



The Independent Man

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND SOCIETY OF
THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
131 SPENCER WOODS DR, EAST GREENWICH RI 02818



Presidents Remarks:

Annual Meeting President's Address

After one year on the job, I have to say that I have been busy. Although I was not doing anything more than normal for our events, the fact that we were to celebrate our 125th in 2015 put the pressure on. Actually, the pressure came from our industrious Secretary Compatriot Ron Barnes. After all, as Ron reminded me often, you only celebrate this Anniversary once forever.

So, what did I learn last year--nothing is as expected. Our events were well attended, and numbers were solid but unpredictable. Reservations came always very late.

On the another front, I think that as members of the SAR, there was a definite outreach to other organizations similar in nature that promote the memory of the American Revolution. With that in mind, I would say that the Nathanael Greene Homestead was a real beneficiary. With many SAR members as Trustees and volunteer docents there, the Homestead had a great year with several events. Compatriot President David Procacini did a wonderful job guiding the ship there, and Compatriot Bill and Barbara Weaver were the mainstay in pumping up volunteers. One highlight was the return of the birthday party of General Nathanael Greene that Thomas C. Greene used to sponsor on Old Forge Road, his birthplace. A good crowd of Greene descendants happened to be in the area touring and that made that day very special.

Although John Peck Rathbun got his stone placed at the Veteran's Cemetery in 2013 with the support of past President John C. Collins, this year brought a member of the Rathbun family out to get another ship named after him. I did not know how political such a move is after being asked to get our Rhode Island Congressional leaders to write letters in support of that. The outcome is still unknown.

Spies in the Revolution in Rhode Island. Well, I never thought about that until we heard John Bell speak at the Annual SAR/DAR Event at the Dunes Club. However, no sooner had he spoken than former Rhode Islander, Christian McBurnery, wrote a full book about the spies from Rhode Island in the Revolution especially around the period of the Battle of Rhode Island. I would think that their descendants should be admitted to the SAR after reading what they did. Our visit to the Anawan Club in April sponsored by former VPG and RISSAR State President Carlen Booth was a take back to an older time than the Revolution. The Club is not that old, but the name goes back to Colonial Days and, when you are at that log cabin on the reservoir, you can think about King Philip and Anawan, an important chief, and that period in 1675-1677 when the New England colonials and natives were involved in an all out battle for survival.

Then, while thinking about service awards with Ron, I realized that with the 125th coming up that we had a member that appeared to be a member longer than most of us have been on this planet. Since Compatriot Jon Farnum knew Compatriot Bob Kenyon and gave him his 75th Service Award, I sought Jon's advice on how I could meet him. Well, that was easier than I thought. Bob and I had lunch at Laurelmeade where he lives and he told me the story of how he became a member in 1936 when he was 22. Bob was born January 10, 2014.

One of other projects for 2015 was another Ron Barnes push. Normally, we do a member roster every 3 years and Ron being so efficient that he has it ready to go on a minutes' notice. However, because we were doing the 125th Manual at the same time, Ron suggested that we send out questionnaires to everyone for updated information. Little did I know

that we would have 54 people not respond within the suggested time frame. Well, since Ron was so busy with the Manual, I volunteered to contact all of those. I almost got everyone.

Never let it be said that Ron is not always thinking of ways to promote our Society and he is always asking me what I think. What can you say to someone that is so energetic. So, his next idea was a new challenge coin. Not only was it his idea, but he designed it.

One year ago, a past President of the Connecticut Society called me to see if we would pay for a Rhode Island SAR Flag for an event that they held every year as it was his idea to get all the New England states to donate one. I informed him that we did not have a color guard, or a State SAR Flag. In talking with Ron again, he said that we needed to have our own. Once again, Ron with experience in those matters, did the ground work and tonight we have before you our new Rhode Island Flag.

Finally, the biggest project of all--the 125th Manual. Ron Barnes had this idea from the very beginning. Although I helped him with many emails and phone calls during the year long process of putting it together, Ron did the work. The Manual is great and, although we planned to have it here to distribute tonight, you will only see one copy. Unfortunately, the binder company did not do a perfect job on the cover of the book and it had to be returned for correction. However, everyone will get their copy soon in the mail.

No one will ever know the countless hours that Ron put in doing the 70 pages of name listings and index. I helped him just one day at the Historical Society and realized that the 100 names that I did that day was nothing in comparison to the 1800 Ron would end up doing. So, although I thought that this would be the night that Ron was able to reap the reward of all this hard work, you will have to send him personal notes at a later time once you get your copy.

In conclusion, I am going to say the same thing that I did last year. I am not going to predict the future. I just plan on working as hard as I have in the past to make sure that we all get together and remember who we are and what we stand for because of what our ancestors did in the Revolution.

John W. Adams
President

Annual Meeting:



Compatriots Gene Clauss and David Procaccini share some thoughts before the start of the Annual Meeting at 1149 Restaurant in Warwick, RI on Febbraury 21, 2015.



Compatriot Al Klyberg(left) is presented with the Silver Good Citizenship Award by President John W. Adams(right) at the Annual Meeting. The Award was given for the work that Al did on the publication of the thirteen volume Greene Papers Series over a period of 35 years. During that time, Al guided the Project from his position at the Rhode Island Historical Society. Al also gave a speech at the Annual Meeting describing the entire process of what took place to get this project started, maintained over the years and finally completed and who the main contributors were to this publication.

Past Chaplain:

Compatriot Charlie Smith has moved on to 700 Bower Road, Apartment 2614, Pittsburgh, PA 15243 for those of you that would like to reach out to him. His phone: 412-572-7635. We will all miss Charlie's great sense of humor.

Your State Registrar Carlen Booth reports the following:

New Member:

Robert Gerard Brinkerhoff, Barrington, RI, admitted December 4, 2014, national number 193083, state number 1790. Robert is descended from Jacob Brinkerhoff, 1756-1829, Bergen County, NJ - Ensign, 8th Co., Col. Michael Swope's York Co. Battalion of "Flying Camp", Battle of Long Island 27 August 1776.

Jan Anders Brinkerhoff, Medford, MA, admitted December 4, 2014, national number 193084, state number 1791. Jan is descended from Jacob Brinkerhoff, 1756-1829, Bergen County, NJ - Ensign, 8th Co., Col. Michael Swope's York Co. Battalion of "Flying Camp", Battle of Long Island 27 August 1776.

In Memoriam:

Dr. Roger Hope Brown, Concord, NH, admitted July 31, 1968, national number 97307, state number 1332. Dr. Brown was descended from William Stimpson, 1732-1812, Reading, MA - surgeon.

He grew up in Cranston, RI, attended Brown University and graduated Harvard University Dental School in 1943. He served as a Captain, U.S. Army Dental Corps, 1943-1946 and participated in the invasion of Okinawa. He was a life member of the Roger Williams Family Association and numerous professional societies.

Robert Livingston Rewey, Jr., Palm Beach, FL, admitted February 27, 2013, national number 186518, state number 1777. Robert was descended from John Rewey, 1747-1813, Thompson, CT - private in Capt. George King's Co, Col. Benjamin Simond's Detachment, Berkshire County Militia.

Bob was born in Springfield, OH, graduated Ohio State University and began a 38 year career with Ford Motor Company in 1963. He served in several high level management positions. One of his proudest accomplishments was championing the team that secretly re-designed and saved the Ford Mustang.

John Verbryke Mumford, Jr., Westerly, RI, admitted February 27, 2009, national number 173496, state number 1731. John was descended from James Mumford, Sr., Worcester County, MD - signer of the Oath of Allegiance, 1778, MD.

John was born in Berlin, MD. He retired as a Capt, U.S. Marine Corps and coached Little League and Babe Ruth Baseball. He was a Scoutmaster and former District Executive with the Boy Scouts of America.

Upcoming SAR events:

- Board of Managers: April 4, 2015--1149 Restaurant, Warwick
- New Englad Wireless and Steam Museum: May 14, 2015--East Greenwich
- Flag Day at the Dunes Club: June 13, 2015--Narragansett
- Board of Managers: July 11, 2015--1149 Restaurant, Warwick
- Cooke House: September 28, 2015--Newport
- Board of Managers: October 3, 2015--1149 Restaurant, Warwick

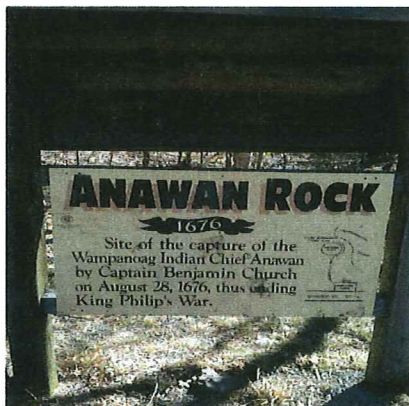
Lippitt-Olney Chapter Meeting Invitation:

President Carlen Booth of the Lippitt-Olney, Chapter 2, of the Rhode Island Sons of the American Revolution would like to invite all Compatriots and guests to a luncheon at the Anawan Club, 13 Gorham Street, Rehoboth, MA on April 11 at Noon. The Anawan Club was founded in the late 1890's and is beautifully situated on the shore of a large fresh water reservoir. The building itself is quite rustic--log cabin with two fireplaces. We might need fire in the fireplaces on this occasion if this weather does not change much.

The meal will be \$35.00 per person and include a salad, Johnny Cakes, chicken in a lemon wine sauce and baked stuffed shrimp, dessert and assorted beverages including beer and wine.

The maximum seating capacity is 42 people so please get your reservations and checks in early.

If you have any questions about this event, you can email Carlen Booth at cpbarri@aol.com, or contact John Adams at jwadams148@aol.com.



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Please make your check payable to RISSAR at \$35.00 per person and mail to:

Mr. Ron Barnes
85 Boylston Drive
Cranston, RI 02921

I am enclosing \$_____ at \$35.00 per person.

Names of people attending: _____
