONALLY OR BY MAIL

Subdivision 1:

1. When in physical attendance, members may vote for officers and managers to be elected at the annual meeting of a biennial election year either by casting their ballots personally as prescribed in Section IX of these By-Laws or by mail in accordance with instructions on or with said ballot. When not in physical attendance, only ballots received by mail, within the dates allowed, will be counted.

SECTION VIII INSPECTORS OF ELECTION

Section:

Prior to the Annual Meeting of a biennial year, the President shall appoint three inspectors of Election. Failure of an Inspector to attend at the opening of the polls at a meeting with physical attendance of the members shall make place vacant. Any vacancies shall be filled by the President or presiding officer at the meeting and in the case that none of the inspectors attend, other Inspectors shall be appointed by the President or presiding officer at the meeting. When a biennial election occurs at an Annual meeting without physical attendance, the Secretary or other individual who receives the ballots and who has inspected the envelopes shall deliver the unopened envelopes to one of the inspectors prior to the meeting. The Inspectors will then meet prior to the meeting and follow accepted procedures to inspect and count the ballots. The results will then be reported in writing or by email, prior to or at the meeting, to the President or presiding officer at the meeting. If it is impossible due to existing circumstances for the ballots to be delivered to an Inspector or for the Inspectors to meet, the process shall take place as soon as possible when circumstances permit, with the results of the election reported to the President in writing or by email.

Spring ESS-SAR Board of Managers Meeting Scheduled For March

The first Empire State Society Board of Managers Meeting of 2021 will be hosted by the Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter on March 27, 2021 at the Pegasus Restaurant in Coxsackie, NY.

Coffee and danish will be available at 10 AM during sign-in. The standard business meeting will begin at 11AM with a buffet lunch following. God willing, this will be a hybrid meeting – an actual meeting as well as a virtual one. Watch our website for further details.

ESS-SAR Annual Meeting Will Be in May

The Syracuse Chapter will host the Empire State Society Annual Meeting on May 22, 2021 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 buffet lunch following. Reservation information to follow.

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 ESSAR

Send to : Schoharie L-S Chapter SAR
C/O Joseph B. Fitzpatrick
PO Box 193
Esperance, NY 12066

Chapter News

Capital Region Chapters

- **Columbia-Mid Hudson Chapter** – The chapter planned to host the November 17, 2020 ESS-SAR Board of Managers Meeting in Coxsackie which was canceled. The chapter is planning to host the Spring meeting scheduled for March 27, 2021.
- **Saratoga Battle Chapter** – On November 7, 2020 members of the chapter participated together with other SAR chapters, members of the DAR and various officials in a ceremony commemorating 16 Revolutionary War Soldiers and the unveiling of six historical roadside markers at the Stephentown Veterans Park, Stephentown, NY. The markers were donated by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation and have since been installed at various cemeteries in Stephentown where veterans of the American Revolution are buried. A video of the ceremonies is available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/WiPdubUzBOM>



Duane Booth, Past President, ESS- SAR, and member of the Saratoga Battle Chapter.



Peter Goebel, Director Rensselaer County Veterans Services Agency, and a SBC member.



Stephentown Veterans Park.



Spectators standing at the opening of the ceremony.



Re-enactors from Saratoga Chapter presenting cannon salute.



Historical markers donated by the Pomeroy Foundation

- **Valcour Chapter** – Chapter President Craig Russell was one of the 50 people allowed to participate in the Wreathes Across America Christmas ceremony at the Solomon National Cemetery in Saratoga, NY.

Central Region

- **Rochester Chapter** -- The chapter gave a presentation to the Greece Historical Society on November 14, 2020. Robert Coomber talked about the Sons of the American Revolution and what the local chapter does to honor those who fought in the Revolutionary War.
- **Thousand Islands Chapter** – On September the chapter dedicated two Historical Markers, one recognizing the Kelsey Bridge Cemetery, the other the Old Theresa Cemetery. Three Revolutionary War Veterans are interred in the Kelsey, and at least four Veterans in the Old Bridge Cemetery. These make a total of five historical markers the chapter has erected this year. The markers are donated by the William C. Pomeroy Foundation.

History Corner

Words Matter in a Crisis

America is in crisis. That's nothing new for us. What is new is whether we will have someone like Thomas Paine to awaken and inspire us, and will we respond. How much do we prize patriotism above politics and freedom above fear?

Thomas Paine was a Patriot writer. His words are just as applicable today as when he wrote them. The following is an excerpt from an article by Travis Shaw appearing on the battlefields.org website.

“Summer soldiers and Sunshine patriots” - The American Crisis

"The American Crisis No. 1" authored by Thomas Paine.

“THESE are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated.”

The words electrified the demoralized army and became the rallying cry that Paine had hoped for. Within a day, copies were printed and distributed throughout the Continental Army, and officers read it to their assembled men. Militiamen who had returned home in disgust just a month before took up arms once again. Civilians up and down the Delaware River Valley reaffirmed their commitment to the cause of independence. Desertions among the Continentals slowed, and soldiers quoted *The Crisis* in their watchwords while on picket duty. On the night of December 25th, as Washington prepared to make a strike on Trenton, he ordered that Paine's words be read to the entire army as a reminder of the importance of their task.

“I call not upon a few, but upon all: not on this state or that state, but on every state: up and help us; lay your shoulders to the wheel; better have too much force than too little, when so great an object is at stake. Let it be told to the future world, that in the depth of winter, when nothing but hope and virtue could survive, that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet and to repulse it.”

Their resolve renewed, the battered but not broken Continental Army went back on the offensive. The “[Ten Crucial Days](#)” that followed saw Washington and his men victorious at [Trenton](#) and [Princeton](#), forcing Howe to abandon much of New Jersey. Loyalists, emboldened by Howe's earlier success, now found themselves abandoned to the wrath of their patriot neighbors. As winter gave way to spring, new enlistments from throughout the colonies poured into Washington's army. The military victories at Trenton and Princeton changed the course of the war in a strategic sense, but *The American Crisis No. 1* provided the ideological motivation that made them possible.

The American Crisis No. 1 was first of thirteen pamphlets published in the series, which would continue until the end of the war in 1783. Many of the future pamphlets reinforced the sentiments of the first, in their appeal to the patriotism of the American people to see the war through to its end. Others were ostensibly to “Lord Howe” or the “People of England” and highlighted what Paine saw as the injustice of the British government and the futility of trying to conquer America. These future volumes of *The American Crisis* continued to sell well and were distributed across the nation, but none would share the widespread recognition of the first. From the darkest days of the revolution came a piece of legendary American writing that continues to provide inspiration nearly two and a half centuries later

Washington's "Great Forage" Campaign at Valley Forge

At this holiday season let us not forget the hardships and privations that our Patriot ancestors endured at this time of year.

Crossing the Delaware River was just the beginning of the "times that try men's souls" for General George Washington and his Continental Army. Washington and his men had to survive the winter. The British were not the only danger and trial they faced at Valley Forge. Beside disease, and cold they faced deprivation. Being so close to the British in Philadelphia disrupted the Army's supply lines. Rather than leave everything to divine Providence, Washington took decisive action.

Washington had to make hard decisions. His choices and his solutions weren't always virtuous ones. He disobeyed Continental Congress orders by inoculating his troops against smallpox and thereby preserved the Continental Army to fight the British. To save his men from starvation during the winter at Valley Forge he resorted to the traditional military solution of living off the land although it meant plundering fellow citizens.

In what was known as the "Grand Forage" of February and March 1778, Washington ordered his Quartermaster General Nathaniel Greene to forage from the surrounding countryside: "take Carry off & secure all such Horses as are suitable for Cavalry or for Draft and all Cattle & Sheep fit for Slaughter together with every kind of Forage that may be found in possession of any Inhabitants within the Aforementioned Limits."

Washington's actions saved his Army, and keep it fit enough to fight the British in the Spring. Of course it wasn't popular with the locals, some of whom were Patriots themselves. The civilian population was subject to foraging by the British, too. Although some of the farmers were only too happy to do business with the British in Philadelphia, Washington had no such luxury. At the risk of their lives – from the Enemy, from the elements, and from unwilling farmers, groups of soldiers sought, found and brought back much needed supplies to the encampment at Valley Forge.

What exactly was Grand Forage? It was a two pronged operation: take provisions (horses and cattle) for Washington's troops; destroy anything that couldn't be carried off, to deny it to the British. Compared to Washington's three campaigns at Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth, the Grand Forage was a minor one in numbers of troops involved, but it was a combined forces operation of Army, naval and Marine units. Moreover, operation Grand Forage illustrates the initiative of General Washington and the hardships endured by Patriots, both soldier and civilian,

Sources:

"Washington's Grand Supply Woes, by David McCormick, *ARMY* magazine, December 2020

Photo from art.com



Washington salutes soldiers hauling in supplies during his Great Forage campaign at Valley Forge. .

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