

Presidents Remarks:

Dear Compatriots:

The year is drawing to a close and we are fast approaching our 125th year celebration in February at the Annual Meeting. As part of that celebration, the 125th Book that you have heard about is almost done as it is in the final stages of editing. The book will be distributed at the Annual Meeting and we will then mail it to those that are unable to attend.

Please make sure to put February 21, 2015 down on your calendar as the time for the Annual Meeting. This event will be held at 1149 Restaurant in Warwick and will be an evening affair. The business meeting will take place before the social hour (5:00PM) and be as short as possible to accommodate any guests that will be with us that evening. We will then have a surf and turf dinner followed by a speech by Al Klyberg on the Nathanael Greene Papers Publishing Project that he coordinated with the assistance from the Rhode Island Historical Society and many others. The dress will be business casual and a formal invitation will be sent in January. We encourage everyone to attend this historic event and all guests are welcome.

You should have also received by now a colorful Rhode Society Membership Roster with your Annual Dues notice. Our Secretary, Ron Barnes, does a great job of keeping this information up to date. In the Roster, you will find many email addresses and phone numbers for your fellow Compatriots. Thank you, Ron.

Next year, we are working on a number of events to help celebrate our 125th and have formed a committee to investigate the ways that we can make the year special. Please let me know if you would like to be on the committee or would like to offer an idea for our yearlong celebration.

One thought would be to have a bus tour of all SAR plaques dedicated by the Society—don't be alarmed—we are only talking about a two hour event. Most of our plaques are in Providence and easily accessed. On that tour, we would stop in to the North Burial Ground, visit Brown University, Tea Market Square, and Camp Street. We hope to have the details to you in the next newsletter.

Although the Greene Homestead is closed for the season, if any of you would like to help out there, there is always a need. If you would contact Bill and Barbara Weaver directly, they have a list of jobs and volunteer opportunities that is always in need of new help. You can reach them at bwrcar@cox.net or give them a call at 401-377-0047.

At the suggestion of Compatriots Henry Brown and Bob Merriam, we hope to return to the New England Wireless and Steam Museum in May, 2015. We have not visited the Museum in several years and that event was always fascinating for those of us that think nothing about how "steam power" was so instrumental to our country so many years ago. The tentative date is May 21st.

Thanks to Carlen Booth, we will again be visiting the Anawan Club in April of next year. If you have never been there, you have missed a special place in the woods with an exceptional meal. I hope you can join us to enjoy among other things their wonderful Johnny Cakes.

Peter Sarazin will lead a group of volunteers to the North Burial Ground soon. Bob Butler, a member of the Rhode Island Advisory Commission on Historical Cemetery Commission will lend his guidance on the repair of the fallen stone of William Barton.

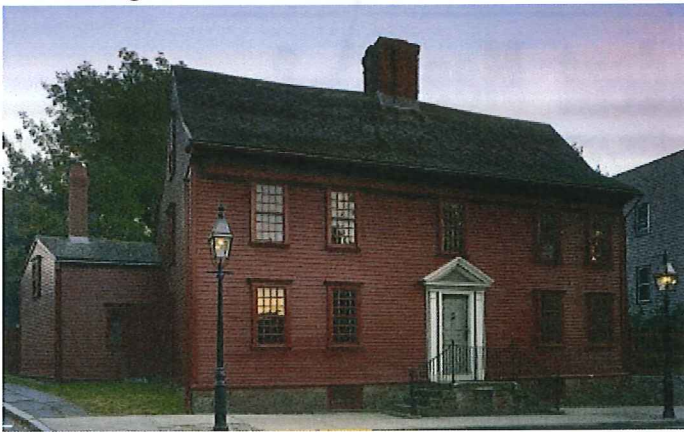
For any of you that may be interested in volunteering to support any number of activities that the Society performs, please contact me. We are always looking for people to help out in our various projects and they include secretarial, housekeeping, landscaping, writing, public speaking, award presentation and event planning. If you have an idea that you think would benefit the Society, please let me know.

Have a great Holiday Season and Happy New Year!

John W. Adams

President

Introducing Revolution House



Reinterpretation Plans for Newport, RI's Oldest House Museum

The Newport Historical Society's research team is reinterpreting its traditional house museum, the c.1697 Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House. Instead of displaying chamber pots and rope beds, the property will open its historic doors in 2015 as Revolution House, Newport's sole museum devoted to the American Revolution.

Although well-known history celebrates the Boston Tea Party and the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the first episodes of armed resistance against the British happened right here on Narragansett Bay.

In the wake of the Sugar Act of 1764, violence broke out when colonists took over Fort George on Goat Island, off the far end of Long Wharf, and fired cannon on the British ship, *St. John* whose crew allegedly stole merchandise from Newport businesses but which was also enforcing tax laws against local ships.

More violence erupted in 1765 when a long boat from the British ship the *Maidstone* was captured by an angry mob, dragged through the streets, and set fire in the square. This ship had been impressing Rhode Islanders into the British Navy, that is, capturing them and forcing them to serve on British ships, a common but highly unpopular practice of the British here and elsewhere.

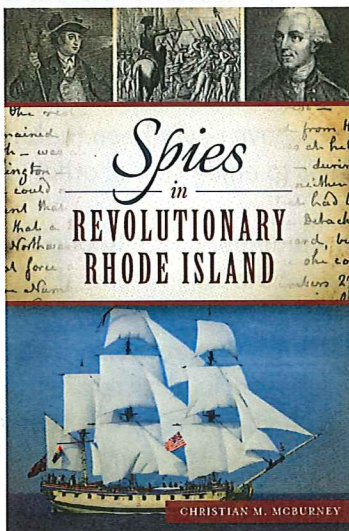
In 1769 Newporters destroyed the British revenue sloop the *Liberty*. After harshly questioning the captains of two ships out of Connecticut, the Captain of the *Liberty* was surrounded by an angry mob of Newporters and forced to bring his crew in from the ship. Locals boarded the empty ship, cut it loose and it floated around the Point where it was stripped and burned. London protested to Rhode Island officials, but decided to let the matter drop.

Burning of the *Gaspee* 1772

An even more significant incident, one that some historians claim actually sparked the American Revolution, didn't take place here in Newport but started with the departure from Newport of a packet ship, one of the ships that made regular runs between Colonial ports. This incident involved an encounter between the packet ship, the *Hannah*, and the British ship *HMS Gaspee*.

Revolution House will provide a dedicated exhibit space to showcase the important role that Newport played in the build-up to and conduct of the Revolutionary War. Innovative exhibits and displays will be installed in the house, which will use artifacts and documents from the Society's world-class collections. The property will fill a void in the current cultural offerings throughout Newport's Old Quarter.

On the Bookshelves:



Rhode Island native, Christian McBurney, is out with a new book of interest to all Rhode Islanders. He will speak at the Varnum Armory on December 8th.

Espionage played a vital role during the Revolutionary War in Rhode Island, both when the British and later the French occupied Newport and the rest of Aquidneck Island. Lieutenant John Trevett of the Continental navy sloop *Providence* dressed as an ordinary sailor, grew out his beard, and went from tavern to tavern in Newport gathering intelligence. Metcalf Bowler became a traitor on the order of Benedict Arnold, as he spied for the British while professing to be a patriot leader. Disguised as a peddler, Ann Bates spied for the British during the Rhode Island Campaign. After being caught in Exeter, John Hart was hanged as a spy. British spies sent to French-occupied Newport were picked up by British navy boats off Rhode Island's southern coast. Author Christian M. McBurney, for the first time, unravels the world of spies and covert operations in Rhode Island during the Revolutionary War.

Your State Registrar Carlen Booth reports the following:

New Member: Mark Thomas Williams, West Newton, MA, admitted November 1, 2014, national number 192521, state number 1789. Mark is descended from Job Wood, 1750-1842, East Greenwich, RI - Matross in Col John Topham's and Col Robert Elliott's Rhode Island Regiments and in New York.

Supplementary Application:

Carlen Phillips Booth, Rumford, RI, approved October 17, 2014, national number 155796, state number 1646. Carlen is descended from Thaddeus Wheeler, 1742-1826, Hollis, NH - private in Capt. Reuben Dorr's Co., NH Militia marched from Hollis in response to the Lexington alarm.

In Memoriam:

It saddens us to notify our membership of the passing of William H. Peckham on September 30, 2014. At 81 Bill, passed away peacefully surrounded by family members on September 30, 2014. He was the husband of Dorothy (Danis) Peckham for 57 years. They were long-time residents of Barrington.

Bill was the son of the late Everett and Ruth Peckham. Growing up in Portsmouth, Mr. Peckham was a 1951 graduate of Rogers High School, where he played basketball.

Mr. Peckham was a United States Air Force Veteran and served in Korea. After earning a business degree at Bryant College in the advertising department of the Providence Journal for 39 years.

Bill was a lifelong fan of the New York Yankees.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a son, Mark Peckham and his wife Stephanie Peckham of Bristol; two daughters, Sandy I husband Richard Marcks of Old Lyme, CT and Christin Lynch of Rumford and a brother, Everett Peckham of Hampton, VA. seven grandchildren, Sara and Jaime Catanzaro, Jonathan, Benjamin and Luke Peckham and Kelsy and Graham Lynch. He v late Susan Elizabeth Catanzaro.

Past RISSAR State President and former Vice President General New England Carlen Booth (l) and Vice President General New England Douglas M. Wood (r), present to new member Graham Phillips Mann, his SAR Certificate at the Clarke Cooke House meeting in September.



RISSAR President John Adams presented compatriot David Procaccini with the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal for his work as President of the Nathanael Greene Homestead at the Homestead's Annual Meeting.

Shown from left to right are compatriots Bill Weaver, David Procaccini, Skip Taylor, Jon Farnum, Carlen Booth, President John Adams, Peter Sarazin and Ron Barnes

Sea Cadet Presentation:



Carlen Booth, Past VPG New England, presented an SAR Good Citizenship medal and certificate to Petty Officer Second Class Joseph Marzano of the Falcon Division, U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Corps at the Division's meeting in Attleboro, MA on Saturday, September 6, 2014.



In addition to a lengthy list of accomplishments, Commanding Officer, LTJG Matthew Roias' recommendation stated that "Marzano's can-do spirit is a model for all to follow, and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Navy, the Sons of the American Revolution and the United States Sea Cadet Corps.

Since 1958, the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, a federally sponsored association for teenagers and pre-teens age 11 to 17, has offered programs to introduce youth to naval life and to develop in them a sense of pride, patriotism, courage and self-reliance. The Corps consists of nearly 400 units in 48 states, Guam and Puerto Rico.

The Boy Scout Eagle recognition program is flourishing with nine certificates of achievement being presented this year at Eagle Courts from around the State.

From the National Society Sons of the American Revolution:

- Carlen Booth was awarded the Liberty Medal for his efforts in recruiting new members.
- RISSAR awarded another CAR Flag Streamer for our support of the Rhode Island Society of the Children of the American Revolution.

Upcoming SAR events:

Christmas Party: December 13 ElevenFortyNine Restaurant, Warwick, RI

Board of Managers: January 3, 2015

Annual Meeting : February 21, 2015

Board of Managers: April 4, 2015

Anawan Club: April TBD

New England Wireless and Steam Museum: May TBD

Flag Day at the Dunes Club: June 13, 2015

Board of Managers: July 11, 2015

Cooke House: September 28, 2015

Board of Managers: October 3, 2015