



Compatriots,

Spring is in the air! Spring is a season where the world renews itself. It is a season for growth and a season for new challenges. On a perfect spring day, overlooking the water from the Rhode Island Yacht Club, our day of celebration and compatriot recognition event brought us together to see old friends, and meet new ones. It also served as a springboard to an active 2022.

In the spirit of our Patriots, I think they would be proud of the Society's "purposes that are patriotic, historical and educational." With that said, our continued focus will be on supporting and increasing the participation in the Youth Award Programs:

- JROTC Enhanced Award Program
- Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Essay Contest
- George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest
- Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest

To heighten the awareness of the Society, I highlight a couple of new activities that will need your support and participation:

- RISSAR will be visiting central libraries in RI cities and towns over the next few years as part of the 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War. These visits will include an introduction to what RISSAR is and what we do, an explanation of how to join and some genealogy 101. This will be followed by opportunities for attendees to inquire about membership and potential ancestors they may have.
- On the weekend of April 29, RISSAR is planning to participate in a Pawtuxet Village "Ranger / Gaspee" event. David Davies, RISSAR Genealogist, will host a table in the Boat House. David will have brochures and Society publications to share with the public, and be available to field questions around our Society, and start them on a patriotic journey of family research.
- On June 11, as a part of the 250th Anniversary of the "Burning of the HMS Gaspee", RISSAR will be marching in the Gaspee Days Parade. I would encourage all that are interested to march with us.

In closing, I hope to see all of you at our dinner events throughout the year, but in the meantime have a Happy Patriotic Spring!

My best to you and your families,

Chris Sparks
President, RISSAR

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Weekend of April 29th - May 1st, 2022

The Gaspee Committee and the Pawtuxet Rangers will be holding a museum for a weekend event on Friday April 29 – Sunday, May 1.

The Friday night event will be a cocktail reception between the Boathouse and the Armory in Pawtuxet.

Saturday and Sunday's events will be family oriented. Both the boathouse and the armory will be open. The Rangers will be drilling in Pawtuxet Park, the Fife & Drum will have a concert and the muskets and cannon will be demonstrated. The Children of the American Revolution will be there Saturday demonstrating children's games, writing with a quill and more.

David Davies, RISSAR Genealogist, will host a table in the boathouse. David will be prepared to answer any questions around membership, and start folks on a patriotic journey of family research. Stop by the table and say hello to David on Saturday 10 - 4pm, and Sunday 12 noon - 4pm.

Wednesday, May 4th 2022

RISSAR and four other Societies jointly host Rhode Island Independence Day Dinner. In observance of the 250th anniversary of the burning of *HMS Gaspee*, Prof. Steven Park will speak on his recent book about the *Gaspee* affair.

Squantum Association, East Providence

Saturday, June 11th, 2022

RISSAR Compatriots will march in this year's Gaspee Days parade.

Pawtuxet Village, Warwick

Thursday, June 16th, 2022

New and Prospective Member Dinner, starting at 5pm
In observance of Flag Day, Immediate Past President Ron Barnes will speak on the history of the American Flag.

Squantum Association, East Providence

Saturday, July 9th, 2022

Board of Managers Meeting
Brewed Awakenings, Warwick

Thursday, September 22, 2022

Fall Dinner - a night to celebrate Autumn and welcome new members.

Chapel Grille, Cranston

Saturday, October 8th, 2022

Board of Managers Meeting
Brewed Awakenings - Warwick

Saturday, October 29th

RISSAR hosts the SAR New England District Council Meeting
Location TBD

Saturday, November 12th, 2022

Salute to Veterans, including the reading of the names of Patriot ancestors of new members. Compatriots in attendance will also state the names of their respective Patriot ancestors.

North Burial Ground, Providence

Wednesday, December 15th, 2022

Christmas Holiday Dinner
Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, Cranston

In Memoriam

David Scott Kenny (January 22nd, 2022)
Elmer Hall Palmer (November 15th, 2021)
Robert Leslie Weaver (September 5th, 2021)

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by the Rhode Island Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.*

Editor for the Spring 2022 issue: Benjamin Ewing Nacar

Spotlight: Paul Fetter

Paul, one of our youngest members, was sworn in to RISSAR at the Christmas 2021 party.

- Tell us about who you are and what you were up to before joining the SAR.

I've been a resident of North Kingstown all my life. I attended Bishop Hendricken High School, and graduated in 2012 with a full scholarship for URI via their Army ROTC program. I got my Bachelor of Arts in History and received my commission as a 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry with the Vermont Army National Guard. My current assignment is as an assistant operations officer in the plans and operations section with the 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry (Mountain). In addition, I work for the state of Rhode Island Department of Corrections, and I'm completing my Masters degree in Administration and Justice at Salve Regina University.

- What led you to join the SAR?

My mother's family goes way back through the Updikes of Wickford and to Richard Smith, one of the three original settlers of South County back in the 1630s. My great-uncle, Donald Young, did a lot of family research at one point, and there were always family stories from my grandfather, David Young, that I'd hear growing up. But the real catalyst for my joining the SAR was a conversation I had with Michael Northrup, a former president of RISSAR who's now very involved with OFPA. Mike and I are part of the same Masonic lodge in North Kingstown, and he was actually the person who presented me with my award at the 2016 ROTC ceremony. After the ceremony, we got to talking about our shared appreciation of history, and he told me about all of these different genealogical and historical societies, besides the SAR there's the OFPA, the Society of Colonial Wars etc. I thought about it for a few years, and then in 2020 I told Mike I was going to bite the bullet and look into joining some of these groups. And Mike said to begin first with the SAR.

- How much family research did you have to do?

I worked with [RISSAR Registrar] Glenn Russell for several months on collecting the family records. We got stuck for a while because of one missing link from the mid-1800s, which I find when researching is usually the toughest period to find documents from. I ended up following my family tree to a different ancestor, still on my mother's side, for whom the DAR already had records.

- What are some of the highlights of the SAR for you?

I really enjoyed the Christmas party and getting to meet some of the people involved. And I'm really looking forward to the 250th anniversary celebrations over the next ten years. It's really important to me that we remember older generations and not let them be relegated to just a tombstone or a page in a history book, and it's great to see so many people get out in public and do such a good job of memorializing our ancestors and the part they played in founding our nation.

Doings of the Compatriots



On September 23rd, 2021, RISSAR gathered for a long-overdue in-person dinner at the Chapel Grille in Cranston.
(Photo: Kevin England)



At the Chapel Grille, new members Rev. Paul Hoffman, Richard Keene, and Jason Soscia - presented to the Society by David Butler, Ron Hillegass, and Herb Adams respectively - are sworn in by RISSAR Registrar Glenn Russell.
(Photo: Kevin England)



The Christmastime dinner of December 15th, 2021 took place at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. (Photo: Kevin England)



RISSAR Chaplain David Butler (left) and President Ron Barnes (right) address the assemblage at the Christmastime dinner. (Photos: Kevin England)



On April 9th, 2022, RISSAR compatriots and family gathered at the Rhode Island Yacht Club for the awards and social portion of the Annual Meeting. The business portion of the Annual Meeting had been conducted remotely two months prior. (Photo: Michael Deignan)



At left, President Chris Sparks assumes the gavel for the first time. At right, President Chris Sparks extends RISSAR's appreciation for distinguished service as Society President to Ron Barnes. Ron was presented with the Past President Pin and Certificate of Appreciation. (Photos: Kevin England)



At left, President Chris Sparks presents Service Awards to Past President John W. Adams for 30 years and Past Committee Chairman of the RISSAR Eagle Scout Committee Robert B. Baxter for 45 years. At right, Joe Brennan, RISSAR Secretary, receives the Distinguished Service Award from Past President Ron Barnes. (Photos: Kevin England)



President Chris Sparks presents the Rhode Island Society Sons of the American Revolution Arthur M & Berdana King Eagle Scout Essay Contest Award to Eagle Scout Samuel B. Shippee. This contest award includes a monetary award of \$300. Sam's essay was entitled "The General Who Saved the South". (Photo: Michael Deignan)



Proud grandfather Dennis Shippee pins the SAR Eagle Scout Medal on Sam. (Photos: Michael Deignan)

Chris Sparks reports: The New Hampshire State Society hosted the New England District Council Meeting on Saturday, March 26, 2022 at the historic General John Stark House in Manchester, New Hampshire. In attendance were Chris Sparks, President RISSAR, and Dr. Daniel Harrop III, Past President RISSAR. (Photo: Wikimedia Commons)



2022 NEDC Spring Meeting Attendees: From left to right Compatriots Wayne Mallar, Douglas Wood, Edward Hoak, Cooper Akers, Richard Wright, Andrew Akers, Kevin Mullen, Robert Walsh, Stephen Taylor, Russell Cumbee, Daniel Harrop, Sean Walsh, Chris Sparks, Tim Mabee, David Perkins and Hans Jackson. (Photo: Lydia Cumbee)



Below, compatriot VPG Robert Walsh swears in NEDC President, Daniel Harrop; NEDC Secretary, Edward Hoak; and NEDC Treasurer, Hans Jackson. (Photo: Lydia Cumbee)



Semiquincentennial (250th) Commission, Rhode Island

An announcement from Ron Barnes

In 2021, the RI legislature passed a Joint Resolution creating the Semiquincentennial (250th), Rhode Island Commission. The Commission is made up of 30 members representing many facets of Rhode Island's history and culture. As I am one of the Commissioners, I will be keeping RISSAR updated and involved in all things related to the Commission.

The purposes of the Commission include:

- Assist in ensuring that any observance of the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution is inclusive and appropriately recognizes the experiences and points of view of all people affected by the events before, during, and after this historic event;
- Encourage civic, historical, educational, economic, and other organizations throughout the State of Rhode Island to organize and participate in activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the American Revolution;
- Collaborate with local tourism agencies to promote Rhode Island as a prominent cultural and heritage tourism destination for American Revolution history;
- Encourage interdisciplinary and scholarly examination of the American Revolution; and
- Explore the many ways in which the ethos of our nationally founding period influences our present and can shape our future.

The duties of said Commission shall be to:

- Commemorate the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution and Rhode Island's participation and contributions therein, including activities in recognition of the historic, social, legal, cultural, and political forces that caused the American Revolution and influenced its course and outcomes;
- Collaborate with and assist other state and national organizations with programs and activities for the observance of the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution in the State of Rhode Island;
- Facilitate American Revolution-related activities throughout the State of Rhode Island;
- Provide assistance to localities and nonprofit organizations for the development of programs, projects, and activities pertaining to the American Revolution that have lasting educational value within the State of Rhode Island; and
- Support the creation of educational opportunities for K-12 students and all members of the public who wish to explore the intricacies of the foundational period in our nation's past.

As you can see by the purposes and duties of the Commission, RISSAR would have a direct tie-in to many of the efforts of the Commission over the next 10 years or so. We have the opportunity to play an integral part in the 250th Commemoration.

As you can see with the creation of the 250th Commission and the upcoming 250th anniversary of the Burning of the Gaspee, RI is off to a fast start. RISSAR's involvement is front and center and I look forward to our continued involvement as things evolve.

If you have any questions about the Commission or the Gaspee related events, please email me at revwarman@aol.com.

Ron Barnes
Past President
RISSAR
Commissioner
RI 250th Commission

George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest

An announcement from Kevin England

Do you have/know a son/daughter, grandson/granddaughter, niece/nephew, grandniece/nephew or know of another RI High Schooler or high school age Home School student? Are they applying to college/trade school or intend to apply and would like some help with funding? This could be the perfect program. Not only that, but the student would have you as one of their valuable resources and mentors for the project.

I would like to invite your high school students to enter this contest and potentially win awards on the State and National level and potentially scholarship prize money at the National level. RI, being a small state, has one State level organization rather than individual SAR Chapters.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) invites all high school students (9th through 12th grades) interested in the American Revolution to participate in the George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest. The contest is open to all US Citizen and Legal Resident students attending home schools, public, parochial, or private high schools in that same grade range. The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on the 2017-18 NASSP List of Approved Contests, Programs, and Activities for Students.

To participate, students must submit an original 800- to 1,200-word essay based on an event, person, philosophy or ideal associated with the American Revolution, Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution. Each student's essay will be judged based upon its historical accuracy, clarity, organization, grammar and spelling, and documentation.

The contest is conducted in three phases: the local chapter (which is not applicable to RI because of the State size), state-level society, and national phases. The contest must be entered through an SAR chapter near the student's residence. In some cases, the contest may be entered at the state level (if the local society does not have chapters or the chapters are not participating).

Winning Awards and prizes:

State-level (RISSAR) – First place winner certificate and award medal (we are considering a monetary award at this time), and an invitation to the winner and the winner's parents/guardian(s) to our RISSAR December Holiday dinner meeting (dinner costs included) for the award ceremony, held at Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet (or similar).

The State Chairman (myself) will forward the winning State essay to the National Society. Only one essay can be submitted per state, not all states participate.

National-level (NSSAR) – First place: \$6,000.00 and eligibility for \$1500.00 travel stipend for expenses incurred attending the NSSAR Congress meeting for the award presentation. Second place: \$3000.00, Third place: \$2000.00, Fourth place \$500.00, Fifth place \$500.00. National Judging decision : April 15, 2023.

A complete set of rules, along with the application for both the applicant, and sample essays can be found on the NSSAR website or by contacting the RI State Chairman at kengland19@gmail.com for .pdf document copies of each. Please be aware that the local application deadline date is October 15, 2022.

If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me (Kevin England) at kengland19@gmail.com or call my home phone at 401-751-7217. I can supply the State and National information needed for the application. I would also be happy to provide suggestions for essay topics.

This year is the 250th Anniversary of the Burning of the Gaspee. Compatriots will be invited to a Dinner Meeting on May 4th, 2022, at the Squantum Association, East Providence, RI. There will be a social hour at 6:00 pm followed by Dinner at 7:00 pm. Professor Steven Park will speak about his book “**The Burning of His Majesty’s Schooner Gaspee: An Attack on the Crown Rule Before the American Revolution**”. What better opportunity to invite a relative and student to the meeting which would provide a good reference and potential ideas for an essay topic!

Highlighted Essay Contest Rules

Contest entries must be submitted as PDF files attached to emails. The essay must have four parts: 1) title page, 2) essay pages, 3) bibliography or works cited, and 4) applicant’s biography.

2) Essay Pages

- Minimum of 800 and a maximum of 1,200 words (excluding title page, footnotes, bibliography, page and biography)
- No applicant information should be on the essay pages
- 12-point Times New Roman font and double-spaced
- Use 8 ½” by 11” paper with 1” margins on all sides
- Essay pages are numbered sequentially, starting with “1”
- No graphics, special covers or bindings are allowed

3) Bibliography pages:

- Citations in the essay and references in the bibliography must be in accordance with a widely used, publicly available citation system (examples include the Chicago Manual of Style, the MLA Manual of Style, and the MHRA Style Guide)
- The bibliography must specify the system used
- No applicant information should be in the bibliography
- Minimum of 5 references, 3 of which must be published works (encyclopedias or internet sources are acceptable but not considered part of the 3 published works)

Essays which meet the criteria above will be accepted and judged equally on the following criteria on both the State and National level:

- Historical accuracy
- Clarity of thought
- Organization and proven topic
- Grammar and spelling
- Documentation

Dr. Tom and Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award

Another announcement from Kevin England

Do you know a relative, neighbor, or friend who teaches American History as part of their curriculum at the High School, Middle School, or Elementary School level?

I would like to invite you to participate in the Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award. There are significant rewards being made available by this relatively new Award. This is the first time RISSAR has offered this award since the beginning of the pandemic.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR) invites all American history teachers, whose approved curriculum teaches students about the American Revolution era from 1750 to 1800, to apply for the Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award. The award is open to all teachers at the elementary, middle school or high school levels at a recognized public, private, or parochial institution.

The American History Teacher Award recognizes educators who distinguish themselves in teaching the history of the American Revolution. Teacher candidates interested in entering the local SAR Chapter contest must complete the required application and submit a written essay of not less than 1000 words discussing the importance of teaching the American Revolution era. The essay may also describe any extraordinary teaching techniques or innovative projects utilized by the teacher to teach the American Revolution.

The program will feature a contest at each of the three educational levels so there will be a winner for the elementary school level, the middle school level and the high school level. The application and essay are sent to the RI State Chairman, Kevin P. England, kengland19@gmail.com. **Please note the application and Essay have an October 15, 2022 deadline. Early submissions are appreciated. Please note: Because of the size of the State, RI does not have any Chapter Societies, only the one State Society.** Essays are judged blindly by a panel of RISSAR volunteer members using a prescribed rubric, so the timing of submission and any entrant information is kept confidential until judging has occurred.

The RI State benefits at each level are a State Good Citizenship Award Medal and certificate and invitation to our December Awards Holiday Dinner at Rhodes on-the-Pawtuxet (complimentary dinner for the winner(s) is included and an invitation to invite guests at the winner's cost will be included). The State winner(s) are then sent to compete in the National Competition.

The benefits to each National winner are as follows: Attendance at a teacher workshop or seminar on the American Revolution. **The winner (at each of the three education grade levels) will receive up to \$3,000.00 to pay for tuition and travel expenses to attend one of the following teacher seminars:** the Freedoms Foundation Summer Teacher Graduate Workshop at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania; the Colonial Williamsburg Summer Teacher Workshop in Williamsburg, Virginia; the Jefferson Symposium at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia; or the SAR Annual Conference on the American Revolution. Other seminars may be attended provided the SAR provides prior approval in writing. The tuition for the seminar will be considered a scholarship and will be paid directly to the seminar. The winners must complete all seminars within 24 months after the winners are announced, or the award is forfeited.

The winner will receive a cash prize of \$1000.00 for their personal and unrestricted use. One past winner each year will be invited to attend the SAR National Congress to speak at the Youth Awards Luncheon. Only one teacher per year will be invited to the National Congress. Teachers who are invited to either a Congress or a Leadership Meeting will have their travel expenses paid, including two nights of hotel accommodations, meals and transportation. The reimbursement will be made once travel expenses are submitted and may not exceed \$1,000.00.

If you need further information please feel free to contact me at kengland19@gmail.com or text 401-477-2092 and I can supply .pdf copies of the documents.

For reference, this is a relatively new award, and due to Covid entries have declined - last year National received *five* applicants from the State SARs. Three at the High School level, 2 at the Middle School level, and none at the Elementary School level. So, clearly the odds of winning are *very good!*

Best Regards,

Kevin P. England

RISSAR Chairman, Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award

Updates from the Nathanael Greene Homestead

A report from David M. Procaccini

The Greene Homestead opened the 2022 Season on the first weekend of April with drills and skirmishes between the Kingston Reds and the 54th Regt. Foot. (Pictured: the Kingston Reds firing a mortar)

Our current hours are Monday to Friday 10am-5pm, from April 1 through October 31.

Several projects were undertaken during the off-season:

- The year old 50+ oil tank in the Homestead was replaced.
- The well-house was completely restored, with a new cement well-rig installed and the crumbling c. 1930s concrete surround demolished.
- The new cannon carriage is reaching completion, with a dedication ceremony scheduled for the General's birthday in July.
- Ongoing brush removal and stonewall repairs along Greene St.
- Restoration work on the outhouse has begun.
- We broke ground on the 16' x 28' addition to the barn, with completion anticipated for late summer.



Projects scheduled for the 2022 season:

- Repairs to rot in Homestead window frames, siding and trim
- Exterior paint touch-up on the Homestead
- Land clearing in the 5 acre lot to the South of the Homestead
- Blacksmith Shop (still in planning stages)
- Opening c. 1740 Greene St to the site of the original Pawtuxet River Crossing
- Installation of interpretive signage

Also, after 5 years of negotiations, we have received from Clariant Corp. the donation of approximately 25 acres of land once part of the Greene Homestead, and we anticipate closing in the next couple of months.

Upcoming Events:

- May 7 Drill, Le Regiment Bourbonnais
- May 14 Mini-Historical Timeline
- July 23 Medieval Weekend Encampment
- July 4 Open-House with Kingston Reds
- July 27 Nathanael Greene's Birthday/Cannon Dedication

We are in desperate need of volunteer tour-guides, gift-shop staff and assistance with property maintenance and landscaping. Any help is much appreciated. Please contact us for more information. Additionally, donations toward any of the projects listed above are most gratefully welcomed.

-- David M. Procaccini, Gen. Nathanael Greene Homestead

National Awards

received by the Rhode Island Society

Knight Essay Participation

Admiral Furlong Memorial

Americanism Poster Contest Participation

Outstanding JROTC Cadet Contest Participation

Liberty Medal Award, bronze leaf cluster: Glenn Russell