



Number 2, 2006

MEMBERSHIP

RISSAR admitted eleven new compatriots in 2005. We also reinstated three and transferred one in from out of state. While this is not quite as good as the previous year, the results continue to move the R.I. Society in the right direction. The list of 2005 additions is as follows:

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| Donald Mitchelson Brooks, Jr. Lincoln, RI | Charles Andrew Ennis Pittsford, NY | Mark Watkins Gee Riverside, RI |
| Dean Bryant Hall Schenectady, NY | William Goddard Light San Diego, CA | William Nightingale Makepeace Little Compton, RI |
| Jonathan Mason Paquette Jamestown, RI | Gary Allen Richardson Warwick, RI | Lawrence Claude Rodehamel Portsmouth, RI |
| John George Weeden Ashaway, RI | Geoffrey Allen Wilbur Monroe, LA | |

The Rhode Island Society's members are involved in a variety of different activities. We welcome those who have joined us in 2005 and encourage you to participate as often as you can. We also encourage you to suggest ways in which RISSAR can contribute to the Sons of the American Revolution's patriotic, historical and educational purposes.

ROTC/JROTC Program

For a number of years, we have participated in the NSSAR awards program that recognizes members of these units for their outstanding performance. Under the able leadership of Past VP General Eugene Clauss, silver ROTC awards were presented at the University of Rhode Island and Providence College. Bronze ROTC awards were presented at Cranston East, Coventry, Hope and Rogers High Schools. Carlen Booth, John McCue and Walter Whitley also participated in this program, which took place in May and early June.

This is a very rewarding program particularly at the college level where you meet outstanding cadets and understand where they are headed when they complete their course of study. If you would be interested in participating next year, please contact Gene Clauss.

WASHINGTON – ROCHAMBEAU REVOLUTIONARY ROUTE (W3R)

The program commemorating the 225th anniversary of the march by General Rochambeau and 5,000 French troops from Newport to Yorktown, Virginia actually began last year with a weekend series of events in Newport. This was the same period in which RISSAR entertained a number of compatriots of the French Society of SAR at a reception and dinner at the Clambake Club in Middletown.

The events in the 2006 program focused on the weekend of June 16 – 18 and featured the re-enactment of French officers landing in Providence, a symposium at Brown University, a march down College Hill to the State House and a military review and ceremony in the State House Rotunda. This was followed by another ceremony in Coventry at the Nicholas Farm Management area where flags and a replica of a Marshall's baton were handed over to Connecticut Boy Scouts to be carried across that state to New York.

RISSAR members participated in these events but more importantly, organized and supported a series of marches on the preceding six Saturdays. Each march extended approximately ten miles from Newport to Coventry. The kick-off on the 3rd of May in Newport went from the center of Newport through the Naval Station to Fort Butts in Portsmouth. The Artillery Company of Newport gave us an appropriate cannon salute send off. Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts participated in varying degrees and members of the 2nd Rhode Island Regiment, including SAR member Reinhard Battcher, III, marched the entire route. It was fascinating to see the favorable reaction of individuals as we walked through the towns in the East Bay and through the streets of Providence. The finale on a very hot and muggy day in Coventry was full of pageantry. Those of you who are weather buffs will recall that there was not a single good weather day on any of the Saturdays in May and early June but we completed the program even though some of the marches had to be cut short a bit. There are many photographs and a narrative available on the website www.rsar.org/current/w3r/marchall.htm. If you have access to a computer, you should find this very interesting. At the most recent meeting of your Board of Managers a motion was passed recognizing Daniel O'Connell as the major force behind this event for RISSAR. Congratulations Doc.

CAPTAIN THOMAS COLE PROJECT

Last December, RISSAR along with members of DAR, CAR and other patriotic organizations, celebrated the 200th anniversary of the death of Revolutionary War hero Captain Thomas Cole of Wickford. Subsequently, the John Peck Rathbun Chapter obtained a \$4,000 grant to create and erect a new monument in his honor. This grant came from the R.I. General Assembly through the efforts of Representative Larry

Ehrhart. The new stone has been selected and the engraving on both front and back have been approved. The front of the stone will be, as close to the original as possible while the obverse will reference his nine battle stars. We expect this to be completed, installed and ready for a dedication ceremony on Sunday, 3 December this year.

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM

The Board of Managers has approved a new RISSAR Publications Program to be directed by Bruce MacGunnigle. Our plan is to update our roster every third year and, in the intervening years, publish material related to Rhode Island and its Revolutionary War patriots. The first publication will be of a 1786 journal kept by John Francis, future son-in-law of Revolutionary War patriot John Brown, about a journey from Providence to Portsmouth, New Hampshire passing through many coastal towns ravaged during the War. The journal is the property of compatriot Henry A.L. Brown who will assist Bruce on the project.

NAVY DAY

RISSAR participated in two Navy Day ceremonies in East Greenwich. The first was on the official anniversary, June 12, of the Legislative act that created the first American navy and included members of the Kentish Guards and the Varnum Continentals. Robert Allen Greene, Bruce MacGunnigle, Elmer Palmer and Richard Palmer participated.

The second was on June 22 and featured a Main Street parade, a number of additional militia units and representatives of several patriotic organizations. There was a ceremony at the East Greenwich Town Hall including the reading of proclamations, which was followed by refreshments at the Varnum Armory. Participants in this event included Robert Baxter, Carlen Booth, Eugene Clauss, Bruce MacGunnigle and William Weaver. Other RISSAR members also participated as members of the various militia units.

OTHER

The Board of Managers named two of our long-term members to the position of honorary members in April. These were Maxwell Mays, admitted February 3, 1965, and Luther Blount, admitted February 16, 1960.

War Service Medals – several years ago RISSAR presented SAR war service medals to those compatriots who had served in the armed forces of the United States or their allies. We have admitted many new members in the years following. If you believe you may be eligible, please contact Carlen Booth or John W. Adams.

RISSAR lapel pins are still available for \$5. The pin is very attractive and is based on the seal of our organization.

Our website is functioning quite well. We have had a number of inquiries regarding membership as a direct result. Check out <http://www.rhodeislandsar.org>.

Revolutionary War gravesite records – we are holding two three-volume sets of R. I. gravesite records compiled by RISSAR compatriots many years ago. Anyone who can provide additional information about these records or has any suggestions as to what we should do with them, please call the President or Secretary.

Children of the American Revolution – RISSAR has been an active supporter of the Rhode Island Society of this very fine organization for a number of years. C.A.R. is the nation's oldest, largest, patriotic youth organization and offers membership to anyone under the age of 21, lineally descended from someone who served in the Continental Army or gave material aid to the cause of freedom in the American Revolution. They are always seeking new members. If you know anyone who might be interested, please ask him or her to call Mr. or Mrs. William Weaver, 401-377-0047.

CALENDAR

State Meeting (luncheon)– Clark Cooke House, Monday, September 18

John Peck Rathbun Chap.4 (dinner) – Kentish Guards Armory, Thursday, September 28

New England Council SAR – Officers Club Newport, Saturday, October 7

Board of Managers – Dancing Dog Tavern, Saturday October 14

Veterans Day – Veterans Cemetery, Exeter followed by Gen'l Stanton Inn
Charlestown, Saturday, November 11

Thank you for your support,

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