



Compatriots,

It seems as though our Annual Meeting was a year ago. With all that has transpired since then with the Coronavirus Pandemic, our celebration during calmer times seems to have been so different. Remember the handshakes and hugs as we now practice “social distancing.” As a person who belongs to many groups as do many of you, I’m sure you are joining me in the new found abundance of time. So - some ideas to while away the hours...

1. Work on those supplemental applications you’ve always wanted to pursue. True, most libraries are closed but there are numerous resources via the internet that you can use. Pay sites such as [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and [Fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com) have millions of records including old SAR applications. [www.FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) from the Church Of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints has a ton of records. Their site is free to use although some records you have to go to their local site to view or print. The local site is on Narragansett Parkway in Warwick.
2. Pursue membership in other hereditary groups. There is a hereditary group for just about everyone. Go to www.hereditary.us to learn about other groups such as: Descendants of the Illegitimate Sons and Daughters of the Kings of Britain, Flagon and Trencher, First Families of (name your state), Sons of Witches and more.
3. At our Annual Meeting, many of the gifts exchanged were books which show our society’s fondness of literature and history. Now is a great time to pick up that book you’ve been looking to read. There is a plethora of local authors with new material out. No better time than now to dig into that novel.

While we want to pick up our events again as soon as possible, everyone’s health and safety is the priority. We will follow our Governor’s guidance and adhere to the suggested recommendations, and we will keep you informed via email about our next events.

My wish is for you and your families to remain safe and healthy and I look forward to seeing you when I can shake your hand and give you a warm welcome to our event.

Ron Barnes

President

Calendar of Events

~~**Saturday, April 4, 9 am CANCELED**~~

Board of Managers Meeting - anyone welcome to attend
Brewed Awakenings, 1316 Bald Hill Rd., Warwick, RI

~~**Wednesday, May 13, 6pm CANCELED**~~

Spring Event - Patrick Conley speaking on "Rhode Island's Contributions to the United States"
Imperial Room, One Rhodes Place, Cranston, RI

~~**Sunday, June 14, 11:30 pm CANCELED**~~

Flag Day Luncheon
Rhode Island Yacht Club, 1 Ocean Ave., Cranston, RI

Saturday, July 11, 9 am

Board of Managers Meeting - anyone welcome to attend
Brewed Awakenings, 1316 Bald Hill Rd., Warwick, RI

Monday, September 28, 11:45 am

Cooke House Luncheon
Cooke House, 24 Bannister's Wharf, Newport, RI

Saturday, October 3, 9 am

Board of Managers Meeting - anyone welcome to attend
Brewed Awakenings, 1316 Bald Hill Rd., Warwick, RI

Saturday, October 31

New England District Council Meeting
Varnum Armory, 6 Main St., East Greenwich, RI

Saturday, November 7, 11 am

Salute to Veterans (TBD)

Saturday, December 12 at 11:30 am

Christmas Party
Eleven Forty Nine Restaurant, 1149 Division St.,
Warwick, RI

Saturday, January 2 (2021), 9 am

Board of Managers Meeting - anyone welcome to attend
Brewed Awakenings, 1316 Bald Hill Rd., Warwick, RI

The Independent Man is compiled and distributed annually by the Rhode Island Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Editor for the 2020 issue: Benjamin Ewing Nacar

Spotlight: Daniel S. Harrop III, M.D.

Dan Harrop has recently stepped down as President of the Rhode Island Society Sons of the American Revolution. He joins us for a brief interview.

- How long have you been a member of the SAR?

It's been 47 years. It was my grandmother who took me down and signed me up - she was a member of the DAR.

- Was that the Rhode Island Society you joined at the time?

Yes, I'm a native Rhode Islander.

- All you need to join the SAR is one ancestor, but I notice in the roster you have five listed. Had your grandmother done all that research already?

No, I did extra research. What happened was that at the time I joined, the requirements were a lot looser for proof of ancestry. I had to do a lot more paperwork when the rules changed. Fortunately it turned out I was still qualified, and I ended up discovering some other patriot ancestors along the way.

- Have you held any other officer roles in the Rhode Island Society?

I was Surgeon for 20 years, and then I was First Vice President under my predecessor.

- How would you say the Rhode Island Society has changed over the years you've been in it?

I would say it hasn't changed all that much, and that's a good thing - it's always been involved in the community in the same ways. I'm pleased that during my two years as President we've kept doing what we're supposed to be doing. We did expand a bit regarding social activities, and my successor and I have planned some other things in that direction.

- What have you personally gotten out of being a member?

The biggest part was meeting a great many great people. That's the fun part for me, in any of these historical or genealogical organizations. Over the years I've made a lot of friends through the Society.

- So what's next? You've mentioned you might be doing something at the New England district level?

At the end of March I'm going to run for Secretary of the New England district, and at the end of the year Vice President of the district. And then, if they let me, I'm going to put my name down for Surgeon General. We'll see how it goes.

Doings of the Compatriots

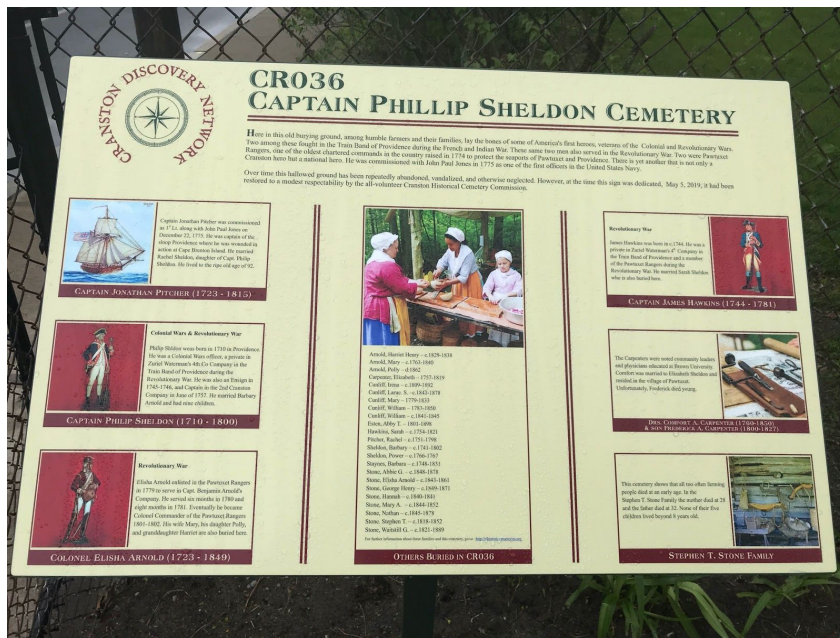
Our Boston bus trip of May 18th, 2019 was a great success. We visited the Warren Tavern, the Bunker Hill monument, the Old North Church and Paul Revere's House, followed by lunch at the Union Oyster House. At left you can see SAR members and guests approaching the Warren Tavern; at right Ron Barnes is talking to the manager of the Tavern.



Joe Brennan and Chris Sparks point out the names of their ancestors who were killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill.



The Captain Philip Sheldon Cemetery, Cranston Historic Cemetery #36: RISSAR participated in a rededication ceremony after an extensive clean up of the cemetery. Four SAR grave markers were placed. Among those present at the dedication ceremony were Ron Barnes, John Duchesneau, Bob Butler and David Butler, as well as Sheldon family members from California. A new stone was procured by the Cranston Historical Cemetery Commission for Capt. Jonathan Pitcher, one of the first officers of the Continental Navy.



John Adams went on a quest as a result of an out-of-state Compatriot inquiry to locate a Scituate cemetery containing the Revolutionary War grave of an ancestor. As many of you know, the locations of some of these hidden burial plots are not easy to find, but in this case a telephone pole number and the direction of 1,000 feet west approximately will get you there. Well, John found out that it was a little more than that, but was happy to report back to the Compatriot what he found. As with all out of the way places, there is virtually no upkeep.



Members of the Artillery Company of Newport, including past RISSAR president John Duchesneau (second from right), stand at attention during the Artillery Company's 21-gun salute on July 4th, 2019 at Washington Square, Newport.



At the 2019 Christmas party, Compatriots Ron Morneau and Glenn Russell receive awards.



The 2020 Annual Meeting took place on Feb. 15th at the Eleven Forty Nine restaurant in East Greenwich. At left are outgoing president Dan Harrop and incoming president Ron Barnes. At right, Ron presents a RISSAR check to Dave Procaccini, president of the Nathanael Greene Homestead.



At left, Ron Barnes' wife Sandi (better known as "The General") delivers a gift certificate to her husband, while at right, past and present state presidents Carlen Booth, John Adams, Ron Barnes, Bruce MacGunnigle, and Dan Harrop receive book gifts.



Ron Barnes presents an award to CAR state president Reed Tremblay.



In attendance at our annual meeting were New England District Vice President-General Tim Mabee and his wife Heather. At left, Tim brings thanks to the RISSAR; at right Ron Barnes pins the SAR rosette on Heather.



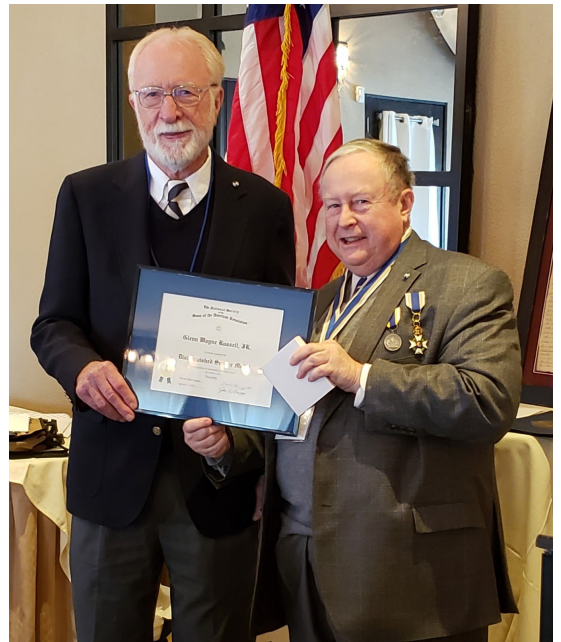
Five new SAR members were sworn in, including Kevin Larkin (left) and Joseph Lariviere (right).



The new officers are sworn in.



At left, outgoing president Dan Harrop receives three antique books, while at right, registrar Glenn Russell receives the SAR Distinguished Service award.



Secretary Joe Brennan and an astonished Chaplain David Butler receive the Good Citizenship Award.



Not from the Annual Meeting: Ron Barnes in his Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company uniform at Presidents' Day in Boston, at which he was joined by Skip Taylor, Herb Adams, and John Adams.



Report from the Nathanael Greene Homestead



This past year (2019) saw the completion of our barn (see picture of interior at left), which is to be used for educational programming. We received our certificate of occupancy and were awarded an additional grant from the Champlin Foundation for the purpose of installing a handicapped accessible restroom in 2020.

We hosted a number of small events including open houses with free admission on July 4, Gen. Greene's Birthday (August 7), and Smithsonian Museum Day (September 21), all of which had large turnout.

The Kingston Reds, a member of the State Chartered Historic Militia, have designated the Homestead as their Headquarters and the barn as their armory.

We began negotiations with Clariant Corporation for the donation of 20 or more wooded acres abutting the Homestead that we hope to close on by this summer. This land will be

maintained mostly as open space, with some of it used for a one acre parking lot plus improvements to existing trails. We also purchased a large commercial backhoe to aid in continuing efforts to improve the property, clear overgrown fields and maintain the trail system.

For 2020 we have multiple events scheduled, including book signings, a Roman encampment (!) and a Civil War reenactment. Reenacting groups like His Majesty's 54th Regiment of Foot (a Revolutionary War group) and the 12th Georgia Infantry (a Civil War group) are now hosting their meetings and drills at the Homestead.

2020 also happens to be the 250th birthday of Spell Hall (the Nathanael Greene Homestead), and we will be commissioning a commemorative challenge coin. There will be a dedication ceremony for the barn, date TBA.

Our cannon carriage was recently, and unexpectedly, found to be structurally deficient. It has been removed and is awaiting replacement. The well house is also in need of restoration and safety improvements including a cement well ring and steel cover. We will gladly accept donations towards funding these unexpected projects.

-- David Procaccini