History Hits are written by Dr. Daniel Rolph, Historian and Head of Reference Services at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

On the book shelves

R.I. 1781 Regimental Book now available for $10 for Library donations!

RISSAR members and friends may now make a donation of our new book: Regimental Book; Rhode Island Regiment for 1781 &c. to any library in the United States for $10 post-paid. Simply send $10 for each book you would like to donate, list the names and addresses for each library, and a copy of this important book will be mailed to those libraries.

Consider donating books to your hometown library, and the libraries where you, or a member of your family have a personal connection. This is a wonderful way for members of the SAR, SR, DAR, Society of Cincinnati and other historical and genealogical groups to honor their families. Consider donating a book in honor of your father, mother, or a Revolutionary War veteran.

For full information about the book, visit our website: www.rhodeislandsar.org.

Honor your family, and your favorite libraries, and donate copies today! The following public libraries still need copies of our book: Burrillville – Jesse M. Smith Library; Burrillville – Pascoag Library; Central Falls Library; Charlestown – Cross Mills Library; Cranston – Arlington Reading Room; Cranston – Auburn Branch Library; Cranston – Knightsville Branch Library; Cranston – Oak Lawn Branch Library; Cumberland Public Library; Foster Public Library; Foster – Tyler Free Library; Glocester – Manton Library; Hopkinton – Langworthy Library; Jamestown Library; Lincoln Public Library; Middletown Public Library; New Shoreham – Island Free Library; Newport Public Library; North Kingstown – Davisville Library; North Kingstown – Willett Free Library; North Smithfield Public Library; Pawtucket Library; Richmond – Clark Memorial Library; Scituate – Hope Library; Scituate – North Scituate Public Library; Smithfield – East Smithfield Public Library; S. Kingstown Public Lib.-Kingston Free Lib.; S. Kingstown Public Lib.–Robert Beverly Hale; Woonsocket – Harris Public Library

Send $10 per book, and the name of the ancestor/family member you wish to honor, along with the name of the library to whom you wish to donate the book, to: RISSAR, 202 Kent Drive, East Greenwich, RI 02018

ORDER FORM

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RISSAR, 202 Kent Dr. East Greenwich, RI 02818
Order date: _____
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BE SURE TO INCLUDE LIBRARY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)!

Your State Registrar Carlen Booth reports the following:

James Edward Woulfe, Barrington, RI, admitted November 4, 2012, national number 185337, state number 1773. He is descended from Edward Keyes, 1759-1827, Ashford, CT - Private in Capt. Thomas Knowlton's Co., Col. Israel Putnam's Reg't, fought at Bunker Hill.

Memorial Application

Daniel Smith Harrop, Jr., approved December 5, 2012, national number 185639, state number 1774. Descended from Jacob Rittenhouse, 1756-1847 Germantown, PA - Private and Drummer in the Pennsylvania Line under Captains Rader, Stahler and Teal and Colonels Gayer and Miller.

Veterans Day ceremony

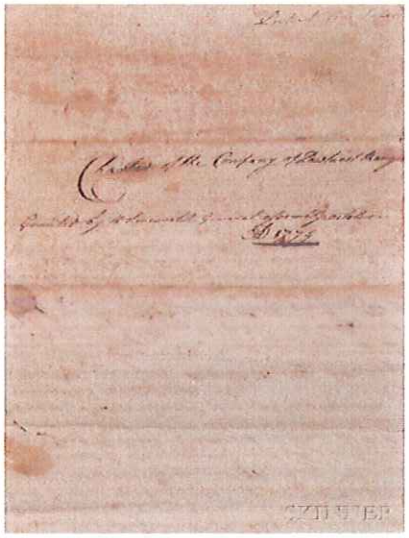
This date in Rhode Island History: Jan 13, 1776...

British raid Prudence Island in Narragansett Bay

In the early morning hours of January 13, 1776, British forces raid Prudence Island, Rhode Island, in an effort to steal a large quantity of sheep. But, upon landing on the island's southern beaches, the British were ambushed by fifteen Minutemen from Rhode Island's Second Company led by Captain Joseph Knight, who had been tipped off to the Brits' plans and rowed across Narragansett Bay from Warwick Neck the previous morning.

A brief but deadly battle ensued before the British were forced to retreat. Three British marines were killed and seven injured during the ambush. Two Minutemen were wounded; one died and the other was taken prisoner. Afraid of further violence, residents abandoned the island between 1776 and 1777, and the island's homes and windmill were burned.

Rhode Island's Second Company continued to guard the area between Providence, Warwick Neck and Chopmist on Rhode Island for the next three years. Captain Knight rose to the rank of major in 1777, taking command of the Third Providence County Regiment. The Rhode Island General Assembly chose to end the Minutemen system in 1777 and the Second Company was reorganized as the Fifth Company of Scituate Militia. Major Knight and his regiment served the Patriot cause throughout the Rhode Island campaign of 1778. Knight received a further promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel in 1778 and remained in the militia until his retirement in 1800, by which time he had served 34 years in the service of Rhode Island. During his tenure, Rhode Island had progressed from colony to independent state to member state of the federal union.



Pawtuxet Rangers Charter Copy ~1777-1778

One of our historic militia companies was recently notified that a copy of their original charter was being auctioned at the Skinner Auction house in Boston. The document is a secretarial copy of their original 1774 charter made by then Company Clerk John Waterman, Jr. who was a member of the Rangers between 1777 and 1778. The Rangers bid on the document and won it. The Rangers are now undertaking a project to restore, conserve and preserve the document and display it in their armory in Warwick. The historic document is now at the Northeast Document Conservation Center where it will be repaired and preserved. An unveiling ceremony is scheduled for late Spring of 2013.

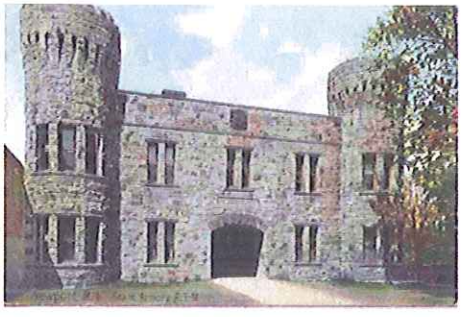
Rhode Island's Historic Armories

Armories are more than mere buildings. They represent our social and military past -- from dances and wedding receptions to circuses, auto shows, polio clinics, and voting, these buildings have served their communities through time. Seven of the armories are occupied presently by state-chartered militia units, while one is still occupied by the Rhode Island National Guard (Armory of Mounted Commands). The others are in many cases resuming the social part of their lives as buildings for the use of their communities (i.e., Westerly and Bristol Naval Reserve). One is home to an art museum (Warwick Kentish Artillery), while another (Rodman Hall) is used by the state university for classrooms and for its Community Planning Department.

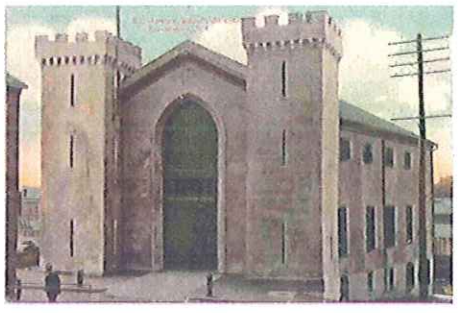
Rhode Island's armories are varied in their architecture -- from wood-framed neo-classical style buildings to granite and brick medieval castle-like buildings, these armories are among some of the very best of Rhode Island's architecture.

The 18 historic armories of Rhode Island are located in 11 cities/towns in the state. They are (from north to south):

The Woonsocket Armory, 350 South Main Street, Woonsocket
The Gloucester Light Infantry Armory, Dorr Drive, Chepachet (Glocester)
The Pawtucket Armory, 172 Exchange Street, Pawtucket
The Armory of Mounted Commands, 1051 North Main Street, Providence
The Providence Armory, 225 Dexter Street, Providence
The Benefit Street Arsenal, 176 Benefit Street, Providence
The Armory of the Pawtuxet Rangers, 59 Remington Street, Warwick
The Warwick Kentish Artillery Armory, 3259 Post Road, Warwick
The Armory of the Warren Federal Blues, 42 Baker Street, Warren
The Warren Artillery Armory, 11 Jefferson Street, Warren
The Bristol Naval Reserve Armory, Thames Street, Bristol
The Bristol Train of Artillery Armory, 135 State Street, Bristol
The Varnum Memorial Armory, 6 Main Street, East Greenwich
The Armory of the Kentish Guards, 1774 Armory Street, East Greenwich
The Newport Armory, 365 Thames Street, Newport
The Armory of the Artillery Company of Newport, 23 Clark Street, Newport
Rodman Hall Armory-Gymnasium, University of Rhode Island, Kingston (South Kingstown)
The Westerly Armory, Railroad Avenue & Dixon Street, Westerly



The Newport Armory--now an Antique store



The Benefit Street Arsenal

The Westerly Armory

For more information visit www.rhodeislandarmories.org

New RISSAR Challenge Coin

The Rhode Island Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is pleased to announce the release of a challenge coin. This coin features the RISSAR name and seal (beacon pole) on the front and the National Society logo in color on the back.

Challenge coins are carried by soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines, as well as lawmen and firefighters and members of many organizations. These coins identify the bearer as a member of a particular unit with a well-defined history and mission. And, wherever warriors gather, they challenge each other by "coining." The group's unique coin is slammed on a bar to challenge all in the group to display their own coins; he who is last must pay a penalty. This challenge coin can be saved as a keepsake or given to a friend or friends as a token of friendship.

These coins are being offered at $8/ea or two for $15. Prices include a plastic pouch and shipping.

Please send your check payable to RISSAR to:
RISSAR
26 Monroe Street
Warwick, RI 02888

Annual Meeting Notice

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2013 at 10:00a.m.
1149 Restaurant
1149 Division Street
East Greenwich, RI 02818

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
09:30a.m. – Continental Breakfast
10:00 a.m. - ANNUAL MEETING
11:30 a.m. – Traditional Patriotic Toasts
Members and guests are welcome.

Upcoming SAR events:

RISSAR Annual Meeting – Saturday, February 23
RISSAR Board of Managers – Saturday, April 13
RISSAR Spring Event – Tentative
RISSAR/RIDAR Flag Day Luncheon – Sunday, June 9
RISSAR Board of Managers – Saturday, July 6
RISSAR Fall Luncheon – Monday, September 30 (Cooke House)
RISSAR Board of Managers – Saturday, October 5
RISSAR/OFPA/Dar Veteran's Day memorial – Sunday, November 10
RISSAR Veteran's Day Luncheon – Sunday, November 10
RISSAR JPR memorial CPT Thomas Cole – Saturday, December 7
RISSAR Christmas Luncheon – Friday, December 13
RISSAR Board of Managers – Saturday, January 4 2014