



The Patriot

Winter 2014

Latest News from [Fraunces Tavern® Museum](#) & [Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York](#)



Welcome New Members!

William Campbell	Carl Benedict McCarthy
Julian Gammon III	Charles M. Hug
Bradley M. Ridgeway	Brett David Ridgeway

Presidents Message for 2014



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

SRNY Contact
212-425-1776

**SRNY
Membership**
[Fred Baker](#)

**Fraunces
Tavern® Museum**
Hours
12:00 - 5:00



Monday - Sunday

Museum Contact
212-425-1778



On December 4, 2013 I was elected for a third, one-year term as President of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York. This is a great honor, and I thank you for your vote of confidence.

I would like to give you a brief update of the state of our Society.

As you well know the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York is a not-for-profit organization founded

“...to perpetuate the memory of the men who, in military, naval or civil service, by their acts or counsel, achieved American Independence; to promote and assist in the proper celebration of the anniversaries of Washington's Birthday, the Battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill, the Fourth of July, the Capitulations of Saratoga and Yorktown, the Evacuation of New York by the British Army, and other prominent events relating to or connected with the War of the Revolution; to collect and secure for preservation the manuscript rolls, records and other documents relating to that War; to inspire among the members and their descendants the patriotic spirit of their forefathers; to inculcate in the community in general, sentiments of Nationality and respect for the principles for which the patriots of the Revolution contended; to assist in the commemorative celebration of other great historical events of National importance, and to promote social intercourse and the feeling of fellowship among its members.”

This is our mission and *raison d'être*, and is a guide for all of our activities.

It has been a challenge to fulfill our mission given the physical damage to our property by Hurricane Sandy. Our basement and first

floor at the Fraunces Tavern complex of buildings were flooded with salt water. The boiler, electrical system, gas lines, and elevator were adversely affected. The phones were out for two months. The restaurant lost food, alcohol, equipment, décor, and months of business. The physical damages came to roughly \$250,000, not including future electrical repairs mandated by New York City. The business interruption damages, which included lost revenues from the restaurant and the Museum, came to roughly \$160,000. Our insurer, Travelers, has taken a no-pay position.

We appealed for assistance, which came from various members and organizations, especially the Downtown Alliance, Stanley DeForest Scott, Phil Bixby, Stephen Whelan, Ken Chase, and the New York City and Mary Washington DAR chapters. Help also came from FEMA. As a result of generous support, greater Museum revenues, greater restaurant revenues and favorable market conditions, we have made progress. But we are still faced with large expenses in 2014 and we are in need of further contributions.

24 Water Street has a cast iron and sheet metal façade, typical of the SOHO area, but relatively unique on Water Street. Cast iron and sheet metal facilitates ornamental designs, but is prone to corrosion and cracking. Pieces of the façade fall off from time to time, and various birds and animals roost in the cracks. Our Real Estate Committee, headed by Chris Norfleet has supervised engineering studies and the preparation of a restoration plan, and solicited bids for the restoration, which will probably require expenditures of at least \$275,000.

The Society received notice from New York City that all electrical wiring submerged in salt water should be replaced. The good news is that this is an opportunity to rationalize a patchwork of wiring from the separate acquisition of five separate buildings. The bad news is that there will be a significant cost to the effort.

But we are continuing to fulfill our mission as an organization.

“...to collect and secure for preservation the manuscript rolls, records and other documents relating to that War...”

After an interruption of a few months, the Museum continued with school tours, and its association with the Summer Intensive Language Program, which teaches English through the exploration of life in Colonial America and during the American Revolution. The Museum had two new exhibits, a crowd sourced exhibit of pieces not usually on display, and an exhibit of photographs of the historic house of William Floyd, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The Museum also completed its restoration of the Dunsmore collection of historically accurate paintings of the Revolution, and is preparing a catalogue thanks in large part to the generosity of Dr. Michael Wolf, a museum docent and member of the Museum Committee. The Museum also completed the cataloging of the voluminous papers of General Henry Burbeck (including a letter from Paul Revere), who served the country from the Revolution through the War of 1812. The Museum also continued its series of monthly lectures, which included presentations on the reporting of the Revolution, American Loyalists, Lucy Knox and Peggy Shippen, the Boston Tea Party, the British Army and its soldiers, the battles of Newport and

Brandywine, the Barbary Pirates, and Dr. Benjamin Church, a member of the Committee of Public Safety in Boston, and a British spy. The Museum also sponsored downtown tours, conducted by James Kaplan, Esq., and Fred Cookinham. Despite losing out on two months due to Sandy, Museum attendance is up, due in part to increased restaurant traffic. We look forward to the next exhibit that will display our collection of maps.

“...to promote and assist in the proper celebration of the anniversaries of Washington's Birthday, the Battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill, the Fourth of July, the Capitulations of Saratoga and Yorktown, the Evacuation of New York by the British Army, and other prominent events relating to or connected with the War of the Revolution...”

The Society participated in the following customary events:

- Flag Day (Bunker Hill);
- Nathan Hale Day (Constitution Day);
- Memorial Day at the Shearith Israel Cemetery;
- Little Neck/Douglaston Memorial Day Parade; and
- Massing of the colors of patriotic and genealogical societies at St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue.

The Society also participated in three new events:

- Memorial Day ceremony at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Riverside Drive (Admiral Lunney was the principal speaker, and was gratified by our appearance);
- July 4th Ceremony at the Trinity Church graveyard (following Jim Kaplan's overnight tour); and
- Celebration of the victories and Saratoga and Yorktown (the surrenders for which occurred on October 17, 1777 and October 19, 1781, respectively).

The New York City and Peter Minuit DAR Chapters participated with us on the July 4th ceremony, and Peter Minuit and the SAR participated in the Saratoga/Yorktown ceremony.

Numerous patriotic and lineage societies participated at Flag Day, and also at the 93rd annual massing of the colors at St. Thomas Church.

The Knox Trophy, the oldest military award of the United States Military Academy at West Point, named after Gen. Henry Knox, was established on October 8, 1910 and is given annually by the Sons to the United States Military Academy cadet with the highest rating for military efficiency. In 2013, Jonathan Ridgeway presented the award to the class valedictorian. The Gustavus Connyngham Award was created in 1999 and is given each year by the Sons to a midshipman at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. In 2013,

Terence Smart presented the award.

“...and to promote social intercourse and the feeling of fellowship among its members.”

The Society celebrated George Washington's birthday at the Yale Club on February 14, 2013, and honored Lt. Gen. Frank Gorenc, as distinguished patriot. He was promoted to a four star general shortly thereafter. The ball was a social and financial success. In the coming year, we are honoring the five DAR chapters located in Manhattan, two of which were substantial financial benefactors after Sandy.

The Society also celebrated Talmadge Night on January 18, 2013, with a presentation by Arthur Lefkowitz, and Family Night on April 22, 2013, with presentations by Douglas Cubbison and Theodore Corbett, who both wrote books about Saratoga, to which the Society gave honorable mentions. They came to surprisingly different conclusions (Cubbison: Saratoga was a turning point that transformed the War into an international affair; Corbett: in the area around Saratoga itself, matters remained unsettled among the loyalists and patriots, who carried on a civil war apart from the regular troops).

In 2014, Family Night will be held on Friday, April 25, 2014, in the hope that more families will attend. Please make every effort to attend. We will have a children's menu available for that event.

On September 8, 2013, Fred Baker, Chairman of the Membership Committee, hosted a marquis buffet at the Greenwich Polo Club in Greenwich, CT that was well attended.

The Sons is being well managed.

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York is blessed with an active Board of Managers. Most of the Board members are chairmen or members of various committees of the Society, and provide invaluable service to the Sons. Additionally, on Saturday March 2, 2013, the Board held a retreat at Fraunces Tavern, to reflect upon and discuss what we had been doing and what we should be doing. The retreat was well attended, and discussions were spirited and, if anything, more focused than the year before. We are planning to have another Board retreat in March 2014. Also, after many years of dedicated service as chairman of the investment committee, Past President George Watson moved to Florida. The Board of Managers voted on October 28, 2013, to name George as chairman emeritus of the Investment Committee.

There were several personnel changes during the past year. Jessica Baldwin Phillips was promoted to Executive Director, in charge of both the Fraunces Tavern Museum and the administration of the SR, and well as maintenance of the five SR buildings. We added a Development Officer, Xichee Moua. We outsourced the accounting function. Margaret O'Shaughnessy retired in November, and was succeeded by Julie Hagopian, Membership and Office Coordinator. Mrs. Phillips has demonstrated energy, intelligence, discipline, and good humor, during a demanding period. Ms. Moua and Ms. Hagopian are bright, personable, and tech savvy, and are expected bring new energy and perspective to the organization.

And lastly, the Sons have an incredibly dedicated and hard working Executive Committee. Our 1st Vice President, Ambrose Richardson, has been extremely generous with his pro bona legal service on Sons' matters such as insurance

claims, unpaid debts, and trademark and licensing agreements. He has also been the contact person for the Sons with many newly engaged stakeholders. Our Treasurer, Daniel Harman, has done great work with our Executive Director to examine all our contracts with vendors to get the best deal possible for the Sons. He has also created detailed and instructive financial reports that will help the Board make the best decisions for the Sons. Our outgoing Secretary Michael Coneys has been working on incorporating a support organization to benefit the Sons. All three have presented sound judgment and professional acumen to the decisions reached by the Executive Committee. I am sure that Raymond Manning, Chairman of the Restaurant Committee, will serve with distinction as our next Secretary in 2014.

But the best way for you to learn about all that we are doing is to come down to Fraunces Tavern yourself, to become involved in one or more of our various activities and

out-reach programs, and to attend our social events. We look forward to seeing you soon.

James R. Grayshaw

Young Members Committee

Rally your friends! On **January 19 at 3:00** the Young Members Committee of the SRNY will be meeting for drinks at the **Porterhouse at Fraunces Tavern**. In this meeting we will brainstorm ideas for fun and engaging outings for members 25-40 years old. Many ideas have already been batted around, such as whiskey tasting, tours, bowling nights and collaborative ventures with other historical and hereditary societies. Come prepared with inspiration and thirst! Huzzah!

For more information please contact [Matt Norgard](#), Chairman, or [Thomas P. Rogers](#).

Tenure of a Chairman Emeritus: Color Guard

December 4, 2013 Jonathan Wolk Ridgeway completed more than a decade of service as Chairman of the SRNY Color Guard, a term which began June 23, 2003 by a vote of the Board of Managers. During his tenure he led the Color Guard in no less than 88 parades, ceremonies and presentations of colors, 21 special events and 3 Triennial Meetings. These included annual events such as the formal banquets and church services to commemorate George Washington's birthday; the decoration of graves of 18 Revolutionary Patriots buried in the oldest Jewish cemetery in North America, Shearith Israel, in lower Manhattan near Chinatown; the Little Neck / Douglaston Memorial Day Parades, largest Memorial Day parades in the nation, 9 years leading the second of four divisions and last year leading the entire parade; NYC Flag Day Parades; wreath laying ceremonies to commemorate the anniversaries of the glorious execution of Nathan Hale; and Amassings of Colors at St. Thomas Church to celebrate Veterans Days. The lead of the march up Battle Hill and ceremonies at Green Wood in remembrance of the Battle of Long Island were often part of the annual schedule.

The special events included a ceremony to unveil a plaque to honor Brigadier General Tadeusz Kosciuszko at the Kosciuszko Foundation in 2003; a 250th

birthday celebration at Nathan Hale's Schoolhouse in East Haddam, CT in 2005; a five member color guard for the 225th Anniversary Yorktown Parade in 2006 which involved coordinating out of state transportation of people and flags, accommodations, shared meals, etc.; a sunset presentation of colors for officers and crew of the USS Hué City (CG-66), a Ticonderoga class guided-missile cruiser at Homeport, Staten Island during Fleet Week of 2007; the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate 231st anniversary of the Battle of Princeton in collaboration with the NJ Society of SR, opening ceremonies for a Staten Island Yankees baseball game and the dedication of one of 14 existing seedlings descending from the last surviving original Liberty Trees which was planted at Washington's headquarters in Newburgh, NY in 2008; presentation colors for Ralph Stever's funeral and for Sloatsburg Day in Sloatsburg, NY in 2009; dedication of monument for John Austin Stevens at Green Wood in 2010; a ceremony dedicated to the Financier of the American Revolution at the Hyam Salomon Memorial in Kew Gardens Hills, Queens in 2011; the 2012 Steuben Day parade; wreath laying ceremonies at the Soldiers & Sailors Memorial in Riverside Park on Memorial Day and at the grave of Lt. Col. Alexander Hamilton at Trinity Church in 2013. In 2012 Captain Ridgeway planned, organized, coordinated and reported on all color guard aspects of a Bicentennial memorial laying wreath ceremony to commemorate the life of one of our Founding Fathers, Gov. George Clinton at the Old Dutch Reform Church in Kingston which included the US Merchant Marine Academy and Kingston High School Bands, color guards of the VCA and VFW, and shooting squads of the 5th NY Continental Regiment and the American Legion as were needed to perform the traditional 19 gun salute for a deceased American Vice President.

During the ten year period Captain Ridgeway was personally responsible for enlisting 40 new members to join the Color Guard. He produced and awarded 15 certificates to deserving individuals, awarded 20 Color Guard medals to qualifying members and a dozen Veterans Quills to active members who completed a decade of service obligation, and also awarded a Color Guard Chairman's medal to David Wood, Ridgeway's successor as Chairman. He was responsible for the acquisition of nearly 30 flags added to the collection, several of his own personal design. He was also responsible for producing six challenge coins, custom embroidered polo shirts, briefcases and backpacks, etc. all of which were used for fund raising and other promotional purposes.

Deceased Members

David G. Ashton, Jr.	Douglas D. Donald
Alexander J. Finch	David Shradly Finch
William Kent Hilliard	Daniel W. Homan
William B. Lutkins	Clyde McDannald, Jr.
Louis F. Oppenheim	Malcolm Pray, Jr.

Sidney H. Stires

Upcoming Sons of the Revolution Events

January 27 -- Board Meeting 5:30

Tallmadge Day Stated Meeting 6:30 (for tickets, please call or [email](#))

February 17 -- Washington's Birthday Open House 12:00-5:00

February 19 -- George Washington Birthday Ball Annual Museum
Fundraiser, Yale Club, 7:00 (for tickets, please call or [email](#))

February 23 -- Annual Church Service

April 25 -- Family Night Stated Meeting 6:30

June 16 -- Flag Day Celebration and Open House 12:00-5:00

July 4 -- Independence Day Open House 12:00-5:00



Upcoming Fraunces Tavern® Museum Events

January 30 -- Evening Lecture: Before the Revolution: America's
Ancient Pasts; *Presented by Dan Richter*

February 20th -- Pinpointing Parker's Print Shop: Where New York's
Premier Printer Worked & Why It Matters, presented by Gordon Bond

[Click HERE for more information](#)