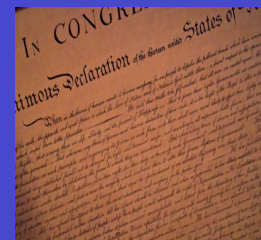




Jersey Patriot



A NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Issue 7 | APRIL 2021

A Change in Leadership Causes Some to Reflect Upon... The Presidency Of Robert C. Meyer

When someone as dynamic and outgoing as our State President, Robert Meyer steps down from the helm of leadership it is natural to look back at his term and consider the overall impact his leadership has had on the organization. Better yet, the impact he has had on us. Here is but a sampling of that impact from some who have worked closely with President Meyer.

"What comes to mind first is his effort to save portions of the Princeton Battlefield. He also pushed hard to increase Revolutionary War site preservation in NJ including added signage at historical sites. He worked tirelessly to gain exposure for the State Society, and the Color Guard, and to maintain our relationship with the DAR and the CAR. He always thought of others first, and did what was needed to make the NJ Society shine in the eyes of the State and the National Society. He is going to be a tough act to follow".
Charles Morgan Jr. Incoming President, NJSSAR

"Rob Meyer both exudes and promotes an infectious enthusiasm to the State Society. He proudly heralds our initiatives to citizens and compatriots at the regional and national level. Through his contagious enthusiasm, recognition and leadership, Rob has advanced engagement, dedication and the mission of the New Jersey Society. Kudos Compatriot; Mr. President."
Roger Williams, President, Princeton Chapter NJSSAR, NJSSAR Color Guard and Committee Chair- America 250, Education, History

"Three things i will remember (1) Rob's personality which has been steadily and persistently cordial, friendly and outgoing; (2) Rob's motor - his prodigious involvement and activity in NJSSAR events and matters, and the remarkable level of his enthusiastic energy; and (3) Rob's ceaseless bent on helping disadvantaged people in need. Of these traits the one that stands out the most to me is the third."
Eric Bal, Chancellor, NJSSAR

"Working with Rob over the last few years has been an exceptional experience as I watched him grow into a very accomplished executive. Rob's enthusiasm for and dedication to various objectives over his tenure have made the NJSSAR a standout amongst the State organizations of the SAR. During his tenure, Rob elevated the stature and voice of the NJSSAR at the regional and national levels. Our reputation at National is now solidified as a State society that delivers results in support of the SAR mission. Preservation and elevation of New Jersey's Princeton Battlefield was an early objective. Along with the seven states of the Atlantic Middle States Association, we raised over \$19,000 toward the goal of the purchase of the Princeton Battlefield by the Civil War Trust. This success led to Princeton and other key Revolutionary sites to be recognized by the National Color Guard as National activities. Our NJ Color Guard has continued to expand its activities on both the State and National level, with Rob's encouragement and participation.
Warren Fristensky, Treasurer, NJSSAR



"Enthusiasm"
"Dedication"



"Promoter of youth"
"Leadership"

Jersey Patriot

NJSSAR President's Message



Robert C. Meyer - State President New Jersey Society Sons Of The American Revolution

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Compatriots, this will be my final NJSSAR President's Message to you, so I wish to thank you for the last four years. It has truly been an honor for me to serve each of you as the President of your State Society. On April 17th 2021, our Society will change its President to Charles Morgan Jr of the Colonel Somers Chapter. Please join me at our April meeting, which will take place in person at the Princeton Marriott, where we will welcome our new NJSSAR President.



Allow me to share a few parting words and, as usual, a request for your continued involvement and support. We have many talented members, we have many hard working members and we have many dedicated members. Our women's auxiliary is doing remarkable things under the leadership of President Carolyn Kircher. Carolyn and the women's auxiliary work with the Lyons Veterans Hospital supporting women who have been suffering from post-traumatic stress. She can always use your financial support.

What I will remember most is getting the New Jersey society involved with preserving historical battlefields such as Princeton, working with South Carolina's State society, saving Camden battlefield, and being involved with Georgia and their fight with Kettle Creek. All of these efforts brought involvement with the Sons of the American Revolution and the Civil War trust, or the National Battlefield trust. This has fostered a working partnership between the two organizations with National SAR now taking the lead.

Our State Society is looking for assistance in the State Secretary position, and State Registrar position. Our Color Guard is always looking for members and our cannon crews are in need of members as well. There is no better way to learn than on the job training. Come join them and learn how to operate, maintain and fire a Cannon.

The pandemic has changed so many things and the NJSSAR is one of the millions of organizations impacted by COVID 19. On March 13th 2021 I attended a special congress in Washington D.C. We spoke about ways of moving our National Society forward despite the pandemic. Technology affords us one opportunity and if the need continues we will gather through zoom meetings. Nothing beats seeing all of your faces though, so please come out to the meeting on April 17, 2021.

Robert Meyer New Jersey State President

To Unite and Promote Fellowship among the descendants of those who sacrificed to achieve the independence of the American People, to inspire them and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom. SAR Mission

Jersey Patriot

Roger Williams Commentary



“Teach your children well. Their father's hell Did slowly go by.
And feed them on your dreams. The one they pick's the one you'll know by.
Don't you ever ask them, "Why?" If they told you, you would cry.
So, just look at them and sigh,
And know they love you.”

So wrote Graham Nash in 1969. “The SAR sponsors youth awards programs, including essay and oration contests for students, based on historical and patriotic themes. The SAR distributes history curriculum and educational media resources across the country. The SAR informs the community about the events and philosophical bases of the American Revolution and the Constitution. Important events and persons of the Revolutionary period are portrayed for students and the public at large.”

So stated are the educational goals of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. I ask you to consider...why did you join the SAR? Patriotism? Pride? Fraternity? We are all members for some combination of reasons. Whatever your reasons, the educational goals of the national society offer each of us opportunity. Opportunity to serve our community. Opportunity to relate to our fellow citizens. At this time in our culture, there are other reasons why we must try to pick the one you'll know by.

In our September 2019 meeting the NJSSAR Board of Managers approved our society's moving forward with the Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award. Due to COVID we are launching this initiative for 2021. To move this initiative forward, each chapter can engage with their local schools, public, private and parochial and for all grades, elementary, middle and high school. Talk to teachers, administrators, parents and librarians. Spread the word.

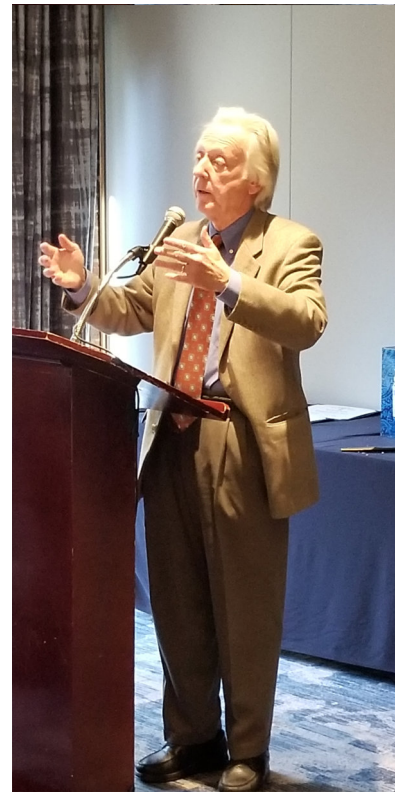
It is no secret to any of us that the social fabric of our nation is frayed. Regardless of our political persuasion, as SAR members, we have a unique opportunity to inform our communities about the events and philosophical bases of the American Revolution, the Constitution, and the important events and persons of the Revolutionary period. In order to form a more perfect union I would argue that it is our civic duty to contribute to domestic tranquility. We can do this by promoting our founding principles through these educational initiatives. February 16 2019 at a Princeton Cranbury Chapter luncheon our members and guests listened to a Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration contestant, Siddarth Satish. Master Satish delivered a spirited, passionate talk on the ideals of our founders and their struggle. As of this writing, we have a second applicant, Vasanth Narayanan, to the Oration Contest. Members of Board of Managers will listen to Masters Satish and Vasanth's orations. At Spring Leadership in Louisville on February 28 2019, we met and heard this year's recipient of the SAR American History of the Year honors, Renny Taylor of Nash HS in NC,. We can express our consternation about the state of our nation's educational priorities or myriad of challenges our educators face, or we can do something positive.

Listening to we will make the orations of Masters Satish and Vasanth to all. Mr. Harding and other students and teachers who speak to this nation's founding principles give us hope. We have a tremendous opportunity to move our society's mission forward and experience the joy, promote pride, and celebrate our national ideals. Let us celebrate our history. Let us sponsor youth awards programs, including essay and oration contests for students, based on historical and patriotic themes. Let us distribute history curriculum and educational media resources across the state. Let us inform the community about the events and philosophical bases of the American Revolution and the Constitution. Let us teach our children well.

I am looking for volunteers to help with these statewide initiatives. You can contact me at roger@princetonsar.org

Jersey Patriot

Photos From the Last In-Person NJSSAR State Meeting



The Busy Month of April in American Revolutionary War History

April 12, 1776
April 13, 1743
April 16, 1730
April 17, 1790
April 18, 1775
April 19, 1775

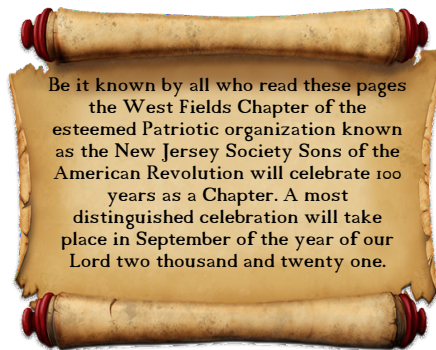
North Carolina becomes first colony to call for independence.
Thomas Jefferson is born.
Sir Henry Clinton is born.
Benjamin Franklin dies.
Paul Revere makes his famous midnight ride.
The American Revolution begins.



Chapter President's Report April 2021 - Warren C. Fristensky

The West Fields Chapter will celebrate its 100th year of service in 2021. A gala celebration is planned for September and all Compatriots are invited to join us. The date and venue are to be determined, but we will likely have an outdoor event under a marquee with a catered buffet. Local dignitaries will be invited as well as our State and National officers. Please be on the lookout for a save the date announcement. Huzzah!

1921



2021

State Association News from Treasurer Warren Fristensky

While most of our activities have been sidelined due to the Corona Virus, the State Society has nonetheless kept up its support to various organizations. A much needed repair and restoration donation of \$3,500 was made to the Howe Farm in March. Additional funding of \$1500 is available during the year. See this issue of the Jersey Patriot for more information.

A \$2500 donation was made to the Princeton Battlefield and Heritage society in December. Roger Williams presented the check at a recent meeting.

A new water heater was installed at the Abraham Clark house in January. The State office is in the Clark house.

A donation was made to DAR State Regent Bonnie Mathews for her Regent's Project.

A \$1000 donation was made to the National Society for the Façade restoration project at the Louisville, KY headquarters.

NOTICE - Assistant Treasurer wanted

The State Treasurer, Warren Fristensky, is seeking help to set up and implement a new version of QuickBooks for our recordkeeping needs. Compatriots with QuickBooks experience and a basic knowledge of accounting are asked to contact Warren at NJSSARTreasurer@gmail.com or via phone at 732.558.1295. The effort required is not very time consuming but requires a monthly accounting cycle and attention to detail.

Edward Glidden on Robert Meyer's term as President of NJSSAR

"He firmly established the NJSSAR as one of the leading state societies in the SAR. He Established SAR recognized national battlefield sites, Redbank, Trenton - Princeton, Bound Brook and Chestnut Neck. He is the "energizer bunny" of the NJSSAR"

Jersey Patriot

South Jersey Chapter Founded 1922

Covering Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland Counties



Chapter President's Report April 2021 - Richard Serfass

The South Jersey Chapter has been busy despite the COVID 19 restrictions that have hit all of us. Below is the report of activity covering 2020 to Present.

1. **Meetings:** September 2020 on-site and virtual, Red Bank Battlefield outside pavilion. January 2021 cancelled, March 2021 virtual, June 2021 on-site and virtual, Red Bank Battlefield outside pavilion.
2. **Membership:** It's been a great year! New Members 2020/21 (13); Ken McGill, Brian Welsh, Sr, Brian Welsh, Jr, Roman Welsh (Youngest Chapter member ever! 4 months), Silas Welsh, 3yrs, Andy Williams, Richard Kell, Gary Hoffman, Richard Grimsley, Thomas Convery.
 - a. The Chapter has members, 95 dues paid, 1 deceased, 4 out-of-state, 3 out-of-chapter, 18 dues not paid.
3. **Member "Promotions":** Jim Howard to NJSSAR Registrar, Rich Serfass to NJSSAR Color Guard Commander and NJSSAR Vice-President
4. **Officers for 2021-23:** The following officers were inducted for the 2021-23 term: Tim Ogline, President; James Howard, 1st Vice President; Carl Hausman, 2nd Vice President; Larry Nelson, Secretary; James Requa, Treasurer; Jack Yerkes, Captain of Color Guard; James Howard, Registrar/Genealogist; Grant Robinson, Chancellor; Scott Metzler, Historian; Alexander Harding, Assistant Historian; Eric Yerkes, Chaplain; Board of Trustees: Richard Serfass, Past President, Harry Schaeffer, and Richard Burr, Trustee (Underlined=new in position)
5. **South Jersey Chapter SAR now has its own Color Guard unit:** with Larry Nelson, Jim Howard and Rich Serfass as ongoing CG members and Carl Hausman, Alexander Harding and Brian Welsh as new 2021 members.
6. **Chapter Participation in NJSSAR/Chapter events:**
 - a. South Jersey Chapter hosted the SAR National Battle of Red Bank event. It was the first year of the event. Besides recognizing the Battle with a reenactment, we also honored the 14 Rhode Island soldiers killed in the battle. This was part of Gloucester County's 18th Century Event. (Rich Serfass, Jim Howard, Tim Ogline, Larry Nelson, Erick Yerkes, Scott Metzler, Brian Welsh)
 - b. South Jersey Chapter SAR CG participation: 4th of July, Ringing of the New Jersey Liberty Bell, Perth Amboy. (Jim Howard, Rich Serfass); Vigil at the George Washington Tomb, Mount Vernon, VA -Sept 9, 2020 (Howard, Serfass); 1778 Battle of Chestnut Neck memorial service - Sat October 10, 2020 (Jim Howard, Rich Serfass), Battle of Trenton Monument Wreath-Laying Ceremony 10 AM .(Howard, Rich Serfass), Battle of Princeton Wreath-laying January 3, 2021 (Howard, Serfass)
 - c. December 19, 2020 Wreaths Across America: Beverly National Cemetery (Dave Balliet, Jim Howard, Rich Serfass, Scott Meltzer and Larry Nelson).
7. **"JROTC!** Can you believe it! There is a new JROTC unit in our Chapter area: Gloucester City High School just started their Navy JROTC. That is now 22 JROTC High Schools in our Chapter!!!!!!!" That was a quote from my 2019 report... and now there is a 23rd JROTC just added Highland Regional HS Air Force JROTC
 - a. Congratulations to our winner of the 2021 JROTC Chapter Competitive Outstanding Cadet Program **Cadet 1stLt Anna Civitello** from the Lenape High School Army JROTC. Her name is being submitted to NJSSAR for State consideration.
 - b. 2021 was the eighth straight Chapter Outstanding cadet selection, five of them have won the State Outstanding Cadet Award.

Jersey Patriot

South Jersey Chapter Founded 1922



Covering Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland Counties

Chapter President's Report (Continued)

8. **DAR Partnership:** We continue to reach out to the DAR Chapters in our area. Here's what's happening:
 - a. The Whitall House DAR Regent participated in our National SAR Battle of Red Bank wreath laying commemoration of the 14 soldiers killed in the battle.
 - b. Our Chapter partnered with the Moorestown Chapter DAR and three other DAR chapters at the annual Wreaths Across America program at Beverly National Cemetery.
9. **Flag Awards:** We have two SAR Flag Awards pending presentation...The 18th Century Haines House in Hainesport and the Knights of Columbus in Galloway Township
10. **Grave marker Events.** We have two Grave marker awards events to complete, held up with the Covid restrictions: Graver Marking of 18th century Revolutionary War powder runner Adjonaah Peacock at the Peacock Cemetery Medford, and the recently deceased member marking his grave.

New



Logo

After receiving more than 300 entries in a contest to design the new SAR Logo, Stephen Harrington of Connecticut submitted the winning design. in Stephens words " the logo's inspiration was to combine the majestic beauty of an eagle in flight with a flag waving in the breeze"

Time tested quotations from George Washington

"In Vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars"

" If freedom of speech is to be taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter"

"It will be found an unjust and unwise jealousy to deprive a man of his natural liberty upon the supposition he may abuse it "

Jersey Patriot

Monmouth Chapter Founded 1913

Covering Monmouth County



Chapter President's Report April 2021- Edward Glidden



Next Meeting of the Monmouth County
Chapter of
Society Sons of the American Revolution
Town and Country Inn
Keyport, NJ 07735
7 PM

NJSSAR WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-----------|----------------|
| George Thomas | Baxter | First Mntn | Scott Arnold | Beale | Jockey Hollow |
| Kenneth | McGill | South Jersey | William charles | Harris | First Mntn |
| Donald Conrad | Yetman | Monmouth | Jared V. | Grobels | Jockey Hollow |
| Brial Andrew | Molnar | Abe Clark | John Frederick | Hester | Jockey Hollow |
| Brian Scott | Welsh Jr. | South Jersey | Chris Penrose | Kent | Raritan Valley |
| Brian Scott | Welsh | South Jersey | Dr. Christian J. | Angelillo | Jockey Hollow |
| Silas Alexander | Welsh | South Jersey | Christopher L. | Hawke | West Fields |
| Roman Bryce | Welsh | South Jersey | Jonathon Evan | Krulansik | Raritan Valley |
| William C. | Ingalsbe | Princ-Cran | Andrew hall | Spencer | Abe Clark |
| Andrew Paul | Wilson | South Jersey | Georger Augustus | Roff Jr. | Monmouth |
| Evan Arda | Hutchens | Rosenkrans | George G. A. | Perkins | Jockey Hollow |
| Joseph Frederic | Hagen | Princ-Cran | Bruce Dwight | Cook | Monmouth |
| Robert Owen | Hartshorn | Raritan Valley | Joseph Gilbert | Brower | Somers |
| Timothy Michael | O'Hare | South Jersey | James Angelo | Basch | Raritan Valley |
| William Hubbard | Parkhurst III | Somers | William Paine | Murray | Abraham Clark |
| | | | Stephen Gary | Harlan | West Fields |



Revolutionary War Historical Sites in the Monmouth Chapter Area.

1. Joshua Huddy Monument Colts Neck Town Hall, Cedar Drive.
2. Michael Field Memorial Park, North End of Heyer's Mill Road and Grave Yard Site.
3. General David Forman House, Amberly Drive in Covered Bridge Condominium Complex off Route 9.
4. The Village Inn, Courner of Main and Water Streets in Tennant, NJ.
5. Monmouth County Historical Association, 70 Court Street, Freehold.
6. St. Peters Episcopal Church, 11 Throckmorton Street, Freehold.
7. Freehold Courthouse Monument, Freehold
8. The Covenhoven House, 150 West Main Street, Freehold
9. Highlands Joshua Huddy Monument, Waterwitch Avenue and Bayside Drive, Highlands, N.J.
10. The Site of the Hornet's Nest, Long Bridge Road and East Main Street, Holmdel.
11. Holmes-Hendrickson House, 62 Longstreet Road near Park.
12. Monmouth Battlefield State Park, 147 Freehold Road (Route 33 West). Freehold.
13. Philip Freneau Grave Site. 112 Post Drive, Matawan.
14. John Burrowes Mansion, 94 Main Street, Matawan
15. Marlpit Hall, Taylor House- 117 Kings Highway, Middletown
16. Joshua Huddy Monument. Rumson Road (on West side of Shrewsbury River Bridge).
17. Sandy Hook Lighthouse. Fort Hancock, Middletown
18. The Halyburton Monument- Spermaceti Cove, Fort Hancock, Middletown
19. The Allen House, 400 Sycamore Avenue on Route 35 South. Shrewsbury
20. Old Tennent Church- 445 Tennent Road, Route 3. Englishtown
21. Joshua Huddy Park, East River Road, Toms River.



The Village Inn in Englishtown N.J. Built in 1732. Here after the Battle of Monmouth, Washington ordered the arrest of Lee who had disobeyed battle orders during the Battle of Monmouth.



History-Making Public/Nonprofit Partnership

A Partnership for the Restoration and Preservation of Howe Farmstead

This Effort is being spearheaded by Frank McGonigle



FRANKLIN NJ – Somerset County and the Somerset County Historical Society are developing a unique partnership that will enable the Society to lease and restore part of the pre-revolutionary war era Howe Farmstead, located on Colonial Park. On March 9, the Board of County Commissioners approved a resolution authorizing the county and the Historical Society to enter into the lease agreement.

The idea was sparked when David Brook, who works with the Somerset County Historical Society, approached Commissioner Melonie Marano and indicated the nonprofit was very interested in restoring the Howe home and asked if the county would be willing to partner with them. "We moved on this idea very quickly. The generosity of the Howe family is what gave us a large portion of Colonial Park and Howe Athletic Field. By deeding their property to the county as open space, Dr. and Mrs. Howe saved a major

section of Franklin Township from development and gave us a crown jewel for generations and generations to come where people can recreate, dogs run free, and athletes play in the fields," said Commissioner Melonie Marano, open space liaison. "I can't even imagine how different Somerset County would be today if we did not have Colonial Park."

The Howe Farmstead, 70 acres in all, includes a farmhouse, wagon house, large English barn, chicken house and a "hired man's" house. The Somerset County Historical Society is looking to lease and restore the farmhouse, which has been vacant for a few years, with the help of grant funding. "We are humbled by this opportunity to put our money where our mouth is and walk the talk. This is a pivotal moment in our history as an historical society to be able to expand our reach in the greater Somerset County area," said Rikki Lynn Hauss, a trustee of the Somerset County Historical Society. "Not only is this a pre-revolutionary home but it is also the story of how the Howes not only made this their home but made it adaptable from the minute they took ownership until we were able to pick up where they left off."

Dr. Eugene and Lois Howe, who met at age 7 in a one-room schoolhouse in Kansas, moved their family to Somerset County in 1947. Having grown up in a farming community, the Howes looked for a place where they would feel most at home. They found that place in the northern section of Franklin Township. Years later, Eugene and Lois Howe created a living trust in which they deeded their property to Somerset County as open space, now known as Colonial Park. "I am heartfelt in my gratitude for the generosity of the Howe family on behalf of all our residents and park visitors. Especially this past year, when we were all couped up in our homes and the only place people really could go out was to the parks," said Commissioner Marano.



History-Making Public/Nonprofit Partnership

A Partnership for the Restoration and Preservation of Howe Farmstead

Continued



Dr. and Mrs. Howe did even more for preservation than deed their land to Somerset County as open space. To some they are considered the father and mother of the historic preservation movement in Franklin Township. "I knew the Howes personally when I was involved in the Meadows Foundation back in the 70's. They were the nicest people you would ever have had the privilege to have known," said David Brook, former member of the Meadows Foundation. "Gene and Lois also were staunch advocates for historic preservation. They helped to found the Meadows Foundation and were responsible for the acquisition of the Van Wickle House, Blackwells Mills Canal House, the Hageman Farm, the Wykoff-Garretson House and the Van Liew-Suydan House.



"I think it's safe for me to say that none of these well-known historic structures and properties would be standing today if it weren't for the Howe's willingness to contribute financially and physically to rally the resources and the community members to stand up for the value of historic preservation," said Brook. "I think this initiative represents a new beginning with a new model for success by bringing together the County with a respected nonprofit to establish a new partnership for preservation and community development."

"We want to thank everyone involved for their dedication. This unique partnership is beneficial because restoration initiatives like this cannot be done alone," said Commissioner Deputy Director Sara Sooy. "It's such an important part of Somerset County to make sure that we maintain our historic sites and keep reinvesting in that."

To stay up to date with Somerset County events and information, sign up for [free email alerts](#) at www.co.somerset.nj.us/subscribe or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Jersey Patriot

Ladies Auxiliary



A Message From the President of the Ladies Auxiliary - Carolyn Kircher

Dear Friends,

We hope this update finds you well despite the pandemic! On behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary, we cannot thank the N.J.S.S.A.R enough for their generosity in supporting our outreach to the lady vets at the Lyons VA. Traditionally, we supported the Women's Treatment Program to help our most vulnerable lady veterans, however, as a result of the pandemic, the ladies are receiving virtual care as outpatients. Furthermore, due to COVID the veterans are unable to leave the facility and they may not even have visitors! There is a request for a monetary donation to support the educational and recreational needs of the Lyons veterans receiving care under the auspices of the domiciliary. This would allow the recreational therapist to provide the Veterans with a monthly pizza party and assorted snacks and drinks. Until the Women's Treatment

Unit is able to provide in-person service, we will support the needs of hospitalized vets.

In our last live meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary, we penned letters to the lady vets and the N.J.S.S.A.R. made a generous donation. Previously, Billy Locke would personally deliver the gifts to the Voluntary Services at Lyons. We deeply appreciate Billy's service and commitment, so we are especially disappointed to hear that he moved. He will be missed!

For our next activity we will be penning notes of encouragement to Vets. We can't even imagine how difficult and lonely it must be for the hospitalized vets who cannot leave campus or even accept visitors. We hope our donations and cards can bring a little cheer into their lives.

William "Billy" Locke



The Ladies Auxiliary would like to thank William "Billy" Locke for his never ending support of our cause. He is, and will continue to be, greatly missed. **Carolyn Kircher on behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary**

All my best, Carolyn Kircher 791 Knollwood Terrace Westfield, NJ 07090

A Look Back at the Origins of the Lyons VA Hospital in Lyons, NJ

The Lyons VA Hospital at Lyons, New Jersey, has its origins in the 1920s, when the Sixty-eighth Congress passed an act authorizing appropriations to provide hospital and outpatient facilities for veterans under the World War Veterans Act of 1924. The act was signed into law (Public Law #587) by President Calvin Coolidge on March 3, 1925. Coolidge's signature authorized \$10 million to the U.S. Veterans Bureau to construct and improve existing disabled veterans hospitals across the United States.

On November 28, 1928, after review of 161 potential sites across the state, the Federal Board of Hospitalization recommended the purchase of the 272- acre estate of Walter A. Reynolds known as "Knollcroft" in the rolling countryside of Somerset Hills in the Lyons section of Bernards Township.

Source: MrLocalHistory.org

Jersey Patriot

NJSSAR Color Guard



Richard Serfass Commander

There are some good signs we are returning to normalcy...slow but sure: We pushed the clock ahead, Spring is in a few weeks, more people are getting the COVID vaccine, snow is over (?), and there are some Color Guard events happening.

When is the next event? Many events are still pending, but here are a few we know about:

April 10, 2021 – The Battle of Bound Brook at the Abraham Staats House in Bound Brook; however we will NOT be participating there. We will be participating in the cemetery Wreath laying at the Old Presbyterian Cemetery, where over 40 Revolutionary Soldiers are buried. Contact: Raritan Chapter, Frank McGonigle. Attending: Meyer, McGonigle, Glidden, Bearegard...

April 17, 2021- NJSSAR Meeting – Lexington Concord Luncheon. Limited attendance. Princeton Marriott, Outside, large ballroom inside if bad weather. Color Guard will post Colors. In attendance: SAR Past-President Joe Dooley, SAR Color Guard Commander Lou Raborg. An invitation was sent to all members. Color Guard is needed. Color Guard Cost is \$40. Please fill out an application and send to Ed Glidden

May 1, 2021 - Tucker Grave Marking Ceremony (Ebenezer & Reuben Tucker), Old Methodist Cemetery, Tuckerton. Contact: Somers Chapter SAR (Mike Magnum). Attending: Serfass, Nelson, Howard...

Below is the schedule for the second quarter 2021. The full 2021 schedule is attached. Looking at the schedule below, you will notice that there are few New Jersey events. There are, however, several VIRTUAL NATIONAL SAR EVENTS that you can attend...virtually. By doing so you can represent your Chapter or State by presenting a wreath Virtually, receive credit for attending a National SAR event, and learn something about a recognized National SAR event.

Please let me know if you plan to attend our NJ events. Thank you. I look forward to our next event and hope and pray that you and your family/friends stay well.

Patriotically yours, Richard Serfass, Commander, NJSSAR Color Guard, Vice President, NJSSAR

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Apr 17 | National SAR Color Guard Event:: Halifax Resolves - 245TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION . Halifax Resolves Chapter NCSAR For Registration: https://www.ncssar.org/event/245th-halifax-resolves-cg/ | Halifax, NC | National # |
| Apr 19 | National SAR Color Guard Event:: Patriots Day* | Nationally | |
| May 1 | National SAR Color Guard Event Battle of Pensacola | Pensacola, FL | National # |
| May 8 | National SAR Color Guard Event Raid on Martin's Station | Ewing, VA | National # |
| Sat May 16 ???? | Middlesex History Fair East Jersey Old Town, 10-4 Event status unknown | Piscataway, NJ | State |
| Sun May 31 | National SAR Color Guard Event Memorial Day Parade. Events*, | | National # |
| Mon May 24 | National SAR Color Guard Event National Memorial Day Parade | Washington DC | |
| Mon May 25???? | Middletown Fairview Cemetery for SAR and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Event status unknown | | |
| Sun Jun 6? ????? | Proprietary House- Arrest of Royal Governor William Franklin Event status unknown | Perth Amboy | State |
| June 5 | National SAR Color Guard Event Battle of Ramseur's Mill | Lincolnton, NC Catawba Valley SAR | National # |
| June 12 | National SAR Color Guard Event Machias Battle of US Navy | Machias, ME | National # |
| Jun 17 | National SAR Color Guard Event Battle of Bunker Hill | Boston, MA | National # |
| Wed June 23 ???? | Springfield wreath-laying ceremony, Battle Ground Cemetery, 39 Mountain Ave., Springfield, NJ 07081 (important note: this is the Springfield in Union County) at 7 pm This is the 241st anniversary of the Battle of Springfield Event status unknown | Springfield cemetery Springfield, NJ | State (National pending) |
| Sat Jun 28-29 ???? | National SAR Color Guard Event: Battle of Monmouth Gen Von Steuben Monument Event status unknown | Monmouth Battlefield State Park, NJ | National # |

Jersey Patriot

The Infamous HMS Jersey, As Told by Some Who Survived it



When the British occupied New York from 1776 till the end of the war they needed a place to jail the thousands of American soldiers and sailors who were captured in battle or arrested for refusing to swear and oath of allegiance to the British Crown. They were prisoners of war who were abused by guards on 16 prison ships off Brooklyn's shores.

The HMS Jersey earned the nickname of "Hell" for horrible conditions and excessively high death rates of prisoners. Between 8-10 men died every-night from diseases such as small pox, typhoid, dysentery and yellow fever, as well as from the effects of starvation and torture. Their corpses were tossed overboard or were buried in low graves next to the shoreline which was eroding, causing bodies to wash away over the years.

Christopher Vail, a soldier from Southhold was a prisoner on the Jersey in 1781 and survived to later write "When a man died he was carried up on the forecastle and laid there until the next morning until 8 O'Clock when they were all lowered down the ship sides by a rope round them in the same manner as tho' they were beasts. There was 8 died of a day while i was there. They were carried on shore in heaps and hove out the boat on the wharf then taken across a hand barrow, carried to the edge of the bank where a hole was dug 1 or 2 feet deep and all hove in together. It was reported that 11,700 and odd was buried at this place and in this manner"

One of the prison survivors was the poet Philip Freneau who was a sea captain, and newspaper editor from

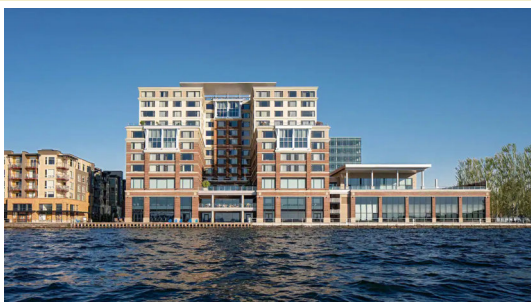
Matawan, NJ. who spent six weeks on the *Scorpion*. He detailed his experiences in *The British Prison Ship*, and afterward wrote more patriotic and anti-British writings throughout the revolution. For this he earned the nickname "The Poet of the Revolution".

Robert Brown, a U.S. Representative from Pennsylvania was captured at the surrender of Fort Washington and worked as a blacksmith while a prisoner of the ship *Judith*.

Another survivor was Christopher Hawkins, who at 13 joined a ship in 1777 to fight the British. He was captured and escaped the Jersey and journaled his adventures in 1834 when he was 70 years old. Hawkins wrote of stealing an axe and breaking through a barred porthole during a thunderstorm.

Robert Sheffield escaped from the ship in 1778 and told his story in the *Connecticut Gazette*, "The heat was so intense that (the hot sun shining all day on deck) they were all naked, which also served them well to get rid of vermin, but the sick were eaten up alive".

Even after the British surrendered in 1781 prisoners were kept aboard the ships until the war formally ended in 1783. At that time there was only 1400 survivors among the entire prison ship fleet, at least 11,000 boys and men had died. In 1808 the burial vault near the navy yard had collapsed and the remains of the dead were re interred in Fort Green Park. One hundred years later President Taft dedicated the *Prison Ship Martyrs Monument*, an obelisk atop a crypt of coffins holding bone fragments from the thousands who died on the 16 prison ships.



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Portrait of a Patriot Ancestor



By Richard Brady - Monmouth Chapter

As a child I often wondered about my ancestors. Beyond my Parents, my Grandparents, and a couple of Great-Grandparents, no one had any information. My paternal grandmother, Emma Whitaker (1888 – 1971) was the daughter of William Alfred Whitaker (1854 – 1913) and Nancy Post (1855 – 1916). Years ago, she told us the story of her ancestors on the Post side. She claimed that the family was the Lagire family in the Netherlands. The family came to America after the Mayflower (the Mayflower arrived in 1620) and changed their name to Post after having first seen a Postman on arrival. The basic story is consistent with the facts but had some inaccuracies.

We are Descendants of Immigrants

Following the direct line of ancestors, my 10th Great-Grandfather was Barent Jansen b: abt. 1594 in Harlingen, Friesland, Netherlands and d: 1647 in New Amsterdam, New York. His Son (my 9th Great-Grandfather) was Jan Barentsen, b: 1620 in the Netherlands, d: 1669 in Postenkill, Rensselaer, New York.

The progenitor of our Post family of Westchester and Rockland Counties, New York, and Bergen County, New Jersey, is believed to be Jan Janszen [Postmael] (my 8th Great-Grandfather and Son of Jan Barentsen), born about 1650, a native of Harlingen, Holland, who married about 1679, Jannetje (Jeanne) LeSueur [origin of Lagire?], born about 1660, daughter of Francois Le Sueur (progenitor of the Lozier/Losier family) and Jannetje Hillebrants Pieteron. "He arrived in America sometime before 1679." "Jan Janszen, acquired the surname of Postmael from the occupation of mail carrier [not having seen a postman] . . ." [History of Harlem by Riker, footnote page 388.]

Revolutionary War

Jan Janszen's 2nd Great-Grandson was Abraham A. Post (my 4th Great-Grandfather, 1756 – 1805), son of Jan Post and Maria Schoonmaker (5th Great-Grandparents.) Abraham A. Post served as a Private in the Ulster County Militia, 1st Regiment (Col. Johannes Snyder), Capt. Matt Dederick Co. "New York in the Revolution, Office of the State Controller" (James A. Roberts), Albany, 1897", page 189.

He was a signer of Articles of Association during the Revolution May 29 1775. "Among the first prominent events in the history of Ulster during the Revolution was the signing of the Articles of Association adopted by the citizens of the city of New York who were favorable to the cause of liberty." [History of Ulster County, New York", Nathaniel B. Sylvester, 1880, page 72.]



Civil War

Abraham's Grandson was Henry E. Post (my 2nd GGF, 1824 – 1864). He enlisted on 14 Aug 1862 at Troy, NY as a Private and mustered into "G" Co. NY 125th Infantry on 27 Aug 1862. He was captured at the Battle of Harper's Ferry, VA, listed as a POW on 15 Sep 1862, and was paroled the next day. He fought at Gettysburg, PA in July 1863. He fought in the Battle of Mine Run, VA and was captured on 2 Dec 1863. He was listed as a POW and was sent to Andersonville prison where he died of scorbatus (scurvy) on 15 Dec 1864. He is buried at Andersonville National Cemetery, GA (Grave: Section H, Site12291).



The New Jersey Society Sons of the American Revolution Keep In Memory Those Compatriots Who Have Gone On Before Us Including:



Earl Cain Jr.



THE JERSEY PATRIOT

The Official Newsletter published by the New Jersey Society Sons of the American Revolution (NJSSAR). The newsletter is published in January, May and September. Past newsletters can be found on the Archives link of the NJSSAR website at www.njssar.org.

Articles for inclusion should be submitted to Secretary A. Edward Glidden at eglidden@yahoo.com and Newsletter Editor Robert Fischer at bfisch59@optonline.net. Deadlines for articles are December 15th, April 15th and August 15th.

Driving Directions to the Marriott Princeton

From Northern New Jersey: Take the Garden State Parkway South to Exit 130. Take Route 1 South approximately 22 miles to College Road East. Marriott Princeton Hotel & Conference Center at Forrestal is the second driveway on your right. or

Take the New Jersey Turnpike South to Exit 9 - New Brunswick. Follow Route 18 North for approximately 1/4 mile to Route 1 South. Take Route 1 South approximately 13 miles to College Road East. Marriott Princeton Hotel & Conference Center at Forrestal is the second driveway on your right.

From Southern New Jersey: Follow I-295 North to Route 1 North (Exit 67). Take Route 1 North for approximately 6.5 miles to College Road East. Exit right on College Road East. Marriott Princeton Hotel & Conference Center at Forrestal entrance will be the second drive on your right.



When you really want to make it to the meeting, you find a way.