

Number 3, 2007

Greetings. I hope that you and your families had a very eventful Summer!!! This newsletter will bring you up to date on the activities of our State Society. The last issue of the Independent Man was forwarded just after our National Congress. The latest issue of the SAR magazine contains three articles from our Society.

In July, William Weaver, Senior State President of RISSCAR, and I attended the RISSCAR Packet meeting during which the group's agenda was discussed and voted on. Volunteers are needed to clean up an area of the Coventry Bike Path near the Greene Homestead.

On August 26, 2007 I participated in a wreath laying ceremony in Portsmouth, RI at the Annual Commemoration Service for the First Rhode Island Regiment.

On September 17, 2007 a most wonderful luncheon was served at the Clark Cooke House in Newport. The festivities started with a splendid Champagne and Peanut reception at the home of Compatriot CDR Walter Whitley. Sixty people signed up for the event.

On September 30, 2007 three members attended the DAR Patriotic Sunday in the Park. The event was held at the Daggett House in Slater Park, Pawtucket, RI. A very fine day.

On Saturday October 20, 2007 the New England District Council will have its meeting in Deerfield, MA. The event is being held along with the Annual Yorktown Victory Luncheon.

Patriotically,
President Daniel A. O'Connell

For those of you interested in researching cemetery records, Bruce MacGunnigle suggested using the following website:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~rigenweb/cemetery/>

Bruce MacGunnigle has formed a committee to uncover and document the existence of all SAR plaques in Rhode Island. The members of the committee are John Eastman, Dan O'Connell, Henry A. L. Brown, John W. Adams and Bruce MacGunnigle.

So far, Rhode Island Compatriots have contributed approximately \$9,000.00 to the Center for Advancing America's Heritage. If you have not already given a donation to this worthy cause, please do so. You can find out how to contribute by going to your latest issue of the SAR magazine.

A Nominating Committee has been formed to propose a slate of officers for 2008. The members are Michael Northup, Carlen Booth, John McCue, Sydney Clifford and John W. Adams. The first meeting will be November 8th at 4:00PM at the Grill on Main, East Greenwich. If you have a desire to serve, please let a member of the committee know before then.

The Board of Managers has authorized the publishing of a new member roster in the spring of 2008. If you would like to help defray the approximately \$1,000.00 printing and mailing cost, please make a check out to RISSAR and mail in the enclosed envelope along with your reservation for the Wilcox Tavern. Below is a short history of the Wilcox Tavern.

This house, built about 1730, was the birthplace of Gen. Joseph Stanton, who was a member of the Colonial Congress and later, Senator from this State to the First Constitutional Congress. He owned a "lordship in Charlestown" and kept "forty horses and as many Slaves."

Records tell us that this land was acquired from the Indians in 1655. The Manesses Indians from Block Island came to the mainland, attacked the Niantics who occupied Weekapaug, and carried away an Indian princess as hostage. They demanded such a high ransom that the Niantics, unable to gather together sufficient wampum, appealed to Thomas Stanton, celebrated Indian interpreter, who kept a "trading-house" near Westerly on the Pawcatuck River. In return for the help he gave them he was deeded a large tract of land in Charlestown which became the Stanton estate.

At the death of Gen. Joseph Stanton the estate was divided, this part passing into the hands of the Wilcox Family. Here Lieutenant-Governor Edward Wilcox made his home and apparently certain minor changes were made in the house at that time. About 1850 a member of that family established an inn or tavern here which suggests the name "Old Wilcox Tavern". When the former owner purchased the property there was a porch across the front of the house which has been removed revealing the original "drip-stones", and much has been done to restore the house and grounds to their former simplicity and beauty.

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