



EMPIRE PATRIOT

Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Preserving the Past, Forming the Future

Vol. 13 Issue 1: July – September 2015

Summer Issue



Duane Booth

President's Message

Greetings Compatriots:

Our Annual Meeting was held at the Ramada Conference Center in Cortland and was hosted by the Finger Lakes Chapter. Once again the members of the Finger Lakes Chapter did a great job and served a hearty lunch at very fair price! We heard a presentation from N.Y.S.S.C.A.R State President Nicholas Oxaal on his state project; we finalized our election and installed our new officers and managers. I appreciate being elected to a 2nd term.

Over the past year we have accomplished a lot. The goals set forth in my first term are at various stages of completion. Thanks to Karl Danneil and his wife, Maj. Eleanor Morris (Ret.), our *Empire Patriot* is being published again and it has been well received. Erick Krueger has made significant strides in writing the code necessary for our online database and while a rollout date hasn't been set I'm hopeful it will occur in 2015. Based on input from members of

the Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chancellor Raynor Duncombe has drafted wording for committee members review and comment. Once the committee has finalized proposed changes it will be presented to the Board of Managers and put on our website for member review.

We are the host society for the 2016 Atlantic Middle States Association Meeting. The meeting will be held August 10-12, 2016 at the Holiday Inn in Albany. There is much work to be done over the next several months to hold a successful event. As the date nears I am sure that we'll be in need of helping hands so if you'd like to volunteer please let me know.

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 Schoharie - Leatherstocking Chapter officers and V-P Capital Joseph B. Fitzpatrick and I traveled to Plattsburgh to attend a Valcour Battle Chapter meeting and to install their new officers. In June I attended a Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley meeting.

Our September 12th meeting will be held at Oyster Bay on Long Island and it should be a great time as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the first SAR Congress and ESSAR Charter Member President Teddy Roosevelt! The reservation form is on our website - www.ess-sar.org. Please consider coming and know members are always welcome at all of our meetings.

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

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Upcoming Events

August 2, 2015
Turning Point Parade
Schuylerville, NY

September 12, 2015
Empire State Society and Long Island Chapter
125th Anniversary of the Sons of the American Revolution
Oyster Bay, NY

March 26, 2016
Empire State Society Board of Managers Meeting
Pegasus Restaurant
Coxsackie, NY



Nicholas Oxaal, President NYSSAR showing Duane a model of Burden Iron Works office - his state project

Empire State Society 2015 Annual Meeting

Society elects new Officers

The Empire State Society Annual Meeting, hosted by the Finger Lakes Chapter, SAR, as held on Saturday, May 16th, 2015 the Ramada Ithaca Executive Conference Center, in Ithaca, NY.



New Board of Managers

President Duane Booth and the full slate of officers were elected to a second term. The full list of Officers of the Empire State Society for 2015-2016 is shown in the table below.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| President Duane Booth | Assistant Treasurer (appointed) Duane Booth | Chancellor Raynor B. Duncombe, Esq |
| Regional VPs Capital Region -- Joseph B. Fitzpatrick Central Region -- George A. Gydesen Metropolitan Region -- Kenneth R. Stevens Western Region -- James M. Eagan | Registrar William J. Woodworth | Chaplain Peter K. Goebel |
| Secretary Jonathan E. Goebel | National Trustee Joseph P. Vermaelen | Webmaster (appointed) Dennis G. Booth |
| Treasurer Timothy S. Middlebrook | Alternate Trustee Richard W. Sage | |
| | Historian Jonathan E. Goebel | |

Empire State Society Fall Meeting

The Empire State Society's Fall Meeting will be a joint meeting with the Long Island Chapter on September 12, 2015. The event will 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.

EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Board of Managers Meeting

Hosted By Long Island Chapter, SAR

Saturday, September 12, 2015

*The pleasure of your company is requested as we
celebrates the 125th Congress of the Sons of the American Revolution by honoring two Medal of
Honor recipients, both members of the ESS-SAR,*

President Theodore Roosevelt and his son Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.

At the

Matinecock Lodge 806 F. & A. M.

The Presidential Lodge of Theodore Roosevelt

14 W. Main Street, Oyster Bay New York 11771

Meeting at 11am

*The day includes a hot buffet luncheon at the historical Matinecock Lodge, a Presidential grave marking at
Youngs Memorial Cemetery*

and a guided tour of Sagamore Hill, the home of President Theodore Roosevelt.

Cost for the day's activities is \$50.00

Reservations required by August 28, 2015

Check payable to Long Island Chapter SAR and reservation slip below should be mailed to:

Eugene A. Visnefsky, Treasurer

P.O. Box 457

Shoreham, NY 11786

ezzapped@msn.com

Lodging at the

East Norwich Inn

6321 Northern Blvd. East Norwich, NY 11732

Reservations: 1-800-334-4798 (ask for the SAR rate)

<http://www.eastnorwichinn.com>

Number of Reservations (@ \$50 pp) _____ Total Enclosed: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

DAR/SAR Title: _____

Empire State Society at Installation of SAR Members



William A. Brown Installed -- (r.) Duane Booth, presents William A. Brown with his membership Certificate. Bill now lives in Cherry Plains, NY but lived most of his life in New Jersey. Bill's patriot ancestor is Henry Brown who served from New Jersey.



John D. Krebs Installed -- (l.) Duane presents John D. Krebs with his certificate and installs him in the SAR. John is from Connecticut but has ties to Stephentown, NY as his ancestor William Douglas settled there in 1765 when the area was called Jericho Valley.








Valcour Chapter Installation -- Richard Wingler, Craig Russell, Euclid Jones, Richard Ward, James Hays, William Glidden, Duane Booth. Kneeling: Joseph Fitzpatrick. (photo by BonnieWinger.)

New Ancestor Certificate Available

To commemorate your ancestral patriot the Empire State Society has designed this beautiful certificate. Personalized with your name, your ancestor's name, with your state and national member number. The certificate is custom printed using the highest quality professional equipment available.

Printed on premium quality 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. Order yours today.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
|  | <p><i>Empire State Society</i> of the <i>Sons of the American Revolution</i></p>  |  |
| <p>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 Kimmur who thereby aided in achieving the independence of The United States.</p> | | |
| <p>In witness whereof, the signature of its President and Secretary and the corporate seal are hereto affixed</p> <p>Dated _____ in the year of our Lord and the independence of The United States</p> | | |
|  | <p>National Number 168760</p> <p>_____ President</p> | <p>State Number 13092</p> <p>_____ Secretary</p>  |

Please use the following form to order your Patriot Certificate.

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 ESSSAR

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 Valley Chapter --** The Chapter participated in a Revolutionary War Veterans Marker Dedication Ceremony on May 24, 2015 in Rhinebeck, NY. Hosted by the Chancellor Livingston Chapter DAR, flags were placed on 45 Revolutionary War Soldiers graves in the Reformed Church Cemetery,



The American Legion, Montgomery Post 429 (background) served as Color Guard for the event.



Members of the SAR, DAR and American Legion pay their respects at the Revolutionary War cemetery.

- **Saratoga Battle Chapter --** The Saratoga Battle Chapter participated in the 12th Annual Citizenship ceremonies on the Fourth of July, held at the Saratoga National Historical Park.



Americanization Ceremony -- USCIS Field Office Director Gwyenne Dinolfo presents citizenship certificate to new citizen Wladyslawa Gnidzinski (formerly from Poland)



Saratoga Battle Chapter and C.A.R. representatives who took part in the Citizenship event

(photo by Mary Oxaal)

- **Schoharie-Leatherstocking Chapter --**

BRIEF BACKGROUND ON TIMOTHY MURPHY

by Joseph B. Fitzpatrick

Timothy Murphy was born near the Delaware Water Gap in 1751. His parents were from Donegal, Ireland. He enlisted with his brother in the Northumberland County Riflemen.

He saw action in the siege of Boston, the Battle of Long Island and Westchester County. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the Continental Army's 12th Pennsylvania Regiment, and fought in the Battles of Trenton and Princeton.

He was an expert marksman. Due to his skill with a rifle he was recruited by Gen. Daniel Morgan to serve in his Sharpshooter Corps. These sharpshooters were assigned to kill British Officers and Non Coms. The reason being British enlisted men were not trained to replace their officers on the field of battle.

Later he was selected as one of 500 handpicked riflemen to go with Gen. Morgan to help stop Gen. John Burgoyne and the British army at Saratoga. He was requested by Gen. Arnold and Gen. Morgan to shoot British Brigadier General Simon Fraser. He also was told that Fraser was a gallant officer but had to be eliminated during that engagement. He also killed Sir Francis Clerke, Gen. Burgoyne's Chief of Staff. These two deaths along with other factors help turn the Battle of Saratoga in favor of the American forces.

He lived in Charlotteville, Schoharie County till his death.



Chapter members at the Ceremony -- (L-R) Dennis N. Foland, James, S. Suzon. Pres. Joseph B. Fitzpatrick, William T. Vazil, and Elbridge W. Smith, Pres. Hawall SAR



The Timothy Murphy Monument and Park. -- dedicated July 4, 2015 in the Village of Middleburg, Schoharie, NY.

Installation of newly elected Board of Officers -



Board of Officers -- (l-r) State Pres. Duane Booth, Board of Officers Pres. Joseph Fitzpatrick, Chaplain James Buzon, Secretary Robert Stark, and VP/Treasurer Bryan Braun.

• Valcour Battle Chapter --

- The Chapter sponsored a luncheon to commemorate the Battle of Valcour Bay, 1776, on Lake Champlain. The guest speaker was Erick Tichonuk, the Program Director of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, who discussed the Valcour Battle, its aftermath and previous and ongoing preservation of the battle ships and artifacts
- The Chapter participated in a Combined Family Picnic for the Vermont State Societies SAR and DAR. The event was held on June 21, 2015 at the DAR John Strong Mansion and DAR State Park in West Addison, Vermont

The Chapter presented Service medals and certificates of appreciation during the May 12, 2015 meeting to members for their military service.

Receiving recognition for service during the Korean Conflict were compatriots Robert L. Arnold, Clifton (Jack) A. Barrette, and Walter S. Baumann. Brian S. Cook received recognition for service during the Vietnam Conflict.



Veterans Recognized -- Robert L. Arnold, Clifton(Jack) A. Barrette, and Walter S. Baumann. and Brian S. Cook

Metropolitan Region Chapters

- **Long Island Chapter--**



Joseph P. Vermaelen, Pres., presents the Adams Cup to David Shields, while Duane Booth, ESS-SAR president looks on.

- **Westchester-Putnam Chapter --**

July 3rd., 2015 parade in Lower Manhattan.



Banner Carriers -- *Mr. William Weld (r.) and his grandson.*



Some of the marchers.

Croton Point Lecture

The Special Guest Speaker at the Fall Luncheon of the Westchester-Putnam Chapter was Scott Craven, Captain, Village of Ossining Police Department.

Captain Craven holds both undergraduate and masters degrees in history, and speaks on a variety of historical to many different community groups. His topic at our meeting was Croton Point in colonial times.

Recognizing his work educating the public about local history as well as what he called his "hobby" of 30 years on the Ossining police force we awarded him both the society's Bronze Good Citizenship Medal as well as the Law Enforcement Medal.

Also at the meeting new member William Weld was presented his membership certificate.

Members of four of our six local NSDAR chapters also attended.



Award Presentation -- *(l-r) Ken Stevens presents the Bronze Good Citizenship and Law Enforcement medals to Capt. Scott Craven.*

Western Region Chapters

- **Rochester Chapter --**

July 4th Parade



Chapter Banner on parade vehicle.



Some of the members marching.

American Soldier BOOTS Performance with Rochester Chapter SAR members at Nazareth, June 13th



Members on stage.



Members performing.

- **Chautauqua Chapter --**



The above photo of a membership meeting of the Chautauqua Chapter appeared in the Westfield Republican newspaper.

History Corner

Two LaFayette stories --

The following article was contributed by Joseph B. Fitzpatrick, ESS Capital Region VP. The information and photos come from Mr. Bill Woodward, a prospective member of the Battle of Brooklyn Chapter.

A Watch Given by LaFayette to Patriot Suzanne Marie de Moulinars



Watch from LaFayette to Suzanne Marie de Moulinars



Bas Relief depicting scene from the Aeneid

This watch was given to Hamilton Bennett Meeks (son of Clarence G. Meeks) by his Grandfather Hamilton V. Meeks (Son of John Meeks and Elizabeth Bush). Hamilton V. Meeks had received it from his Aunt Josephine Meeks (Daughter of Joseph Meeks and Sarah Clark Van Dyke). The following historical data was given with the watch by Josephine Meeks.

"My Grand-father, Capt. John Meeks, lived neer Morristown, New Jersey. He served seven years in the Continental Army, in Company Hearts of Oak, Col. Malson's (sic) Regiment, commissioned to serve June 20, 1776. He was born in 1737 and died August 26, 1823.

He was married May 1st, 1767 to Suzanne Marie de Moulinars. Suzanne Marie de Moulinars was born in America. Her family, wit (sic.) other Huguenots, were driven from France by the Catholics. The Edict of Nantes, by King Henry the 4th of France, which gave the Protestants the free use of their religion, was repealed by Louis the 14th, when the war of extermination began by the Catholics against the Huguenots, who fled to England, Scotland and America.

My Grandfather's house was the headquarters of General LaFayette, Rochambeau and Count d'Estrange, aides General Washington, who occupied Col. Ford's house nearby, opposite on the turnpike road near Morristown, New Jersey. My Grandmother translated all the correspondence between Lafayette and Washington, during the coldest winter known for many years, when the American and British armies were snowbound in all their warlike operations. have (sic.) often heard my father say that LaFayette and his mother would walk up and down the piazza, arm in arm, talking French together.

LaFayette presented the watch to her as a momento (sic.) of her services. The basrelief (sic) on the back is Queen DiDi and Aeneas, depicting a scene from Virgil's Aenid (sic.)"

The watch was given by Hamilton Bennett Meeks (now deceased) to his nephew John Wolcott Meeks, who is the son of Clarence G. Meeks Jr. and Frances W. Meeks.

The following article was contributed by Bob Gang III, President, Syracuse Chapter SAR.

LaFayette presented a sword to an uncle, son of an ancestor who was one of the officers who came over from France with him in 1777

Surgeon's Mate John Francis Rague
10th and 1st Pennsylvania Continental Line
by Bob Gang III

Surgeon's Mate John Francis Rague was born in Paris September 14, 1748. He was one of the French officers who came over from France with Lafayette on the La Victoire, departing on April 20, 1777 and after a 54 day journey arriving in Charleston, S.C. on June 13, 1777. It is not known what Rague did during his first year on American soil but eventually, he was commissioned as Surgeon's Mate of the 1st Pennsylvania on August 19, 1778. He later transferred to the 1st Pennsylvania on January 17, 1781. At some point during his service Rague befriended Capt. James Bonnell of French Huguenot descent who served in Spencer's Regiment of the New Jersey Continental Line. During the 1780/81 winter encampment at Morristown, NJ, the story goes that amid the intense boredom of camp life, Rague played a practical joke on a fellow officer who did not see the humor in the prank. Bonnell, whose family home was in nearby Scotch Plain, New Jersey suggested that Rague spend a few weeks with his family and give tempers time to cool. Rague accepted Bonnell's invitation, procured a short leave of absence from his commanding officer and visited Bonnell's family. After a few days the climate in camp cooled and Bonnell wrote to Rague that he was safe to return to camp. Rague responded stating that he needed to stay 3 or 4 day longer. When Rague did return Bonnell learned that Rague had fallen in love with his sister Hannah and had married her on January 1, 1781.

Rague was wounded and captured late in the war and spent the last nine months of the war as a POW. He was held in the hold of the infamous hellhole HMS Jersey and was released about 9 months later when the war ended. Though his health was broken and still suffering from his wound, John set up a medical practice and lived in Battle Hill, New Jersey where he served the community as a doctor. He died a relatively young man from his wounds and broken constitution on October 16, 1798. Later in life Hannah applied for and received a pension based on Dr. Rague's Revolutionary War service. She lived in Westport, Connecticut and later in New York City until June 3, 1849 when she died.

The Pension file for Rague (Pension W3600) contains a letter written on December 16, 1928 by a descendant named Burnett T. Kirby of New Hampton, Iowa. When Lafayette made his famous tour of the United States he was invited as the guest of honor at a dinner held in New York City. The letter requesting information on Rague's service mentions that Kirby's family has a sword that was presented to Rague's youngest son John Francis by General Lafayette. At Lafayette's request, young John Francis sat by him at the head of the table and was presented the sword as a token of friendship to the family of Dr. Rague who was his personal physician.

References:

Henry H. Greene, The Todd Family Genealogy page 71, 1867
Danske Dandridge, American Prisoners of the Revolution, page 468, 1911
National Archives Pension Number W3600