The Illinois Patriot

The president's message

Linda and I attended the National Congress in Greenville, South Carolina, in July. We had an enjoyable time touring the area sites and battlefields where one of my Patriot Ancestors fought. The events at Congress were interesting as well. I was able to attend the Sunday Memorial Service and bring back programs for the families of departed Illinois compatriots who were honored. I also collected a number of awards for individuals as well as for the Illinois Society. These were distributed to chapter representatives at the August BOM Meeting. Captain Zeally Moss Chapter won a $500 cash prize and 2nd place in the nation for the historical plaque to its namesake in Springdale Cemetery in Peoria!

We saw our new President General Lindsey Brock installed. The last day, we toured the amazing Biltmore Mansion. Perhaps most fun of all was the public shaving of the head of our outgoing President General, Joe Dooley! He had promised to have his head shaved if, during his term, at least $1 million was raised for the Center for Advancing America’s Heritage (CAAH). We met his challenge!

Our NSSAR Offices have now moved to the new Main Street location. Plans were approved to begin the next phase of building out the CAAH. You can link to this Vision of the CAAH at http://www.sar.org/News/SAR-Center-Advancing-Americas-Heritage-Vision-Plan. If you’d like to support a worthwhile cause, this would be worth a donation.

Our August 7th State Fair Twilight Parade was a washout this year. I was ready in my Virginia Line Uniform, and Linda and my granddaughters had on their Colonial garb with a basket of small American Flags ready to distribute to the crowd, when we got word that the Parade had been cancelled due to the potential for hazardous weather at kickoff time. We all were a bit disappointed but thought it may have worked out for the best. We still had a good meal at Saputo’s and a restful night.

We had a damp tour of the State Fair on Friday with our granddaughters but enjoyed the Butter Cow, Aerial Tram, Cow milking, Pioneer Games put on by the people from Nauvoo, Illinois outside the Illinois Building, and the Farmer’s Market tent where we enjoyed watermelon, hardboiled eggs on a stick and wonderfully cooked ears of Illinois sweet corn.

The Friday, August 8th dinner and presentation from Dr. Kenneth Owen about “The Unlikely and Unruly Heroes of Independence in Pennsylvania” gave us a new perspective on the Revolution. Our Saturday BOM went very well. Thanks for the help of all involved in making it run smoothly.

I would like to ask your help in the upcoming BOM Meeting. If you are a Committee Chairman, consider either meeting “online” or holding a meeting with your committee on Friday afternoon before the dinner. We had two chapters give a “This is my Chapter” presentation at the August BOM: President Allan Campbell from Captain Zeally Moss and President Jim DeGroff from General George Rogers Clark. Perhaps two other chapter Presidents will volunteer for November. If you’d like to volunteer for November or another month, please e-mail me (tdashby@me.com). I am also still looking for individuals who would be willing to do a 10 to 20 minute “Revolutionary War Message” after our Saturday Luncheon. I have been involved in two Cemetery Markings: one at Springdale Cemetery in Peoria and one at Princeville Township Cemetery in Princeville. The markers in both cases were partially funded by ILSSAR ($500), and the George Washington Fellowship Fund (GWFF) ($1000), with the remainder of about $500 each funded locally. It is my understanding that in the future, the GWFF will fund up to ¼ of the cost. The marking of a Cemetery is equally as important as marking a grave. It helps the local community realize that in their midst are buried Heroes who helped establish our great country and...
SAR Calendar of Events


**November 14 & 15, 2014** ILSSAR Board of Managers Meeting, Peoria, Pere Marquette Marriott Hotel. Call 1-800-228-9290 and ask for the Sons of the American Revolution rate. Cut off for the discounted rate is October 24th.

**February 6 & 7, 2015** ILSSAR Board of Managers Meeting, Bloomington-Normal, Marriott Hotel. Call 1-800-228-9290 for reservations. Ask for the Sons of the American Revolution rate.


**June 26 to July 1, 2015** NSSAR 125th Annual Congress, Louisville, KY, Galt House Hotel. Call 1-800-916-4339 for reservations. Ask for the Sons of the American Revolution rate.

**September 25 & 26, 2015** NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY, Brown Hotel.

**2016** NSSAR 126th Annual Congress, Boston, MA, dates and hotel to be determined.

**2017** NSSAR 127th Annual Congress, Knoxville, TN, dates and hotel to be determined.

---

Tom and Linda Ashby’s Granddaughter at the National Conference

Cemetery marking program is in full swing. Current program pictured is at Peoria, Princeville, and Springfield. In the future 1/4 of the funding will come from the George Washington Fellowship Fund.
Senior Vice-President Toby Chamberlain’s Comments

Sue and I attended the 124th SAR Annual Congress that was held in Greenville, S.C. in July.

The Greenville Annual Congress was such an enjoyable experience I am already looking forward to 2015 when the Annual Congress will be held in Louisville, KY. Looking beyond Louisville the Annual Congress will be held in Boston, MA in 2016 and Knoxville, TN in 2017.

While in Greenville Sue and I met compatriots from all over the United States and found out how their chapters and state associations did things when visiting schools to talk to young students about American History and the Revolutionary War. Most but not all said their target classes were 2nd through 7th grade students.

We were also able to tour three Revolutionary War battle fields. 1) Cowpens, 2) Kings Mountain and 3) The Battle of 96.

1) Cowpens – January 17, 1781: It only lasted less than an hour but when it was finished, the colonial forces commanded by Daniel Morgan had routed Banastre Tarleton’s larger force of British regulars. The British lost 110 killed in action, 229 wounded and 600 captured or missing. Colonial losses were 24 killed in action and 104 wounded.

2) Kings Mountain – October 7, 1780: Unique in Revolutionary War battles because it was fought by militia on both sides, British Loyalist losses were 290 killed in action, 162 wounded and 688 captured. The colonial militia force lost 29 killed in action and 58 wounded.

3) Battle of 96 – November 19 & 20, 1781: A small battle with few participants on both sides but the result was important to the colonials. 96 was a small British star fort built to protect settlers from Cherokee attacks in what is now Green County, SC. A colonial force numbering about 600 men laid siege to the fort but were unable to breach the walls. After two days the colonials broke off the attack after suffering one man killed in action and 12 wounded. The forts defenders losses were 52 killed and 12 wounded. After the attack British officers decided the fort’s location was located too far away to provide support and supplies and withdrew the defenders.

ILSSAR Board of Managers Meetings Speakers

If you have a suggestion about a Revolutionary War or Colonial America speaker that you would recommend as a speaker for ILSSAR Board of Managers meetings, please send their contact information to Toby Chamberlain at sai-chamb@comcast.net or call 217-483-6267 (cont. pg 4)
Auxiliary Ladies Honored

President General Joe Dooley surprised three members of the Illinois Auxiliary by honoring them at the Ladies' Tea this summer at the National Congress in Greenville, South Carolina. After remarking that he had "never had so many cookies" as were presented to him at our May Board of Managers meeting, Joe presented plaques to Cheryl Chamblin, Sue Chamberlain and Linda Ashby. The names of these ladies, along with Jane Bradley, Wendy Herder and Marian Rathke-Whitson have been "placed on the President General's Roster of Excellent Cookie Makers." What fun!

Our Illinois Auxiliary is a great group of friendly ladies, which meets quarterly during the Board of Managers meetings. Dues are only $5 per year and automatically makes a member part of the National Ladies Auxiliary. Our purposes are to support our men in the SAR, with one main fund-raiser per year (the Silent Auction) and to have fun! We have had a variety of interesting programs and have annually donated at least $500 to the new SAR Center for Advancing America's Heritage in Louisville, Kentucky. The Illinois Auxiliary is one of the outstanding donors to this worthy cause! This year, we are also helping to cover the costs of Cemetery Markers in Illinois. Won't you help us? JOIN or RENEW your existing membership by simply adding your $5 dues to the SAR renewal invoice, which just came out. INVITE the wives/daughters/mothers of both new and current SAR members to join us. And COME to the meetings. For more information, contact Linda Ashby at lkashby@frontier.com.

Pictured Right to left: Cheryl Chamberlin, President General Joe Dooley, Sue Chamberlain, and Linda Ashby

( cont. from pg. 3)

George Washington’s Secret Six

If you are a fan of the television series Turn, you might enjoy Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger’s book, George Washington’s Secret Six about the Culper Spy Ring. Culper was an assumed name and had nothing to do with the identity of the six Revolutionary War spies. The identity of the Secret Six was so closely held that even George Washington did not know their identity. To this day the true identity of one of the six, a woman, is not known. It has been suggested by some historians she the may have been arrested and died on the infamous British Prison Ship Jersey. Since I do not want to give too much away about the book you will have to read the book to find out more.

Toys-For-Tots The December holidays are just a few short months away. Stores have already launched their holiday sales but unfortunately for millions of children in this country, the December holidays will be just another day. Enter the U. S. Marine Reserves Toys-For-Tots program. As a former Marine I am proud to tell you that in 2012 (2013 numbers are not yet available), Marine Reservist and former Marines collected 3,628,251 toys that were distributed to 1,098,020 children. When you are out doing your holiday shopping and you see a Toys-For-Tots collection barrel, pick up a toy and drop it in the barrel. If every ILSSAR member did this we could add almost 1,000 toys to the numbers for 2014. Simper Fi
Members of the Salt Creek and Fox Valley chapters met to view Special guitars made from an Annapolis, MD, Liberty Tree. The special guitars were valued at nearly $20,000.

Pictured left to right
Harry Reineke (Sec of Fox Valley, Mike Campagnolo, President Fox Valley Rod Herbig, Color Guard Fox Valley & Eric Banfield Salt Creek chapter

The story behind the Liberty Tree

Also, you might have heard the story before, about the fate of the last standing Liberty Tree. The last tree was standing until 1999 in Annapolis, MD. Annapolis was an original colony. In 1999, Hurricane Floyd went through the area and damaged the 425 year old tree. Unfortunately, the tree, long past its life expectancy, had to come down. After a farewell ceremony, the tree was taken down in chunks and was disposed of in a landfill. A local landscaper felt that this wasn't a proper ending to such a historic landmark. He went to the landfill and hauled out about 70,000 pounds of wood from this tree; most of it had rotted. A number of months later, Bob Taylor of Taylor Guitars found out that this wood was being stored in a barn. He traveled to Maryland, and offered the unemployed landscaper $250,000 for the wood.

After transporting the wood to his facility in El Cajon, CA, Mr. Taylor designed 3 models of guitars (in very limited quantities). He built around 350 Liberty Tree acoustic guitars, about 150 Baby Liberty Tree guitars, and 50 of the T-5 Liberty Tree guitars.

One of the acoustic was donated to the Smithsonian. Our family is proud to have all 3 of the Liberty's in our family collection.

With the T-5 models, Taylor built one for every state. We were offered the Illinois T-5. It's labeled as #21, as Illinois was the 21st state to join the Union. These guitars are a great example of paying homage to our forefathers. It's a cool feeling knowing that they planned the revolution under the shade of these trees.

It gives me goosebumps to hold and play these guitars. I'll give you a private showing the next time you are in the area.
The GJB Chapter is so proud of the outstanding emergency providers of the area who recently received state awards at the May 17th Board of Managers Awards luncheon.

Service providers are important people in every community and we feel that we in Bloomington-Normal are blessed with the best. Here are the three state award winners.

Detective Nicole Bruno, Normal, has been responsible for several high level financial identity theft, forgery, and financial enterprise investigations involving losses measuring more than a million dollars. She worked a homicide case involving a three year old boy. Detective Bruno protects the elderly from exploitation. In one case an elderly couple was bilked out of $57,000. These and many more cases represent her work.

Three Bloomington fire safety officers were recognized: Acting Capt. Steve Zimmerman, Engineer Lance Benedict, and Engineer Steven Petrovics. In brief, they saved an elderly woman from a house fully engulfed in flame. The fire was so hot that it melted their helmets. They risked their lives to save another.

Paramedic Rodney Williams of Normal responded to a traffic accident on Interstate 39 north of Normal. Six Hudson, IL firefighters were injured by a semi that went out of control on the slippery highway. One was very seriously injured. Williams led a team that administered advance life support. The firefighter passed away at the hospital. Firefighter Williams is no less heroic because the fellow firefighter he was struggling to save did not make it. Williams did all that he possibly could to save his comrade.

Our Chapter and a grateful community thank these heroes for their service.

The General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter presented its annual Flag Award on Flag Day June 14, 2014 to John Lutes of Normal, Illinois. John flies the U.S. Flag daily on a pole in front of his home. John is a retired grade school principal and the son of a WWII Veteran. I have attached two photographs to this email. The first is of William M. Hammitt presenting the Certificate to John Lutes, the second is a picture of the Certificate itself.

Picture taken at the Annual NASAR Conference by Toby Chamberlain

L to R Dick Chamblin, Lou Myers, Toby Chamberlain, Tom Ashby and Bing Seibold at the 124th SAR Annual Congress George Washington Fellow luncheon in Greenville, SC heir service to all of us.
The Captain Zeally Moss Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution has been active in grave marking projects this year. On July 4, a ceremony was held at Springdale Cemetery in Peoria, which opened and closed with a bagpipe. We were welcomed by the General Manager of the Cemetery, Mark Matuszak. A plaque in honor of our namesake was dedicated with comments from the Chapter President, Allan C. Campbell, M.D., ILSSAR President, Tom Ashby and Chaplain, Dave Ashbrook, as well as the President of the Zeally Moss Society Chapter of the C.A.R. and her sister, the President of the Illinois C.A.R. A representative from Bradley University spoke. Our efforts were rewarded with second place in the nation by NSSAR.

On August 23, a ceremony was held in Princeville, IL dedicating a plaque in honor of two Revolutionary War veterans buried there, Phineas Bronson and John Montgomery. This project was performed by Life Scout Joe Duttinger with the support of the NSSAR George Washington Endowment Fund, ILSSAR and the Princeville Township Cemetery. ILSSAR President Tom Ashby is the Scout Master of Troop 1851. At the end of the ceremony, the Color Guard fired their muskets to great acclaim.

Illinois Society- Springfield Chapter  Color Guard members presented the colors for Memorial Day services at Camp Butler National Cemetery. Congresswoman, Tammy Duckworth, gave the keynote address. Lieutenant Colonel Duckworth currently serves in the Illinois Army National Guard. Colonel Duckworth is an Iraq War veteran where she served as a US Army helicopter pilot and suffered severe combat wounds, losing both of her legs and damaging her right arm.

Previously, Duckworth served as Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs in the United States Department of Veterans Affairs from April 24, 2009 to June 30, 2011. In addition to her military duties and serving in congress, Tammy Duckworth is a member of the Capt. William Penny Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. Congressman, Rodney Davis also served proudly in the US military and attended the Memorial Day Services.
Baritone soloist Don Bradford presents a patriotic song at the June 14 Flag Day event. Program leaders included GGRCC President Jim DeGroff (seated) and Lloyd E. Schwarz (behind podium).

Annual Flag Day Program Commemorates Late President Raymer

The annual Flag Day Celebration of GGRCC June 14 was dedicated to the late Timothy S. Raymer, a former president and frequent Flag Day organizer for the chapter who died in January.

At the event, held for the third straight year at the Lewis and Clark Confluence Towers, Hartford, President Jim DeGroff presented an SAR state awarded Lifetime Achievement Award medal for Timothy Raymer to his son Jason.

"Tim was a passionate volunteer for this place and for SAR and Flag Day," said a guest speaker, Brad Winn, a supervisor for the Lewis and Clark Museum. Compatriot Raymer was a long-time volunteer at the museum.

The event featured a display of the chapter's state flags and an explanation of 20 historic flags, narrated by chaplain and charter member Lloyd E. Schwarz as the historic banners were displayed by Boy Scouts of Troop 1031, Edwardsville, and an adult scout leader, Brian Walsh.

Chapter Vice President Marvin Meng coordinated the event. Don Bradford sang patriotic songs, and James Spann, mayor of Hartford, commended GGRCC for staging the event in his municipality.

The chapter will return next year to a policy of holding the Flag Day event in various local communities, President DeGroff said.

The Lewis & Clark Chapter of SAR named Mike Hoelscher, sheriff of Randolph County, its outstanding law enforcement officer for 2014. Hoelscher is shown with Rex Egelston of the SAR.

Cadet 1st Lt. Jonathan Kaltenbaugh of O'Fallon High School was named outstanding cadet in his Junior ROTC unit. He is shown with Jack Firse of the Lewis & Clark Chapter of SAR.

The fox Valley chapter has a new singing trio...Unfortunately the people at the Taylor Music shop took the gutars away from us and kicked us out.

There is Harry Beryl Ives And Rod
**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**

- President: Thomas D Ashby
- Sr. Vice Pres.: Toby Chamberlain
- Vice Pres. N. Region: Franz Herder
- Vice Pres. C. Region: Louis (Lou) Myers
- Vice Pres. S. Region: Jerry Whitson
- Secretary: Jim DeGroff
- Treasurer: Don Hyland
- Recording Secretary: Gary List
- Registrar: Robert R. Moorefield
- Genealogist: Garry A. Grugan
- Chancellor: Kevin Babb
- Historian: Michael Campagnolo
- Chaplain: David K. Ashbrook
- Sgt.-at-Arms: Ken Griffin
- NSSAR National Trustee: Martinus (John) Dyrud
- NSSAR Alt. Trustee: Stephen Bradley

**Vice President General Great Lakes Dist.**  
Alan Krebs, Wisconsin Society

---

Date for items for the **January** issue of the **Patriot**  
Due: December 10, 2014

---

**TAPS**  
Carson W Yeager  
July 15 2015
The Lewis & Clark Chapter of the Illinois Society of Sons of the American Revolution recently presented scholarships and awards to 38 high school students, a county sheriff, four Junior ROTC cadets, twin sister “heroes,” five daily flag-fliers and six Daughters of the American Revolution members.

The SAR chapter presented $400 scholarships and Outstanding Citizenship Awards to: Jonathon Jahraus of South Central High School, Farina; Joel Brown of Mascoutah High School; and Scott Nowak of Althoff Catholic High School. They were chosen from 21 students who answered five essay questions on American history. (See names of all the Outstanding Citizenship Award winners below.)

The chapter presented Sean Shaw of Waterloo High School a $500 scholarship provided by the family of Jim Lattig and administered by the chapter.

**Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer**

The Lewis & Clark chapter selected Mike Hoelscher, sheriff of Randolph County, as its Law Enforcement Medal recipient. Hoelscher has 34 years of experience with the USAF, Chester Police Department and Randolph County Sheriff’s Department.

**Bronze Junior ROTC Medals**

Junior ROTC detachments in this area designate their outstanding cadet to receive an SAR medal each year. Honorees this year are: Cadet Lt. Col. Jeff Dixon of Dupo High School; Cadet T/Sgt. Meaghan B. Nichols of Mascoutah High School; Cadet Marlon L. Manuel Jr. of Cahokia High School; and Cadet 1st Lt. Jonathan Kaltenbaugh of O’Fallon High School. In addition to medals and certificates, Cadet Dixon received $200 in the SAR essay competition.

**SAR Hero Awards**

Claire and Chloe Gruenke of New Baden were chosen to receive SAR Hero Awards for “their outstanding show of sisterly love and sportsmanship in the State Junior High Track Meet in Carterville on May 10. In the 800 meter race, Chloe fell to the ground in pain. Claire picked her up and gave her a piggyback ride about 350 meters to the finish line. As the crowd cheered, they completed the race.”

The sisters attended the SAR awards ceremony at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Belleville with their parents, Doug and Georgia Gruenke, their brother, Cole, and their coach, Ted Crail.

**SAR Flag Awards**

Each year the chapter presents these awards to families who show exemplary patriotism by flying the American Flag at their homes every day. This year’s recipients are: Col. (Ret) Don and Beverly Lindbo of O’Fallon; Steve Tinge of Lebanon; and Kent and Dinise Rhines of Lebanon.

**Outstanding Service Awards**

The chapter presented medals to members of the Daughters of the American Revolution for their outstanding service to the SAR. Recipients are: Joyce Bell of Belleville; Elinor Egelston of Belleville; Janice Hunter of Lebanon; Becky Dobias of Carlyle; Shirley Firse of Belleville; and Betty Blanchard of Belleville.

(Editor was unable to use photos)
The Captain Zeally Moss Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution has been active in grave marking projects this year. On July 4, a ceremony was held at Springdale Cemetery in Peoria, which opened and closed with a bagpipe. We were welcomed by the General Manager of the Cemetery, Mark Matuszak. A plaque in honor of our namesake was dedicated with comments from the Chapter President, Allan C. Campbell, M.D., ILSSAR President, Tom Ashby and Chaplain, Dave Ashbrook, as well as the President of the Zeally Moss Society Chapter of the C.A.R. and her sister, the President of the Illinois C.A.R. A representative from Bradley University spoke. Our efforts were rewarded with second place in the nation by NSSAR.

On August 23, a ceremony was held in Princeville, IL dedicating a plaque in honor of two Revolutionary War veterans buried there, Phineas Bronson and John Montgomery. This project was performed by Life Scout Joe Düttinger with the support of the NSSAR George Washington Endowment Fund, ILSSAR and the Princeville Township Cemetery. ILSSAR President Tom Ashby is the Scout Master of Troop 1851. At the end of the ceremony, the Color Guard fired their muskets to great acclaim.

The Lewis & Clark Chapter of SAR recently presented Hero Awards to Claire and Chloe Gruenke of New Baden. They are students at Wesclin Junior High School. Left to right are Bob Blanchard of the SAR, Claire, Chloe, Georgia Gruenke, Cole Gruenke and Doug Gruenke.