Dear Fellow Compatriots:

As you read through this edition of The Independent Man, you will note that there are a number of items that show what we are doing and who we are. There is always something going on that never makes the newsletter and I encourage you to send us anything that you are planning, thinking about, or just wondering about so that we can let others know.

With the Summer now winding down, we begin our schedule of meetings anew. Please note that the 1st such event is at the Clarke Cooke House in Newport on September 29th where Compatriot David Ray graciously hosts us for another wonderful experience at his restaurant. If you have not been with us in the past, I am sure that you will enjoy the food and atmosphere that comes with being in such a welcoming historic locale.

Please note that occasionally we, as the Rhode Island Society, are asked to do some deeds for our out of town SAR Compatriots. You will therefore note that we worked with Ken Dunlap (Ancestor Weeden Clarke) from Washington State to make sure that we had a good crowd for his visit to Rhode Island to honor his Revolutionary War ancestor with a grave marker dedication ceremony.

Many of you know our Secretary, Ron Barnes, and his love of history especially all that involves the Pawtuxet Rangers and their environs. His article is another example of what our members are doing elsewhere such as Past President Bruce MacGunnigle in the articles that he writes on East Greenwich for a local paper. If you find yourself in similar circumstances, we would like to hear from you and try to include anything that you might have that would fit into our newsletter.

Our 125th Anniversary (Organized February 1st, 1890) is approaching and events are being planned to celebrate that event at the Annual Meeting. We will have a dinner meeting that night at the ElevenFortyNine Restaurant and Compatriot Al Klyberg will be our speaker on the subject of the publishing of the Nathanael Greene papers. I hope that many of you will put the date of February 21, 2015 on your calendar so that you can join us in this celebration.

As part of the plans for that 125th Celebration, a committee led by Ron Barnes is researching material for a publication that will encompass much of the history of the Society in Rhode Island with special emphasis on the early years. Included with that publication will be a complete listing of all the members that have ever joined the Rhode Island Society. This list will include their Patriot Ancestors' names and will be cross-referenced for easy searching. This publication presently looks to be complete for the Annual Meeting. The publication will be distributed to those in attendance at the Annual Meeting and subsequently mailed to our members that indicated that they would like a copy.

At the same time that information has been gathered for this work, the committee is also planning on publishing a roster of the current members of the Society and that will go out in later this Fall.

John Adams
President
Members of the SAR, DAR, CAR and OFPA gathered to honor Washington State Compatriot Ken Dunlap’s ancestor buried in this cemetery in Richmond, Rhode Island.

Nathanael Greene Birthday Celebration—Nathanael Greene Homestead Association

On Sunday, July 27th, 2014, the Gen. Nathanael Greene’s birthday was celebrated at the Greene Homestead in Coventry. The celebration was hosted by the Gen. Nathanael Greene Homestead Association and was well attended. Supporting the event were members of the Kentish Guards, Varnum Continentals, members of the reenacting community as well as a large number of DAR, CAR and SAR Compatriots. As luck would have it, a branch of the Greene family were visiting Rhode Island for the weekend for an impromptu reunion from as far away as Texas and about thirty members of their party happened to stumble upon the celebration, adding to the large number of local Greene’s already in attendance. The Homestead Association was also proud to welcome direct Gen. Greene descendant, Nathanael Greene Mullener and his wife Betsy as honored guests. The small ceremony included members of the SAR, DAR, and CAR. Compatriots Charles Smith, Carlen Booth, David Procaccini, John W. Adams, Thomas E. Greene, John Duchesneau, CAR members Lisa M. Daly, William J. Weaver Jr. and Carly Weaver, and DAR Honorary Regent and Homestead Secretary Barbara Weaver were also present. Cdr. Dave Loda USNR (Ret.) and Roberta Decenzo of the Bostonian Society portrayed General and Mrs. Greene.

Compatriot David Procaccini, President of Nathanael Greene Homestead speaks

Greene descendants—Nathanael Greene Mullener and Compatriot Thomas E. Greene
General Greene flanked by his mother (Mary Motte) and wife Catharine Littlefield Greene, also known as "Caty", (Left to right) Barbara Weaver of the CAR, DAR and Colonial Dames: Cdr. Dave Loda USNR (Ret.) and Roberta Decenzo of the Bostonian Society.

**Upcoming SAR events:**
Board of Managers: October 4, January 3, 2015 ElevenFortyNineRestaurant
Cooke House Luncheon: September 29: Newport, Rhode Island
Celebration to commemorate Captain Stephen Olney’s service to the Revolution: October 18. North Providence, RI

**NSCAR New England Region Meeting**
William J. Weaver, Jr., RISSCAR Honorary State President and RISSCAR State 1st. Vice President, presented the RISSCAR State report at the NSCAR New England Region Meeting, held in Windsor Connecticut.
The RISSCAR 2014-2015 State theme is, "Honoring Rhode Island Revolutionary War Patriots"

(pictured left to right)
Ryan Cross, NSCAR National Vice President New England Region
William J. Weaver, Jr., RISSCAR State 1st. Vice President
Adam W. Bartow NSCAR Senior National Vice President New England Region.
FORT AT PAWTUXET NECK by Colonel Ron Barnes

In 1775 as British incursions along Narragansett Bay became more frequent, it was thought that coastal defenses should be erected to combat these incursions. Following the British bombardment of Bristol in October 7, 1775 the earthworks fort at Pawtuxet Neck was built with assistance of the Rangers on land owned by Captain Thomas Remington in October 1775. In selecting the site for the location of the earthworks, a part of Captain Remington’s farm was taken, the fences on the Neck were torn down and other property of his was destroyed. But, the General Assembly subsequently made reparation by paying the amount which he claimed for the damages.

The peninsula where the fort was has had various names through the years: Long Neck, Fort Neck, Cranston Neck and (currently) Pawtuxet Neck. The fort went from shore to shore and a guard or watch house was constructed “twelve feet long and eight feet wide, for the accommodations of the guard stationed at the fort.” The watch house is said to have been built over into the old house still standing on the cove side of Fort Avenue and long occupied by “Lon” Crandall. The fort initially had two 18 pound cannon (named so as they fired an 18 lb. cannon ball) and was placed in the command of Colonel Samuel Aborn, then Commander of the Rangers, one of the leading citizens of the village. In a subsequent receipt for arms and stores at the fort, dated August 6, 1778, acknowledgement is given for two 9 pound cannon with travelling carriages and limbers and two three pound cannon with carriages and limbers. The path to the fort was down Still House Lane (now Ocean Avenue) with a turn onto Fort Avenue. Fort Avenue, running along Pawtuxet Neck in Cranston gets its name from this fort that once stood on the high bluff at the head of today’s Sheldon Street. Fort Avenue itself was listed as West Street on an 1870 Advertiser’s Map.

Fort Neck was initially garrisoned by the Pawtuxet Rangers with 50 men and then by the Rangers and other various units throughout the war though the principal responsibility of the fort rested with the Rangers. The Rangers garrisoned the fort again during the War of 1812. In an interesting note one of the companies from Massachusetts, Captain William North’s Company, that garrisoned the fort during the Revolutionary War showed a woman, Mrs. Elizabeth Freeman, enrolled as a soldier. She had a pass that said: "To Whom It May Concern: This may certify that Mrs. Elizabeth freeman belongs to Lieut. Col. Smith’s Regiment now stationed at Pawtuxet.” Unlike the usual camp followers, she was carried on the lists as the wife of a member of the company and herself enrolled as a member.

For a number of years after the Revolutionary War one of the iron cannon used at the fort remained in the village and was used for salutes on the Fourth of July and at other times, especially at night when mischievous boys would sneak it out of storage to fire it. It was also fired when President James Monroe passed the Neck on his visit to Providence, where he arrived by boat from New York.

After the fort was no longer in use the timbers from the guard house were used in building the dwelling of Captain Alonzo Crandall. The dwelling, built across the street from the site of the fort, became known as the "Barracks House", c.1775-1865 and this small gambrel roof house still stands today at 69 Fort Avenue with additions added.

By 1896, the Fort disappeared; a memorial plaque erected by the Cranston Historic District Commission in 1972 marks the site today.

“The Fort at Pawtuxet Neck was but a little mound of earth, but it marked a point beyond which, if human life and grim determination could prevent, British tyranny and oppression should not advance. It showed the temper of the people and they stood behind its walls during three years of success, defeat and disaster, ready to defend it with their lives. Within range of its guns the first armed resistance to the demands of the tyrant had been enacted, along the shores at its base the crew of the Gaspee had been escorted from their burning ship to the landing at Stillhouse Cove. Past it the ships that formed the first American Navy, sailed to
the ocean. Off the shore abreast of the fort during the War of 1812, a line of hulks were anchored, ready to be sunk at a moment’s warning to block the channel and to impede the progress of the enemy’s ships should they attempt to pass up the river. Surely ‘tis a historic spot and you may be proud to point to the memorial that recalls all these events of years that have passed."

-From the address of Edward Field, historian of Rhode Island at dedication early in the century, of tablet marking the site of the Fort on Pawtuxet Neck.

![Homes of William Arnold Spicer and his brother build on the site of the old fort. Picture c. 1910-1915](image)

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

**In Memoriam**
It saddens us to notify our membership of the passing of Edgar Pettebone Johnson Jr. on May 16, 2014. R.I. #1567 National #127509. Edgar was 100 years plus 8 months old. A long life well-lived. Descended from Ebenezer Gay Sr. , Sharon CT—LtCol in Ct State Troops

**In Memoriam**
Donald Edward Ormsbee, Kennesaw, GA, admitted May 30, 1975, national number 108977, state number 1477. Donald was descended from Abraham Ormsbee, 1725-1802, Rehoboth, MA - private marched to alarms 1776-1780. A life member, Donald died January 2012.

**New Member:**

**On the book shelves:**
Fort Adams has a rich and illustrious history as defender of Narragansett Bay. On the shores of Newport, Rhode Island, the fort was named for the nation's second president, John Adams. Humbly beginning as an earthwork in 1776, it remained an active fort until its permanent closure in 1950. Fort Adams stood guard during the American Revolutionary War, Mexican-American War, Civil War and Spanish-American War, as well as World Wars I and II. Now a state park, Fort Adams is fully restored to its former glory of days past. In Fort Adams: A History, authors John T. Duchesneau and Kathleen Troost-Cramer explore the history of the most notable commanding officers of the fort, the changing role of women within the Fort Adams community, and the legacy left behind by the families who called the fort home.