



Compatriots,

Since our last Newsletter, we have mourned the loss of Compatriot Dr. Daniel S. Harrop III, who while attending the National Society SAR Fall Leadership Meeting, died suddenly on September 29. Dan had a special love for our Society serving in a multiplicity of roles including RISSAR President and, most recently, Vice-President General of the New England District Council. A kind and enormously generous man, he will be remembered for his support of the RISSAR Youth Programs with a focus on JROTC / ROTC, Eagle Scout, and Poster Contest awards. His presence was missed as our Board of Managers Meeting was called to order on October 8.

With Summer in the rearview mirror, RISSAR Compatriots and their guests came together on September 22nd for a Fall dinner event to celebrate autumn. During the evening festivities, we welcomed and inducted two new members into the Society.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution New England District Council (NEDC) Fall Meeting was held on October 29. RISSAR hosted the meeting at the historic Varnum Armory, East Greenwich, RI. Attendees were treated to a tour of the Armory, and guests were welcomed at the Varnum Home. The main issue before the NEDC was to address the loss of Dr. Dan Harrop as VPG. In the spirit of keeping the position within our Society, RISSAR was given the first right of nomination. On behalf of RISSAR, I nominated RISSAR Past President, Ronald W Barnes to fill the unexpired term of Dan Harrop for 2022-2023, which was unanimously approved. Ron Barnes was officially appointed by SAR President General C. Bruce Pickette on November 8th.

Our Salute to Veterans was held at the North Burial Ground on November 5th. In the company of the Bourbonnais Regiment, RISSAR Compatriots paused to remember and salute our Patriots including Colonel Israel Angell. Appropriately for the day, Bob Butler led us in George Washington's Prayer. Dave Pickering read the names of the new members along with their respective Patriots. Compatriots in attendance stated the names of their Patriot ancestors.

On November 12th RISSAR participated in the RIDAR Veterans Day Memorial Ceremony. Also, in attendance were the Societies of RICAR, OFPA, and RISSR. Compatriot Ensign Paul Fetter III brought greetings on behalf of RISSAR and carried the wreath laying at the RISSAR/OFPA joint monument.

On December 15th the Annual RISSAR Christmas Holiday Dinner was held at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. Attendance was strong with around 80 Compatriots and Guests who enjoyed the festive evening. The Nutcracker was a surprise and a special visitor, drawing smiles as chocolates were handed out. We closed the evening with our Registrar, Chris Krajacich, inducting five new members.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Annual Meeting to be held at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet on April 15th. As RISSAR members have been doing since 1890, this is a time to exercise your vote for the Officers and Board of Managers.

Patriotically yours,

Christopher C. Sparks  
RISSAR, President

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 6pm**

RISSAR Info Session / Table  
Warwick Public Library  
600 Sandy Lane, Warwick

**Saturday, April 8, 2023, 9am**

Board of Managers Meeting  
Brewed Awakenings, Warwick

**Saturday, April 15, 2023 - Luncheon**

Annual Meeting  
Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, Cranston

**Wednesday, May 3, 2023 - Dinner**

Joint Societies Dinner (with RISSR, SCW, OFPA)  
feat. Paul O'Shaughnessy speaking on the Boston Tea  
Party

**Saturday, June 10, 2023, 10am-approx. 12pm**

Gaspee Days Parade  
Pawtuxet Village (Cranston / Warwick)

**Wednesday, June 14, 2023 - Dinner**

Flag Day Celebration  
Squantum Association, Riverside

**Saturday, July 8, 2023, 9am**

Board of Managers Meeting  
Brewed Awakenings, Warwick

## In Memoriam

Eugene S. Clauss (Dec. 2022)

Daniel S. Harrop (Sept. 2022)

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Editor for the Winter 2023 issue: Benjamin Ewing Nacar

THE RHODE ISLAND SOCIETY  
OF THE  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION



PRESENT



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REVOLUTIONARY WAR  
PATRIOT ANCESTOR?*

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WAR ANCESTOR!

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★ MARCH 22 • 6:00PM ★

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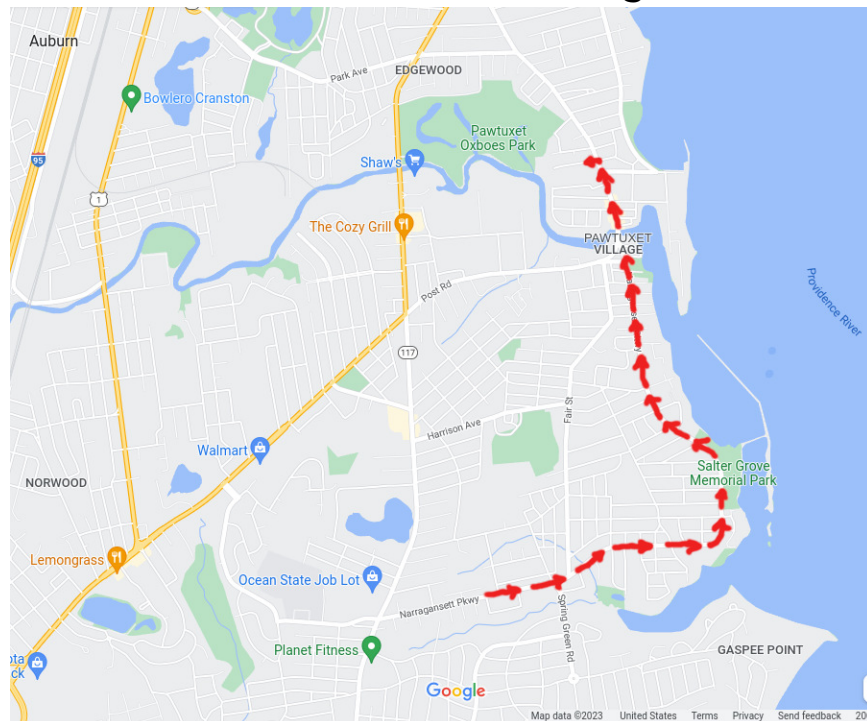
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email: [info@rhodeislandsar](mailto:info@rhodeislandsar)  
for more information

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# Calling all RISSAR Compatriots - The Gaspee Days Parade, Saturday, June 10th

We will be marching in this year's Gaspee Days Parade in Pawtuxet Village.  
The parade steps off at 10am, rain or shine,  
and follows a two-mile stretch of Narragansett Parkway.



If you are interested in marching in the parade as a member of RISSAR,  
or want more information,  
contact Ben at [ben@bennacar.com](mailto:ben@bennacar.com). The more the merrier!



Members of RISSAR marching in the 2022 Gaspee Days Parade

The Gaspee Days website: [www.gaspee.com](http://www.gaspee.com)

## Spotlight: David Pickering

Capt. Dave Pickering is one of our most dedicated new members. He formally joined the SAR at our September dinner event.

*- Tell us about yourself and your background prior to joining the SAR.*

My interest in American history began with my long involvement with Scouting. I joined the Cub Scouts in 1962 and went on to the Boy Scouts (now Scouts BSA), reaching the rank of Eagle Scout in 1972 with Troop 13 in Rehoboth, Mass. I just received an honor which I never expected: the Silver Beaver award from the BSA Narragansett Council, which is the highest award they can bestow on an adult volunteer.

In addition, my family has ties going back to six of the Mayflower Pilgrims, which was very important to my grandmother who shared that history with me and my son who became very interested in it. It really hit home one day when my son came home from school and said "Dad, no-one else in class knows about their family history, and we go all the way back to the boat!" It's that type of family history that really opens the doors to our great American history, which tragically, for the most part, isn't being taught in our schools anymore.

*- You've also been heavily involved with various seafaring ventures - tell us about your background there.*

I joined the United States Merchant Marine as a USCG Licensed Captain in 2002. It was my ambition to follow in the footsteps of Captain Joshua Slocum and sail a circumnavigation. However, for the time being, that's on the back burner. In 2010 I became Skipper of Sea Scout Ship 1909, East Greenwich, which inspired me in 2014 to found a charitable non-profit 501(c)(3) organization called S.A.L.T.Y. - Seamanship And Leadership Training for Youths - that works with the Scouts, YMCA, Gold Star Teens, and other youth organizations.

*- So what led you to join the SAR?*

It was a roundabout route, but 15 years ago I began having our Sea Scouts put together hundreds of Christmas packages and hand written cards each year for our Rhode Island men and women in uniform overseas. The RI National Guard Adjutant General had us bring them to Quonset Point Air Base and they'd be flown directly to Iraq, Afghanistan or wherever our RI military personnel were. That led me to learning more about our military and our military history, which led me to joining the Board of Trustees at the Varnum Armory, where I met John Adams of RISSAR. Through John I learned about all these great historical and genealogical organizations. When he learned my family history, he said "Dave, you must have some ancestry that would get you into the SAR!"

*- How much family research did you have to do?*

Quite a bit, but it was pretty easy to gather the documentation. [RISSAR Registrar] Glenn Russell was incredibly helpful in tracking things down and was a great source of inspiration.

*- You've been extremely active in the Society - it was only two weeks after you were sworn in that you joined the Board of Managers. What's a highlight of being in the SAR?*

I'd attended several SAR events before joining, and then right after I joined, Chris Sparks approached me and indicated "there's a vacancy and we'd love to have you." I've realized early on, as far back as becoming a BSA Scoutmaster at the ripe old age of 22, but also from having helped build companies and organizations, that any organization ultimately depends on having good strong supporting people, and as such, I've gone to as many of our events as I can. For me the big highlight has been meeting exceptionally gifted and dedicated individuals and the enormous value they all bring to the SAR.

## Doings of the Compatriots

Unless otherwise noted, photos by Michael Deignan



On September 22nd, 2022, RISSAR held its Fall Dinner at the Chapel Grille in Cranston. At left, RISSAR President Chris Sparks welcomes everybody to the autumn reunion.

Below, Immediate Past President Ron Barnes and Chris recognize outgoing Registrar Glenn Russell (center) for many years of dedicated service to the Society.





David Pickering and Keith Fairbank Jr. were sworn in at the September dinner. Here they stand flanked by Chris Sparks, President, and Chris Krajacich, our new Registrar. (Keith, whose certificate hadn't arrived in time, is borrowing Chris Krajacich's certificate for the photo.)



Compatriots and friends of the Society enjoy the chance to catch up as they await the food.

On November 5th, RISSAR gathered for our Salute to Veterans at the grave of Col. Israel Angell, at the North Burial Ground in Providence. Col. Angell, who served in the Continental Army, was particularly recognized by George Washington and Nathanael Greene for his heroism in the Battle of Springfield.

At right, President Chris Sparks welcomes attendees and asks for a moment of silence to remember and salute our Patriots. Below, with the Regiment Bourbonnaise standing behind RISSAR members, David Pickering (third from right) reads aloud the names of our newest members and their Patriot ancestors:

Kevin Alanson Breene	Jonathan Remington
John Donatien de Rochambeau	Jean Baptiste Donatien de Rochambeau
Keith Robert Fairbank Jr.	Michael Myers
Arthur Earle Manchester Jr.	Edward Mason
David Edwards Melchar	John Soule
Richard Guy Migliori Jr.	Elijah Benjamin
David William Pickering	Thaddeus Peterson
Carson James Przystas	Daniel Tichenor
James Hawley Stearns	Ithamar Smith
Henry James Tremblay	Philip Bettinger
Marcus David Tremblay	Philip Bettinger
Ronald W Ulmschneider	Stephen Luth

Photos by Charlene and Bob Butler





The following Saturday, November 12th, RISSAR joined the Veterans Day Ceremony of the Rhode Island State Society Daughters of the American Revolution. In attendance besides RIDAR and RISSAR were the Societies of Rhode Island Children of the American Revolution, Order of Founders and Patriots of America, and Rhode Island Society Sons of the Revolution. The morning began stormy and rainy, but eventually the clouds parted and the sun came out. In memory of all War Veterans, each of the organizations brought greetings to the day and participated in the Wreath Laying Ceremony at each of the respective monuments.



Compatriot Paul Fetter III brings greetings on behalf of RISSAR and lays the wreath at the joint RISSAR / OFPA monument.



From left to right:  
John Duchesneau (RISSAR, Past President); David Butler (RISSAR, Chaplin); Ron Barnes (OFPA, President, and RISSAR, Past President); Roy Lauth (RISSAR, President); Amanda Lazarus (RIDAR, State Regent); Christopher Sparks (RISSAR, President); Paul Fetter III (RISSAR, Ensign); Carlen Booth (RISSAR, Past President); Joseph Brennan (RISSAR, Secretary)

Photos courtesy Chris Sparks



The annual Christmas / Holiday Dinner was held at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet on December 15th, with 80 total Compatriots and friends of the Society attending.





The December dinner featured a special guest appearance by The Nutcracker, who contributed to the festive atmosphere by posing for pictures with attendees and handing out candy.





Five new members were sworn in at the December party. Below left to right: Chris Sparks; Tom Carson - standing in for his infant grandson and new member Carson James Przystas; new member James Hawley Sterns; new member Joseph May Davis; new member Jeffery Scott Burns; new member Daniel Harold Trafford; and Ron Barnes.



## Updates from the Nathanael Greene Homestead



We wrapped up another successful season at the Homestead in December.

In September we closed on a 39 acre land donation from Clariant Corporation, and also hosted a Celtic and Traditional Music Concert on the Lawn with Don Lurgio and Matt Cook. In October we hosted a Roman Exhibition and a Trick Or Treat Historical Timeline, and November saw our Small Business Saturday Giftshop Sales and Museum Open House. With the uptick in local Covid cases, the decision was made to scale back our advertising for end-of-year events in order to remediate crowds inside our building.

In December we celebrated our Two Day Christmas at Spell Hall with Traditional and Celtic Christmas Music with Lurgio & Cook and Seven Mile Baptist Church. Two days before the event, a squirrel came down the chimney and destroyed two of the floorboards attempting to chew its way out. Our staff sprang into action and completely repaired the floor in time for the Christmas event.

In other news, the foundation for the barn addition has been poured and underground plumbing has been installed. We anticipate pouring the slab and starting on the frame very soon, weather permitting. Our volunteers have restored the well house and outhouse, and we also replaced the entire threshold on the back door, facing Taft St. We have begun our annual winter land-clearing operations to reopen overgrown portions of the property and trail system.

We purchased a new tube for a 3-pounder Verbruggen Cannon, and we will be building it a new field carriage. We also received on long-term loan from the Varnum Continentals another 3-pounder and limber, which we intend to restore.

Five years ago we rescued the 150 year old half scale long-boat Genevieve from the Warwick School Dept where it was rotting away, with an eye toward restoration. The Genevieve was built to participate in the Centennial of Washington's Crossing the Delaware, and much later in life participated in Gaspee Days. She will finally be making her way to the Paine House barn to begin restoration.

As always, we are terribly shorthanded and can use all the volunteer help we can get.

– David M. Procaccini