

EMPIRE PATRIOT

Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Preserving the Past, Forming the Future

Vol. 13 Issue 4: April – June 2015

Spring Issue



Duane Booth

President's Message

Greetings Compatriots:

Well weather-wise things are slowly improving and that's a positive sign. We'll soon forget about this cold, snowy winter and move to outside activities including our SAR events.

Our 2015 billing cycle is complete except for some minor cleanup. I want to thank Bob Fuller, Tim Middlebrook and all our chapter treasurers for a great job. At National we began the year with 1064 members; had additions of 201 and losses of 125 for a gain of 76 members. Of the 125 losses 101 members didn't pay timely but I'm happy to say that about 40 of those have since paid. Note: Our

National count differs from our internal counts as they don't track our dual state and dual chapter members.

I had the honor of attending the State C.A.R. Conference in Utica. What a wonderful time. Look for my article elsewhere in this issue of our *Empire Patriot*.

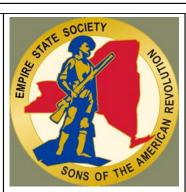
Many chapters are holding elections or have just held elections. I applaud each of who are serving, both long-tenured officers, and you newly elected ones. Your service is important to the success of our society. I had the pleasure of installing the newly elected Saratoga Battle Chapter officers and I've been asked to install Schoharie-Leatherstocking Chapter and Valcour Battle Chapter officers in April.

Our Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Finger Lakes Chapter in Ithaca on May 16th. The reservation form is on our website - <u>www.ess-sar.org</u>. Please consider coming and know members are always welcome at all of our meetings. Also remember our September 12th meeting on Long Island as it looks to a great time as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the SAR!

Fraternally, Duane

Duane Booth
President
Empire State Society
Sons of the American Revolution

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



ESS-SAR President

Duane Booth (518) 733-0830 boots42@fairpoint.net

Upcoming Events

May 16, 2015 Empire State Society Annual Meeting-

Ramada Ithaca Executive Conference Center. Ithaca, NY

June 26- July 1, 2015 National Society, Sons of the American Revolution 125th Annual Congress Louisville, KY

September 12, 2015 Empire State Society and Long Island Chapter

125th Anniversary of the Sons of the American Revolution

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Empire State Society Spring Board of Managers Meeting

The Board of Managers Spring Meeting was hosted by the Saratoga Battle Chapter. The meeting was held Saturday, March 28, 2015 at the Pegasus Restaurant, in West Coxsackie, NY.

The Investment Committee reported that ESS-SAR portfolio is in good shape. It increased +4.4% in 2014. The total value at the end of February 2015 was at a new high. The Membership Committee reported that the total General membership is up approximately 2% for 2015. The Nominating Committee submitted a slate of Officers for the coming year.

Awards

The Society presented seven awards. Compatriot Erick Krueger received the Gold Roger Sherman Medal. He and Daryl Verstreate received the Lafayette Volunteer Service Award. The Long Island, Syracuse, and Valcour Battle Chapters received the Partners in Patriotism certificates.



Board members and guests enjoy coffee prior to the Board of Managers meeting.



Pegasus owner assists Peter Goebel setting up our Flag for the meeting.



President General's Initiative 2013-2014 Memorials, Markers and Monuments



Erick Krueger receives his Gold Roger Sherman medal and the Lafayette Volunteer Service Award.

Empire State Society Annual Meeting

The Finger Lakes Chapter, SAR will host the Empire State Society Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 16th, 2015 at 11:00 am at the Ramada Ithaca Executive Conference Center. Social gathering at 10 AM.



EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION 2015 ANNUAL ESSSAR MEETING



Hosted By Finger Lakes Chapter, SAR Saturday, May 16, 2015

Ramada Ithaca Executive Conference Center
2310 N Triphammer Rd
Rte 13 & Triphammer Rd
Ithaca, NY, 14850 US
Phone: 607-257-3100

Social Gathering at 10 am/ Meeting at 11am

Lunch Menu

Garden Salad with house Dressings
Roasted Sliced Turkey Breast, Country Stuffing
Cranberry Sauce, Mashed Potatoes W/Gravy
Fresh Vegetable Medley
Fruit Salad, Rolls and Butter
Pastry Platter per Table
Coffee, Tea, Decaf Coffee, Ice Tea
Reserved price \$19 Includes gratuity
\$5.00 non-dining charge
Walk-in price \$20

RSVP by May 1, 2015 Check payable to the Finger Lakes Chapter, SAR

Mail to:
Ronald Schmitt
Treasurer Finger Lakes Chapter, SAR
302 E. Upland Road
Ithaca, NY 14850
RDSchmitt@aol.com
607-257-2382

Lodging

Rooms may be available at the Ramada Inn-Call the Ramada for reservations

Free transportation (with overnight reservations) from the Ithaca/Tompkins County

Airport-Call the Ramada.

Detailed directions on the reverse

Please RSVP by May1; more information, directions and reservation form are all available by clicking on http://www.ess-sar.org/pages/events.html#may15.

The meeting is open to the general membership

Empire State Society and Long Island Chapter to Celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the SAR in a Joint Event

Come join the Empire State Society and Long Island Chapter on September 12, 2015.to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Sons of the American Revolution by honoring President Theodore Roosevelt, a twenty year member of the SAR and a signer of our national charter, with a luncheon, a Presidential grave marking and a visit to Sagamore Hill. Check the following web sites for updated information: longislandchaptersar.org and ess-sar.org.





SAVE THE DAY

Come join the Empire State Society and the Long Island Chapter celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the

Sons of the American Revolution by

honoring

President Theodore Roosevelt, a twenty year member of the SAR and signer of our national charter,

with a luncheon, a Presidential grave marking

and a visit to

Sagamore Hill

September 12, 2015

Check the following websites for updated information:
longs bindchapters ar.org

SARs Attend the 2015 New York State Society C.A.R. Conference

Submitted by Duane Booth

On February 27-28, 2015 the Children of the American Revolution held their annual conference at the Radisson Hotel in Utica, NY and I was invited to attend.



Outgoing C.A.R. State Pres. Philip Mosher, ESS-SAR Pres. Duane Booth, and Elizabeth Mosher, Sr. C.A.R. State Society President.



Incoming C.A.R. State President Nicholas Oxaal (front row center) in formal dress at the Annual Conference.

It was a pleasure to see these children in three separate meetings. The kids were nicely dressed, well behaved, doing their jobs very professionally, getting along and having a good time to boot. Simply a wonderful experience for all. By belonging to the C.A.R. these children are not only learning history correctly while having fun they are gaining valuable leadership and business experience. Kudos to you children for all you are doing!

SARs that I spoke with included Peter Goebel, Rich Fullam, Doug Gallant and Ford Oxaal of the Saratoga Battle Chapter, Terry Sheldon of the Oriskany Battle Chapter, Michael Cole a Member at Large and Lee Klinkenberg of the Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter. Michael and Lee were in conference leadership roles and deserve a big "Thank You" for their dedication to the C.A.R.

Outgoing C.A.R. State President, and Junior SAR Philip Mosher, did an excellent job leading the conference. I look forward to attending the dedication of the plaque and monument at the Fort Herkimer Church that will complete his project. I've invited incoming State President Nicholas Oxaal to join us at our May 16th meeting in Ithaca. Nick will bring C.A.R. greetings and tell us about his state project.

I want to thank Philip and Elizabeth Mosher, Sr. C.A.R. State Society President, for inviting me and treating us SARs so well. Sandy Zerrillo, Sr. Conference Chair and her team did a great job of organizing the conference. Of course a huge "Thank You" to all the DAR ladies at all levels of their organization for their contributions to the C.A.R. I also want to thank the two C.A.R.s who paged for me-Nathaniel of the Highland Pass Society and Leah of the Ensign Robert Wilson Society. You two were great!

A special thank you to all you SARs who contribute to the C.A.R. with your leadership, encouragement and involvement in each other's programs. If you have children or grandchildren that are not involved consider getting them involved in C.A.R. And finally, consider making a donation of any amount to the C.A.R. - I predict that you'll be glad you did!

Chapter News

Capital Region Chapters

• Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter -- Columbia - Mid Hudson Valley Chapter will be honoring 15

Revolutionary War Patriots with a Grave Marking ceremony at St. John's Church in Red Hook, NY on April 25th at 11 am. Members of the church which just celebrated 300 years as well as the DAR and the public will be in attendance.

• Saratoga Battle Chapter



George Malinoski (l.) President of the Saratoga Battle Chapter, host of the ESS Board meeting.

- The Saratoga Battle Chapter was pleased to host the March 28, 2015 meeting of the Empire Society Board of Managers meeting, at the Pegasus Restaurant in Coxsackie, NY.
- The Saratoga Battle Chapter received a request from the ROTC representative at the Rennselaer Politechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, NY requesting the Chapter to present SAR Awards to three nominees. Compatriots Jonathan Goebel and George Malinoski will make the presentations.
- The 12th Annual Citizenship Ceremony, a joint event will be held on the lawn of the Saratoga National Historical Park's Visitor's Center, in the Town of Stillwater, NY on Friday, July 4, 2015 10:00 AM -

• Valcour Battle Chapter --

- The Valcour Battle Chapter has been awarded The Partners in Patriotism certificate for participating in the 2013-2014 by working hand in hand with a veterans group in pursuit of a common goal.
- The Valcour Battle Chapter together with the Saranac Chapter DAR will travel to Fort Chambly in Quebec, Canada, on June 6, 2015 for the annual commemoration of the sacrifices made by withdrawing American forces during the Revolution.



VBC Pres. James T. Hays receives the Partners in Patriotism certificate from ESS-SAR Chaplain Peter Goebel and Duane Booth

Central Region Chapters

• **Binghamton Chapter --** The following photo was taken at the Annual Joint Winter Lunch Meeting of the Binghamton Chapter, ESSSAR & Tuscarora Chapter, NSDAR was once again held on Saturday, February 14, 2015. Author Gil Reavill discussed his book "Mafia Summit", which is about the mob meeting hosted by Joseph "Joe the Barber" Barbara at his home on McFall Road in Apalachin, NY on November 14, 1957. The "American Mafia" had gathered to determine who was the "boss of bosses", but the meeting was really the beginning of the end for the Cosa Nostra.



Binghamton Chapter, & Tuscarora Chapter, NSDAR at their Annual Joint Winter Lunch Meeting.

• Syracuse Chapter --

The Syracuse Chapter held its 111th annual Heritage Luncheon commemorating the 283rd birthday of George Washington at the Drumlins Country Club on February 21, 2015. The event was attended by 80 people from across the state. The guest speaker was Susan Greenhagen who gave an entertaining talk called The New York Connection in the Civil War. The Syracuse chapter presented Dorothy DeAngelo with the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship award for exemplary volunteer service to the community regarding the history of Syracuse. Syracuse Chapter members Don Mawhinney was presented a 45 year and Shawn Doyle was presented a 25 year SAR Membership Certificate and pin.



Bob Gang presenting Bronze Good Citizenship Medal to Darothy DeAngelo assisted by her sister Susan Greenhagen



Shawn Doyle (l.) receives 25 Year Membership Certificate and pin from Robert Gang.



Don Mawhinney (l.) receives 45 Year Membership Certificate and pin from Robert Gang

The Syracuse Chapter was awarded The Partners in Patriotism Certificate for 2013-2014 by working hand in hand with a veterans group in pursuit of a common goal.

• **Thousand Islands Chapter** -- The Thousand Islands Chapter is growing quickly and expects to have 44 members within a week or two. The chapter is aiming for 50 members by the end of the year.

Metropolitan Region Chapters

- **Long Island Chapter** -- The chapter's Annual Meeting will held on April 26, 2015 at the Irish Coffee Pub, East Islip, Long Island, NY. This will be the chapter's 106th Anniversary Luncheon and Officer Installation.

 The chapter received The Partners in Patriotism certificate for 2013-2014
- Stony Point Chapter -- The following photos were taken at Henry Rose Cemetery restoration with Sony Point

SAR members Charles Goetschius, Mrs. Degennaro, Barry Brooks Larry Brissing.





Chapter members at work

Some Henry Rose Cemetery markers

Western Region Chapters

Rochester Chapter ---

- The Rochester Chapter held a joint meeting with the Buffalo Chapter on February 31, 2015. The Washington Day Luncheon was held at Bohn's Restaurant in Batavia, NY
- The Chapter's Annual Awards Ceremony will be held on April 15, 2015 at Rochester Chapter SAR upcoming Awards & Recognition Banquet to be held on April 15th at the Radisson Airport on Jefferson Road. It will be a very special event which deserves everyone's support. We plan on honoring most of the founding members of "Honor Flight Rochester" by presenting the founders with the National SAR Bronze Good Citizenship medals & Certificates, first authorized in 1895.



Compatriots at the Chapter's Washington Day Luncheon.

Other News

Contributed by Parks Honeyell

Operation Ancestor Search Looks Ahead to Long-Term Sustainability by Rick Kincaid, OAS Program Director

The Operation Ancestor Search program is embarking on a new chapter in its history as we approach the expiration of our three-year program grant from Ancestry.com this coming August 31. We now are actively seeking additional sources of funding to replace the annual grant from Ancestry. We also are developing a strategic plan to help guide us in reaching financial sustainability for future growth.

We appreciate the support that Ancestry.com has given to the OAS program since its inception, both financially with its cash grant of \$180,000 over the past three years and in-kind by providing the online Ancestry.com accounts for the program participants. Ancestry will continue to provide free access to its online accounts for the participants, which guarantees future access to its family of databases (including Fold3.com and Newspapers.com), Family Tree Maker software and related support materials.

Operation Ancestor Search seeks replacement funding for the program grant as it moves toward long-term financial self-sufficiency. The OAS leadership is in the process of developing a strategic plan outlining the programs operations, finances, marketing, public relations, and community outreach.

This strategic plan builds on the program growth, addresses the challenges facing the program in the future, and strategically lays out the direction and plan of action for others to join with the SAR and ensure the OAS program sustainability.

The Ancestry.com grant has enabled the SAR to hire a full-time OAS Program Director at its national headquarters in Louisville and has supercharged the expansion of the program. Since OAS Program Director Rick Kincaid started in April, 2013, the number of program facilities has grown from four to the current locations, and more on the drawing board or in various stages of development.

The changing nature of U.S. military combat action fortunately has resulted in a decline in the number of injured military service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. As a result, the population centers of wounded warriors is changing as the injured service members and their families transition from major military medical centers to dispersed military, veteran and civilian medical facilities. When wounded warriors return to service, they are reassigned to Warrior Transition Brigade units or they separate or retire from the military. While their location and status change, there remains a long (and often permanent) process of medical treatment and recovery.

OAS will address this challenge by gradually shifting its primary target locations from the major treatment facilities (although these will remain a big part of the program) to other medical facilities that continue to treat veterans and wounded warriors. In addition, OAS will look to engage other facilities that support injured or ill service members, e.g., VA medical facilities, Fisher Houses, veteran retirement homes, etc. OAS leaders at all levels also will work to maintain and develop relationships with other organizations that may provide additional re-sources, volunteers and support for the program.

OAS must ensure that it remains a priority program within the SAR. Continued support within the national, state and local leadership is necessary for continued success. Throughout the SAR, OAS is considered one of the most worthwhile and ex-citing programs that the organization offers to support veterans and advance our mission of patriotism. A continued presence at national, regional, state and local meetings and conferences will ensure that OAS remains a prominent part of the NSSAR program offerings.

For additional information about Operation Ancestor Search, contact Program Director Rick Kincaid at rkincaid@sar.org or (502) 588-6147 or Parks Honeywell at parkshoneywell@gmail.com or 315-212-9077.

Lansingburgh Village Burying Ground Veterans Grave Dedication

by Bob Gang



The Lansingburgh Village Burying Ground in present day Troy, NY where Capt. Hoogland and other US War Veterans lied in unmarked graves.

Sometimes a little bit of effort on one's part can reap great benefit for recognition of the veterans who founded and preserved our freedom. I have, as many of you too have, a 5th great uncle who left no known descendants and hence is an orphan when it comes to representation in lineage societies. My 5th great uncle was Capt. Jeronimus Hoogland, whose devotion and service to his country broke his health and caused him to die shortly after the war destitute and to be buried in such a manner that his grave has been lost to prosperity. It was a result of my quest to have a Veterans Administration (VA)memorial marker placed for this patriot that led to the placing of over 60 other VA stones for veterans of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War in the Lansingburgh Village Burying Ground in present day Troy, New York.

Jeronimus Hoogland who was descended from the first settles of New Amsterdam was born in Flatbush, New York in 1757 to John Hoagland and Elizabeth Rapalye in the town of Flushing. In 1775, 18 year old Hoogland was appointed as Adjutant of Col. John Lasher's Regiment of New York Militia. He was captured during the opening stages of the Battle of Long Island on August 27, 1776. While being interrogated by his British captors, he and other officers were much abused and threatened with hanging for refusing to disclose American troop dispositions and provide other information. He was later imprisoned on board a small snow (ship) which had been employed in bringing cattle from England. Here he was forced to lay upon the dung and filth of the cattle without any bedding or blankets and endured the well-known horrors of life on a prison ship. The prisoners would have all died had the poor and others of New York City not supported them.

Adjutant Hoogland was finally exchanged after about 5 months captivity and released with his health and constitution broken. On 7 October 1777 he was commissioned as Adjutant (with the rank of 1st Lieutenant) of the 2nd Continental Dragoons. He was later promoted to Captain of 3rd troop of the same regiment where he served with distinction until the end of the war.

Following the war Jeronimus Hoogland and his 3rd troop Lt., Horace Seymour went into business as merchants in Lansingburgh New York. In 1788, in a contemporary book written by Elkanah Watson, Watson noted that "He (Hoogland) was then, although young in years, old in suffering. He appeared like an old man hobbling on crutches. Thus he lingered a few months longer, and sank into a premature grave, a martyr in the cause of liberty. Posterity can never estimate the sacrifice and suffering of the patriots of the Revolution. He died December 16, 1788 in his 31st year. His was regarded as a national hero at the time as his death was reported across the country. His obituary stated:

'This gentleman is one of the many whose deaths may, in great measure, be attributed to their warm attachment to, and the many severe hardships they encountered for the welfare of their country...– respected as an officer – esteemed as a man – and beloved as a friend."

Such a well known and respected patriot and yet it is not known today for sure were Jeronimus Hoogland was buried. What is known is that he is not shown in the inventory of graves for the Black Swamp Road Cemetery in Flushing, New York where his father was buried in 1769. It is also known that he does not show in the inventory of graves for St. Paul's Cemetery in Mount Vernon, New York where his

mother and sisters lived at the time of his death. What is known is that the Letters of Administration, proved on 18 July 1811, show that at the time of his death he was destitute and indebted to Andrew Backus of Catskill, New York. It is also known that the Lansingburgh Cemetery was established in 1785, three years before Hoogland's death; that Hoogland's business partner, Horace Seymour, his brother-in-arms would have made certain that he was properly interred and that Hoogland was highly esteemed in his community. Given the situation at the time of his death, the most likely place for the burial would have been the Lansingburgh Cemetery. Determined that Captain Hoogland be properly honored and remembered, I therefore approached Gordon Brown, President of the Lansingburgh Historical Society for permission to place a memorial stone provided by the VA in the Old Lansingburgh Cemetery. Gordon and Dave Marsh, Vice President of the Lansingburgh Historical Society were at that time in the process of surveying the cemetery. Gordon's response to my request was that there were some 80 other known vets from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War who were also buried in the cemetery. This caused me to impulsively suggest that we should try to get a new VA stone for each of these veterans.

Getting a VA stone for a veteran requires that the veteran lie in either an unmarked grave or have an unreadable stone, that the request show proof of service, that the request be signed by a descendent of the deceased, that an official responsible for the cemetery allow the placement of the stone and that an address be provided of an organization to receive delivery of the stone. The only easy part of this process was that as President of the Lansingburgh Historical Society, Gordon could arrange for approving placing the stones. The requirement that the veterans were in either unmarked graves or have unreadable stones was also easily met as many contemporary stones had long since sunk under the ground or had become unreadable from the ravages of time. Arranging for an organization to receive the stones was achieved through the generosity of the local Veterans Club of Lansingburgh. The hard part to getting each stone was proving service and finding a descendent of the veteran to request the stone and obtaining a signature from the descendent.

Gordon was skeptical that proving service and finding descendants could be done. I however was now determined to get a memorial stone for each of the veterans so that they could be honored and remembered so I set to work. Gordon provided me with a list of veterans known to be interred in the cemetery. By searching on Fold3 and using other sources I started digging up proof of service for some of the veterans. I then went to Ancestry and started digging out descendants of the veterans and got them to agree to sign the paperwork requesting the stone. In a relatively short time I was able to show Gordon that we could indeed get a stone for many of the Veterans. Gordon was by this time hooked and agreed to take on this task. He started submitting applications to the VA signed by the descendent that I found. After about 14 applications the VA surmised what we were doing and they agreed to waive the requirement for digging up a descendent needed to request the stone. This vastly simplified the process so Gordon, Dave Marsh and I started digging out the proof of service for the rest of the vets. In the end a total of 64 VA stones were ordered for Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War Veterans. Some of those markers obtained are picture below.









Unfortunately, Gordon Brown died of liver cancer in 2012 and the project was placed on hold. In the summer and fall of 2014, David Marsh, John Ward and Christopher Phillipo took over the task of getting the stones placed. About 40 of the stones have been placed to date with the remainder expected to be

placed in the spring of 2015. It can be amazing how the synergy and collective efforts of a few can have such a huge impact.

The graves of the 1812 veterans interred in the Old Lansingburgh Village Burial Ground will be dedicated at some point in the future. This promises to be a huge event, as the dedication will be part of a ceremony that will also be attended by the DAR, the United Daughters of the War of 1812, the General Society of the War of 1812, the Sons of Union Veterans, the Military Order of Loyal Legion and the Daughters of Union Veterans. There will be more information about the event when it is planned in a future issue of the ESSSAR Newsletter.

History Corner

By Tom Dunne

Eleazer French is one of Tom's SAR Ancestors. Eleazer had an arm shot off during the action in 1775 at Bunker Hill. Picking up the arm he bore it as a trophy, from the bloody field. He and his brothers Samuel Fletcher French, and Jonathan French went to fight together. Samuel was shot through his right ear.

****Patriotic Poem written about Eleazer French****

ELEAZER FRENCH'S ARM

When dwelling on the heroes of field, redoubt and trench, Shall we not tell the story of young Eleazer French? With fowling piece and powder horn Under the clear June starlight borne, They labored till the early morn On Bunker's honored height;

Long hours the pick and shovel plied, And each who, weary, stepped aside, Found eagerly his place supplied Thoughout the summer night. No stouter hearts of stronger frame Were there, with patroit fire aflame, Than those from Dunstable that came To battle for the right.

And when the invading force was met, With powder grime and bloody sweat, The farmers' flintlocks paid the debt They owed to Howe's great guns. Muskets of old-time minute men! Ye told the story once again, How tyrants doubt and falter when Assemble Freedom's sons.

Full soon they heard the bugle call And saw the young Eleazer fall, Where sped the British cannon ball Upon the path of harm.

"Fall back! keep safe from further ill!"
They shouted; he, unconquered still,
Quoth stoutly, and with steadfast will,
"No! not without my arm!"

The severed limb all bleeding lay,
But he who fought that glorious day,
Took it upon his anguished way
And left no trophy there;
Racked with fierce pains and bitter qualms,
Fainting, and stunned with war's alarms,
Bravely he bore off both his arms
To show what soldiers dare.

O ye who sing our heroes of parapet and trench, Fail not to tell the story of brave Eleazer French!

Eleanor W. F. Bates

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