

# The Patriot



Latest News from the [Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York](#)

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**Left:** The most notorious horse's tail of the Revolutionary War, on loan courtesy of the New-York Historical Society, appears in the new exhibit *Revolution and the City*. **Right:** It's back! The Flag Gallery has reopened at Fraunces Tavern Museum.

Photos by Dominic Quintana

## New York Held Prisoner!

### New exhibit *Revolution and the City* opens at Fraunces Tavern Museum

It seems hard to believe today but from 1776 to 1783 – for virtually all of the Revolutionary War – New York City was held captive by the King of England. For some New Yorkers this was just fine, but for others who opposed the King it meant either abandoning their beloved City or staying behind and finding ways to continue the fight. With "Loyalists" on one side and rebellious "Patriots" on the other-and the British Army and Navy in between-it made for perilous times. The story of this forgotten New York is revealed in the exhibit, "Revolution

and the City" which opened at Fraunces Tavern Museum on July 10, 2010 and runs until January 2011.

New York City was turned into a sort of military barracks during the American Revolution. Some Patriots who opposed the King's laws were jailed, while known Loyalists' homes were sabotaged. All churches except Anglican, Methodist and Moravian were used as prisons, barracks, hospitals, theaters or stables. New York Harbor was filled with overcrowded prison ships leading to the deaths of some 18,000 people.

Fraunces Tavern itself was at the heart of many incidents during the occupation. The Sons of Liberty plotted the New York Tea Party under its roof as well as other escapades. Its proprietor, Samuel Fraunces, passed overheard military intelligence on to General Washington. When the British finally evacuated the City there was much rejoicing in the Streets as General Washington victoriously rode back into town. Governor Clinton held a great banquet at Fraunces Tavern to celebrate. Days later Washington bade his famous emotional farewell to his officers there as well.

The most notorious horse's tail in the history of the War will be on exhibit, courtesy of the New-York Historical Society. For years on Bowling Green had been a statue depicting King George proudly astride his steed. After a public reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 9, 1776, Patriots celebrated by pulling the statue down. From there much of it appears to have been dragged to Connecticut where it was melted into musket balls for firing at the British. The tail, however, survived-supposedly rescued by a Loyalist and hidden away.

Also on exhibit will be a cannonball similar to the 18-pounder that crashed through Fraunces Tavern's roof on August 24, 1775. (The one on display is actually a relic of the Battle of Washington Heights in 1776.) There will be numerous other artifacts and artwork bringing this compelling time of history into focus including a rare "anastatic facsimile" of the Declaration of Independence dating to the 1840s-one of only two known copies.

On July 17, the Museum reopened its Flag Gallery featuring new displays presenting the evolution of the American Flag from 1775 to today, samples of American regimental flags from the Revolutionary War, and a special section devoted to maritime flags. On a side-note, the Flag Gallery is once again available for space rentals for private events.

## **2010 Flag Day Marks Two Special Occasions**



Top Row Left: NYC students participate in Flag Day celebrations in front of Fraunces Tavern on June 14, 2010. Right: The annual parade marches past historic St. Paul's Church.

**Bottom Row Left:** L-R: (descendants of Ebenezer Stevens) Mary McCarl, Byam Stevens and his grandson, Joseph Sampson Stevens. SRNY Color Guard Chairman Jonathan Ridgeway holds the American Flag. Bottom Row Right: (L-R) M. Hall Worthington, past SR General Society President; Judge Edward F. Butler, Sr. National President, SAR; Dr. Laurence Simpson; General Society President Terry Davenport; General Secretary Curtis P. Cheyney, III  
Photos by Anthony Wellman

### **Returning 100 Years Later...**

One hundred years after John Austin Stevens was laid to rest at Green-Wood Cemetery the organization he founded—the Sons of the Revolution—returned to pay its respects with a new commemorative headstone.

After the Flag Day Parade and ceremonies at Fraunces Tavern this past June 14, a contingent of Sons ventured by chartered bus to dedicate the the new Stevens headstone with words of thanks and ceremonies by the SRNY Color Guard and field music from the Veteran Corps of Artillery.

## **August Lecture!**

*The Early American Table: Food and Society in the New World* †

**Presented by Trudy Eden**

**Thursday August 12th at 6:30pm at Fraunces Tavern Museum**

In the 17th & 18th century, it was the European understanding that food affected the body, mind, & spirit in unique ways that other social markers such as speech & manners did not.

After the first few decades of settlement, many of the English colonists of North America enjoyed unprecedented prosperity enabled by a fertile environment. Lower & middle-class families could set their tables with a greater variety & higher quality of food than their social counterparts in England. As a result, the differences between the diets of artisans & urban laborers, of plantation owners & small farmers, were not as great as what had existed on the dinner tables in England, thus creating strong social and political consequences.

\$8 admission at the door only-first come, first serve. (Museum members are admitted free of charge). Light refreshments will be available before and after the lecture.

**†Books will be available for purchase -discounts apply for Museum members**

## **Mount Vernon Hotel and Museum to Recreate Federal-Era Gardens**

**An invitation from SRNY President Dr. Charles C. Lucas, Jr.**

As you are aware, there is a very special historic site in New York City that is of great historical importance to all the citizens of New York City, and indeed the United States. Located at 412 East 61st Street, the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden represents a unique period of history. The building was constructed in 1799 as a carriage house and was converted to a hotel in 1826; and formerly was known as the Abigail Adams Smith Museum.

As you know the garden is a very vital part of the complex and I am sure you have observed its beauty and remarkable design as you have attended receptions or toured there. Now the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden leaders have embarked on a major program to make the garden even more attractive. Plans have been made to replant the grounds with 19th century flowers and medicinal and kitchen plants. Having a 19th century garden to compliment the restored period hotel will offer visitors a unique opportunity to see what a New York City hotel and garden was like in the early 1800's.

In order to develop public awareness, and support for the redesigned garden, the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden will host a major fall garden party on October 4, 2010 from 6-9 PM. Attending this signal event will be major leaders and experts from the gardening world as well as significant social, lineage, and business leaders.

I would like to encourage your attendance and support at this important event.

Tickets to attend will be available at \$75 and up. For more detailed information regarding the garden party the contact is:

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