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The Patriot

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**Sons of the
Revolution in the
State of New York**

Location

54 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10004

SRNY Contact

212-425-1776

SRNY Membership

FLBaker3@yahoo.com

President's Report

As the final three months of my term come to an end I have been reflecting on my time as President of the Sons (2011-2014). Looking back is always a bittersweet activity.

Of course there have been some challenges during the past three years. Superstorm Sandy was the event of my terms. The damage to Fraunces Tavern® and the other four buildings was tremendous and expensive. We are still disputing the denial of coverage with our insurance carrier, and our 1st Vice President Ambrose Richardson and Board member Alan Borst have expended a large amount of time toward that effort. With the strong leadership of Real Estate Committee Chair, Chris Norfleet, the Society is still addressing the damage as we will be required by NYC to rewire portions of the buildings due to salt-water exposure.

As good stewards of our historic properties we have commenced repairs on the façades of both our Water Street properties and 58 Pearl Street. This crucial restoration has put serious pressure on our financial resources, and we have reached out to our Board and our membership for support. Many of you have been very generous in contributing to these projects, and for that you have my sincerest thanks.

The Sons have successfully continued its many events. Of special note, our Washington Birthday Ball has proven to be a productive fundraising effort all three times during my terms by making decisions that kept costs contained without sacrificing the elegance of the event. We honored Fang Wong- National Commander of the American Legion (2012), Lt. General Frank Gorenc- USAF (who is now a four star general in charge of our air command in Europe) (2013), and the NSDAR regents for the five DAR chapters in Manhattan (2014).

Our Evacuation Day Dinner will be held this November----and I anticipate it to be a sellout again as it has been for the past three years. This event is our most popular dinner of the year. Please do not delay responding when you receive your invitation as seating is limited.

Due to the leadership of 1st Vice President Ambrose Richardson, the Sons has expanded its involvement with the Downtown Alliance as to events for the Fourth of July. This has included event planning with the DAR at Trinity Church gravesites of famous patriots.

The New York Society has supported the efforts of the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution to place a statue of General Nathaniel Greene at Valley Forge.

Our Board and Committees have also been busy. After Sandy we realized that we needed to increase our preparedness for such disasters. The Board approved the creation of a Special Committee on Emergency Preparedness. Past President Robert N. McKay has chaired

Fraunces Tavern®

Museum Hours

12:00 - 5:00

Monday - Sunday

Museum Contact

212-425-1778

that committee.

The leadership of the Color Guard changed after ten years of service by Chairman Emeritus, Jonathan Ridgeway to David Woods. We greatly appreciate all the hard work by Jonathan, and we have great confidence in David's ability and willingness to keep that effort moving ever forward.

Membership has remained constant. Through the efforts by SRNY Office Coordinator, Julie Hagopian we have cleared from our rolls the names of deceased members whose deaths had not been reported to us earlier. But we need more new members, and I ask all of you to be ambassadors for the membership committee. Please encourage anyone qualified for membership to join the Sons.

The Young Members Committee has been infused with new leadership under Matthew Norgard and Thomas Rodgers, and they are enjoying the camaraderie and planning future events.

We have trademarked the name Samuel Fraunces® and licensed its use for a beer that is sold at Fraunces Tavern® Restaurant.

The annual retreat Board of Managers retreat has been well attended and has been extremely useful in engaging the Board members in the many issues facing the Sons as it goes forward into the 21st Century. Our Board meetings have been well attended and Board members have made significant contributions to its deliberations.

Our Museum has had several stellar exhibitions that were produced by our Executive Director and Curator Jessica B. Phillips. The most recent exhibitions of our own collection of maps had a most successful opening attended by 100 plus people, and this exhibit has been highly praised. The exhibit gained enough attention that Jessica was able to find \$2,000 in funding for the conservation of three of the Revolutionary War battle maps.

Our tenant, Broadwater and Pearl LLC (who operate Fraunces Tavern® Restaurant) has been quite successful these past three years, and their success has translated to an increase in income for the Sons. This does however require us for tax reasons to increase our efforts for membership and public support so as to maintain our status as a public charity.

As for staffing- during the past three years we lost long time employees Margaret O'Shaughnessy and Cecelia Mahnken, but wish them the best of luck. While Margaret and Cecelia have been missed, the Sons have transitioned with new employees and expanded opportunities: Julie Hagopian, Office & Membership Coordinator, Xichee Moua, Development & Marketing Office and Brian J. Horne, Assistant Facilities and Historic Preservation Manager. We have outsourced our bookkeeping, which has saved us both money and time.

Under Jessica's leadership, the staff, including interns and docents, has

proven to be very dedicated in working hard to fulfill the mission of the Society. It has been a rewarding experience to guide and work with such an energetic group.

The Executive Committee and the Executive Director has in the past three years completely re-evaluated all our suppliers and vendors to eliminate duplication, update our agreements, and ensure that we are getting the best value for our money. I expect this will be an ongoing effort.

As I look back on the past three years I am especially blessed in that I was allowed to work with such intelligent and able men, both in the Executive Committee and Board of Managers and Committee level. It has been a pleasure to work with Ambrose Richardson as my 1st Vice President. He has a wonderful sense of humor and emotional balance, incredible intelligence and ability, and has offered insightful advice on all the challenges we have faced. Dan Harman has a great ability to see the big picture especially as to our finances, and his advice has also been extremely helpful on many occasions. Michael Coneys has continued to lead and support our Nathan Hale Day commemoration ceremony at City Hall, and Ray Manning took the lead on our efforts to license a beer with the Samuel Fraunces® trademark. We have worked together with constructive disagreement at times, but always as a supportive team. For that I am extremely thankful.

And lastly, I have reflected on just how supportive my wife Susan has been these past three years. Without her cooperation I would not have been able to spend the amount of time that I did at the various meetings and nights on the phone.

James R. Grayshaw, President

Facade Restoration Project & Campaign

Among massive skyscrapers at the southern tip of Manhattan, 54 Pearl Street has stood since 1719. Fraunces Tavern, a New York City Landmarked building and part of the National Registered Fraunces Tavern® Historic Block, was purchased and restored by the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, Inc. (SRNY), reopening it to the public as a restaurant and museum in 1907.

In order to fulfill the SRNY's mission of public education about the struggles and heroes of the Revolutionary War, they acquired four other buildings on the Historic Block allowing an expansion of the Museum. Today, Fraunces Tavern is a five building complex that houses the Museum, over 5,000 historic artifacts, museum offices, a Revolutionary War replica flag collection, and more.

Maintaining five historic buildings built between 1719 and 1897 is a

privilege and challenge. One of Fraunces Tavern's most pressing issues is the deteriorating state of three of the five façades. Necessary restorations include:

- 24 Water Street: The 1862 cast iron and aluminum façade exhibits peeling paint, deteriorated original cast iron architectural decoration, and brick damage behind the metal.
- 26 Water Street: The 1828 brick façade needs repairs to the stone cornices, window sills, bluestone lintels, and wooden window panes.
- 58 Pearl Street: The 1831 brick façade requires replacement of bluestone lintels, removing, replacing, and repointing the brick around window areas and the sealing of the window perimeters.

Restoration started in mid-June and will cost a total of \$325,000. The SRNY has already raised **\$32,530!**

How can you help make the Façade Restoration project a success?

- Donate! **Every dollar you give will be matched by the SRNY.** Your gift will go directly to the hard costs. Donations of \$1,000 or more will be recognized with a hard hat tour.
- Tell somebody. Know someone who likes historic preservation? History? Or just loves New York City? Share the news and let them know what's going on in Lower Manhattan!
- Visit Fraunces Tavern! Visit the Museum to see original timber and bricks of the building. Stop by the Restaurant for a meal or a cold brew. There's always something going on at Fraunces Tavern!

We hope you will donate to the **Façade Restoration Project** and take advantage of the SRNY's 100% matching gift promise. Make a revolutionary difference by supporting the façade restorations today!

A Message from the First Vice President

Before I joined the Sons, our leaders decided to offer discount life memberships on the theory that those benefiting from the discount would provide even more support for the Sons in the future. So instead of receiving more than \$60,000 per year in dues and investment return on life memberships, we receive less than \$10,000 per year in dues and investment return. This is the Sons' own version of Voodoo Economics.

This year in my response to my appeal, approximately 100 members

gave a total of about \$10,000, to help support our activities and pay our General Society dues. So voluntary contributions did exceed dues payments, just not at the level anticipated by my predecessors. Thanks again to the stalwart 100, who appreciate that we are more than names of a list. We are maintaining an historic site. We are keeping history alive.

I have one further request, as important, if not more important, than money. I joined the Sons in 2008. Of the 100 who contributed this year, I have personally met only about 20. One of my greatest pleasures – and I am not alone in this – is meeting and getting to know our members. Our ancestors were important, but we are, too.

So please come to one of our events during the year, visit Fraunces Tavern® and the Museum if you come to New York, and let us know you are coming. If you can't come to New York -- write us a note, about family history, the Sons, or yourself -- or just send us a postcard to remind us that we have members throughout the country, and indeed throughout the world.

Ambrose Richardson III, First Vice President

Color Guard Happenings

The SRNY Color Guard has been very busy this season! They participated in six events since April, expanding the mission of the SRNY through community service. The Color Guard participated in the Annual Commemoration of the Inauguration of George Washington at Federal Hall on April 30th. Dan Dudley, Fred Baker, Brian Gill, Ambrose Richardson and David Woods, Chairman, were in attendance. They were at the Presentation of Colors, Decoration of Graves and Memorial Service for 18 Patriots and Soldiers of the American Revolution buried at Shearith Israel Cemetery on May 18. They had a strong showing of members of the Color Guard and VCA, and was considered by far the best event in the past five years! The SRNY Color Guard also participated in a wreath-laying on Memorial Day at The Soldiers and Sailors. Carl McCarty and David Woods presented the wreath on behalf of SRNY and the Color Guard.

In honor of our patriots, the Color Guard marched in the Douglastan/Little Neck Memorial Day Parade on Memorial Day. Only five could attend this important event, including David Woods, Steve Trusnovec, Nicholas Trusnovec, Jim Grayshaw, and Alan Boorst! Lastly, the Color Guard proudly flew the Stars and Stripes in the SRNY Flag Day Parade on June 16, 2014.

Flag Day 2014: An Introspective from the New Color Guard Chairman

When I first joined The Sons of the Revolution in the state of New York, I was seeking ways as an adult I could keep alive the ideals of our Founding Fathers in our modern society. My family has always been proud patriots and American citizens, but I wanted to make a personal impact somehow. Once I joined, I realized being in The Color Guard was a concrete thing I could do to be the face of our great society in its endeavors to engage in our mission. I soon found myself becoming the Chairman of the Color Guard and am learning to further the mission of The Sons in my new capacity.

Flag Day is such an important day for SRNY because it is one of the most public and demonstrative events where we strongly engage in our mission. When I heard the children read their essays of what the National Colors meant to them, I couldn't help but think what they mean to me.

Old Glory represents so many things to so many people! At its essence, the flag is a statement of inclusion to all people who would stand and fight for her against anyone or anything that attempts to squelch that spirit of equality and inclusion fulfilled in her and begun with the enlightened ideals of the Magna Carta then cemented in the US Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. The flag embodies the struggles of all of us who come to terms with what she means by her very existence.

The flag means simply this to me; no more slavery or inequality, no more injustice, and no more darkness of mind! If we are to fulfill our destiny and our purpose as a country, we must begin with this premise of which Old Glory is the standard!

David N.S. Tisdale Woods, Color Guard Chairman

Family Night 2014

April 25, 2014—Family Night is celebrated annually at Fraunces Tavern® in late April to commemorate the battles of Lexington and Concord and award the Fraunces Tavern® Museum Book Award. The 2014 Fraunces Tavern Book Award was presented to Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy for "The Men Who Lost America: British Leadership, the American Revolution and the Fate of Empire" (Yale U. Press), brief biographies of 10 British leaders (King George III, Lords North, Germain and Sandwich and various generals and admirals responsible for the British conduct of the Revolutionary War. The book received the American History Book Prize from the New-York Historical Society. Dr. O'Shaughnessy, Saunders Director of the Robert H. Smith Center for Jefferson Studies in Monticello, explained the problems of Parliamentary government, the conflicting views among those portrayed, divided

commands between the British army and navy and dearth of active loyalist support which helped explain why the greatest navy in the world and one of the largest armies failed to prevail.

Dr. Richard R. Beeman, John Welsh Centennial Professor in History at the University of Pennsylvania, received an Honorable Mention for "Our Lives, Our Fortunes and our Sacred Honor", exploring the development the Continental Congress through approval of the Declaration of Independence.

Another honorable mention was awarded to author Nathaniel Philbrick (not present) for "Bunker Hill -- a city, a siege, a revolution", which is also receiving awards from the Society of Colonial Wars and the New England Society.

Ken Chase, Chairman of the
Book Award Committee

Servant of Justice Award Goes to Board Member

The SRNY's very own E. David Robertson will be received the Servant of Justice Award on May 8, 2014, 6:00PM, at St. Paul's Chapel on Broadway at Fulton. The Rt. Rev. Richard Grein, 14th Bishop of New York, established Law Day as an annual commemoration to recognize the legal profession for its contributions to our republic and as a ministry in service to God and all humankind, and each year to honor one person as the Servant of Justice for professional excellence as well as significant leadership within the Episcopal Church. All members of the bar and bench and church are invited to the presentation at the annual service of choral evensong in St. Paul's Chapel of Trinity Church, Wall Street, and the reception at the New York County Lawyers' Association. Past honorees include federal judges, former mayors, lawyers rendering essential public service to communities in desperate need of legal representation, and prominent attorneys volunteering significant amounts of time to the Episcopal Church and other charitable organizations. St. Paul's Chapel was designed by Cass Gilbert in the 1920s. Gilbert also designed the Customs House (at Bowling Green), the Woolworth Building on Broadway, and the United States Supreme Court building in Washington.

Book Sale

An American Experience: Adeline Moses Loeb and Her Early American Jewish Ancestors, contributors including John L. Loeb, Jr., Kathy L. Plotkin, Margaret Loeb Kempner and Judith E. Endelman.

This captivating book explores in three parts the multiple generations of the American Loeb family. From the 18th century until today, it follows their trials and successes as early Jewish settlers in the new

world.

This book is on sale for \$15 - all proceeds go directly to the Museum. Pick one up the next time you visit the Museum or click [HERE](#) to buy online.

Autumn/Winter Events

Thursday, August 21, 2014: Evening Lecture Give Me A Fast Ship: The Continental Navy & the Revolution at Sea, 6:30PM, Fraunces Tavern Museum

Thursday, September 18, 2014: Evening Lecture Band of Giants: The Amateur Soldiers Who Won America's Independence, 6:30PM, Fraunces Tavern Museum

Monday, September 22, 2014: Special Event: Nathan Hale Day Commemoration, 12:00PM, City Hall Park.

Monday, September 22, 2014: Color Guard Event: Wreath Laying Ceremony to commemorate the anniversary of the glorious execution of Nathan Hale, 12:00PM, City Hall Park.

Saturday, September 27, 2014: Special Event: Smithsonian's Museum Day Live! 2014, Fraunces Tavern Museum

Saturday, October 11, 2014: Color Guard Event: Wreath Laying at Trinity Church, Grave of Lt. Col. Alexander Hamilton to Commemorate Surrender at Yorktown, Walking Tour at 12:30PM, Wreath Laying at 2:30PM, Trinity Church.

Thursday, October 16, 2014: Evening Lecture Order, Disorder, and Rebellion in the Taverns of Pre-revolutionary New York City, 6:30PM, Fraunces Tavern Museum

Thursday, November 6, 2014: Evening Lecture, George Washington: The Master Tactician You Need to Meet, 6:30PM, Fraunces Tavern Museum

Sunday, November 9, 2014: Color Guard Event: Amassing of the Colors, 4PM, St. Thomas Church, Fifth Ave at 53rd Street.

Monday, November 24, 2014: Evacuation Day Dinner, 6:30PM, Fraunces Tavern Museum

Thursday, December 4, 2014: Annual Meeting, 5:30PM, Fraunces Tavern Museum

Thursday, December 4, 2014: Color Guard Event: Annual Meeting, 5:30PM, Fraunces Tavern Museum

Thursday, December 11, 2014: Evening Lecture Politics, Passion, and Action: Dr. Joseph Warren and the Birth of American Liberty, 6:30PM, Fraunces Tavern Museum

Saturday, December 13, 2014: Color Guard Event: "Wreaths Across America", 11:30AM, [Fishkill Supply Depot](#).

Monday, January 26, 2015: Tallmadge Day Stated Meeting, 6:30PM, Fraunces Tavern Museum

Friday, February 16, 2015: George Washington's Birthday Banquet, 7:00PM, [Union League Club](#).

Deceased Members

We bid a sad farewell to [Horace Havemeyer III](#) and [Edward A. Gillespie](#).

Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York | 54 Pearl Street, NY, NY 10004 | O:212-425-1776

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