



## President's Activity Report – 2010-2011

Annual Meeting 02/12/11

John C. Eastman II

- April 24, 2010 – New England District Council and annual Spring Meeting at 1149 Restaurant in Warwick, RI. John McNiff, speaker, “Pirates and Privateers of Narragansett Bay”.
  - May 20, 2010 – John Peck Rathbun Chapter #4 meeting at the New England Museum of Wireless and Steam, East Greenwich, RI.
  - June 13, 2010 – Flag Day luncheon with the DAR at the Dunes Club, Narragansett, RI Speaker, Donna Laconti from NEADS, Princeton, MA. We have formed a partnership with NEADS and will pick up disabled veterans at Green Airport in Warwick, RI and transport them to Princeton when they come for final two-week training to pick up their service dogs.
  - September 13, 2010 – Fall luncheon at the Clarke Cooke House in Newport, RI preceded by our annual “Champagne and Peanuts Reception” at the home of compatriot CMDR Walter Whitley, USN (Ret.).
  - October 3, 2010 – First annual RISSAR Debutante Presentation held with the RISSAR at the Richmond Country Club, Richmond, RI. Seven CAR debutantes from NH, CT and RI and their CAR escorts were honored at the luncheon.
  - November 7, 2010 – Veterans Day ceremony (held with the DAR and the RIOFPA) at the RI Veterans Cemetery and luncheon at the Richmond Country Club. Speaker: Gerald M. Carbone, author of books about Nathanael Greene and George Washington.
  - December 5, 2010 – John Peck Rathbun Chapter #4 ceremony honoring the 205<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Capt. Thos. Cole of Wickford, RI. Capt. Cole was the recipient of 9 battle stars. We received a grant from the RI Legislature of \$4000 to replace his headstone.
  - December 10, 2010 – Annual RISSAR Holiday Party, 1149 Restaurant, Warwick, RI.
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- Past President Bruce MacGunnigle and I were instrumental in placing on the RISSAR website, <http://www.rhodeislandsar.org/>, the story of the Battle of Rhode Island and the events leading up to August 29, 1778. The website also contains the 700+ names of the slaves, freed blacks and Indians who were members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Rhode Island Regiment. In addition, PP MacGunnigle has been transcribing the 1781 Regiment book of the 1<sup>st</sup> Rhode Island which we hope to publish next year. The original Regiment book was found in the RI State archives. Our transcription will provide a valuable resource for historians tracing black ancestry in New England. It is our hope that through efforts such as these, we will begin to attract the descendants of Black and Indian patriots to our organization.

## The Greene Homestead

Built by Nathanael Greene in 1770, the "Homestead" as it historically has been known, was originally called "Spell Hall". Constructed on the hillside, the site chosen for the Homestead was well sheltered on the west by natural woods. The land to the front sloped eastward as a terrace to the river. Originally the house overlooked a broad area of open woodland meadow. The Homestead is a well - preserved 18th Century residential structure of simple, yet refined, design.

Situated above the Pawtuxet River on 13 acres of open space and woodlands, the 2- 1/2 story structure is typical of its time in design. The two main floors of the home each consist of four rooms, two rooms on either side of a dominant central hall. Each room then features a paneled fireplace, and three large double-hung windows. The completely intact interior was first restored between 1919 and 1924, with the establishment of the building as a museum. A recent restoration project included paint analysis for a more correct perspective of the house when the Quaker General lived here. Eight display rooms are furnished with period furnishings and Greene family memorabilia. The hardware throughout was wrought at the nearby forge. When Nathanael and Caty moved from Coventry after the Revolution, the house had long since been managed by his brother, Jacob. Jacob and Margaret then purchased the Homestead and it stayed in the family for two more full generations until the death of the General's grand-niece Elizabeth Margaret (Greene) Warner in 1899.

Recently, Thomas E. Greene, President of the Nathanael Greene Homestead Association, Inc. has created a new website for the "Homestead": <http://www.nathanaelgreenehomestead.org/>. The new website is simple to use and emailing the Homestead for information is now directed to: [nathanaelgreenehmst@cox.net](mailto:nathanaelgreenehmst@cox.net). Mr. Greene has also started a membership program for those interested in helping support the preservation of this wonderful historic building and grounds. In order to find information on the membership, go to the website and click on "Join the Homestead Association" tab.

## Awards

The Hon. Ernest C. Torres Chief Judge, U.S District Court for the District of R.I., 1999-2006 has been awarded the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal in recognition of outstanding achievement and dedication to the maintenance of law and order.

## Service Awards

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>	<u>Long Service Award</u>
Robert W. Kenyon	May 14, 1936	Seventy-Five years
Severyn Sharpe Dana	March 24, 1966	Forty-Five years
Everett DeVere Watrous, Jr.	January 1, 1976,	Thirty-Five years
Everett DeVere Watrous, III	January 1, 1976	Thirty-Five years
Eric de Rochambeau	February 12, 1976	Thirty-Five years
William DeWitt Metz	April 30, 1976	Thirty-Five years
John Leslie Mowry	April 30, 1976	Thirty-Five years
Edgar Pettebone Johnson, Jr.	April 14, 1986	Twenty-Five years
John Gormley Walsh Kelley	January 15, 1991	Twenty years
Milton Allen Kelley	January 15, 1991	Twenty years
Richard Hollis Olney	February 5, 1991	Twenty years
Marvin Hunter Taylor	May 14, 1991	Twenty years

### **Supplementals:**

David Lawrence Grinnell for:  
ancestor Robert Grinnell  
ancestor William Tourje  
ancestor Peleg Peckham  
ancestor Ebenezer Handy  
ancestor David Wade  
ancestor William Arnold

Ronald William Barnes for ancestor William Maynard

### **Request for RISSAR Records**

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

### **Rhode Island Broadside Project**

The RISAR has joined with the RI Society of the Sons of the Revolution (RISR), the RI Society of Colonial Wars (RICW) and the General Society of Colonial Wars (GSCW) in funding a project to catalog the "Broadside" in the collection of the RI Historical Society (RIHS) Library. (See definition of a "Broadside" below.) This project provides for an examination of each document by a highly trained curator, with the goal of identifying its historical significance, as well as who printed the document, when, and why; see details below. This project has allowed the collection to be reorganized in a detailed chronological way, and the finished catalog has been made available online for academics, amateur and professional students of Rhode Island and American history, and the casual observer, to see exactly what is in the collection. Exciting new finds have been made, and we hope to share some of them with the membership in future newsletters.

### ***Definition and Significance of Broadside***

Broadside were generally printed on one side of a sheet of paper and were either posted in public places or offered for sale. They were used in early America by the government, businesses, and individuals as a way to disseminate information to the public. They covered every topic conceivable from issues of general concern such as election results, proposed new legislation, and calls to arms to lighter subjects such as social events and theatrical performances. The most famous example of a broadside is the printed version of the Declaration of Independence. It was posted in a prominent location in the community to be read by all. The RI Historical Society holds two Rhode-Island imprints of the Declaration and they were catalogued as part of the first segment of the project.

The RIHS collection of broadsides printed in Rhode Island is a truly unique resource. Just like posters are used today, the majority of broadsides were created as ephemeral items to be posted outside for all to see for a specific purpose and then discarded. As a result, very few examples of each broadside have survived to the present day. Of the broadsides cataloged at the RIHS thus far, 46 of them are the only known copies in the world, 8 are one of only 2 copies known to exist, and 17 of these were unknown to scholars in 1949 when John Eliot Alden published his master bibliography: *Rhode Island Imprints, 1727-1800*. (New York, R.R. Bowker Company).

### ***Cataloging Process***

The cataloging process documents the specific description of each item including dimensions, condition, place of printing, the printer responsible, and notes that explain the historical significance and provenance. This work is performed by the Society's senior cataloger of colonial printed materials, Phoebe S. Bean, M.L.S.. Ms. Bean specializes in colonial Rhode Island printing and provides valuable academic insight to the records.

The amount of time required to gather the information for the catalog record for each broadside varies widely. Some have all the pertinent information printed directly on them by the original creators and the catalog record is completed with ease. Others are more mysterious and require significant research to determine the date, author, printer, and printing location.

The catalog records are simultaneously published to the OCLC international database and to the Rhode Island Historical Society's proprietary electronic catalog, NETOP at: <http://rihs.minisisinc.com/>. Researchers from around the world and from around Rhode Island will have Internet access to the broadside records and the funding acknowledgement bookplate.

**Present by-laws – as of 02/19/06**

**ARTICLE V – FEES AND DUES**

**SECTION 1.** The application fee shall be \$15 in addition to that required by the National Society at the time of application and the annual dues of this State Society shall be \$20 in addition to that charged by the National Society.

**Change – as of 02/12/11**

**ARTICLE V – FEES AND DUES**

**SECTION 1.** The application fee, and the fee for supplemental applications, shall be an amount set by the Board of Managers and approved by a majority of the membership at the annual meeting of the organization in addition to that required by the National Society at the time of application. The annual dues of this State Society shall be an amount set by the Board of Managers in addition to that charged by the National Society.

This by-law change will be set forth at the annual meeting (as required by ARTICLE XXII – AMENDMENTS, SECTION 1) as long as it has been announced to the general membership at least ten days before the meeting. It will become effective only on approval of two-thirds of the members present.

At the Annual Meeting, the vote was unanimous for passage of the amendment.

**Upcoming SAR events:**

May 19th 5:00 PM - New England Museum of Wireless and Steam, East Greenwich, RI.

June 12th 11:30 AM - Flag Day luncheon with the DAR at the Dunes Club, Narragansett.

If anyone has material that they would like included in the Independent Man, please forward it to:

Eugene Clauss, Jr.

[Gene.Clauss@invensys.com](mailto:Gene.Clauss@invensys.com)