



EMPIRE PATRIOT

Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Preserving the Past, Forming the Future

Vol. 13 Issue 3: January – March 2015

Winter Issue



Duane Booth

President's Message

Greetings Compatriots:

Our fall meeting was hosted by the Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter at the Pegasus Restaurant in Cossackie, NY. Items addressed included the approval of our 2015 budget; an Empire State Society Membership Certificate was discussed and concept was approved; a future donation to Purple Hearts Reunited was approved; a donation to N.Y.S.S.-C.A.R. President Philip Mosher's State Project was approved; a resolution asking National to consider accepting the service of certain Long Islands Patriots was approved and we heard a report on the online database. Thanks to the Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter for hosting a great meeting and everyone in attendance for making it a success.

On other matters work continues at the committee level on several projects and I'm hopeful several items will move along quickly in the first quarter of 2015; we are nearing the end of our 2015 dues canvass with annual report due at National Headquarters by late January and until the canvass is complete we won't know if we'll have a net gain in our membership.

As the year closes I am happy to report that working together much has been accomplished. I am proud to be an SAR and a member of the Empire State Society. Both at the chapter level and at our society level I can see a renewed willingness to help and a continuance of the cooperation we've seen in the past few years. A few examples, and there are many more, were the September meeting at Old Fort Niagara hosted by the Rochester and Buffalo Chapters, the creation of the Thousand Islands Chapter and of course the resurrection of our newsletter which is receiving a lot of praise including praise from Past *Empire Patriot* Editor Hank Croteau and all in attendance at the November meeting. A hearty "Thank You" to Karl and Eleanor and to all of you who are working together to make our Society better.

My very best to each of you for a healthy and successful 2015.

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



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Upcoming Events

March 28, 2015

Empire State Society
Board of Managers Meeting
Pegasus Restaurant
Cossackie, NY

May 16, 2015

Empire State Society
Annual Meeting-
TBA

September 15, 2015

Empire State Society and Long
Island Chapter
125th Anniversary of the Sons of
the American Revolution

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Empire State Society Board of Managers Meeting

The Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter hosted the Fall Empire State Society Board of Managers Meeting on Saturday, November 1, 2014 at the Pegasus Restaurant in Coxsackie, NY.



Attendees enjoying coffee before the meeting.



(standing) Jonathan Gobel talking with attendees.



Head Table -- (standing) ESS-SAR president Duane Booth opens the meeting. .



State C.A.R. President, Philip J. Mosher, speaks about his Ft. Herkimer Church cemetery project

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 28, 2015 at the Pegasus Restaurant, 10885 Route 9W, West Coxsackie, NY, near the Bronk House Historical site. Coffee and danish will be available beginning at 10 AM. Please RSVP by March 23rd.

For more details, directions and reservation form: www.ess-sar.org/pages/events.html#mar15

The meeting is open to the general membership.

ESS-SAR Annual Meeting

Save the date! The Empire State Society Annual Meeting will be May 16, 2015, and will be hosted by the Finger Lakes Chapter. Details TBA.

Chapter News

Capital Region Chapters

- **Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter**
 - Members of the Chapter participated in Wreaths Across America on December 13, 2014 at Fishkill Supply Depot in Fishkill, NY.



Fishkill Supply Depot



Van Wyck Homestead

Harold Delamater, left, Alan Coon, 2nd from left and Bob Farrell, 2nd from right placed wreaths for their respective branches of Service at the Van Wyck Homestead site.

- **Saratoga Battle Chapter** -- The Chapter will hold its Annual General Meeting on February 21, 2015, at the Century House, Latham, NY in honor of George Washington's birthday.
- **Schoharie Leatherstocking Chapter**



Donation for Timothy Murphy Monument -- (l-r) Dennis Foland, Town Councilman; James Buzon, Raynor B. Duncomer; ESS-SAR Capital VP Joseph Fitzpatrick; Village Trustee William Morton; Village Mayor Matthew Aitable



Esperance Eagle Scout Presentation -- (l-r) Scout Master Jeff Largeteau; Eagle Scout Reyers Phillip Bruso; Empire NY Capital Region Vice President, Joseph Fitzpatrick; and Eagle Scout's father, Peter Bruso.

- **Valcour Battle Chapter**



Eagle Scout Matt Orr

The Valcour Battle Chapter awarded Matthew K. Orr a SAR certificate recognizing his achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Orr marked the graves of Civil War Veterans buried in Clinton County cemeteries.

Orr is a member of BSA Troop 41, in Champlain, NY. He is now a BSA leader, and attending college in Maine.



Remembering Unknown Soldiers

On December 13, 2014 three Generations of Valcour Battle Chapter members Richard Wingler, Joshua Wingler and Keith Parker-Wingler layed a wreath, donated by the Valcour Battle Chapter, on the grave of the Unknown Revolutionary War soldier buried in the Old Post Cemetery.

Central Region Chapters

- **Binghamton Chapter --**

- President Wayne G. Thurston represented the chapter at the Purple Heart return ceremony for PFC Thomas McGraw on 04 November 2014 at the Calvary club in Manlius N.Y. Other Compatriots present were Tim Mabee of the Saratoga Battle Chapter, and Bruce Coyne of the Thousand Island Chapter McGraw was killed in Vietnam on 01 February 1966. His purple heart was lost and found by a student on a playground. The family that found the medal kept it for many years and after discovering the Purple Heart Reunited foundation, the family was overjoyed that some-one could return the medal to his daughter and wife. The medal presentation was the unveiling of a large framed display of the Purple Heart and all of the other medals earned by Thomas McGraw as well as other documents pertaining to his life. Capt. Zackariah Fike, the founder of Purple Hearts reunited, spoke about his family, the foundation, and the need to find and return these medals.
- The Annual Fall Lunch Meeting of the Binghamton Chapter, SAR was held on Saturday, October 25 at "The Spot" Restaurant. Election results were announced:

President: Wayne G. Thurston
 Vice President: Gerald D. Rhodes
 Treasurer: Roger D. Cargill
 Secretary: Mark R. Burdick
 Registrar: Wayne G. Thurston
 Historian: Mark R. Burdick
 Chaplain: Roger D. Cargill
 Member at Large: Robert E. Clemons
 Member at Large: (Open)



Newly elected Officers of the Binghamton Chapter SAR

Several membership certificates and awards were also presented:

Eric Phelps: New Member	Charles Spence: 25 Years
Roger D. Cargill: 25 Years	Murray Aldrich: 20 Years
Roger S. Cargill: 25 Years	Wayne Thurston: 15 Years

Attended were entertained by our speaker – Dr. David Wade Morton, former principal, consultant for Alfred University and the North Syracuse School District, Governor of the Albany Colony, Society of Mayflower Descendants, a member of the Syracuse Chapter, SAR. Dave lives in Manlius, but has relatives & ancestors from Tioga County and other parts of NY, and was able to capture the audience with his genealogical stories before he launched into his main presentation on "The Burning of the

White House". Dave showed some video, discussed Dolley Madison's actions at the time & had the crowd ponder "What would you have saved" as well as "Why IS it called the White House."

- **Syracuse Chapter --**

- The chapter held its Annual Pearl Harbor Day Luncheon at Alfa's in Syracuse, NY.
- The chapter's Annual Heritage Luncheon is scheduled for 12 noon, February 21 at Drumlins Country Club, Nottingham Road, Syracuse, NY.

Metropolitan Region Chapters

- **1st New York Continental Chapter** -- Mr. Wesley Oler is the current president of the chapter.
- **Long Island Chapter** -- The chapter will hold it's first General Meeting of 2015 at 10:00 A.M. on January 17th, at 35 Suffolk Down, Shoreham, NY 11786.
- **Stony Point Chapter**

Stony Point Battle Chapter holds 9th Annual Christmas Brunch Submitted by Duane Booth

Members of the Stony Point Battle Chapter, gathered with family & friends at the historic Old 76 House in Tappan on Sunday, December 7th (Pearl Harbor Day) for a brief meeting, to celebrate the season with fellowship & delicious food, and to recognize members and a special DAR.

The Old 76 House predates the Revolutionary War by more than 100 years. The tavern, which played a significant role during the War as a meeting place for American supporters and as a "prison" for British spy Major John Andre. Tavern keeper Rob Norden does an excellent job protecting the historic significance and atmosphere of the restaurant and provides excellent fare at reasonable prices. For sure, an excellent choice for the Chapter's yearend meeting and party.

Chapter President Barry Brooks opened the meeting recognizing Empire State Society President Duane Booth and his guest Joyce Armstrong. Barry also recognized the Chapter's newly elected officers: Barry Brooks, President; Ernie Metcalf, Vice President; Larry Brissing, Secretary; Joe Sahadi, Treasurer; Stephen Konopko Webmaster; Chapter Directors Bill Sherwood; Jim Clearwater, Al Booth; Glen Slater and Larry Brissing. Barry and Gene Erickson serve on the State Board of Managers.

Following brunch Society President Booth installed new members Ted Brovanski, Eugene Head, Donald and Paul Joachim.

After the installation Duane briefly spoke to the group and took the time to say how pleased he was to watch the chapter grow and thrive since a group of guys stepped forward and reorganized it in 2006. Chapter membership has risen more than threefold (from around 30 to almost 100); they have a permanent meeting space, activities and community service have greatly increased, a beautiful monument honoring Stony Point Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers has been erected, and the treasury is very healthy. Kudos to Stony Point for a job well done. Duane announced that Eugene Head has offered to be Chapter Registrar and that his wife Ellen will assist him. Thanks Eugene and Ellen it is nice of you both to step forward and know I'll be here to help you along.



Installation -- (l-r) Paul, Ted, Eugene and Don receive certificates from Barry Brooks. Duane and Metcalf look on.

Following the Meeting Chapter President Brooks presented Duane and El with chapter level Distinguished Service awards. Duane earned his award for serving as chapter registrar since late 2006. Eldred Carhart received his award for his fundraising efforts while chapter treasurer. El's efforts allowed the chapter to pay for the monument previously mentioned and still left the treasury with a substantial balance.

Due to a family death El could not be at the brunch and thus no photo. Your work is appreciated El -- you'll be a tough act to follow! Marie Koestler, who also was unable to attend due to an illness, received the DAR Medal of Appreciation for her tireless work in helping the Chapter prepare the book "North Rockland Patriots & Soldiers 1775-1865" that was dedicated to the residents of the Town of Haverstraw.

Barry also presented Certificates of Appreciation to outgoing Secretary Tim Phillips and Vice President Ernie Metcalf.



Barry and Tim



Barry and Ernie

Barry presented Years of Service pins to members with 20 or more years in the SAR. Two members, Steven Hopper and Kenneth Conklin were eligible for 50 years pins. Steven was not present but Ken was present to receive his pin. Congratulations Ken and Steven!



Barry, Ken and Duane

Joyce and I were at the 2009 Christmas Brunch which was nice but the historic significance of the Old 76 House added a special touch to this one.



Ernie, Barry, Tavern Keeper Rob Norden, Bob Knight and Duane

Western Region Chapters

- **Rochester Chapter** -- Board of Managers Meeting & Holiday Evening was held on Wednesday, December 17th, at Fireside Grill and Sports Bar in Henrietta, NY. The event benefits the patients of the Batavia VA Hospital.
- **Newtown Battle Chapter** -- The chapter's Annual Chapter Christmas Party and meeting was held on Saturday, December 1, 2012 with lunch served at 1PM at Curly's Chicken House, Elmira, NY. All those attending were asked to bring a gift which will be given to the Veterans at the Bath VA Medical Center.
- **Thousand Islands Chapter**
 - Operation Ancestor Search and SAR state presidents have named Thousand Islands chapter president Parks Honeywell as OAS State Chairman in both NY and FL.
 - Roberta Eagan discovered the book *The Last Men of the Revolution*, published 1864 at Syracuse Public Library. It profiles nine of the last Revolutionary War soldiers living in Onondaga County.

Who's News

What's happening with our members

(reprint from the Thousand Islands Sun)

Thousand Island Sun, Alexandria Bay, NY 12/4/2014

Local man and Florida SAR help wounded veterans

By John Sagert, Contributing Writer

Alexandria Bay – The Tampa Bay area is home to the Department of Defense's central command and two veterans' hospitals.

These hospitals serve disabled veterans and wounded warriors. They receive medical care, but they need more than that. They need a purpose, an understanding, but most of all, an outlet to help them get their minds off their injuries.

Operation Ancestor Search (OAS) is one of those outlets. The OAS program works as a stress reliever. The Clearwater Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), under the direction of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution, offers a free genealogy training program for wounded warriors and their families. With the help of volunteers, they can even connect with a distant family member.

Parks Honeywell, Clearwater Chapter SAR member, past president and registrar/genealogist, is spearheading the local effort, along with a core group of volunteers from the Clearwater Chapter. They have begun working with veterans

at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa, Fla., where 49 patients and caregivers have been enrolled in OAS in the polytrauma and spinal cord injury units. In the C.W. Bill Young Veterans Center in the Bay Pines facility, OAS activity has started and is expected to realize its full potential early in 2015. Volunteers continue to knock on doors and talk to local leaders in hopes of introducing the program in new facilities.

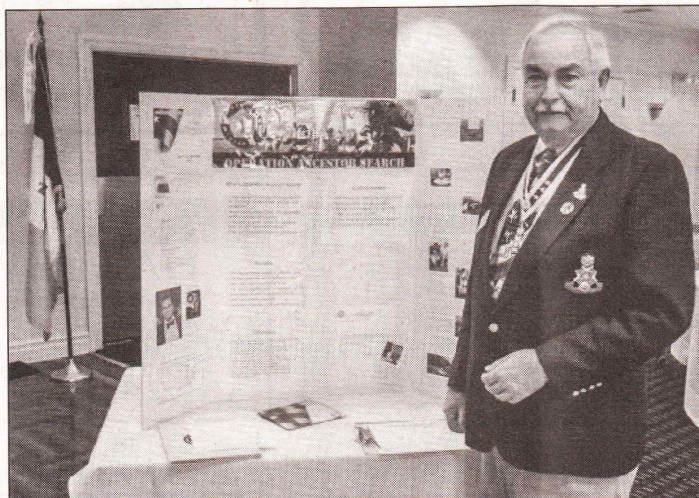
Parks Honeywell is also president of the Thousand Islands Chapter of the Empire State Society of the SAR in New York. He was granted permission to speak to the veterans. In 2014, the chapter began introducing the OAS program to local military and veterans facilities in New York. They volunteered their services to staff and patients, who included the wounded warriors at Fort Drum having returned from Afghanistan. Many of these veterans are receiving treatment in the Warriors Transition Battalion. Forty-five patients have received assistance from the OAS program at Fort Drum.

Mr. Honeywell's commitment to the OAS program has led to recently being named the chairman of both the Florida and New York Operation Ancestor Search committees. The teams he has assembled continue to provide veterans and wounded warriors with knowledge and tools that allow them to conduct their own genealogy research as they recover from their injuries at military hospitals and medical centers across the country. There are more than 14 OAS programs operating across the country. In Florida, OAS program initiatives are now operating in Jacksonville. The OAS programs will soon start in Orlando, Pensacola and Miami.

The OAS program was started in 2011 by the Washington, D.C., Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Working at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, more than 100 members of the armed services have been assisted in researching their genealogy. Veterans realize how important knowing where they come from effects their self-worth and personal stability. With the assistance of OAS volunteers, some veterans have found they have military ties to their ancestors. One veteran sent a letter to OAS that said, "Knowing the family stories can help increase the honor in one's name, just by knowing how one came to be, where one is now, and the sacrifices from those who came before."

For information, contact Mr. Honeywell at 212-9077 or parkshoneywell@gmail.com.

John Sagert is the publicist for the Clearwater chapter of SAR.



Parks Honeywell conducts a presentation of Operation Ancestor Search at a Sons of the American Revolution luncheon in Florida.

Christ Church

Clayton
Rev. John Crosswaite

Clayton – Sunday Eucharist is celebrated at 10 a.m. each Sunday.

History Corner

Knox Cannon Trail

As we endure winter in upper New York State let us remember a heroic event in the American Revolution that took place in 1775-76 during the winter months: the moving of captured artillery from the Adirondacks in upstate New York to the coast of New England.

We can follow the The Henry Knox Trail, also known as the Knox Cannon Trail, a network of roads and paths that traces the route of Colonel Henry Knox's "noble train of artillery" from Fort Ticonderoga to the Continental Army camp outside Boston, Massachusetts early in the American Revolutionary War thanks to monuments placed along the whole route.

Knox was commissioned by Continental Army commander George Washington in 1775 to transport 59 cannons from captured forts on Lake Champlain, 30 from Fort Ticonderoga and 29 from Crown Point, to the army camp outside Boston to aid the war effort there against British forces.. They included forty-three heavy brass and iron cannons, six cohorns, eight mortars, and two howitzers, Knox, using sledges pulled by teams of oxen to haul these cannons, many weighing over a ton, crossed an icy Lake George in mid-winter. He proceeded to travel through rural New York and the snow-covered Berkshire Mountains of Massachusetts, finally arriving to the aid of the beleaguered Continental Army in January 1776.

In 1926, the 150th anniversary of Knox's march, New York erected 30 monument plaques within the state, and Massachusetts erected 26 within the Commonwealth, marking the route the expedition passed along. Further research done in the early 1970s suggested a more southeasterly route from Kinderhook toward the Massachusetts border near North Egremont and then on to Great Barrington. Therefore in 1975, the marker locations between Kinderhook, New York and Alford, Massachusetts were updated after new research found Knox did not pass through Claverack, New York but most likely took a more southeasterly route from Kinderhook toward the Massachusetts border, through North Egremont, and then on to Great Barrington. There is a current marker at the intersection of Routes NY22 and MA71 commemorating this route.

For those wanting to follow the Trail the location of the markers in New York State are listed below. A full list, including the Massachusetts ones, together with photos and roadmap sections is on line at: www.nysm.nysed.gov/services/KnoxTrail/kthistory.html The following information is taken from that website.



New York State Monuments

<p>1) Fort Ticonderoga - Place of Arms.</p> <p>2) Fort Ticonderoga Dock.</p> <p>3) Fort Ticonderoga - Where transferred from water to land carriage. Stake K.T.3, between two telephone poles in triangle south east of Ticonderoga Pulp and Paper Co's. land, 8 feet from north westerly pole and 23 feet and 3 inches from south easterly pole.)</p> <p>4) Fort Ticonderoga - Where Transferred to Lake George vessels. Stake K.T.4, (Brady lands) west side of highway opposite Rapids Mt. Store on Alex McCaughin's property.</p> <p>5) Sabbath Day Point - (Stake K.T.5, on property belonging to Bruce W. Carney about 50 feet west of dock and 38 feet 10 inches from elm tree and 31 feet 11 inches from gasoline fill pipe.</p> <p>6) Bolton Landing - near public dock.</p> <p>7) Lake George - Beside road through Lake George Battlefield.</p> <p>8) Halfway Brook - (or Bloody Brook or Pond) Stake K.T.8, on east side of state highway 29 feet 6 inches east of center line of pavement at a point 178 feet northerly along east edge of pavement from most northerly guard rail post near Station 260.</p> <p>9) Glens Falls - Near corner of Glen Street and Roseland Avenue.</p>	<p>10) Hudson Falls - Public Library Grounds, Main and Clark Streets.</p> <p>11) Fort Edward - High School Grounds. Broadway and Case Streets.</p> <p>11½) (Added) Fort Miller - Beside State Highway. junction of highway leading from the State highway into Fort Miller 67 feet and 4 inches from the south east point of intersection and 53 feet and 9 inches from the northeast point of intersection.</p> <p>12) Northumberland - On highway to Northumberland Bridge.</p> <p>13) Schuylerville - (Old Saratoga) Memorial Park South end of village.</p> <p>14) Ensign House - on river road south of Schuylerville.</p> <p>15) Bemis Heights - On state highway, west of bridge. North of Bemis Heights.</p> <p>16) Stillwater - In Park south end of village.</p> <p>17) Mechanicville - On Elks Club property. East side Main Street.</p> <p>18) Waterford (Old Half Moon) - In Park, southeast corner Broad and First Streets.</p> <p>19) Crescent (Klaus's Ferry) -At school 16. West side highway between Latham and Crescent Rte. 9</p>	<p>20) Latham - On property of Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church. West side highway R. 9.</p> <p>21) Albany - At Loudonville Road and Northern Boulevard (Near Wolfert's Roost).</p> <p>22) Albany - In Riverside Park . (On Quay St. north of Dunn Memorial Bridge, on S.E. corner streetside, pedestrian underpass - set in concrete wall).</p> <p>23) Rensselaer - At Aiken Avenue and Columbia Turnpike.</p> <p>24) East Greenbush - On red brick Church (Reformed) property on west side State highway(9).</p> <p>25) Schodack - At junction New York - Albany and Pittsfield - Albany highways (Rtes.9 and 20)</p> <p>26) Kinderhook - In Village Park.</p> <p>27) West Ghent - Near West Ghent Reformed Church, At Junction Old Kings Highway and Stockport-Ghent highway, just off 9-H.</p> <p>28) Claverack - On Red Brick Church property R. 9-H</p> <p>29) Hillsdale (Old Nobletown) - At park jct. State Highways 22 and 23.</p> <p>30) New York-Massachusetts State Line - On N.Y. highway Route 23, east of Hillsdale.</p>
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Reference: <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/services/KnoxTrail/kthistory.html>

The next newsletter will feature members success at finding burial records and placing missing cemetery markers in Lansingburgh.
Editor Karl Danneil