

### President's remarks:

My Fellow Compatriots,

It has been my pleasure to serve you as your president for the last two years. While I am stepping down at the annual meeting on February 24th, I plan to remain active in the Society for the foreseeable future.

During my term, in addition to attending the regular events of the Society, I also had the opportunity to attend the 2016 National Congress in Boston as well as a number of functions with the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Founders and Patriots, the Sons of the Revolution, the Children of the American Revolution, the Massachusetts Society of the SAR and the New England District of the SAR. I can honestly say that we are a Society which attracts gentlemen of the highest quality with a commitment to Patriotic ideals and preserving our great nation's heritage.

As always, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the Society's officers and Board of Managers without whose help my success as your president would not be possible. Please extend to our incoming president the same support and dedication you have given to me.

Please bear in mind that we are a short four years away from the 250th anniversary of the Burning of the Gaspee which will be the start of the observance of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Most of us are old enough to remember the Bicentennial era of the 1970s. I hope that, like then, there will be a number of quality events which will foster greater awareness of the American Revolution and an increase in Patriotism throughout the country. As Rhode Island has the honor of being one of the "charter members" of the United States of America I expect and hope it will play a prominent role in the upcoming Sestercentennial of the American Revolution.

As this will be my last communication to you, I want to take a few moments to reflect on my view of what Patriotism is. Patriotism is, simply put, love of country. This love, however, has to be more than the simple blind love of repeating popular slogans like, "We are the greatest nation in the world." or "America - Love it or Leave it." To be truly Patriotic, we must understand both what we love about our country and why we love it. Our founding fathers started an experiment which had never been tried before in human history - to build a nation diverse in race, ethnicity and religion upon the principle that all of its citizens were of equal value and, thereby, had equal rights, as well as the then radical ideas of religious freedom and that a nation should be governed with the consent of the governed.

Despite many divisive moments in our history, our nation has always found a way to rise above its difficulties and build a brighter road for future generations to travel. The secret to this success, in my opinion, is to allow both boundless ambition and extreme idealism to exist together and to check each other's excesses. We, as a nation, cannot allow total freedom of ambition so that the country is ruled by a small elite at the expense of the larger population. On the other hand, we cannot allow the ideals of justice and equality to stifle and subvert the innovative and productive spirit which make our nation's strong. A truly great nation is both strong and good - as the United States has been for most of its history.

This is not to ignore our troubles both past and present. True Patriotism calls us all to work to "form a more perfect union". We must be honest about our flaws, both individually and collectively, and work to correct them. We must give

serious consideration as to who we will elect to public office. We must be ever vigilant to threats to our individual and economic freedom and not be seduced into thinking purely through either an ideological or idealistic mindset.

No, this is not easy, but it must be done to preserve the ideals of freedom, equality and justice which our forefathers fought and died for. The United States, ultimately, is not governed by the President and the Congress - but all of its citizens. We must think in terms of what serves the greater good and not just our individual interests.

In short, true Patriotism is not simply loving our country but working to make it better. Our involvement the Sons of the American Revolution, and similar organizations, is one of many ways we can serve and strengthen our great nation. Patriots are not colorful icons from the past but live and work in the present. Let us all be counted among them.

God Bless You All,

John T. Duchesneau  
President  
Rhode Island Society  
Sons of the American Revolution

### Calendar:

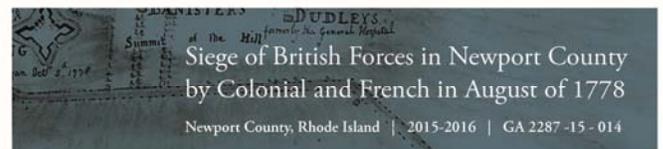
Annual Meeting: February 24  
BOM: 4/7, 7/7, 10/13, 1/5/19  
Flag Day Luncheon: June 14  
Cooke House: September 24  
North Burial Ground: November 3  
Veteran's Day Salute: November 10  
Christmas Party: December 8

### Reading material:

#### **Siege of British Forces in Newport County by Colonial and French 1778**

Funded by a grant from the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program, this study delves into the technical, often forgotten, aspects of the Siege of Newport - a Revolutionary War engagement that took place in Middletown, RI in August 1778. It pairs the historical record with scientific analysis of the artillery, fortifications, geography and unforeseen circumstances that impacted the Siege. While much of the original earthen defense-works are now gone, there are a small number of sites that still exist. This study also covers what sites remain, their condition and thoughts on how to preserve and commemorate them.

[http://digitalcommons.salve.edu/fac\\_staff\\_ebooks/4/](http://digitalcommons.salve.edu/fac_staff_ebooks/4/)



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## Admiral Furlong Awards

The Admiral Furlong Award is presented to organizations that fly the United States Flag properly without having to do so. Our participation in this program is recognized by the National Society each year. Presentations were made by President John Duchesneau to the Nathanael Greene Homestead and the Varnum Continentals as they met the requirements.



Nathanael Greene Homestead President David Procaccini accepts the Admiral Furlong award from RISSAR President John Duchesneau.



Col. Joanne Breslin of the Varnum Continentals accepts the award from RISSAR President John Duchesneau.

## Henry A.L. Brown--Article from the Providence Journal July 6, 1899. Rhode Island Sons of the American Revolution at First Baptist Church.

### In Old Fashion

Independence Day celebrated by Rhode Island Sons of the Revolution.

Interesting Exercises Held in First Baptist Meeting House.

Reading of the Declaration of Independence by John P. Farnsworth--Oration of the Day Delivered by Hon. George H. Utter, ex-Secretary of State--An Eloquent Address Upon the Past, Present and Future of the Country.

The old-fashioned Independence Day celebration under the auspices of the Rhode Island Society, Sons of the American Revolution, was carried out at the old First Baptist Meeting House as it has been for several years past. The Hedly-Livsey Band furnished patriotic music, the Declaration of Independence was read and the oration of the day was delivered.

Robert P. Brown, President of the society, officiated, and after a medley of patriotic airs by the band stationed in the gallery, prayer was offered by Rev. Frederic Denison, the Chaplain of the Rhode Island society. The reading of the Declaration was by John P. Farnsworth of the society.

After more music by the band, the oration of the day was delivered by Hon. George H. Utter, ex-Secretary of State. The Chairman, in introducing him, spoke of the appropriateness of the revival of the reading of the Declaration and the oration by this society, which is made up of the direct descendants of those who fought in the Revolution. Mr. Utter spoke eloquently and talked of the past, present and future of the country. He declared that he was not an imperialist. He condemned the growing loss of individuality in the mechanism of existing commercial life. He said, in part: " 'A patriotic talk,' the Chairman of your committee said. And who could not talk on such a theme? And who could be other than patriotic on such a day, and in such a place and before such an audience. We Americans, I admit, are too much afraid of allowing our patriotism to become noisy, unless I except the West. We are patriotic to the core, but we hesitate to attract attention to that fact. Some great emergencies arises, and we are found equal to it. A camp of sick and dying soldiers may be set up within our reach and noble men and women hear the weak cry for help and respond for 'country's sake.' But even this is done with a quietness more in accord with the errand on which they go than as an embodiment of patriotism. But today all this is changed, and we have been invited to come here in order that we may make known our patriotism. A patriotic order, brought together and held together by patriotic motives, has invited you to meet on this birthday anniversary, and here to sing the praise of our common political mother.

"And what better place could have been chosen for such a gathering. This old church. The body of religious people who worship weekly in this old church sprang from the efforts of a man who feared neither man nor devil, and yet he trembled before the voice of God as it was sounded in his conscience. To this hospitable spot he came, and here almost with gunshot, was drawn the first civil document which recognized the right of conscience in matters religious. That document was the corollary of the Magna Charter, and upon the two rest the whole fabric of the American state--the right of the individual to his body and to his religious belief. How appropriate it is that a gathering of this kind, therefore, should meet in this old First Baptist Church.

"And who has a clearer right to celebrate this day than we of Rhode Island. It was our General Assembly that first declared its refusal to pay a tax assessed without due representation. It was within our borders that the first offensive act was committed, which resulted in the overthrow of the British yoke. It was from this little corner of the world that men went to light the nation's battles, and from here a thousand men were ready to march in answer to the gun fired at Lexington and heard around the world. Who has a better right than we to celebrate this day. And from that day to this the same courage has been shown by Rhode Island's sons. Whether it was the destruction of the British sloop Liberty at Newport or the destruction of the Gaspee at Providence, or, in after years, the destruction of a fleet on Lake Erie, it was all the same. Whether it was to follow Capt. Olney at Yorktown as he led his Rhode Island troops over the redoubt and thus broke the British army, or to stand with Battery B at the bloody angle at Gettysburg and at Spottsylvania, it was all the same. It was Rhode Island courage--but it was American patriotism. Here of all places in the world, we have a right to stand and sing 'My Country 'tis of Thee.'

"Our snug little state hesitated to accept the terms of the Confederation because she feared the loss of her individuality, and she was the last to enter into the union of States, but now having entered in, with God's help may she be the last to go out.

"And who should have a better right to celebrate this day than you who sit before me. Here are those who have descended from those who gave their lives that a country might be (missing text follows)...lished, and here are those

who...selves offered their lives that th...country might be saved, and...those who have seen their own,...of their own blood, yes, and ...too, turn their backs on the con...life and take up arms to rel....cry of the oppressed, those..hungering for the right of p....of thought which we enjoy. ...one fail to be patriotic in su...dience?

"My country--and what makes our country. Is it acres? No, my country is not made by acres. Had it been Switzerland would never have had her William Tell, nor Poland her Kossuth, nor the Netherlands their William the silent, nor the American colonies their Washington. Does wealth make my country?' No, it is not wealth, or San Domingo would never have had her Toussaint L'Overture, nor Ireland her Burke and her Parnell, nor America her Washington. No, neither acres nor wealth make my country. My country is made of ideals, and she is the home of men who embody in their lives those ideals. We sing of our country because here has been nurtured to full-grown manhood the idea of personal and religious freedom. Here have grown the men who have made those ideals real. When we say 'my country' it is not of acres, many though they be, nor of wealth, great thought it is, that we sing, but of ideas and of men. We love our Washington because he loved the same ideas that we do. we love our Lincoln because he gave these ideas to a still larger circle. We love our State because she stands as the first embodiment of religious liberty.

"Acres and wealth sometimes become the appearance, however, of 'my country.' This country is held together by iron bands. It is a resourceful country. No other country is so independent. That resourcefulness marks us as a strong people. Here the tree of liberty has grown without entangling foreign alliances. The lad has grown and has become a strong man.

"The next census will show 75,000,000 drawn from the four quarters of the globe. We sometimes talk as though one blood was better than another. The American blood if animated by the one desire of liberty of man and liberty of conscience is all the same blood. Nations, like men, are raised and nurtured by the Lord God Almighty. The world is moving to something higher and God uses nations as he uses men. God pity the man or his nations that does not take the opportunity that is offered."

the speaker said he was an anti-imperialist, : The United States should not reach out and take new lands for the sake of increasing its territory,. But the nation should not refuse to enter an open door and bestow the liberty that God had bestowed upon this nation. An oppressed people had begged for help and the United States said: 'Here am I. Send me.' Should the United States have refused to enter the open door and refused to carry in the flag that meant liberty to all people?

"commercialism is finding its way into all parts of our social fabric. Men have been dropping their business as individuals and forming themselves over into corporations. This has given perpetuity to business. It loses the individual. The personality that made us the people that we are is lost. The trust is for this reason a danger to the community. We ourselves are responsible for the loss of individuality. American men must meet this situation as patriots."

In conclusion he eloquently pictured the greater glory that lay in store for this great nation. After the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" the meeting adjourned.

## ROTC

Cadet Harrison Moran accepts SAR ROTC Award and Medal from Compatriot David Butler at ceremony at Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island. The medal endeavors to foster the principle of "citizen-soldier" exemplified by the Minutemen and recipients should be selected by the commanding officer of the ROTC unit based on their military bearing, leadership potential, attitude, scholastic achievements and general excellence.

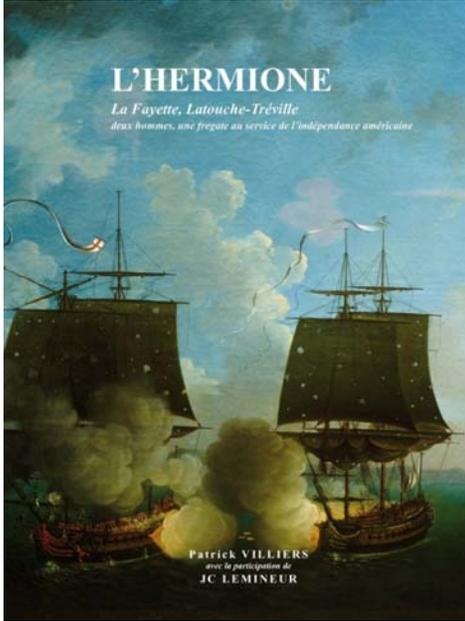


## North Burial Ground Ceremony:

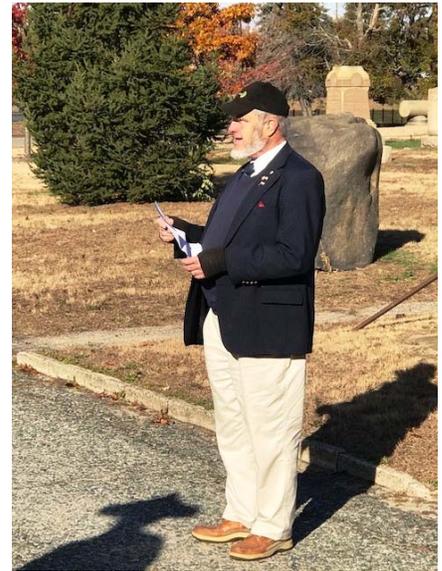
Compatriot Chaplain David Butler prepared and read a short piece on Revolutionary War participant Jeremiah Olney at the Annual Observance Honoring French Participation in the Revolutionary War held each year the first Saturday in November at the North Burial Ground in Providence, RI.

## On the bookshelf:

### L'Hermione – Lafayette and La Touche-Treville,



two men and a frigate serving American Independence. Historical and documents of from 1764 to 1793. The book has 216 pages full color, with over 220 illustrations. Whereas Hermione is indeed the vessel that forewarned American patriots fighting England, about the arrival of the French fleet and the troops led by Rochambeau, it was also a symbol of the rebirth of the French military Navy. After having triumphantly landed the Marquis de Lafayette in Boston, the frigate was the first French ship to have taken aboard the United States Congress. She then fought brilliantly for almost 18 months in the service of the American cause. In combats against the Royal Navy off New York and Louisburg, captain Latouche-Tréville displayed the talent that brought him to become one of Napoleon's best admiral. Before sailing on Hermione, Gilbert de Lafayette financed his own ship Victoire in 1777, with the assistance of Louis XVI's secret service. The sale of its cargo of weaponry financed his glorious 1777 to 1778 campaign that owed him the grade of an American general, and allowed him to become the friend of Washington and other main insurgent generals. The crossing of the Atlantic by Lafayette and Hermione symbolizes four years of indefectible support of the American cause by France. Here Patrick Villiers and Jean-Claude Lemineur offer us the opportunity to join the destinies of two heroes of the American War of Independence with a beautiful frigate, representative of the victorious struggle for control of the Atlantic Ocean indispensable for the independence of the United States. From the names of the crew members to the commissioning of Hermione through the cargo of weaponry of Victoire, many documents had been lost in archives up to now, or were only known by a few specialists.



## Christmas Party

The Annual Christmas Party was held at 1149 Restaurant in Warwick and was well attended by members and guests.

Among members that were in attendance, Compatriot, 1st VP Dan Harrop, on the right, Speaker Roberta Humble (retired educator and force behind the Westerly Armory) in the center, and Compatriot and Chapter President Phil Rowell on the left. Both members were congratulating Ms. Humble on a wonderful presentation on her most recent Rhode Island facts game. Everyone agreed that she is the "real Rhode Islander" since she has put so much effort into bringing so many little unknown facts into her products that she sells around the State. She makes everyone sit up and be proud of the small state that we live in. Much to everyone's surprise, she actually got all of us to do a sing-a-long with her on places and things about Rhode Island as she showed us the words on the projection screen. A great time was had by all.



Quiz winners Phil Rowell and Dan Harrop with Roberta Humble.



President John Duchesneau (left in picture) and Registrar Glenn Russell (center) are seen here presenting a membership certificate to our newest Compatriot, Peter Gross.

### Your State Registrar reports the following:

#### New Members:

**Peter H. Gross**, admitted September 15, 2017, national number 204595, state number 1808. Peter is a descendant of William Makepeace, 1738-1822, Norton/Bristol, MA-Sgt in Capt. Smith's Co. of Matrosses.

**Edwin D. Robinson**, admitted October 13, 2017, national number 205001, state number 1810. Edwin is a descendant of Thomas Holden, 1741-1823, Capt. of a Co., Regiment of Kings and Kent County, RI.

**Dr. John W. Barrett**, admitted December 1, 2017, national number 20205577, state number 1812. John is a descendant of Nehemiah Batchellor, 1741-1851, Harvard, MA-2Lt in Capt. Robert Cummings' Co., Col. McIntosh's Regiment (Battle of RI)

#### Dual Member:

**Michael P. Deignan (MA)**, admitted to RI December 1, 2018, national number 196486, state number 1813. Michael is a descendant of: Jeremiah Bartlett, 1741, Cumberland, RI-Lt. Nathaniel Gould's Div., Cumberland.

Jared Battles, 1752-1834, Scituate, MA-Private Capt. Cushing's Co., Col. Groaton's Regiment, Capt. Cushing's Co., Col Heath's Regiment, Capt. Beal's Co., Col. Lovell's Regiment.

John Bing, 1747-1824, Addison, OH-Private 4<sup>th</sup> Co., 1<sup>st</sup> Chester Battalion, PA Vols.

Silas Hamilton, 1761-1791, Brookfield, MA-Private & Fifer Capt. Spurr's Co., Col Thomas Nixon's (6<sup>th</sup>) Regiment, fifer Capt. Pike's Co., 6<sup>th</sup> Mass. Regiment, commanded by Lt. Col. Smith, Private Capt. Peter Claye's Co., Lt. Col. Smith's Regiment.

David House, Jr., 1731-1804, Plymouth, MA-Private 5<sup>th</sup> Co., Col. John Bailey's Regiment, 1777-1779 Continental Army.

William Morris, 1759, Scituate, MA-Private 5<sup>th</sup> Co., Col. Thomas Marshall's (10<sup>th</sup>) Regiment, Corporal 5<sup>th</sup> Co., Col. Marshall's Regiment, Corporal Col. Benjamin Tupper's Regiment.

Aaron Pond, Jr., 1763-1815, Holliston, MA-Private Capt. Staples Chamberlain's Co., Col. Abner Perry's Regiment.

Aaron Pond, Sr., 1735-1815, Holliston, MA- Civil Service, Holliston Selectman (1783).

Joshua Underwood, 1744-1821, Holliston, MA-Capt. Staples Chamberlain's Co., Col. Samuel Bullard's Regiment.

**Howard C. Heath, JR., (FL)**, admitted to RI October 14, 2017, national number 203315, state number 1809. Howard is a descendant of Nathaniel Heath, 1744-1829, Lt. in Capt. Samuel Bosworth's Co. of RI Artillery.

**Transferred In:**

**Scott M. Gerlach**, admitted to RI November 27, 2017, national number 129802, state number 1811. Scott is a descendant of Joseph Stewart, Jr., 1752-1828, Private in the Militia (Land Bounty Rights), Albany, NY.

**Ronald A. Morneau, admitted to RI February 2, 2018, national number 185834, state number 1814. Ronald is a descendant of:** Benjamin Larrabee, 1754-1782, Danvers MA-Private Capt. Ebenzer Winship's Co., Col Rufus Putnam's Regiment.

William Prescott, 1728-1811, Hampton Falls, NH-Major in Col. Jonathan Moulton's Regiment.

**In Memoriam:**

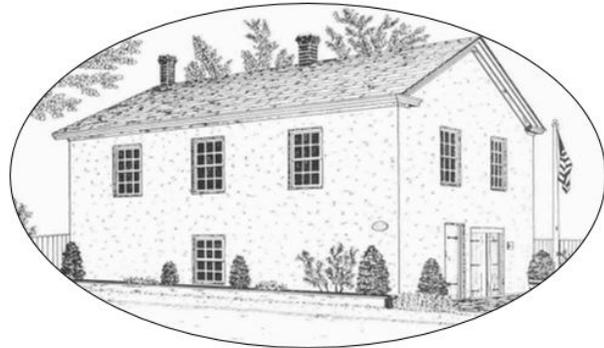
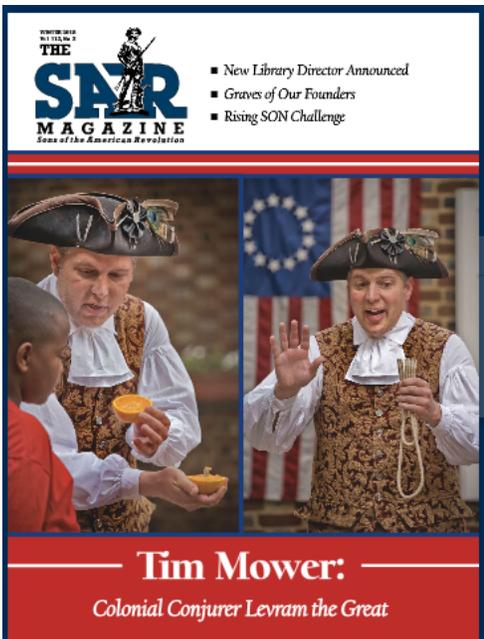
**Robert W. Kenyon**, Providence, RI, d. September 4, 2017, admitted May 14, 1936, national number 53945, state number 920. Robert was a descendant of Joseph Bowman, 1740-1818, New Braintree, MA-Major in Col. Jonathon Warner's Regiment, Worcester 1778.

**Richard C. Sprinthall**, Longmeadow, MA d. April 26, 2017, admitted November 8, 1957, national number 83006, state number 1181. Richard was a descendant of Jedediah Wellman, Jr., 1762-1858, Danvers, MA-Privateer 1776 – POW Portsmouth England.

**Vincent W. Smith, Jr.**, New Providence, NJ, d. December 12, 2017, admitted May 31, 2007, national number 169368, state number 1706. Vincent was a descendant of Charles Smith, 1749-1832, Germany-Private in Capt. James Wilson's Co., 1st PA Regiment, Continental Line.

**SAR Magazine:**

The Winter 2018 issue of the SAR Magazine has our story of Israel Angell's grave relocation which was done on April 20, 1918. The story can be found on page 12. This story, with more photos, is also in the RISSAR 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Manual. You can read issues of The SAR Magazine online at [http://sar.epubxp.com/read/account\\_titles/170192](http://sar.epubxp.com/read/account_titles/170192).



The Pawtuxet Rangers will be celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armory Hall. The celebration will be held on Sunday, April 15 at 2:00 and all are invited to attend. The armory was built in 1843 by the state for the Rangers having remained loyal during the Dorr Rebellion. The building has been an armory, a masonic lodge, a private residence and is once again the home of the Rangers. The armory is also the storage site for RISSAR's historical records. There will be a brief ceremony followed by a collation.