

The Patriot

Latest News from the [Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York](#)

Vol. 2, No. 5 (May 2008)



John Blake, Susan Nigro, Victor DuPont
Photo by Douglas Kiddie

Greetings from the President

April was a month of celebrations. I attended all of the Tartan Day events, starting with the Kirkin' of the Tartan on the morning of April 5. Later, I marched in the parade up Avenue of Americas, and rounded out the day by attending the American Scottish Foundation event. A few days later, I traveled to Washington, DC, on April 9 to represent the SRNY at the Order of the Merovingian Dynasty luncheon at the City Tavern (Georgetown) and was Master of Ceremonies at the Hereditary Society Community of the USA that evening. Many other events filled my calendar, but the most unusual feast was that hosted by the Order of Indian Wars, where we dined on antelope steaks accompanied by corn fritters and delicious colonial greens. As always, the Belle Haven Country Club of Alexandria, VA, provided us with a wonderful evening that included some lively banjo music.

Please remember to mark your calendars for our Flag Day celebration on Friday, June 13. Some wonderful festivities are in store, including our parade from City Hall to the Tavern, speeches by our patriotic essay contest winners, and stirring entertainment. The calendar below will give you the details. Join us!

Yours aye,
John Mauk Hilliard, President

Membership Awards

On April 21, an elegant SRNY decoration was awarded to Past President George Watson, a member for 40 years. HUZDAH and congratulations, George! A list of all 40- and 50-year veterans appears below. Cornwell C. (Corky) Martin was lauded as the oldest member of the society in terms of longevity.



Past President George Watson and Patricia Altshuler
Photo by Douglas Kiddie

40-year members

- Michael Adair
- William Boone, Jr.
- Stephen Dibble
- J. Robert Lunney
- Baldwin Maull
- P. Hairston Seawell
- William Wallace III
- George Watson
- James Whitford IV

50-year members

- Bradley Drowne
- Matthew Hoey
- Charles Lamb
- Charles Pinkerton, Jr.
- Sidney Stires
- Charles F. Stout

A warm welcome!



Gregory Sherrid
Photo by Douglas Kiddie

A new member was inducted on April 21: Raymond Manning (photo below), whose ancestor is Johannes Westervelt. Mr. Manning is a nephew of SRYNY Treasurer Donald Westervelt. We also welcomed prospective Junior Member Gregory Sherrid, a descendant of Richard Henry Lee. Gregory's parents Mark and Beverley Sherrid attended along with Gregory's sister Eloise; Mrs. Sherrid is the Registrar of the Colonial Dames of America. Also elected to membership on Apr. 21 was Col. Joseph L. Thomas, USAF (Retired); he is a descendant of Jabez Alexander.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to two new members who joined the SRYNY this past January: Mr. Thomas Gorin (a Life Member, whose ancestor was Henry Gorin) and Mr. Ambrose Richardson III (who is descended from Ambrose Madison).



Treasurer Don Westervelt and Raymond Manning
Photo by Douglas Kiddie

Museum News

Dunsmore Collection Update

Fraunces Tavern Museum Director Amy Northrop Adamo reports that she recently received the check for \$2,950 from the **Artist Preservation Group** for conservation of Dunsmore's News from Yorktown.

Many thanks, APG! **Alexander Katlan**, the Museum's painting conservator will soon receive a Medal of Honor from the venerable Salmagundi Club, of which Dunsmore was a member. Katlan is not only an expert conservator, but a published historian of [the Salmagundi Club](#).

More Conservation Updates

Many thanks to SRNY Second Vice President Kenneth H. Chase for his donation of \$750 to fund conservation of the Museum's Nathan Hale letter, the letter from Benjamin Tallmadge to Connecticut's Jeremiah Wadsworth, and the letter from George Washington to Tallmadge. We look forward to sharing the results with our readers in a future issue of this newsletter.

Calendar

May 3: Special Event! The Jewish Community and the American Revolution: A Guided Walking Tour. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Meet at Fraunces Tavern® Museum. \$15/\$10 members. Reservations and payment [online](#). What was the role of the Jewish community in the American Revolution? How was the history of the Jews affected by the Revolutionary War and the actions of the nation's founding fathers (including George Washington)? The answers to these and other fascinating questions will be answered on May 3, when attorney and historian James S. Kaplan, a licensed NYC sightseeing guide, leads you through the historic streets of Lower Manhattan. As you night owls will recall, Mr. Kaplan led our popular 4th of July Walking Tour in 2007.

May 6: Alvin Rabushka on Taxation in Colonial America, Flag Gallery, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Free with Museum admission (\$4/\$3 students, senior citizens); members free.

May 15: New Book! Gordon Bond: *James Parker: A Printer on the Eve of Revolution*. Flag Gallery, 6:30 p.m. Free to members; general public \$6. Refreshments provided.

Coming in June:

June 3: New Book! Alexander Katlan, *Painting Exhibitions at the Salmagundi Club*. This lecture focuses on the Dunsmore Collection of paintings. Flag Gallery, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Free with Museum admission (\$4/\$3 students, senior citizens); members free.

June 13: Flag Day Parade and Ceremonies, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Parade steps off at City Hall, 12 noon, ends at 54 Pearl Street with essay contest winners reading their works, a concert of patriotic music, and stirring remarks from special guests.

June 19: New Book! Nancy Rubin Stuart, *The Muse of the Revolution: The Secret Pen of Mercy Otis Warren and the Founding of a Nation*. Flag Gallery, 6:30 p.m. Free to members; general public \$6. Refreshments provided.

May Quiz

No tricks this month, but we hope you enjoyed our April Fool's Quiz. The answer is: all living Presidents! Now admit it, you knew that!

Test your memory: On one wall of the Flag Gallery in Fraunces Tavern Museum is an original Revolutionary War-era flag. Which one is it, what is its date, and where was it made? The answer will appear in this column next month.

Family Night at SRNY

On the evening of April 21, 2008, more than 70 members of the SRNY, their friends, family members, and honored guests gathered at Fraunces Tavern Museum to commemorate the 233rd anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord (April 19, 1775). The evening was a gala celebration of the events that shaped our city, state, and nation.



Past President Dan Coleman
Photo by Douglas Kiddie

At 6:30, guests gathered in the colorful Flag Gallery for a cocktail reception and good conversation. Special guests included Patricia Altshuler, Mr. and Mrs. John Blake, Mr. and Mrs. Victor DuPont, Jane Fulton, Douglas Kiddie (our intrepid photographer) and Susan Nigro, Lisa Beth McKinley, Eric Kuzmuk, Doran Mullen, and Mrs. Lorraine Weaver. Time flew and soon it was time for a delicious feast in the Bissell Room, enlivened by energetic toasts from SRNY Past President F. Daniel LeVert Coleman (see photo) and John Blake.

The evening's program was both entertaining and enlightening. Our master of ceremonies was SNRY Past President Dr. Laurence Simpson, who began by asking Chaplain Christopher Cullen, to deliver the invocation. As always, Father Cullen hit the mark with his prayerful mentions of our founding fathers and their legacy. (We should also mention that Fr. Cullen participated in Pope Benedict XVI's historic mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sat., April 19.) Following the invocation, Color Guard member Philip Coombe III led the first Pledge of Allegiance. (Did we say first? Yes, indeed — there was a second pledge later, but you'll have to read on to get the end of the story.)

During dinner, James R. Grayshaw, Chairman of the Book Award Committee, announced the winner of the 2008 Fraunces Tavern Museum Award: *American Creation: Triumphs and Tragedies at the Founding*

of the Republic by Joseph J. Ellis (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2007). The award is given to those books that perpetuate the memory of men who worked to achieve American independence. Indeed, Ellis' book chronicles the successes and failures of our founding fathers, and pays particular attention to the underpinnings of our two-party system. An Honorable Mention was awarded to *Taming Democracy: The People, the Founders, and the Troubled Ending of the American Revolution* by Terry Bouton (Oxford University Press, 2007).

Featured Speaker: Brian Andersson and The Mystery of Annie Moore

Appointed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Brian Andersson is the current Commissioner of the Department of Records and Information Services for the City of New York. (See photo.) Previously, he served as Assistant Commissioner under Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and brings a depth of knowledge, commitment, and sparkling sense of humor to his work. On April 21, Commissioner Andersson spoke about the mystery of Annie Moore, a young Irish woman and the first person to enter the United States through Ellis Island in 1892. (Previously, most immigrants were processed through Castle Clinton, also known as Castle Garden.)

Over time, an exciting legend grew up around Annie. She arrived in New York at the tender age of 15, stepped off the boat, and was awarded a \$10 gold piece. She moved west, married a descendant of Daniel O'Connell (the Liberator), and died tragically in Waco, Texas. Now, that's quite a story — but no one could prove it. The puzzle gave rise to a contest sponsored by [genealogist Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak](#), who challenged history buffs and genealogists to uncover the truth about Annie Moore.

Diligent research and keen intuition paid off! Commissioner Brian Andersson worked with Megan to solve the mystery — and found that the tale of Annie Moore from Texas bore absolutely no relation to the life of New York's own Annie. I've never seen a family who fibbed so much! commented Andersson. They misrepresented their ages, places of birth, date they entered this country! For example, Annie said she was 15 — she was really 18 — when she arrived here, but then again, tickets were cheaper for younger children Despite such obstacles, Andersson managed to uncover the truth about Annie Moore. A key source was St. James Church, an important Roman Catholic parish on the Lower East Side. The church records revealed the date of Annie's marriage, her husband's name, and the birth date of their first child. Andersson also found valuable information on the Declaration of Intention (for citizenship) filed by Annie's brother Philip; that record identified the ship and date on which the siblings arrived, thus confirming that the right people had been found. Checking that against the passenger list helped to prove Annie's identity.

The true story: Annie Moore was the second person on the passenger list of that ship whose passengers were the first to be processed at Ellis Island. (Ellen King was the first.) Annie stepped off the S.S. Nevada on Jan. 1, 1892, accompanied by her brothers Anthony and Philip. Their destination: their parents' home at 32 Monroe St. on Manhattan's Lower East Side. Annie never went west — probably not even west of Broadway, said Andersson — married a German-American named William Augustus Shayer, had eleven children, and died in 1924, a stone's throw from 32 Monroe. That house, 99 Cherry Street, no longer exists, having been replaced decades ago by the Alfred E. Smith Houses. Andersson noted, Annie and her family probably lived in poverty: she is buried with most of her children in Calvary Cemetery, in an unmarked grave. Recently, however, Andersson designated the spot with a pair of American and Irish flags. The family of Annie Moore Shayer is currently raising money for a headstone.

At the end of his presentation, Andersson gave a fascinating overview, with slides, of the types of documents held by the [NYC Archives](#).



Brian Andersson with Ground Zero Flag
Photo by Douglas Kiddie

Now to the evening's most wonderful surprise: Commissioner Andersson held, for all to see, a flag that had flown at Ground Zero on 9/11/2001. It was given to then-Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik, later flew 14 million miles around the world on the space shuttle, and now is back safe and secure in the NYC Archives. This flag is used every year in commemorations of 9/11 — and it was to this flag that Family Night guests said the second Pledge of Allegiance of the evening.

Our heartfelt thanks to Commissioner Andersson for such an entertaining presentation on Annie Moore and his very special tribute to those who gave their all on 9/11.

The SRNY Patriot

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