The Illinois Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is a society of men – not paper certificates hanging on a wall. The value that the society brings to the communities throughout the state of Illinois is dependent on the men that participate in the society. Some men take a very active role in the society while others support the many community programs the society sponsors with their dues and financial gifts. Both are highly valued and appreciated.

The sudden passing of Compatriots Jim Say and Duane Neet has really underscored my realization that it is our members who make ILSSAR an important part of our communities. There were so many Board of Manager meetings over the years that would become confused over parliamentary procedures, especially during budget debates that the entire room would turn to Compatriot Say for guidance on how to properly proceed, that it is difficult to imagine a meeting without his kind smile and reassuring voice. The years of service that Compatriot Neet has provided to the Illinois Society is well known to all.

The society is fortunate that we have such men and many others like them in our many chapters. I announced at the November Board of Managers meeting that Compatriot Kevin Babb has agreed to fill the position of ILSSAR Chancellor. Compatriot Babb, from the General George Rogers Clark Chapter in Southern Illinois, brings years of legal expertise to the position of Chancellor, following in his father’s footsteps.

We are now looking for an ILSSAR compatriot to take over Compatriot Neet’s position as chairman of the Knight Essay and Rumbaugh Oration contests. I have asked our Historian Michael Campagnolo to temporarily hold the contest submissions and past contest records until a new chairman can be appointed. If you or someone you know in your chapter has experience in education, possibly a retired or current school teacher or administrator, please contact me or your chapter president and let’s talk about these two important youth programs. Another important support to the Illinois Society is dues and gifts from members. All the wonderful youth programs, community service awards and veteran support programs that the society undertakes are funded by dues and member gifts. I have occasionally talked to compatriots who want to know why they should pay dues every year, now that they have their certificate hanging on the wall. I always view this as a great opportunity to talk about all the great programs we do in the community, especially our many youth programs. I find that members who question the need to pay dues when they do not regularly attend meetings suddenly appreciate the value of maintaining their membership.

We also have many members who have been extremely kind in supporting the society with gifts over the years. Some of our most popular youth programs are funded by endowment funds that were gifted by members. Recently, Compatriot Charles B. Schweizer provided a wonderful gift which ILSSAR presented to the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution to honor his wife Eleanor’s service to the community.

In past issues of the Patriot newsletter, we have documented Compatriot Kent D. Worley’s historical gifts to ILSSAR and the National Society. Each one of these wonderful gifts is not only a preservation of American history, but another opportunity to promote the Sons of the American Revolution to the general public. On Thursday, February 6, 2013 I will be presenting a historical gift to the Counsel General of France to Chicago. The gift of a preserved and frames newspaper from 1780 documents the Treaty of Alliance with France. The French Counsel General, Graham Paul, is very excited to receive this gift from ILSSAR and we are expecting a favorable publicity from Chicago media covering the reception and presentation. The ILSSAR Color Guard will be present along with several Chapter presidents. These exciting programs would not be possible without the generous support of compatriots like Kent.
The Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution
Board of Managers Meeting, February 8th & 9th, 2013
Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
Bloomington – Normal
201 Broadway Ave., Normal, IL 61761
Hotel room discount cutoff date:
January 18, 2013
Call 1-866-704-2533 and mention Sons of the American Revolution Meeting
for the ILSSAR group rate, $114 per night (includes parking and breakfast for two)

Friday, February 8th: For dinner we will meet at the Marriott in the Fell C room. A cash bar will be available at 6 PM till 8 PM, dinner is at 7 PM followed by our program. Todd Andrlik, on Reporting the Revolutionary War.

Todd is a member of the American Revolution Association and writer for American Revolution magazine. Todd earned his MBA from Roosevelt University and a degree in public relations from Illinois State University. He also studied international business and PR at Salzburg College (Austria). Todd serves on the advisory board of the Printing Office of Edes & Gill, the only colonial-era printing experience along Boston’s historic Freedom Trail. Todd’s wife is a great (7x) granddaughter of Abraham Amrine, who served as a Bedford County, Pennsylvania Rifleman in the American Revolutionary War. Starting in 1775, Bedford County sent men to the Pennsylvania Regiments of the Continental Line. Amrine’s grave marker says “Pvt. Frontier Ranger, Continental Line, Revolutionary War”. According to my research, Amrine earned a rank of 2nd Class in the Bedford County Militia Undesignated Companies (1776 to 1783), which were not included within the structure of the battalion system and were primarily ranging companies, enlisted to roam through the forests on lookout for Indian and Tory incursions.

Saturday, February 9th: breakfast at Jesse’s Grill (included for guests making reservations using our group rate). Checkout time is 12 PM. Free parking for hotel guests.
Saturday Board meeting at 8:30 AM to 12 PM will be in the Fell B room.
Saturday Auxiliary Meeting at 9 AM to 11 AM will be in the Broadway meeting room.
Saturday luncheon from 12 PM to 1 PM will be in the Fell C room.

Friday and Saturday Meal Requests
Friday dinner: Caesar Salad, Flat Iron Steak demi (rolled in cracked black pepper, topped with demi glace), Yukon Potatoes and Chef’s Vegetables, Key Lime Pie: $35 per person.
Saturday luncheon: Mixed Green Salad, Chicken Saltimbocca (chicken breast stuffed with prosciutto and Swiss cheese, risotto), Chef’s Vegetables: $30 per person.

Member name: __________________________ Friday _____ Saturday _____
Spouse name: ___________________________ Friday _____ Saturday _____
Guest name: _____________________________ Friday _____ Saturday _____

Mail personal check payable to “ILSSAR” for meal total to:
Compatriot Thomas D. Ashby
15863 245 North Avenue
Bradford, IL 61421-9520
Phone: 309-897-8483
E-mail: tdashby@me.com
SAR Calendar of Events

February 8 & 9, 2013 Illinois Society Board of Managers Meeting the Marriott Bloomington – Normal.


May 25, 2013 Chicago Memorial Day Parade on State Street—all SAR members invited.

July 6 to 10, 2013 NSSAR Annual Congress, Kansas City, Missouri.

August 8 for Parade, and 9 & 10, 2013 Illinois Society Board of Managers Meeting, Springfield Hilton.

September, 2013 NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting, the Brown Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky.

November 1 & 2, 2013 Illinois Society Board of Managers Meeting, Four Points by Sheraton in Peoria.

Senior Vice-President, Tom Ashby’s Comments

Linda and I attended the Fall Leadership Meeting in Louisville at the Brown Hotel in September on the 28th and 29th. If you get a chance to go try to request the “Club Floor” at the Brown, if you can. The breakfast buffet and 5 PM hors d’oeuvres and free drinks make it well worth the bump-up in room price. I became part of the Boy Scout Committee taking Jim Say’s place and attended the Genealogy Committee meeting as well. I also enjoyed a training session put on by the Genealogist General on recruitment and qualifying a candidate and getting a completed application filled out in a two-hour period. Check out the PowerPoint at: http://www.sar.org/News/Genealogy-Seminar-Recruiting-and-Qualifying-Prospective-Member. Quite a feat if everything works out right for the applicant.

Linda enjoyed a trip to the SAR Library and store to buy me a tie after I left mine at home. She also had a great luncheon cruise of the Louisville waterfront with a historical narrative delivered by the tour guide. The Friday banquet was enjoyable as well. We had a little side trip afterwards by staying at a B & B in New Harmony, Indiana and one in Anna, Illinois where a little more genealogical research was done by yours truly.

Our November Board of Manager’s Meeting in downtown Peoria worked out very well. Mark Johnson was truly a great speaker on “Peoria in the War of 1812” or “The British burned down Washington and the Americans burned down Peoria” all with good food and a great turnout with the largest crowd yet for our Friday night programs.

This February we’re back to Bloomington – Normal at the elegant Marriott Hotel & Conference Center and once again another opportunity to hear from an author about his new book “Reporting the Revolutionary War”. President Bruce and his Chapter have heard Todd Andrlik speak and gave him a fine report. I’m looking forward to the evening and the BOM meeting to follow I hope you are too. Remember you have until January 18th to book your room.
Great Lakes District

Gordon Bidner, Steve Leishman and Bruce Talbot with the historic book from Compatriot Kent Worley.

Color Guard members Mike Tomme, Joe Conger (MI), Russ Buhr (WI), John Dyrud, Bill Vette (MI)—with P.G. Steve Leishman, Aaron Krebs (WI), Robert Sprague (MI), Toby Chamberlain, and Rod Herbig.

Toby Chamberlain, John Dyrud, Tom Ashby, and Wisconsin Compatriot Aaron Krebs.

V.P. General Great Lakes District
J. Gordon Bidner,
Ft. Dearborn Chapter President
Bing Seibold,
Treasurer General Lindsey Brock,
NSSAR Ex. Director Don Shaw,
Past P.G. Sam Powell,
President General Steve Leishman,
Secretary General Joe Dooley and
Librarian General Mike Wells.
Springfield Chapter

Pictured from left: Greg Turk, CAR Member Graham Turk (age 10 firing a Brown Bess Musket) and Springfield Chapter Family Day host Bob Dennison.

On October 20th Springfield Chapter Color Guard Commander Bob Dennison hosted a Springfield Chapter Family Day Picnic as his farm. Attending were four CAR Members, DAR Members from three Illinois chapters and Springfield Chapter Members and their families. Special guest were former ILSSAR and Jacksonville Chapter President Harold Woolford and former Springfield President (1978) Allen Luttrell. Activities included firing a Brown Bess Musket, horseshoe, hay rides and a bonfire. Submitted by Toby Chamberlin.

C.A.R. Event

Illinois State President (CAR) Miss Stephanie Silkey and C.A.R. Senior State President Robert Collins invites all ILSSAR members and their families to join them for their annual state conference banquet on March 2, 2013. This year’s state conference will be held at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington, Illinois. Final registration information will be available very soon and distributed to all ILSSAR BOM and Chapter Presidents.

General George Rogers Clark Chapter

Residents of 12 northern Madison County households were commended Nov. 1 for displaying the U.S. Flag daily at their homes. Among them were Steven and Becky Wade (at right) of Wood River Twp. It was the 17th annual Flag Award Ceremony of the Gen. George Rogers Clark Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution.

Conferring the certificates of commendation was chapter President Ronnie D. Hicks (center). Former chapter President William R. Feeney (at podium) identified and introduced the recipients. Madison County Chief Circuit Judge Ann Callis (seated) was among observers of the ceremony at Madison County Courthouse, Edwardsville.
As we celebrate the Christmas season, please stop for a moment and consider adding one more gift to your list: the Illinois Society. It may be writing a dues check for another year, or adding a voluntary contribution to support one of our programs, or a physical gift, or the gift of time serving on an ILSSAR or Chapter committee. Whatever you choose to give, your gift will be warmly appreciated! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Partnerships Built a Stronger Society**
**President Bruce R. Talbot**

On September 9, 2012, I participated in a grave stone dedication at the historic Oak Woods Cemetery in Chicago. You would expect the next line to describe the name of the patriot that was being honored, but in this case it was a woman’s grave – a woman who did not have an active role in the revolution. So why were the ILSSAR Color Guard and your society president attending this grave marking? We were building partnerships.

Christina Bannon, regent for the Chicago Daughters of the American Revolution with 248 members, was honoring the grave site of Juliana Howe Ewell, the daughter of Patriot Azor Howe of the Massachusetts militia. A new headstone was installed over her unmarked grave on the 111th anniversary of her death. By providing a Color Guard for the ceremony, we now have 248 ladies who know ILSSAR is actively participating in keeping the history and spirit of the Revolution alive. Some of those 248 ladies have husbands and sons who may be future ILSSAR members – provided they are aware that there is an active chapter nearby. I am very pleased to report that Fort Dearborn, Salt Creek, and Fox Valley Chapters all had representatives at the DAR ceremony and had an opportunity to introduce the ladies to our chapters and ILSSAR activities.

Many of our chapters do a great job of forming partnerships with DAR chapters. Fort Dearborn President Bing Seibold III has hosted a very successful joint luncheon meeting in February with the DAR at the Chicago Botanical Gardens. Last month, I attended the Salt Creek Chapter meeting and Chapter President Franz Herder had invited the local DAR chapter to hear the evening speaker (a re-enactor from the Northwest Alliance who is also an SAR member) and then each group held separate business meetings. These types of events can be a strong basis for new members with a family interest in Revolutionary War family history. As reported in the last Patriot (page 11), ILSSAR and the Illinois 1812 Society presented a gift to the NSDAR in Washington D.C. in honor of Eleanor Schweizer’s contributions to preserving the history of the Revolution.

At the last Board of Managers meeting in Peoria, I distributed contact information and a state-wide chapter map of DAR units throughout Illinois. I strongly feel if every ILSSAR chapter reached out to the DAR chapters in their area, not only would these chapters acquire new members, but it can energize a chapter and their members. Let’s make a New Year’s Resolution to reach out to the DAR Chapters in our area. As General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter President J. Gordon Bidner likes to say, (with a twinkle in his eye) “We need to court the DAR ladies!”
COMPATRIOTS!
Your assistance is needed on Saturday, May 25, for the Chicago Memorial Day Parade Uniform or Blue Blazer
Can your society depend on YOU?!

The color guard from the Long Knives Chapter presented the Colors and fired a salute at the double grave marking commemorating the patriots John Damron and Benajah Gill at Drake Cemetery, Creal Springs on September 29. The service was conducted by the Daniel H. Brush Chapter of the DAR. Lance Newman, drummer for the Long Knives received special recognition from DAR Regent Loudene Lemme in a thank you letter stating, “The drummer was especially appropriate as John Dameron began his service in that capacity.”

Pictured L-R: Gerald Whitson, Jim Wallace, Jack Cramer, Cordell Carrill, and Rober Samuel Jr.
National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Wreaths Across America Proclamation

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution celebrates its fifth anniversary of sharing this day with our Partners in Patriotism across the nation, the veterans in each of the seven uniformed services whom we remember at this event. Americans have always honored our fallen patriots and war veterans since that first shot was heard around the world on April 19, 1775 at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts.

This Wreaths Across America ceremony today is symbolic of how we honor those American heroes who served their country in the military and, in many instances, gave their lives on the battlefield to preserve democracy and freedom. While our words will soon be forgotten, the heroic deeds of the service men and women who served or who still serve our nation will long be remembered.

We, descendants of the patriots of the War of Independence, represented by our membership in the Sons of the American Revolution, share a common bond with those men and women who are interred in this cemetery. It is fitting to remember them, as well as the colonial men and women who dared to declare themselves independent from their English ruler and establish the United States of America.

We Americans who are here today are the beneficiaries of that legacy, regardless of our own heritage and ethnic origins. It would be fitting of us to remember a loved one or perhaps an ancestor who made the sacrifice that brought honor and peace to our nation.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is honored to be represented today at the national cemeteries and monuments across the nation, as participants in the patriotic memorial to our fallen heroes. We are proud to be a part of all Americans who have come here to remember these dedicated men and woman.

God Bless America.

Stephen A. Leishman
President General (2012-2013)
December 15, 2012
Secretary — Jim DeGroff
Please notify me of address changes or deceased members, in order to keep your ILSSAR database up to date and your newsletter delivered to the correct address at:

loladegroff@charter.net

ILLINOIS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
OFFICERS 2008-2010

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Sr. Vice Pres. ———— Thomas D. Ashby
Vice Pres. N. Region ———— Franz Herder
Vice Pres. C. Region ———— Louis (Lou) Myers
Vice Pres. S. Region ———— Gerald Whitson
Secretary ———— Jim DeGroff
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Recording Secretary ———— Jim DeGroff
Registrar ———— Robert R. Morefield
Genealogist ———— Garry A. Grugan
Chancellor ———— Kevin Babb
Historian ———— Michael Campagnolo
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NSSAR National Trustee ———— Martinus (John) Dyrud
NSSAR Alt. Trustee ———— Stephen Bradley

ILSSAR Patriot Newsletter Editor — Rod Herbig
Scout1947@Comcast.net

Date for items for the April issue of the Patriot
Due: March 10, 2013

TAPS
Chester C. McCullough Jr. 08/19/2012
Tanner R. Davis 07/24/2012
Galen M Strain 07/05/2012
Bruce L Church 08/19/2012
Ronald A Witter 09/02/2012
Frank A Randall Jr. 08/24/2012
Jean Riggins 12/01/2012
**Give the Gift of Family History**

Garry Grugan – ILSSAR Genealogist  
Fall 2012

As the holiday season rapidly approaches the inevitable question of what will constitute a great gift that will be treasured forever arises. Ties, shirts and golf clubs seem to frequently top the list yet they have a limited life span and no real long term value. I learned early in my genealogical and family history research how little information is typically passed on from generation to generation. This continues to be a common theme when we start working with new applicants. It is relatively routine to hear the remark, “Well, I don’t know much past my parents or grandparents” when one starts to delve into their family history. This was also the case in one of my family branches.

How do we begin to reverse this trend and help cure the problem? Most of you have already started by preserving your family lineage through a membership in the SAR and other lineage organizations. This, however, typically includes only a small handful of direct lineages back to one specific ancestor. I would suggest that the best gift you can give this holiday season is that of an organized family history to your children and/or relatives. There are many great options to achieve this goal. You can use the old standby scrapbook pages and photo albums or create a digital book or file with Adobe Acrobat or other publishing software. Digital histories are a great way to go because they can be e-mailed, changed and updated as necessary.

If you are like me, you might prefer an actual book to hold that is full of family pictures, genealogies and stories. A favorite of mine is a self-publishing company that is available on-line called Blurb. You can download a free software program from blurb.com that will walk you through a step-by-step process to complete a book full of text and pictures to tell your family’s story. The books you create are uploaded and made available for purchase in color, black & white, hardcover, soft cover or whatever your preference may be. You can even make your book available for sale to the general public through their site if you so desire or keep it completely private and available only to your family members.

There are many options available for sharing your family history and regardless of the option you may choose, I can almost guarantee it will outlast the Santa Claus tie. Have a great Holiday Season!

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**ILSSAR Flag Award Recipients**

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**How is your chapter doing?**
DAR Real Daughter Grave Marking

On September 9, 2012, members of the following organizations met at Oak Woods Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois to honor and mark the grave of the daughter of a Revolutionary War Soldier:
- Chicago Chapter, NSDAR
- North Shore Chapter, NSDAR
- Mary Virginia Ellet Cabell Society, N.S.C.A.R.
- Illinois State Society, N.S.C.A.R.
- Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution, Pritzker Military Library

There was a time when members of Revolutionary War heritage societies had to provide very little proof of relationship to a Revolutionary War patriot. Why? Because the patriot was either their father or mother! These ladies who joined the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution were accorded a very special recognition. They were known as “Real Daughters”.

Juliana Howe Ewell was the “Real Daughter” of Private Azor Howe, Massachusetts. Ms. Ewell became a member of the Chicago Chapter, NSDAR, in 1898. An unfortunate set of circumstances resulted in Ms. Ewell becoming estranged from DAR and being buried without a grave marker. Three years ago a DAR historian discovered this oversight and began the process of honoring and marking Juliana Howe Ewell’s grave. Three years of effort resulted in this grave marking on September 9, 2012.

In true Chicago fashion, Dave Johnston, a bagpiper from Chicalba Bag Piping, opened the ceremony by playing “Danny Boy”, unveiled the gravestone with “Amazing Grace” and concluded the ceremony playing “Scotland the Brave”.

Jack Kalil, of the Mary Virginia Ellet Cabell Society, joined the Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution in presenting Colors. Cecilia Bernardoni, Mary Virginia Ellet Cabell Society, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Olivia Bernardoni and Grant Kalil, Mary Virginia Ellet Caell Society, placed the wreath on the gravestone.

General Joseph Bartholomew

Picture at left is Bill Hammitt presenting the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal to Chief Deputy Russell L. Thomas

Picture to right is Bill Hammitt presenting The Fire Safety Commendation Award to Captain Eric West.
What a great gift Compatriot Kent Worley made to honor his father

Dr. Donald L. Worley, at McKendree College.
Dr. Worley was past National Society Trustee and past Illinois Society President, as well as the founder of the Lewis & Clark Chapter.