



EMPIRE PATRIOT

Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Preserving the Past, Forming the Future

Vol. 14 Issue 3: January – March 2016

Winter Issue



Duane Booth

President's Message

Greetings Compatriots:

Winter is about past and soon many of us will be cleaning up our yards and planting flowers and vegetables. Also, I'm sure many of you are planning SAR events such as grave markings, cemetery cleanup, parades etc.

Our 2016 billing cycle is complete and while Bob Fuller printed from his pc based database we successfully offered chapter treasurers the option of doing their dues remittances online. Those who took advantage of this option were well pleased as it saved them a lot of work and was pretty much without a glitch. I want to thank Erick Krueger, Doug Gallant and Dennis Booth for making this online database a reality. Also I want to thank Bob Fuller for 10 years of dedication in maintaining a database of

our membership and for most of those years printing the bills. While we only had a small net gain in membership it was a successful year.

I had the honor of representing the Society at the State C.A.R. Conference in Albany. Again this year it was a great time.

We will soon be holding Stare Society elections. As a part of this year's election we will be asking members to vote on revisions to our Constitution and Bylaws as they are outdated as to what we do and need to be updated to allow us to use current technology such as email and conference calling. We will also ask you to approve holding elections on a biennial basis rather than on an annual basis

Our Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Oriskany Battle Chapter in New Hartford, NY on May 14th. The reservation form is on our website - www.ess-sar.org. Please consider coming and know that members are always welcome at all of our meetings.

Finally, we are the host society for this year's Atlantic Middle States Association Meeting. This is a regional meeting that includes the five societies in the Mid Atlantic District (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA) and the two societies in the North Atlantic District (NY & NJ). The meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel on Wolf Road in Albany on Friday August 12 and Saturday August 13 2016. We are planning a bus tour of the Saratoga Battlefield Saturday afternoon and a fun filled banquet on Saturday evening. Details and the reservation form are on the ESS website at www.ess-sar.org.

Fraternally,

Duane

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

JOIN/RENEW SAR at www.sar.org/essar



Upcoming Events

May 14, 2016

ESS-SAR Annual Meeting
Hosted by the Oriskany Battle Chapter
Holiday Inn Utica/New Hartford
New Hartford, NY

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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Empire State Society Board of Managers Meeting

The Saratoga Battle Chapter hosted the Winter Empire State Society Board of Managers Meeting on Saturday, March 26, 2016 at the Pegasus Restaurant in Cossack, NY.



Coffee Time -- (l-r.) Doug Gallant, Duane Booth, Erick Krueger and Joe Fitzpatrick socialize before the meeting.



Two Veterans -- Karl Danneil (l.) Viet Nam War era, and John Maxwell (r.), Iraq War, get together.



Getting down to business.



Duane Booth presiding.

At the meeting Henry "Hank" Croteau, Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter, read a letter that stated that for every grave opening NYS charges an internment fee to cover cemetery vandalism. Many cemeteries use this to get thousands of dollars to restore cemeteries across the state. The NYS Dept. of Cemeteries can be contacted at:

Lewis A. Polishook, Director,
NYS Department of State,
Division of Cemeteries,
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave.,
Albany, NY 12231-0001.

E-mail: [Contact Us](#). Phone: (518) 474-6226 or (212) 417-5713.

ESS-SAR Annual Meeting Upcoming in May

The May Board of Managers and Annual Meeting, hosted by the Oriskany Battle Chapter, will be held Saturday, May 14, 2016 at the Holiday Inn Utica/New Hartford, 1777 Burrstone Rd., New Hartford, NY 13413 at 11 AM. Coffee, water and danish will be available beginning at 10:00 am.

The meeting is open to the general membership. Please RSVP by May 1; detailed information and reservation form is available at our website: www.ess-sar.org.

Empire to Host Atlantic Middle States Association Annual Meeting

The Empire State Society will host the Atlantic Middle States Association - SAR 2016 Annual Meeting on Friday and Saturday, August 12-13, 2016 at the Radisson Hotel Albany, Albany, NY. Saturday events include an optional bus tour, as well as evening banquet.

An optional bus tour of the Saratoga Battlefield will be available on Saturday. The tour cost is \$50 and will include a guide and a boxed Subway® lunch. The tour is available to the first 55 responses.

The banquet will include a special topic presentation, "Arnold on Arnold, May 18, 1775: Benedict Arnold Saves America's Revolution," led by Larry Arnold. The presentation highlights one of the most overlooked actions of the American Revolutionary War. We'll explore the events leading up to the day Colonel Benedict Arnold takes matters into his own hands and secures Northern New York's frontier from British encroachment. Arnold's early actions on Lake Champlain gave our new nation time. Time to come together as a people, time to form political institutions, time to organize an army and time to win a revolution.

The Atlantic Middle States Association of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is composed of seven state societies in two districts. The Mid-Atlantic District is comprised of the Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and District of Columbia Societies. The North Atlantic District is comprised of the Empire State (New York) and New Jersey Societies.

The registration deadline is Friday, July 22, 2016.



Special Event: Tour the Saratoga Battlefield - The "Turning Point of the American Revolution"



Banquet Topic: Title: "Arnold on Arnold, May 18, 1775: Benedict Arnold Saves America's Revolution"

This presentation highlights one of the most overlooked actions of the American Revolutionary War. We'll explore the events leading up to the day Colonel Benedict Arnold takes matters into his own hands and secures Northern New York's frontier from British encroachment. Arnold's early actions on Lake Champlain gave our new nation time. Time to come together as a people, time to form political institutions, time to organize an army and time to win a revolution.

Registration deadline is Friday July 22, 2016.



THE ATLANTIC MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION OF THE

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

2016 Atlantic Middle States Conference

August 12-13, 2016

(Hosted by the Empire State Society, SAR)

Registration

Albany Radisson

205 Wolf Rd.

Albany, NY 12205

(800) 333-3333 or (518) 458-7250

We have negotiated a special rate of \$120.00 per night, plus applicable taxes (*please mention "Sons of the American Revolution"*). Room reservations must be made directly with the Albany Radisson, **prior to Friday July 22, 2016 at 3 pm.** to receive the discount rate. Flying in? Closest airport is Albany International (ALB) and hotel shuttle service is available.

Name: _____
Street: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Chapter: _____
Guest Name(s): _____
Phone Number: _____
Email Address: _____
State Society: _____
SAR Office: _____
Number Total: _____

Conference Package

Registration (All SAR members must register): # _____ @ \$20 each. Total _____
Friday Night Buffet Dinner: # _____ @ \$65.00 each. Total _____
Friday Night Ladies Program: No charge # _____
Saturday Lunch/Tour: # _____ @ \$50.00 each. Total _____

Included Subway® Lunch Choices:

_____ Turkey / # _____ Roast Beef / # _____ Black Forest Ham

Note: Tour is limited to the first 55 responses.

Saturday Banquet Meal:

NY Strip Steak # _____ @ \$85.00 each. Total _____
Salmon # _____ @ \$75.00 each. Total _____

Total Amount Remitted: _____

Kindly mail the registration form & payment made payable to "ESSSAR"

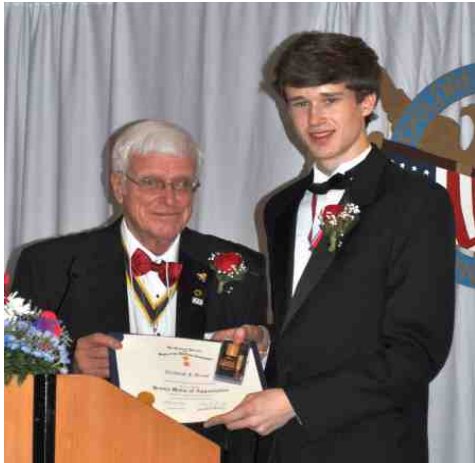
No later than July 22, 2016 to:

Empire State Society, SAR
C/o Timothy Middlebrook
57 Boulevard Knolls
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

For questions please contact:

Duane Booth, Society President, boots42@fairpoint.net or 518-733-0830

ESS-SAR at the 2016 NYS C.A.R. Conference



Duane Booth presents outgoing N.Y. S. S. C.A.R. President Nicholas F. Oxaal with the SAR's Bronze C.A.R. Medal of Appreciation

(photo courtesy Ford Oxaal)



Martha M. Crapser, State Regent, NY State Organization, NSDAR; Billie Spence, Senior President N.S.C.A.R.; Erin Jackson, N.S.C.A.R.; and Duane Booth, President, Empire State Society, SAR.

Get Your 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. Order yours today.

A sample of a Patriot Certificate from the Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The certificate is on cream-colored paper with a decorative border. At the top left is a small painting of a Revolutionary War scene. At the top right is a portrait of George Washington. In the center, the text reads: "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 Rinnan who thereby aided in achieving the independence of The United States." Below this, it says "In witness whereof, the signature of its President and Secretary and the corporate seal are hereto affixed." The date is left blank. At the bottom, there are fields for "National Number 168760" and "State Number 13092". There are also lines for the "President" and "Secretary" signatures. On the bottom left is a gold seal with a blue ribbon, and on the bottom right is a circular seal of the Empire State Society.

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 received the NYS Patriot Certificate for Partners in Patriotism.
- **Saratoga Battle Chapter** -- 1st VP Douglas M. Gallant presided at the chapter's Annual Meeting on February 21, 2015, at the Century House, Latham, NY. Twenty Veterans were recognized, a new member inducted, and the SAR/DAR Medal of Appreciation awarded. Some photos from the event:



War Service Medal -- Gregory C. Hickok.



War Service Medal -- John David Lacy.



Military Service -- Karl Danneil (center)



New Member -- Doug Gallant (l.) and ESS-SAR pres. Duane Booth (r.) install David L. Flint (center).



SAR/DAR Medal of Appreciation -- Mrs. Mary Oxaal.

- **Schoharie Leather-Stocking Chapter**
 - 21 February 2016, Esperance Eagle Scout Presentation -- Pres. Joseph Fitzpatrick presented the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Eagle Scout Certificate of Recognition to Reyers Philip Bruso at the Esperance Elks Lodge 2507.
 - 3 April 2016, Eagle Scout presentation Cherry Vallen, NY -- Pres. Joseph Fitzpatrick attended a Court of Honor for five Eagle Scouts and presented the NSSAR Certificate of Recognition to the following Eagle Scouts at Cherry Valley, New York. Scott and Kevin Segit. Kevin made Eagle Scout three years ago, but wanted to wait till his brother made Eagle; Rayan JeQuay, and Albert and James Wait.
 - 9 April 2016, the Schoharie L-S Chapter held its meeting at the Middleburgh Library, Middleburgh, New York. The members present presented the NSSAR War Service Medal to Compatriot John Maxwell who served in the United States Air Force overseas during the Middle East conflict. We appointed a committee for the replacement of the Monument for George Zimmer who served with the 15th Albany Militia during the Revolutionary War. The land owners, Mark and Nan Stolzenburg were present and gave us written permission for the placement of the new monument and are going to serve on the Committee. William Zimmer, 7th generation nephew signed the VA request form and is also serving on the Committee.



Joe Fitzpatrick and Bruso family at Esperance Eagle Scout event.



Joe Fitzpatrick (center) speaking at the Cherry Valley Eagle Scout Court of Honor.



Wait family -- (l - r) Brenda, Albert, James, Jeffrey, (front row) Mary.



SAR War Certificate Presentation to Compatriot John Maxwell -- (l - r) Mark Stolzenburg, James Buzon, Jim Buzon, Robert Stark, Joe Fitzpatrick, John Maxwell and his wife Elaina, and Bryan Braun.



Patriot George Zimmer's Monument Committee -- (back row) Jim Buzon, Robert Starkr; (front row) John Maxwell, James Buzon, Joe Fitzpatrick, Nan Stolzenburg, Mark Stolzenburg, Bryan Braun.

- **Valcour Battle Chapter** -- The Chapter held it's March meeting on the 8th, at The Ground Round Restaurant, in Plattsburgh NY. The memorial for Compatriot Bill Glidden is on May 10 at the St. Sacrament Episcopal Church in Bolton Landing, New York with the burial to follow at noon at Gerald B. Solomon National Cemetery in Saratoga. After that will be a reception at the New York State Military Museum in Sar-atoga. Jim Hays showed a copy of a newer book on the battle titles "The Battle of Valcour Island: The Participants and Vessels of Benedict Arnold's 1776 Defense of Lake Champlain" by Stephen Darley. One of the features of the book is a roster of the American fleet.

Central Region Chapters

- **Oriskany Battle Chapter** -- The Chapter will host the ESS-SAR Annual Meeting on May 14, 2016.
- **Syracuse Chapter** -- .

The chapter held it's 112th annual Heritage Luncheon on 20 Feb. 2016, at the Drumlins Country Club. A number of state and national officers were present including Jan Johnpier, Mary Raye Casper, Peg Raymond, Anne Farley, Dave Morton, Sharon Matyas and George Gydesen.

The following awards were given out by President Bob Gang: SAR award to Tom Henry for his work with veterans, Partners in Patriotism; thirty-five year membership award to Jerry Orton; Martha Washington Award to Jane Pickett; and the Good Citizenship Award went to Barbara Rivette, Town of Manlius historian



Compatriots at the 112th annual Heritage Luncheon.

Western Region Chapters

- **Rochester Chapter** -- Photos of recent Chapter activities: .



Eagle Scout Essay Contest Award Presentation



Board of Managers Meeting,

Who's News

What's happening with our members

Tim Middlebrook on FoFSD Board

Compatriot Tim Middlebrook, President of the Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter, is a member of the Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot Board. The FoFSD is a preservation group endeavoring to stop the commercial development on the Revolutionary War Burial Grounds in Fishkill. The site, on the National Register of Historical Places, contains building foundations, countless artifacts, and a long-lost soldier's cemetery of an estimated 320 soldiers in unmarked graves. Fishkill was once the site of General George Washington's principal supply depot, and was home to several hospitals, barracks for troops, and a prison which held British soldiers after the American Victory at Saratoga. The group seeks community engagement and funding to acquire the wooded lot, and preserve the site for future archeological and historical study in a format similar to the Jamestown VA Project. For more information visit: www.fishkillsupplydepot.org



Tim Middlebrook

History Corner

New York in the Revolution



Preface

The Brother referenced in this article is Capt. John McKinstry, a Revolutionary War veteran and a member of Hudson Lodge 7, Hudson, NY. At the end of the War Capt. McKinstry established a residence in Hudson, Columbia County. At his death he was interred in a mausoleum in Livingston. The site bore no recognition identifying him as a Revolutionary War veteran. Through disregard for maintenance, time has taken a toll on the mausoleum. The front brick facade separating from the main structure allows water to enter, and with freezing temperatures it has caused severe damage to the brick work. Recognizing the problem, Hudson Widow's Son Lodge 7 (recently merged) stepped up to the plate to try to restore and preserve the mausoleum containing the remains of

Masonic Sign of Distress saved soldier from death at stake

By W Henry W. Croteau, Jr., Master
Hudson Widow's Son Lodge 7

disturbed him? Had he perhaps heard what human ears could not—the sound of Indian warriors approaching through the trees? For in that year the Mohawks, under their leader Joseph Brant, had joined forces with the British and the War of the Revolution was being fought with tomahawk and scalping knife as well as musket and cannon.

Colonel John Patterson, commanding a regiment of soldiers enlisted from the district that is now Columbia County, was one who wondered if the bird had sensed Indians. He talked it over with one of his junior officers, Captain John McKinstry of Livingston. They were alarmed enough to rouse the soldiers and begin preparing for an attack. It was a wise decision, for scarcely had the regiment gotten itself together when a frenzied, high-pitched scream sounded from the woods, followed by another and another, and the battle later known as "The Battle of the Cedars" had begun on the banks of the St. Lawrence River.

The knife-wielding Indians—only a

screaming around the fires, their half-naked bodies streaked with paint, dirt and blood. McKinstry's heart stopped beating for a moment at another sound that rose even above the noise the Indians were making—the screams of prisoners being tortured. Now he understood why he still had his scalp, why his captor had not killed him immediately.

Then an Indian, paint- and blood-stained like the rest, stalked gravely across the clearing, without appearing to see any of the frenzied activity around him. His cold, severe manner was in such complete contrast to all the others that McKinstry's eyes followed him. He saw him cross the Indian encampment into the British part, and with the same gravity stalk to a cluster of guarded tents, probably the British headquarters. He passed the guards without a sign and disappeared inside the canvas. McKinstry let out his breath. He knew without question that was the infamous Joseph Brant, the leader of the Indians,

their Brother and Revolutionary War veteran. Unfortunately, the estimated costs for restoration far exceed funds available at the Lodge level. For the reasons outlined, the Lodge is publicizing its mission, for assistance in this restoration project. Upon completion there will be a program with a Grave-Marking Ceremony by the Empire State Society Sons of the American Revolution, a Veterans Administration Plaque Dedication and a Military Gun Salute with accolades from American Legion Post 184, Hudson. More information may be obtained by contacting RW Henry W. Croteau, Jr. at 518/755-2615.

The Plight of Brother/ Capt. John McKinstry

A blue jay rose suddenly from a tree and hung in the air, chattering and crying, breaking the stillness of the forest on that lovely May day in 1776. The blue-uniformed soldiers, who had been resting from their march watched him idly—most of them, but a few with more interest and speculation. What made the bird leave the tree? Was it just its habit or had something

few of them had guns—were backed up by British musketeers. Before nightfall ended the battle there were many deaths on both sides. When the Indians retreated into the forest they took many prisoners with them, among them John McKinstry of Livingston, Columbia County.

Shoved along with the other prisoners through unending tract of forest, McKinstry stumbled and fell many times, only to be roughly pulled to his feet and forced to go on, the sharp point of a knife pressing through his torn uniform. For hours and hours they walked until they reached a camp. It was divided into two sections, with the British soldiers keeping to themselves and the Indians to themselves. According to the rules of the alliance, each partner kept its own prisoners—and McKinstry was an Indian prisoner.

Tortured Prisoners

In the Indian section maddened warriors danced

commissioned a Captain in the King's Army.

Brant was a strange and tragic figure. Both the British and Americans had wooed him but he had finally gone over to the British after a trip to London the year before, when the British government had promised to return the Schoharie and Cherry Valleys to the Mohawks if they were victorious, or deed them a tract of land in Canada if the Americans were victorious. It was a better offer than the Americans could make, although Colonel Herkimer had

continues on to next page



told Brant the Indians might come back and live in the valleys. The Mohawk chief had angrily replied that his people would never live on land they had once owned, and promptly established a treaty with the British. His alliance with them had been a bloody one for the Americans.

McKinstry stood watching the tent into which Brant had disappeared, until he was roughly jerked along by his captors. From then on everything was a nightmare. He was struck with sticks, cut with knives, had burning torches thrust against his flesh. It was almost dawn when he was roughly thrown against a stake and bound. A fire was started at his feet. His mind was growing blank, he knew he was near unconsciousness. The flames licked at his legs and he knew it was only minutes now. Without consciously thinking about what he did—he was past that now—he gave a Masonic sign of distress. He heard a cry, then voices. He was aware the fire was being stamped out and then he blacked out.

Sometime the next day he awoke, still in the Indian camp. Near him stood the fearsome Captain Brant. When he spoke his English was correct and with no trace of the pidgin used by most Indians.

"I had you cut down because you gave the Masonic sign of distress and I am a Mason. I had to do it. I will give you safe conduct back to your own lines."

McKinstry tried to thank him but he stalked away. Later a messenger from Brant came and, as the chief had promised, took McKinstry through the Indian lines back to his own territory.

After the Revolution was over Brant and McKinstry met again. The Mohawk had taken his people to Canada but was unhappy there and frequently made the trip back to the lands of his people. McKinstry heard he was going to be in Albany and made the trip up to see him. This time the Indian was more communicative and the two became friends. Thereafter, whenever Brant was in Albany, he always journeyed the extra mile to see McKinstry and sometimes he, with McKinstry, attended meetings of Hudson Lodge 7 F & A M, where he was greatly admired as a selfless leader of his people and an exceptional Mason.

McKinstry lived many years after his narrow escape following the Battle of the Cedars and eventually became a Colonel. Today he rests in a crumbling mausoleum in the Livingston Reformed Church Cemetery. The symbols of the organization which saved him, Freemasonry, still stand out on the inscription stone, though most of his epitaph is fast fading away.

Editor's Note: The above article appeared in the Spring 2016 issue of "The Empire State Mason" magazine. The author, Henry Croteau Jr., is also a member of the Columbia - Mid Hudson Valley Chapter SAR.