



# The Patriot

*Latest News from the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York & Fraunces Tavern® Museum*

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## Becoming an American

By: Jessica Baldwin

Throughout the Independence Day holiday while many Americans were celebrating with BBQ and beach holidays, over 24,000 immigrants were slated to become US citizens at approximately 350 ceremonies held across the country. On Friday July 1st, thirty-five of those 24,000 were naturalized at Fraunces Tavern® Museum in the Davis Center/Flag Gallery.



In an emotional and patriotic ceremony lead by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Field Office Director, Joseph A. Cardinale, all thirty five new citizens waved American flags as USCIS Director, Andrea Quarantillo lead them and their families in the Oath of Allegiance. The ceremonies key note speaker

was Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York's own President, Don Westervelt, Esq., who spoke to an audience of smiles and eager faces. He told the story of America and regarded all those who have given their lives to this great country. In a sign of appreciation to all the new citizens, Museum Curator, Jessica Baldwin offered all thirty five attendees a one year Family Memberships to the Museum.

A naturalization ceremony held at Fraunces Tavern® Museum just seemed to make sense. It was at this site in the 1770s that many British subjects developed their patriotism, organizing and plotting a revolution. It was here that America's first leader, George Washington said his heartfelt farewell to his officers in 1783, parting for his farm in Mount Vernon. Hugs, handshakes and tears were once again seen at Fraunces Tavern as America welcome thirty five new citizens in 2011.

## **9th Annual July 4th Walking Tour Review**

By: Jennifer Patton

This year on July 4<sup>th</sup>, tradition continued as James Kaplan gave his annual nighttime walking tour of Revolutionary War New York from 2am to 6am. For the ninth year in a row, Mr. Kaplan led a large audience of history buffs through the famous avenues and narrow streets of Lower Manhattan, visiting significant sites of the city's Colonial & Revolutionary past along the way. As participant Jay Hochberg wrote on the American Creation blog:

Why at two o'clock in the morning? That is self-evident upon finding the quietude afforded only in the middle of the night. This tour would not be possible at 2 p.m., even on a major holiday. The traffic would kill at least one of us, and the noise of New York would render Mr. Kaplan and his bullhorn inaudible. This is not to say the place is a ghost town; there is plenty of activity at that hour. New York is "The City That Never Sleeps," as Citibank used to say. There are probing passersby and curious cops and cabbies, all pausing at the sight of us, asking what's going on. "A walking tour," I offered at least four times.

Finding themselves in front of Fraunces Tavern at 6am, the weary walkers were pleased to see the Tavern's restaurant open their doors to offer a hearty breakfast after getting a generous helping of history through the night. In the words of Mr. Hochberg "Obviously it's not for everyone, but those who dare will enjoy and gain from it."

*For a detailed review of the Mr. Kaplan's Tour, please visit <http://americancreation.blogspot.com/>*

## **Comment Binder Quote of the Month**

By: Jessica Baldwin

Fraunces Tavern Museum has maintained a comment book since 2005. This book, which is located in the Mesick Gallery, provides an open forum for visitors to offer open-ended feedback on the institution's content and services. It is currently the most participatory part of the visitor's experience.

The Museum receives anywhere between 500 to 1200 comments annually. Comments range from children's

drawings of George Washington to paragraphs written in foreign languages. This type of interaction promotes an increase in personnel involvement in the Museum. People love to leave their mark, especially with a quill pen!

Over eighty comments were written in the month July. Here are two you might enjoy:

**7/21/2011 "Great video, flags, paintings and information. I especially liked objects displayed in cases. What a pleasant surprise this museum is. Thank you!"**

**7/22/2011 "Thank you for collecting this history. We learned a lot. - The Numins from Seattle, WA"**

## **What Where Taverns Like in the 1700s? Take a Look, it's in a Book...**

By: Jessica Baldwin

Kym S. Rice's book, *Early American Taverns: For the Entertainment of Friends and Strangers* is a genuine work of scholarship. Rice offers an entertaining overview of the tavern's beginnings in America in the 17th century, including the social, political and economic niche tavern's held in the early days of the countries founding. When reading this book you will meet typical tavern keepers, including women and their guests. You will learn about the forms of entertainment offered at taverns and partake in their amusements. This delightful book closes with an intimate picture of the Museum's very own, Samuel Fraunces, the astute innkeeper who gave his name to Fraunces Tavern in New York City.

This book is on sale on the Museum's website. Click [HERE](#) to check it out!

## **Please Help Fraunces Tavern® Museum**

By: Anthony Wellman

## **YOU Can Help –**

**– Where History Was Made**

**– Where History Is Remembered**

### **Fraunces Tavern®**



Thousands of people come to Fraunces Tavern Museum every year to see and touch history. But it's expensive to preserve history—especially in Manhattan, today.

Fraunces Tavern, a National Landmark, is but one of five historic buildings that The Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York owns and must preserve. It's a tall order for a small organization. Over the past two-and-a-half years hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent to repair and restore many parts of the Tavern and its four connected buildings from the roof to the cellar. The work still goes on. It must go on.

Today we reach out to you to help. Please join us by sending whatever you can. Your donation is fully tax deductible under current IRS rules.

### ***Ask For Our Information Packet***

Call, email or write today and request a free informational packet.

Contact: Fraunces Tavern® Capital Campaign, 54 Pearl Street, New York NY 10004-2429

Phone 212-425-1776.

Email: [2Administrator@sonsoftherevolution.org](mailto:2Administrator@sonsoftherevolution.org).

YOU can help preserve “Where Children Walk in the Footsteps of Patriots.”

## **Evening Lecture Series**

By: Jennifer Patton

Thursday, August 11<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm\*

### **Ben Franklin & Friends: Scientists of the Enlightenment**

*Presented by Stephen Freedman*

The fact that Ben Franklin was contemplating the properties of electricity in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century shows his genius; that he postulated ideas which are still in use today is something of a miracle. Examining such "miracles" & genius of a group of scientists (then called natural philosophers), we see how they journeyed into the darkness & contributed to the age of Enlightenment. Using table-top demonstrations of their experiments along with personal narratives, we can share some of the excitement of discovery in this time when modern science was being born. Scientists discussed will include Newton, Boyle, Volta, Faraday, & Lavoisier.

\*Please Note – Due to high attendance at our lectures as of late, the Museum now has a limited number of reservations available for members only. Contact [curator@frauncestavernmuseum.org](mailto:curator@frauncestavernmuseum.org) for more information

### **Fall Lectures Sneak Peek. Mark your calendars – you don't want to miss these events!**

#### **Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**

*The Dubious Achievements of the 1st and 2nd Continental Congress*, Presented by James Thompson

#### **Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**

*John Barry: An American Hero in the Age of Sail*, Presented by Tim McGrath

#### **Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**

*Independence: The Struggle To Set America Free*, Presented by John Ferling

#### **Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

*The Whites of Their Eyes: Bunker Hill, the 1<sup>st</sup> American Army, and the Emergence of George Washington*  
Presented by Paul  
Lockhart

## **Battle of Brooklyn 235th Commemoration Ceremonies**

By: Anthony Wellman

This event is not associated with Fraunces Tavern® Museum or the Sons of the Revolution but we are sure many of our readers will be interested in the Commemoration Ceremonies for the 235 Anniversary of the Battle of Brooklyn. It was the first major battle of the American Revolution after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Event details provided by historic [Green-Wood Cemetery](#).

### **FREE EVENTS:**

Sunday, August 28, 2010 at 12:00 PM

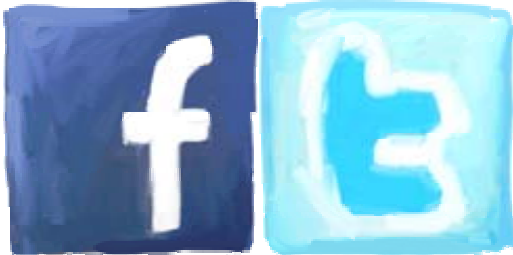
Location: The Green-Wood Cemetery

12:00 PM - Revolutionary War Re-Enactors will relive a portion of the Battle of Brooklyn in Green-Wood's Meadow and the surrounding area near Green-Wood's main entrance. (Editor's Note: Elsewhere on the Green-Wood website this is noted as at 12:30.)

1:30 PM - The Green-Wood Historic Fund and United States Merchant Marine Academy sponsor the Annual Battle of Brooklyn Parade. Meet at the main gate for a parade to Battle Hill led by George M. Cohan's own, The Regimental Band of the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

2:00 PM - Battle of Brooklyn Commemorative Ceremony honoring the Patriots who fought the first battle of our new nation on this sacred ground 234 years ago.

This is a FREE event. Reservations are not necessary.



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54 Pearl Street

New York, NY 10004

t. 212-425-1776

email. [2administrator@sonsoftherevolution.org](mailto:2administrator@sonsoftherevolution.org)

Editor/Contributor/Distributor/Layout and HTML: Jessica Baldwin, Curator at Fraunces Tavern Museum

Contributors: Jennifer Patton, Education Director at Fraunces Tavern Museum

Anthony Wellman, Director of Public Relations for SRNY/FTM

[The Patriot Archives](#)

