



### John Collins Acting President

John Eastman has retired as President of the RISSAR. John Collins is now our Acting President. He joined the society in May of 2007. We look forward to his leadership of the Society in the future.

### Bruce MacGunnigle receives "Liberty Medal" from National Society

The Liberty Medal commemorates the restoration of the Statue of Liberty, and reminds us of our liberty and is presented for recruiting new members to the SAR. The medal, along with a certificate, is awarded by the National Society at the Annual SAR Congress each year. Bruce received the award as he has sponsored 10 new members since 1986, when the award was initiated. The medal is struck in bronze and depicts a bust of the Statue of Liberty on the obverse. The reverse has a space for the name and date of the recipient to be engraved. The medal is suspended from a gold ribbon and may be worn at any SAR event.

### RI Society publishes Regimental Book for the First RI Regiment

The Rhode Island Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is pleased to announce the publication of the *Regimental Book First Rhode Island Regiment for 1781 &c* by Bruce C. MacGunnigle with an introduction by Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, FASG.

Original records of the Revolutionary War are important to all Americans, especially historians and genealogists, but they are not always the easiest kinds of documents to use. This careful transcription of an original manuscript at Rhode Island State Archives provides rich material for the study of the First Rhode Island Regiment and the men in it. Enlistment records for over 500 soldiers (as above) allow the reader a glimpse of height, hair color, age, and occupation, as well as details of birth place and enlistment. This regiment, sometimes called the Black Regiment, is well known for its diversity, and these records are particularly revealing. In addition to the core of Rhode Islanders we find a Spanish-born fanmaker, a printer's assistant born in Africa, men from other colonies, and—more unexpectedly—soldiers from across Europe and the Caribbean. We find tiny soldiers (4 ft. 9 in.) and ones over six feet tall, teenage boys and men in their sixties. These records can be the gateway for genealogy, especially for soldiers of color. The appendix offers tables of information derived from the enlistment records.

Fascinating as they are, enlistments are only part of the original book, which includes a register of "casualties" (injury, death, desertion, promotion, and transfer), honorary badges of distinction, and furlough details. Records go far beyond the year 1781 mentioned on the title. Introductory material, including a detailed chronology, places the book in the context of the Revolutionary War, and each section is introduced with an explanatory paragraph. Images of members of the regiment that have been found are presented with details of their history. A meticulous index makes it possible for the reader to find records of each individual quickly.

The author Bruce C. MacGunnigle brings a lifetime of experience with Rhode Island Revolutionary War history to this book. In addition to his extensive body of historical and genealogical publications, he has served as president of the RISSAR, commanding officer of the Varnum Continentals, and president of Rhode Island Genealogical Society. He was recently elected Governor General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, FASG, is the author of many books and articles and has edited Rhode Island Roots for the last ten years. For further information please visit our website [www.rhodeislandsar.org](http://www.rhodeislandsar.org).

Regimental Book First Rhode Island Regiment for 1781 &c. by Bruce C. MacGunnigle, with introduction by Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, FASG (East Greenwich R.I.: Rhode Island Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, 2011), 156 + xx pages, hard cover, library binding, illustrated, appendix, index of names. ISBN 978-0-615-49315-2.

ORDER FORM

*Regimental Book Rhode Island Regiment for 1781 &c.*

Number

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 RISSAR MEMBER  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$1.40 sales tax (R.I. residents)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 NON-MEMBER  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$1.75 sales tax (R.I. residents)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$3.50 S & H first book, \$1 each additional  
\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED.

Please detach this order form and return it with your check, payable to RISSAR, to:  
RISSAR, 202 Kent Dr. East Greenwich, RI 02818

Order date: \_\_\_\_\_

Ship to: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_, City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



The Old Guard of the Gate City Guard along with members of the Centennial Legion of Historic Military Commands at the Peace Monument in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Rededication of the Peace Monument in Atlanta, GA**

I recently attended the Rededication and 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Peace monument in Piedmont Park in Atlanta, Georgia. The Peace Monument commemorates the historic "Mission of Peace" to the North in 1879 by the Gate City Guard of Atlanta. The Guard had been the first military company in Atlanta to volunteer for the Civil War and it would be the first to volunteer to secure peace. On October 10, 1911, 75,000 people watched a splendid parade of military units from all over America participate in dedication ceremonies which concluded with the presentation of the monument to the City of Atlanta. Newspaper accounts of the day confirm that the Peace Monument represented different things to different people; Patriotism, reconciliation, the pledge of friendship and good will, and optimism about America's unfinished history were all prevailing. Each year The Old Guard Battalion of the Gate City Guard conducts a brief rededication observance and this year's ceremony coincided with the Annual Meeting of the Centennial Legion of Historic Military Commands. I met several representatives of the GA SAR, DAR, and CAR organizations who send greeting to all RISSAR members.

Ron Barnes, Secretary, RISSAR

## Captain Thomas Cole Ceremony

The John Peck Rathbun Chapter #4 will be holding its annual ceremony at Elm Grove cemetery at the grave side of Captain Thomas Cole to honor his years of service during the War for Independence on Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 10:00AM. Captain Cole of Wickford, RI served for 7 years from May 1775 to May 1782. He was a veteran of 9 campaigns during the Revolution.

- Siege of Boston, July 1775-March 1776
- Battle of Long Island, 27 August 1776
- Battle of Harlem Heights, 16 September 1776
- Battle of White Plains, 29 Oct 1776
- Second Battle of Trenton, 2 January 1777
- Battle of Princeton, 3 January 1777
- Battle of Red Bank (Fort Mercer), NJ, 22 October 1777 (Spent winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge)
- Battle of Rhode Island, 29 August 1778
- Yorktown Campaign, May-October, 1781



## John Peck Rathbun Chapter President Elected as 59<sup>th</sup> Colonel Commanding Kentish Guards, RIM

At the April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 annual meeting and election of the Kentish Guards JPR chapter President Warren S. Kaye was elected as the 59<sup>th</sup> Colonel Commanding of the Kentish Guards, RIM. The Kentish Guards were formed on 29 OCT 1774 to protect the town of East Greenwich, RI and the surrounding community from Tory unrest leading up to the Revolution. Once hostilities broke out with England many of members joined the Continental Army with 35 serving as officers the most from any colonial militia company. Among these officers the most famous being MG Nathaniel Greene the "Savoir of the South". The Kentish Guards did garrison duty during most of the war in East Greenwich protecting it from raiding parties from occupied Newport. They took part in several skirmishes and the Battle of Rhode Island. After the war they continued to serve the state as a militia company when many were disbanded. The Guard did garrison duty in Newport during the War of 1812, served in quelling a dangerous riot in Pawtucket during the Dorr Rebellion, raised Co H. 2<sup>nd</sup> RI Reg't of Volunteers out of their own ranks and fought in 13 major battles of the Civil War. They maintain a historic armory in East Greenwich, RI on the corner of Peirce and Armory Streets. Since then members have served in all this counties major conflicts till present day. Currently the Kentish Guards serves as a ceremonial unit which honors its history and the past members that have served the unit attending various local, state, and private functions.

## Long Service Awards and Notable Distinctions

The following members have received certificates to honor them for their long service as members of the Rhode Island Society:

Bowen H. Tucker, 55 Years, joined September 28, 1956, Emeritus I, member of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

William Lee Smith, 40 years, joined October 14, 1971

Everett O. White, III, 25 years, joined September 11, 1986

Congratulation to these members for their decades of support!

At their annual meeting on 8 October 2011, the American Society of Genealogists elected a new Fellow, Nathaniel Lane Taylor of Barrington, Rhode Island.

## In Memoriam

LIGHT Ph.D., WILLIAM GODDARD August 10, 1949 to April 8, 2011 William, 61, of San Diego, died unexpectedly of a heart attack on April 8, 2011. Dr. Light was born in Greenwich, Connecticut on August 10, 1949 to Frances B. and Goddard Light. He grew up in Rye Town/Port Chester, New York. He graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering in 1971. He received an M.S. in Chemical Engineering in 1973 and a Ph.D. in 1977 from the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Light also completed the Executive Program for Growing Companies, Graduate School of Business at Stanford University in 1995. At Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Dr. Light was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, Phi Lambda Epsilon, Honorary Chemical Society, and President of Tau Beta Pi. He was an avid runner and lettered in both Cross Country and Track

while in college. He ran his first Boston Marathon In 1968 and enjoyed years of running and competing as a member of the Greater Boston Track Club. Dr. Light has 34 years of experience in the membrane separation product and process industries. Most recently he was the President and CEO of Sepro Membranes based in Oceanside, CA. He expanded the body of knowledge in membrane technology and grew Sepro into a global entity. He has authored many technical publications, given many conference presentations and holds five patents. He is a Member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and The American Chemical Society. Dr. Light was interested in American history and is descended from two Mayflower pilgrims. He is a Member of the Society of the Cincinnati, The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, and Varnum Continentals. Dr. Light is survived by Robin, his wife of 32 years, his daughter Emily Elizabeth, his son Evan Goddard, and his brother John. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his name to the American Heart Association, Habitat for Humanity, ASPCA, or CARE.

**Your State Registrar Carlen Booth reports the following:**

David Matthew Procaccini, Johnston, RI, admitted October 4, 2011, national number 180930, state number 1759. David is descended from John Crocker 1734-1802 Montville CT - Cpl in Capt. James Chapman's Company, Col. Samuel Holden Parson's Regiment.

Ronald Carl Hillegass, Barrington, RI, admitted November 1, 2011, national number 181069, state number 1760. Ronald is descended from George Peter Hillegass 1735-1810 New Goshenhoppen PA - Private in 1st Company, 4th Battalion of Philadelphia Co. Associates and Militia under Captain John Schooler.

**Request for RISSAR Records**

Our Registrar, Compatriot Carlen Booth (cpbarri@aol.com), would like anyone who has RISSAR records to please contact him.

**Upcoming SAR events:**

November 12th Vets Day program at Veteran's Cemetery Exeter--luncheon at 1149 Restaurant

December 9th Christmas Party at 1149 Restaurant

February 18th Annual Meeting at Chianti's in East Greenwich



**New England District SAR meeting held in Vergennes, VT**

(left to right)VTSSAR President Herman C. Brown, TNSSAR Trustee Rick Hollis, French Explorer Samuel de Champlain (interpreted by Don Thompson of Vermont), VTSSAR Vice President Tim Mabee, and former NEDSAR VPG Carlen Booth of RISSAR. During lunch, attendees were treated to an excellent presentation by Champlain that included props that educated and informed the audience about the kinds of navigational instruments, weapons, clothing and furs used by early North American explorers. The New England District SAR meeting was held October 15, 2011 on the shores of Lake Champlain at the Basin Harbor Club in Vergennes, Vermont.