

President's remarks:

My Fellow Compatriots,

It has been a fun and productive year for the Rhode Island Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The success of the year I credit entirely to my board of managers and the members of the society. Since our last annual meeting our membership has grown even if just ever so slightly.

We have carried on our usual social program starting with last year's annual meeting, through our Flag Day luncheon and the Clark Cooke House luncheons, through our Christmas party and back to our annual meeting.

We have continued our usual patriotic program with cemetery decorations, our North burial ground ceremony, our salute to veterans, and our coordination with the New England District Council.

We have worked together with the DAR and to the CAR and the Greene Homestead.

We are deep into planning for a bus trip to Boston historical sites on May 18.

Our treasurer Bob Butler has kept us solvent, our registrar Glenn Russell has more than efficiently processed new memberships, our VP Ron Barnes in his capacity also as secretary has thankfully relieved me of much of the administrative issues.

Stalwarts John Adams and Carlin booth have continued to provide valuable and sage advice for this novice president. We have an extensive board of managers, including 2nd VP Philip Rowell and Chaplain David Butler, who volunteer their time to steer the organization forward.

We have continued to monitor the activities to improve the signage at the Battle of Rhode Island site in Portsmouth, we have been able to make donations to like-minded societies and organizations including local historical societies, and of course to the fine work our own David Procaccini is doing at the Green Homestead.

We have made plans for and developed a job description for a social media manager, even if we have been unable to fill the position so far. We have continued to recognize local high school junior ROTC programs.

This is the 129th annual meeting of this society and I believe your board of managers as of this date has left the society in excellent working order to continue to remember our obligations to our forefathers who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, in a nation of free men.

Dr. Daniel S. Harrop, III
President
Rhode Island Society
Sons of the American Revolution

Calendar:

BOM: 7/13, 10/5, 1/4/20
Cranston Historic Cemetery ceremony: May 5
Boston Bus Trip: May 18
Flag Day Luncheon: June 14
Cooke House: September 23
North Burial Ground: November 2
Veteran's Day Salute: November 9
Christmas Party: December 7
Annual Meeting, February 15, 2020



Pictured from l to r: Joe Brennan, Cynthia Joly, Ron Barnes, Bob Butler, David Butler, Bob Midwood and Charlene Butler.

An intrepid group of SAR and DAR members braved the rain at the North Burial Ground in November to remember the many Revolutionary Patriots that are buried there and, especially, to remember the French that helped us in that endeavor.



The weather was not that great for members of the DAR, CAR, OFPA and SAR at the Veteran's Cemetery in Exeter for our annual Salute To Veterans in November of last year.

Annual Meeting: The Annual meeting was another successful event. The business meeting included the election of the officers and board of managers and the presentation of donations to the Nathanael Greene Homestead and the Children of the American Revolution. Many awards were presented for member's efforts during the past year. After the meeting the traditional toast was offered followed by a luncheon.



At the Annual Meeting in February at the 1149 Restaurant, a good number of DAR members posed for this group photo. The Annual Meeting is a good time for everyone and all are invited to attend.



At the RI Society Annual Meeting, President Dan Harrop (right) is pictured here with Madelaine Paquette (center) State President of the CAR and Denise LaPrade (left) Senior State President of the CAR after he had presented a check to their Society to continue the good work that they do with the Children of the American Revolution.

Pictured at the Annual Meeting is President Dan Harrop (left) presenting to Treasurer Bob Butler (right) the Patriotic Grave Marking Medal for his outstanding work in preserving and restoring historical gravestones, especially of Revolutionary Patriots.



President Dan Harrop (center) awarded Secretary Ron Barnes(left), Past President Carlen Booth, Past President John Adams and Treasurer Bob Butler with books in appreciation of their service to the Society and their help in guiding him through the past year.

Some of our recent new members:



Ben Nacar (left) is seen being presented with his membership certificate by Registrar Glenn Russell. You will find that Ben loves his music and, if you go to his website, you will find his performance dates locally.
<http://www.bennacar.com>



Registrar Glenn Russell has just presented new Compatriots Tom Wilson and Perry Clough with their membership certificates at the Clark Cooke House luncheon last September.



Tom Wilson, Jr. was presented with his membership certificate at the Christmas Party at 1149 Restaurant in December and he is flanked by Past President Carlen Booth (left), Past President John Adams, and Secretary Ron Barnes.



At the Annual Meeting, Registrar Glenn Russell (center) presented membership certificates to three new members: Peter Baribault, Christopher Crotteau, Jr. and Peter Finch. President Dan Harrop is pictured 2nd from the left.

Eagle Scout:



Compatriot Ron Morneau presents a RISSAR Eagle Scout certificate to his grandson Zachary Szabo.

Compatriot Ron Morneau's story about his ancestor Joshua Jewett Harriman:

On this beautiful, sunny, August afternoon, about 50 people attended a tribute to "The Man. The Soldier. The Patriot".

For 195 years our Patriot ancestor was without a proper burial marker. His father Asa, another Revolutionary soldier, was buried in the Prospect, Maine cemetery known as the Ferry Cemetery / Harriman Cemetery / Batchelder cemetery. The cemetery is in the woods about a mile up the coast from Fort Knox. For many years, it has been allowed to be taken over by mother nature. Attempts were made to salvage the lot when Asa's stone was installed several years ago. It has since gone back to mother nature.

A couple of years ago I (Ron Morneau), Joshua's 5th great grandson, traveled to the area in hopes of uncovering more about my Harriman roots. In that trip I had the good fortune of meeting Vera Dyer, a terrific woman, who has a love for Prospect history and especially for its patriot soldiers. She was a bit distressed over the fact that Joshua had never been recognized with a proper burial marker. She directed me to the cemetery, which, at the time, was only accessible by a barely definable path to a plot that was a bit overgrown and in fairly bad shape. Vera suggested that I contact Charlie Smith, a member of the local American Legion, and brother of a person who owned a monument company.

Over the next year, I met another distant cousin, Tina Gagnon, who was doing extensive research on the Harrimans and who had become quite an expert on Prospect's history, and especially on the Harriman legacy.

With Tina's help, in collaboration with Sue Bixby, the Archivist for the Harriman Family Association, I was able to supply Charlie Smith with all the details he needed to complete the V.A. application for Joshua's stone. Charlie procured all the requisite signatures then forwarded the application to me for the final signature. I mailed the completed form to the V.A.

A couple of weeks later, the request was denied because we lacked the proof of where Joshua was buried and proof of his service in the Continental Army. This problem called for "Special Forces". Tina was able to supply me with copies of Joshua's original service records. The burial location was a bit more of an issue because the records were apparently destroyed in a fire several years ago. Again, Tina's input was key. She, along with other Orland County historical records, gave me enough input to create a scenario that had Joshua's final resting place with his wife, Betsey, who did have a marker in the same cemetery as her father-in-law, Asa.

I sent in the requisite documents, which were then approved. The stone arrived about 3 weeks later – broken in three. The V.A. representative was very apologetic and had the stone replaced in about three more weeks. That stone came in with the incorrect regiment. Once again, the representative was apologetic. This time it took about 8 weeks for the correct stone to arrive.

By this time Charlie Smith and his crew of town's people and boy scouts had opened up a drivable road all the way into the cemetery. They cleaned up the site and repaired several broken stones. Thanks to Charlie and his team we had the opportunity to honor a Harriman patriot. The entire cemetery is now looking very respectable. Charlie and others have committed to continue enhancement of the site.

At 2 PM August 25th, I welcomed all the guests and introduced a few folks who contributed to the success of the venture. After explaining what led up to the dedication, Tina Gagnon did an outstanding job of explaining Joshua's service and its relationship to the Prospect area (see below). Charlie Smith offered an appropriate prayer, Linda Roy read a poem dedicated to our ancestor (poem was supplied by Tina). Vi Gerber offered a congratulatory message from the President of the Maine DAR. Finally the very impressive men and woman from the Jerry W. Dobbins American Legion Post presented the colors and rendered a rifle salute followed by taps from Charlie Smith.

The picture below is of the bloodline relatives of Joshua, who were in attendance at the graveside ceremony.



Following the dedication, we had a collation at the Prospect historical society building where many Harriman relatives, who had never met, had the chance to connect and share their Harriman stories.

Below is the narrative that Tina Gagnon put together as an insert to our flier. She walked us through the interesting Harriman history at Joshua's gravesite.

Joshua Jewett Harriman Revolutionary War history

The oldest child of Asa and Elizabeth (Todd) Harriman, Joshua Jewett Harriman was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts on May 20, 1762.

He enlisted in the Continental Army at Hampstead, New Hampshire on July 4, 1780 in Captain Gilman's Company, Colonel Scammell's Third New Hampshire Regiment, a mere three weeks after he turned eighteen. Joshua's enlistment came eleven months after fleeing his home in Bucksport, Maine due to the retaliation from the British for the attack against them in the Penobscot Expedition.

After mustering in at Kingston, New Hampshire, the company marched the eighty-seven miles to Worcester, Massachusetts. From here, they marched west to Fort Arnold, New York, located on the Hudson River. There the Third New Hampshire was assigned garrison duty. Built between 1778 and 1780, the Continental Army picked this site for its strategic location on the Hudson River. They laid a great iron chain across the river to prevent the British Navy from sailing further north. The United States Military Academy, West Point, would be founded on this site in 1802. Over two hundred years later, this would become the oldest continuously occupied military post in the country.

Not long after Joshua arrived at Fort Arnold, Benedict Arnold, for whom the fort was named, took command there. This would be the time and place that the words 'Benedict Arnold' would become synonymous with the word traitor. Once a hero in the American Continental Army, Arnold became a turncoat for a promise of twenty-thousand pounds from the British in exchange for handing over his fort to them. The plot was exposed when his partner, John Andre was captured with incriminating documents on his person. Arnold managed to escape to the other side where he became a brigadier general in the British Army. After Arnold's capture, that the fort was re-named Fort Clinton. Had Arnold's plot gone through, Joshua Jewett Harriman would either have perished in the ensuing takeover or had become a prisoner of war, and this celebration would not be taking place here today.

After five months and twenty-one days Joshua was mustered out of service on December 21, 1780. Upon discharge, it is likely that Joshua returned to Hampstead, collected his step-mother and siblings and returned home to his father in Maine. His father had taken up a new settlers lot in nearby Orland after the British burned their house in Bucksport.

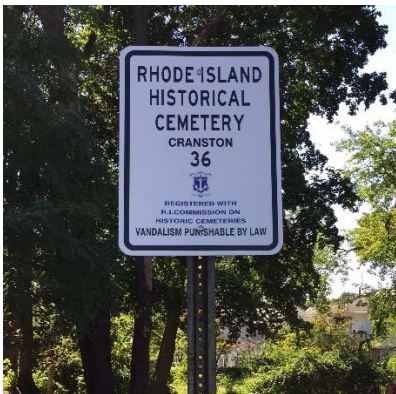
Joshua married Elizabeth "Betsey" Hunt Keyes of Orland in 1786, the daughter of Captain Samuel and Thankful (Hunt) Keyes. Her father commanded the first continental company raised on the east Penobscot in 1776. She was described as being tall, stately and having black eyes. The newlyweds lived at Oak Bluff in Bucksport.

In 1795 the couple, along with his brother Asa Jr. and his bride, Tryphena (Betsey's sister), settled across the river in Prospect, where they bought one-hundred acres together. On their shared property, Asa started the first ferry from Prospect to Bucksport.

Joshua built a house overlooking the Penobscot, since known as the James Pierce House, the first framed house in town. This house still partially stands today, but is not habitable. He had another piece of property that is described in the 1818 unpaid tax list as: fifty-six acres, northerly by Timothy Barns, and easterly by Penobscot River, and westerly by Marsh River. He was a master Mariner who devoted some of his time to bay fishing. He was also active in plantation and town affairs and represented the district in the legislature at Boston.

Joshua passed away on March 2, 1823 in Prospect at the age of sixty-one, leaving his wife of thirty-seven years, along with their children and grandchildren.

Joshua and Betsey had eleven children together: Daniel Hunt Harriman, Eliakim Harriman, Nelson Todd Harriman, Barbara Harriman, Hannah Keyes Harriman, Joshua Y. Harriman, Jewett Harriman, Henry Dearborn Harriman, Diadema Harriman, Samuel Keyes Harriman and Eliakim Darling Harriman.



**Celebrate the restoration of
Cranston Historic Cemetery #36 – Capt. Philip Sheldon Lot**

Corner of Park Avenue and Western Promenade

Sunday, May 5 at 2:00

Sponsored by the Pawtuxet Rangers

Join in celebrating the restoration of this historic cemetery by the Cranston Historic Cemetery Commission. There are 4 Revolutionary War veterans buried there and one of those is also a Colonial Wars Veteran:

Captain Jonathan Pitcher—One of the first officers of the Continental Navy

Colonel Elisha Arnold – Past Commander of the Pawtuxet Rangers and Revolutionary War Veteran

Captain James Hawkins – Revolutionary War Veteran

Captain Philip Sheldon – Colonial Wars and Revolutionary War Veteran

Ceremonies to include fife & drum, wreath laying, musket salute and dedication of Sons of the American Revolution grave markers and a Society of Colonial Wars grave marker.

Collation immediately following at the armory of the Pawtuxet Rangers – 59 Remington Street, Warwick

Boston Bus trip reminder!



The Rhode Island Society of the Sons of the American Revolution invite you and your guests to:

BOSTON BUS TRIP - V2

Visit The Warren Tavern, Bunker Hill, The Old North Church and Paul Revere's House

Lunch at the Union Oyster House

Sightseeing around Quincy Market

WHEN: Saturday, May 18

Itinerary: 7:45 - Motor coach leaves the 117 Park and Ride

9:00 – Arrive at the Warren Tavern for coffee

9:30 - Walk to Bunker Hill Monument (1/10 of a mile)

10:20 - Board bus to Old North Church

10:30 – Tour of Old North Church

11:45 – Board bus to Paul Revere's House

12:00 – Tour of Paul Revere's House

1:15 – Lunch at Union Oyster House (dutch treat)

3:30 – Motor coach leaves for return

4:45 – Arrive at 117 Park and Ride

Cost is \$40/pp (includes 54 passenger motor coach and tours)– limited to 54 participants –

first come first served so send in your registration today!

WE CANNOT ACCEPT RSVPS VIA PHONE OR EMAIL – YOU MUST SEND YOUR CHECK TO BE REGISTERED



Please make your check payable to the **RISSAR** at \$40.00 per person and mail to:

John Adams

131 Spencer Woods Drive

East Greenwich, RI 02818

RESERVATIONS DUE BY MAY 1.

I am enclosing \$_____ at \$40.00 per person.

Names of people attending: _____



2nd Annual Rhode Island Statehood Observance

“A Historical Evening”

Wednesday, May 29 @ 7:00pm

Imperial Room – 1 Rhodes Place, Cranston

Complimentary event – light refreshments

The featured speaker is Professor Gordon Wood

**Speaking on “Why Rhode Island Refused to Attend the
Constitutional Convention of 1787”**

Also remarks by

Dr. Patrick T. Conley – RI Historian

**Free giveaways – statehood booklets, flags, Constitution
booklets and more**

**Sponsored by the Pawtuxet Rangers through a generous grant from the Heritage
Harbor Foundation**

Email pawtuxetrangers@aol.com for more information

FLAG DAY

FRIDAY JUNE 14, 2018

11:30 AM SOCIAL HOUR

12:30 NOON LUNCH



Mary Tedesco, Guest Speaker

Mary Tedesco, DAR member and co-host of "Genealogy Road Show" on PBS will be presenting a fun program about the unique stories, experiences and anecdotes from giving genealogy presentations around the country.

Lunch Menu

- Fruit, cheese & cracker platter
- Mixed field greens salad w/ Zinfandel vinaigrette
- Entree choice of:
 - Chicken Francaise -or-
 - Baked Haddock w/ bread crumbs
- With sides of summer medley veggies and oven roasted potatoes
- Dessert: blueberry ala mode

DEADLINE : June 4, 2019. Price Per Person \$40.00

Send Reservations to: Amanda Lazarus, State Treasurer, RIDAR, 14 Creston Way, Providence, RI 02906
(alazarus.ridar@gmail.com) *Make Check Payable to RIDAR*

Name: _____ Entree choice: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____ Email: _____

Chapter: _____ State: _____

Guest Name(s): _____

Dietary Restriction: _____ Enclosed: _____ Ck# _____

