



# The Independent Man

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



Annual Flag Day Event at The Dunes Club sponsored by DAR, was well attended. State Regent June Smith emceed the event. She is the wife of compatriot Charlie Smith.

In addition our President John C. Eastman II presented Bruce Campbell MacGunnigle with the **Distinguished Service Medal – June 12, 2011**

Here is the text of our President's speech to those in attendance.

Today I have a particularly pleasurable duty to perform. The certificate and medal that I am about to award is the highest medal that can be awarded during this term of my presidency of the RI Society. This medal is presented to a Compatriot for distinguished service rendered to the State Society and is called the Distinguished Service Medal.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure today to make this award to SAR immediate past president Bruce Campbell MacGunnigle. Bruce, will you please come up to the podium.

- Bruce Campbell MacGunnigle is a descendent of Eseck Burlingame, a minuteman from Glocester, RI and he is also descended from Thomas Mitchell of Glocester, RI, a fifer in the continental line

I am awarding this medal today in recognition of Bruce's long and faithful service to this organization which includes the following:

- He and Henry Brown published the book about John Francis Brown
- He did most of the work putting together the 2009 roster and by-laws of this organization. The book not only includes names, addresses and other information but it also includes each compatriot's Revolutionary War ancestors
- He compiled the longevity list and arranged for all of the awards and medals that have been given out in the last four years. There have been at least 90 of these awards made.
- He has been the co-editor of our newsletter, "The Independent Man"
- He compiled the list of Rhode Islander's on Heitman's List and arranged to put them on the web site.
- He supplied the burial records of RI Revolutionary War Soldiers that we gave to the NEHGS a couple of years ago that were stored in his attic (gathering dust) for many years.
- And, he has singlehandedly transcribed the Regimental Book of the 1<sup>st</sup> RI Regiment from the original which is stored in the RI State Archives. Through Bruce's tutelage, this transcription will be published by the RI Society of the SAR as a 186 page hardcover book. Of the 585 soldiers listed in the book, 81 are blacks, thus giving the Regiment the name by which we know it today, The Black Regiment. This is the first major publication that our Society has published in quite a few years. We expect that demand for this book will be high and provide historians and students of Rhode Island's role in the revolution with a treasure trove of new information.

So you can see why **Bruce Campbell MacGunnigle** is so deserving of this Award. It gives me great pleasure to pin the medal on him and to present him with this award.



President John C. Eastman II (left) presents Bruce Campbell MacGunnigle with the **Distinguished Service Medal** at the June 12 Flag Day meeting

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

Andrew Beyer Butler, Pawtucket, RI, admitted May 20, 2011, national number 179619, state number 1757. Andrew is the son of Robert Stetson Butler, admitted 2010, and is descended from Ebenezer Gore, Captain, 1st Co., 1st Suffolk Regt., Massachusetts Militia.

Glenn Hamilton King, Murfreesboro, TN, admitted July 1, 2011, national number 180079, state number 1758. Glenn is descended from Benjamin Barber, Richmond, RI and served as a private, Rhode Island.

**Request for RISSAR Records**

Our Registrar, Compatriot Carlen Booth (cpbarri@aol.com), would like anyone who has RISSAR records to please contact him.

**ROTC Awards:**

The following high school and college ROTC Units were honored by the RI Society, SAR.

- University of Rhode Island Cadet Charlieshen Deleon; presented by Carlen Booth April 27, 2011.
- Providence College Cadet Terrence Reedy; presented by Jon Farnum May 1, 2011
- Rogers High School Cadet Alexandar Katers; presented by Walter Whitley May 11, 2011
- Woonsocket, High School Cadet Kristopher Winiarski; presented by Gene Clauss, Sr May 13, 2011
- Coventry High School Cadet Jason Hall; presented by John Collins May 13, 2011
- Hope High School Cadet David S. George; presented by Charles Smith May 27, 2011
- Cranston HS East Cadet Alexander Silva; presented by Ronald Barnes May 31, 2011

The College level ROTC winners were presented with the Silver ROTC medal while the High School JROTC winners were presented with the Bronze ROTC medal.

Woonsocket HS and Coventry HS are affiliated with the Air Force JROTC while Rogers, Hope, and Cranston East are Army JROTC. Providence College and URI are Army ROTC Units.



There was a very nice article in the Providence Journal that presented Hope JROTC in a very positive light. Unfortunately, the SAR was not mentioned in honoring the cadets.

Any Compatriot who would wish to assist in presenting this award can contact John Collins at [john1297@cox.net](mailto:john1297@cox.net). Presentations for 2012 will be in the same timeframe as this year.

### **Nathanael Greene Homestead Association**

President Tom Greene is looking for someone to take the helm there after his twenty-four years of service as President. The Rhode Island SAR is responsible for starting the ball rolling in 1919 with help in the purchase of the Homestead to preserve it forever as a symbol of MG Nathanael Greene and his contribution to the Revolution. Currently, the Rhode Island SAR has several Trustee positions in the management of the Homestead. Although several people have indicated that they might consider the position, none has actively pursued the job. He is looking for someone that would enjoy preserving this wonderful bit of history. With new caretakers in place, the Homestead is looking very good. Please visit the Homestead's new website and take a look around. By becoming a member of the Association, you help support this unique bit of Rhode Island history. <http://www.nathanaelgreenehomestead.org/> The General Nathanael Greene Homestead is a 501 (c) 3 entity and all contributions to the Association are tax deductible. Please contact Tom if you are interested at: [nathanaelgreenehmst@cox.net](mailto:nathanaelgreenehmst@cox.net)

### **Upcoming SAR events:**

September 12, 11:30 AM RISSAR Fall luncheon at the Clarke Cooke House

October 15th New England District Council Fall Meeting, Vergennes, Vt.

November 12th Vets Day program at Veteran's Cemetery Exeter--luncheon at 1149 Restaurant

December 9th Christmas Party at 1149 Restaurant

### **R.I. Regiment Book to Be Published**

After a spirited discussion, the Rhode Island SAR Board of Managers on July 9<sup>th</sup> approved the funds to publish the R.I. Regiment book. This will be the first large scale book project by the R.I. Society since its 1981 publication of *So Few the Brave (Rhode Island Continentals 1775-1783)*, by member Anthony Walker of Newport.

What is this new book? Past President Bruce MacGunnigle has recently completed a year-long effort of transcribing, proof reading and indexing the original record book of the consolidated Rhode Island Regiment of 1781. The original manuscript is in the RI State Archives. Bruce's preface, and an introduction by Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, FASG, sets the stage for readers of this volume, which begins with enlistment information for 585 soldiers in the famous "Black Regiment" which was actually made up of men of many backgrounds, including some suspected British and Hessian deserters. The enlistment information includes height, age, occupation, hair color, complexion, where born, residence, and date and place of enlistment. Other sections include long service awards, details on casualties, and discharge information. A full index is included to assist the reader.

We offer our sincere thanks for several surprise donations that were made at the Board meeting by Dan Harrop, John Eastman and Henry Brown. It is hoped that other members will step forward and make donations to support this landmark publication. Our Chaplain Charlie Smith was the first to write a check for an advance order for the book, which will sell for \$25. Full details on how to purchase one of these books will appear in a future newsletter at the end of the summer.

Page 4 contains a copy of a letter dated January 27, 1890 in regards to a meeting for "completing the organization of the Rhode Island Society of Sons of the American Revolution".

Contact for submissions: Gene Clauss ([gene.clauss@invensys.com](mailto:gene.clauss@invensys.com))

SOCIETY OF SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
IN RHODE ISLAND.

OFFICERS OF TEMPORARY ORGANIZATION:  
PRESIDENT, ELISHA B. ANDREWS. SECRETARY, THOMAS A. JENCKES.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., JANUARY 27, 1890.

DEAR SIR:—

You are cordially invited to join in completing the organization of the Rhode Island Society of Sons of the American Revolution. A Meeting for that purpose has been called to meet in the Old Chapel, No. 5 University Hall, Brown University, Providence, on Saturday, February 1, 1890, at 4 o'clock P. M.

The purpose of the Society is to keep alive among the people of Rhode Island and their descendants the patriotic spirit of the men who, in military, naval or civil service, by their acts or words achieved American Independence; to collect and secure for preservation the manuscript rolls, records, and other documents relating to the War of the Revolution, and to foster a spirit of national unity without regard to political or other creed, or section of country.

Any direct male descendant of an ancestor who, either in a military, naval or civil capacity, in the service of any of the thirteen original Colonies or States, or of the National Government representing the Colonies or States, assisted in establishing American Independence, is eligible to membership in the Society. But for purposes of present organization, until the requirements for membership can be investigated and established, you are invited to participate in the present organization.

The expense of permanent membership will not exceed a fee of \$1.00 and an annual tax of \$2.00.

If not able to be present at this meeting, an expression of your approval and cooperation is desired.

Yours very truly,

ELISHA B. ANDREWS, *President,*

THOMAS A. JENCKES, *Sec'y pro tem.*

COMMITTEE

ELISHA B. ANDREWS,

ROYAL C. TAFT,

WILLIAM E. FOSTER,

AUGUSTUS WOODBURY,

ELISHA DYER, JR.,

GEORGE A. LITTLEFIELD.

To *Hon John H. Stiness*