

### Presidents Message:

Greetings Compatriots and welcome to the Fall Season. I hope everyone has survived the summer with few bumps & bruises. From a personal standpoint, I pity those who have not invested in Merck or Glaxo-Wellcome. Based on my own pharmacy & medical purchases you would all be very wealthy by now. I have never experienced such a run of illnesses in my life. Fortunately, they seem to be curtailed for now (knock wood).

Since our last newsletter, I have had the pleasure of participating in a couple of events on behalf of the RISSAR.

In August I presented a Bronze Good Citizenship medal to a Naval Sea Cadet. This may turn out to be another point of interaction in the community. Also in August the RISSAR presented 3 Eagle Scout certificates to Troop 2 East Greenwich.

September 30 saw the traditional "Champagne & Peanuts" social at compatriot Walter Whitley's home in Newport followed by the fall luncheon at the Clark-Cooke house. Due to my ongoing illness, I was unable to attend and I thank John Duchesneau for filling in for me.

On Oct 19 we had our BOM meeting at the Greene Homestead; details of which were sent out in late October.

On Nov 6, the RISSAR provided judges for the Rumbaugh Patriotic Speech contest which was held at the Varnum Armory. Arrangements were coordinated by John Adams and the Home School Association. 9 home school students gave prepared speeches on a variety of patriotic subjects. The judges were Bob Butler, Carlen Booth, & yours truly. We were ably assisted by Peg Adams and Greta Slesiona.



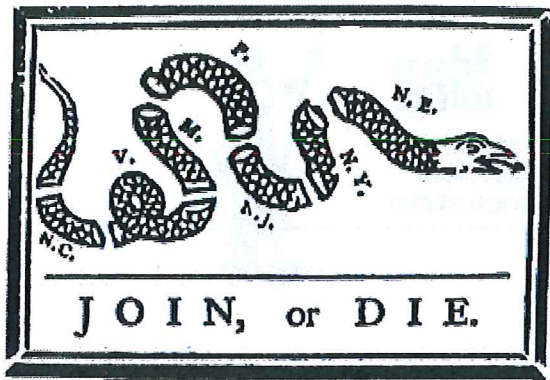
Participants in Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest flank Bob Butler, Carlen Booth and President John Collins. This was the first time the RISSAR has been involved in this contest and let me tell you these young people didn't make it easy for us. The winner was Megan David and in addition to the \$300 1st prize she will give her winning speech at our Veterans Day Ceremony.

On Sunday Nov 10, we attended the annual DAR wreath laying at the Exeter Veterans Cemetery. Megan David gave her speech on the 1st RI Regiment and I presented Ralph C. Weiss with his War Service Medal.

Dot & I want to wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season and hope to see all of you at our next gathering Dec 14 @ 1149 restaurant. Watch for details.

Sincerely,  
John "JC" Collins

## The Influence of Franklin's "Join or Die" Cartoon



This post is a little different from our traditional material here at AC but since things have been a little slow I decided to go ahead and publish it here.

In 1754, Philadelphia printer Benjamin Franklin became one of the earliest political cartoonists in American history. As a printer, Franklin had regularly published political commentaries on various issues. His "Join or Die" publication, however, was uniquely different and would be remembered for generations to come.

During the early part of 1754, Franklin became gravely concerned about the security and future of the British colonies. As war between Britain and France loomed on the horizon, Franklin believed that colonial unity was becoming increasingly important. In Franklin's mind,

each individual colony was going too far in its own direction, and thus neglecting the greater needs of the American colonies as a whole. As a result, Franklin created his "Join or Die" cartoon to serve as an appeal for unity. The cartoon (originally done as a wood carving) was posted not only in Franklin's paper, but was distributed across the colonies. The snake (each section representing an individual British colony), was purposely cut into pieces, suggesting that death would come not only to the snake, but to the colonies as well if they chose to stay divided. (It is also worth noting that 18th century society believed that a snake would come back to life if its pieces were all put together and buried before sundown).

During the French and Indian War, Franklin's "Join or Die" slogan was used as a battle cry, inspiring colonies to unite against the French. In the years prior to the American Revolution, Franklin would again use his "Join or Die" logo to promote union with the British (Franklin even suggested to Parliament that the colonies could be joined with Great Britain in the original Acts of Union, which had united Scotland and England). England's passage of the Stamp Act in 1765 gave Americans a cause to rally around. Naturally, Franklin's slogan was brought out of the closet, this time to rally against the British.

With the onset of the American Revolution, patriots from across the colonies used Franklin's "Join or Die" cartoon to promote the cause of independence. The slogan could regularly be seen in the windows of shops, on flags, and in newspapers.

Years later, Northerners would again resurrect Franklin's political cartoon to promote the cause of unity in the early years of the Civil War. There are even more recent instances of "Join or Die" being used to promote a political cause. During the 2000 presidential election, Republicans raised the banner of "Join or Die" to promote unity in the party. After President Obama's election, the "Join or Die" slogan (and the rattlesnake slogan in general) became a favorite for the Tea Party.

But why the fascination with rattlesnakes?

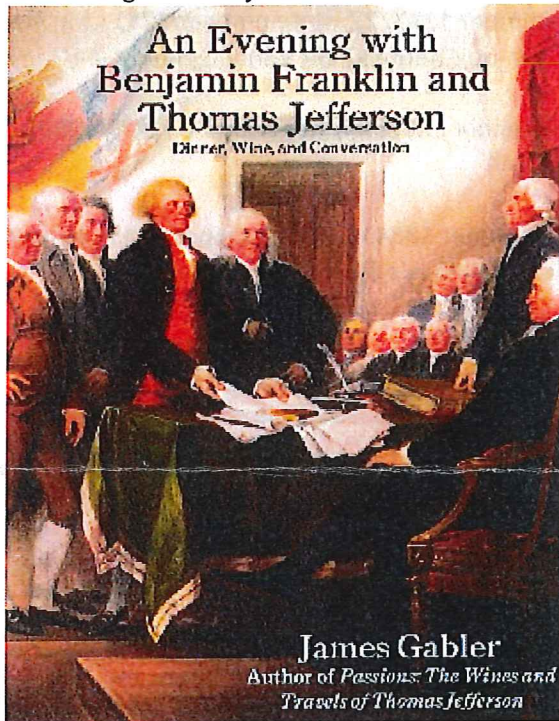
Early American society had a strange interest in the rattlesnake, so much that it was even considered a candidate (along with the turkey) for the national symbol of the United States. Americans loved the rattlesnake for several reasons:

- 1.) It was believed that the rattlesnake was indigenous to only North America.
- 2.) The rattlesnake has no eyelids and is therefore always vigilant.
- 3.) It was believed by colonists that the rattlesnake never picked a fight but also never retreated once attacked.
- 4.) Colonists believed that a den of rattlesnakes maintained more unity amongst its members than any other specie of animal life.

But like "E Pluribus Unum" and other early American beliefs, the rattlesnake went the way of the Dodo Bird. Much to the relief of many early American Christians, who saw the rattlesnake in the same light as the evil serpent from the Garden of Eden, the mighty American eagle soared to the top of the list and eventually became America's official symbol (much to the dismay of Benjamin Franklin, who called the eagle "a ravenous vulture of the sky."). Despite its fall from grace, the rattlesnake still maintains a popular place in American culture.

**On the book shelves**

An Evening with Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson Dinner, Wine and Conversation by James Gabler.

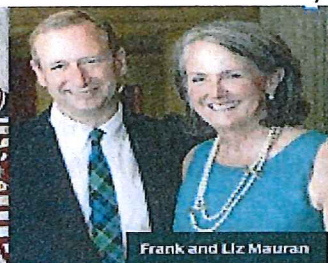


As the proud descendant of a patriot who served as an officer in the American Revolution, I invite you, your fellow SAR members, family and friends to *An Evening with Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson: Dinner, Wine, and Conversation*. I'm James Gabler, the author, and I promise it will be a memorable visit with two of the most extraordinary men in history.

You travel back in time to 18th century Paris and meet Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. In the comfort of Jefferson's residence on the Champs-Élysées, you join them for dinner, and in response to your questions, they tell in their own words the most interesting stories of their lives, stories to delight anyone interested in history, wine, food, travel, politics, or just the pleasure of a good read. You share with Jefferson and Franklin their travels through France, England, Italy, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Holland, and America, their early lives, accomplishments, disappointments, embarrassments, women in their lives, opinions of their contemporaries and political enemies, spies in their midst, wines, social activities, intrigues, unfolding of the French Revolution, Jefferson's presidential years, and much more. Because both men were wine lovers, wine is a topic of the conversation throughout the evening including Jefferson's favorite wines available today.



Ron Barnes, Henry Brown, Warren Kaye



Frank and Liz Mauran



Catherine Taylor, Governor Lincoln Chafee, SueEllen Kroll, Elizabeth Francis



Mary Riggs, Ted Widmer



Brian Jones, Elizabeth Sulock, Matthew Bird

**Kept Intact**

Guests sipped cocktails, enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and listened to live music for history's sake to commemorate the 350th anniversary of Rhode Island's 1663 Colonial Charter at the State House. The memorable gala raised \$37,000 to benefit the preservation of the historic charter by providing a new encasement. -ALEX DECESARE



Richard and Annette Viera, Judy and Eric Greenberg

Ed Capozzi, Sally Strachan, Betty Capozzi

Cheryl Hackett, John Grosvenor

Top left: Compatriots Ron Barnes, Henry Brown and Warren Kaye schmoozing at the State House Charter Gala.

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

Matthew David Crocker, Pawtucket, RI, admitted June 25, 2013, national number 187722, state number 1781. Matthew is descended from Micah Hoyt, 1739-1807, Amesbury & Newton, MA - Lt. in Col. George Reid's 2nd Regiment, NH.

William Kenneth Adams, Greenland, NH, admitted July 11, 2013, national number 187908, state number 1782. William is descended from Nehemiah Claflen, 1743-1820, Attleboro, MA - Private, MA

Michael Joseph Hunt, Jamestown, RI, admitted August 27, 2013, national number 188459, state number 1783. Michael is descended from David Frost, 1750-1832, Willington, CT - Private in Capt. Abel King's Co., Col. Sears' Regiment at Saratoga.

Harry Jacob Curran, Warwick, RI, admitted August 27, 2013, national number 188464, state number 1784. Harry is descended from George Shilling, 1761-1798, Westmoreland Co. PA - Private First Co., 6th Battalion, Westmoreland County Militia, PA

Peter Joseph Sarazin, Franklin, MA, admitted September 16, 2013, national number 188666, state number 1785. Peter is descended from John Chace, 1756-1845, Cumberland, RI - Private, Capt. Weatherhead's Co. April 1778, Capt. Carr's Co. May 1778, Capt. Weatherhead's Co. 1780, RI

Timothy Curtis Yuhas, Newport, RI, admitted September 25, 2013, national number 188822, state number 1786. Timothy is descended from Phineas Walker, 1722-1792, Sudbury & Rutland, MA - 1st Lt. in Capt. David Bent's militia Co., Col. Nathan Sparhawk's Reg't that marched to Cambridge April 20, 1776, MA

**In Memoriam**

We regret to inform our fellow compatriots of the passing of Lawrence "Larry" Rhodehamel, 85, of Portsmouth, Rhode Island. Larry, husband of Lucille (Lecour) Rhodehamel, died Monday, July 8, 2013.

**This date in Rhode Island History:**

December 6, 1776, the British arrived in Newport with a squadron of five 50-gun ships, the others being PRESTON, CENTURION, RENOWN and EXPERIMENT, and some smaller ships with 7,000 troops. Captain Sir Peter Parker commodore of the squadron and Captain Toby Caulfield easily seized control of Newport the following day, December 7, 1776.

**Upcoming SAR events:**

RISSAR JPR memorial CPT Thomas Cole – Saturday, December 7 11:00 AM

RISSAR Christmas Luncheon – Saturday, December 14

RISSAR Board of Managers – Saturday, January 4 2014