

October 2011, Number 5

Our State Registrar, Carlen P. Booth reports that SAR National Headquarters has given final approval to the following new members:

Gregory Donald Hook	Ryder Holmes Grinnell
Cumberland , RI 02864	Palm Springs, CA 92262

Also, we have gained a new Dual Member:

Guy Moellendorf  
Kent, WA 98042

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**In Our Memory**

**Albert Lauriston Parks, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**National # 96463, State # 1313 Admitted March 13, 1968**

**Patriot Ancestor: Joseph Russell 1763-1855**

**Moscow ME-Private Capt. John Porter's Co.**

**Col. Cyprian How's Rgt. 1780**

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From our President John C. Eastman II:

In April of this year I set forth a number of goals I had for my presidency and I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on our progress so far.

- Distribute RISSAR members among the three chapters
  - After working on this for awhile I realized that was no equable method of distributing the 160 plus members among the chapters. I looked at doing it by zip codes and/or counties and whatever method I came up with had major shortcomings. In a State as small as Rhode Island, and with a membership as small as ours, it seems less important or desirable to have an equal number of members in each chapter. Therefore, for the time being, I have abandoned plans to re-allocate our membership.
  - If any member feels strongly that there is some equable method of re-allocation I hope that they will call me and we can sit down and talk about it.

- Classroom History Project
  - The North Kingstown School principals that I had initially contacted about this project did not follow through with me so I turned to the curriculum coordinator of an 80 family homes-school group based in East Greenwich. She embraced the project with open arms and willingly accepted the materials that John W. Adams had purchased from the NSAR. In addition, I have arranged for a series of field trips to sites of historical importance in Rhode Island which will take place once a month. Our first visit is coming up on Friday, October 1 at 1:00 PM at Patriot's Park in Portsmouth, RI, the site of the monument to the 1<sup>st</sup> Rhode Island Regiment. Former Newport mayor and leader of the black community in Newport and the surrounding area, Paul Gaines, will lead the tour.
  
- Wounded Warrior Project
  - After our successful luncheon with the DAR at the Dunes Club this year I asked our speaker, Donna Laconti of NEADS, if there was anything that we as an organization, could do to help out veterans who were receiving service dogs from NEADS. I made an arrangement with Donna to pick up veterans at Green Airport in Warwick and transport them to NEADS in Princeton, MA. Eight of our members volunteered to help with this project.
  
- Membership Diversity Project
  - In early August, Carlen Booth, Bruce MacGunnigle, and Bill Peckham and I met with Bill Peckham's high-school friend and former Mayor of Newport, Paul Gaines. As stated above, Paul is a leader in the black community in Newport and the surrounding area. I asked for the meeting so that I could explain to Paul my wish to diversify the RISSAR and bring people of color who were descended from Revolutionary War soldiers or sailors into our organization. Paul was very impressed with our sincerity and felt that he could arrange for us to bring greetings to the community at the annual celebration held at the 1<sup>st</sup> RI Regiment monument in Portsmouth at the end of August. As I would be away, I asked Bruce MacGunnigle to fill in for me but at the last moment we were not asked to speak. Bruce, however, did go to the ceremony as a representative of the RISSAR. Paul Gaines told me that he was as disappointed as we were that we were not invited to speak. We will keep trying to bring diversity to the RISSAR.
  - On the same note, Bruce and I were successful in transcribing all of the names (700+) on said monument for inclusion on our website (under Battle of Rhode Island). Bruce is working on transcribing the Regiment Book of the 1<sup>st</sup> Rhode Island with hopes that we can publish this transcription.

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From National Headquarters SAR:

1. As of August 23, 2010, this headquarters will stop providing Record Copy service for older applications.
2. According to the agreement with Ancestry.com, all microfilm rolls of membership applications will be scanned, indexed, and made available to individuals who purchase a membership to Ancestry.com.
3. The dates of the applications on microfilm start from the beginning (1889) of the organization and extend through 1996 (national numbers 1 through 146101). This will

affect Record Copy requests for applications prior to the issuance of national number 48800. Applications in this range are very brittle; therefore, they will not be manually scanned or photocopied.

4. Ancestry.com has agreed to post only those applications older than December 31, 1970. Ancestry.com will adjust that date as members are reported deceased. National numbers issued after 146101 will be scanned, indexed, and made available at a later date on the Internet.
5. The microfilm rolls will be returned to the headquarters when the project is completed.

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Dear State President,

President General J. David Sympson stated in his inaugural address at the 120<sup>th</sup> SAR Annual Congress, "we will honor all who have served our nation and the cause of freedom – from our forebears who bestowed the blessings of liberty upon us to our sons and daughters who defend the cause of freedom today on distant shores. The core of our great organization over the past 60 years has been the World War II Veterans. Tom Brokaw accurately called them 'The Greatest Generation.' " He has dedicated his presidency to them and asks that all World War II veterans stand and be recognized.

President General Sympson established a WW II Corps with President General Howard Horne as Commander and the undersigned as Adjutant.

Now we need each state society to stand with him and recognize their WW II Veterans, because we are losing so many of them each day. How can each society help? They can encourage or help their veteran members to join the Corps and submit the requested forms.

An article will be published in the SAR Magazine to familiarize all with the Corps.

Also, located on the SAR website is a short online form for the veteran to complete. The form is listed on the home page under SAR News, and Honoring the Greatest Generation. In addition, it is requested that all societies appoint a contact person for the Corps and forward his contact information to the National Adjutant listed below. The National Corps will provide society listings to recognize their deserving warriors.

Thank you for your help in this most worthy endeavor.

Compatriot Daniel R. McMurray

World War II Corps

Adjutant

3576 W. McKenzie

Battlefield, MO 65619

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Thanks for the following to Past State President Bruce C. MacGunnigle and his work in getting this story published in The Marietta Times on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Bruce was also responsible for obtaining the mentioned commendation from Rhode Island Governor Don Carcieri.

**2 local men recognized for honoring Revolutionary War hero**

**The Marietta Times - September 15, 2010 - By Sam Shawver,**

**Two local historians, as well as members of the local Sons of the American Revolution group, have received recognition for honoring a Revolutionary War hero from Rhode Island in July.**

Rhode Island Governor Donald Carcieri recently issued a commendation to Jean Yost, president, and members of the Marietta Chapter, Ohio Society Sons of the American Revolution, for the organization's efforts in researching, planning and hosting a reenactment of a funeral procession for the rediscovered grave of Brig. General James Mitchell Varnum.

"Varnum's name is big, and he's a hero in Rhode Island," said David White, secretary for the local SAR group.

"His grave had laid unmarked for 225 years until it was discovered here in Marietta," he said.

Yost was also presented the SAR Silver Good Citizenship Certificate and Medal, as well as a certificate of appreciation from the Varnum Continentals with the Rhode Island Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

In addition, area historian Scott Britton, who is also a member of the Marietta Chapter SAR, was presented a certificate of appreciation from the Varnum Continentals for his efforts in the July ceremonies.

"Varnum is kind of the Rufus Putnam of Rhode Island," Britton said. "It was really fun, just getting those folks from Rhode Island down for this event.

"And it's always neat to have another state recognize the work our local group does to help educate people about these historic events," he added.

Varnum was a member of the Continental Congress when the U.S. Constitution was formed, he led America's first black regiment, and he served as a Federal Supreme Court Judge in the Northwest Territory.

He was elected a director of the Ohio Company and moved to the Marietta area in 1788 where he died on Jan. 10, 1789. Varnum was 40 years old.

Recent research revealed that Varnum's body was buried in Marietta's Oak Grove Cemetery.

In July the Marietta Chapter SAR hosted members of the Rhode Island group in a reenactment of a funeral procession to commemorate the discovery and the placing of a marker on Varnum's final resting place.

The commendation from Gov. Carcieri, as well as the honors from the Rhode Island Society SAR, were initiated by Bruce C. MacGunnigle, state president of the Rhode Island SAR from 2008 to 2010.

"These honors, the highest honors that we are able to present, do not match the high honors you bestowed to our fellow Rhode Islander, James Mitchell Varnum," MacGunnigle wrote in an August letter to Yost.

"Those of us who were present in Marietta are joined by all the officers and members of the Rhode Island State Society, SAR, in thanking you for the outstanding public service you and the Marietta Chapter did to honor this American hero," MacGunnigle's letter concluded.

### **Fact Box**

- Facts about James Mitchell Varnum
- James Mitchell Varnum of Rhode Island:
- Was a member of the first graduating class of Rhode Island College (Brown University), and served as a prominent attorney.
- Founded and was first commanding officer of Rhode Island's Kentish Guards.
- Was twice elected to the Continental Congress representing his home state.
- Served as colonel of the 9th and 12th Continental Line Regiments in the American Revolution and later became a brigadier general, then major general of the Rhode Island Militia.
- Convinced Gen. George Washington to support raising a Rhode Island regiment of freed slaves - America's first black regiment.
- Was an elected director of the Ohio Company and was appointed federal judge of the Northwest Territory.
- Moved to the Marietta area in 1788, and died here Jan. 10, 1789.
- Is buried in Marietta's Oak Grove Cemetery.

Source: Commendation from Rhode Island Gov. Donald Carcieri to the Marietta Chapter, Ohio Society Sons of the American Revolution.

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Anyone will articles, or dates, that they would like published, please contact:

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