

# “The Paumanok Alarm”

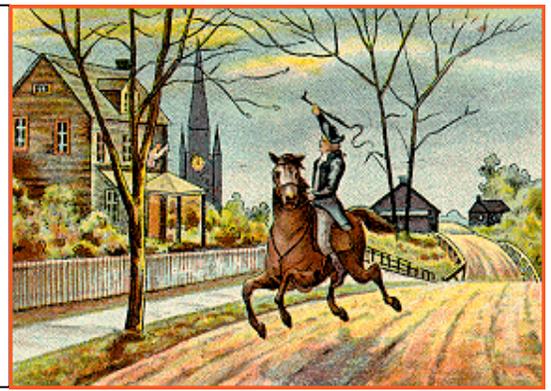
Long Island Chapter Newsletter

Empire State Society

Sons of the American Revolution

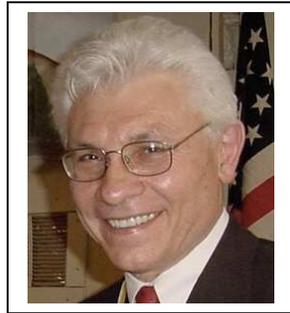
## LIBERTAS ET PATRIA

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### President’s Message:

Dear Compatriots,  
Happy New Year Compatriots!  
This is the usual time of the year that we make resolutions and I have an excellent one for the compatriots of the Long Island Chapter of the Sons of The American Revolution.



Here it is: if you haven’t done it already download a membership application from our website:

for your son, grandson, nephew, etc. and begin the process for them to become compatriots of The Sons of The American Revolution. All you have to do is start the process and we will help you finish it. Remember, because you are a member the process is much easier – so what are you waiting for? Think of how proud you are that you can prove that your ancestors helped establish this great nation of ours. Don’t you want your descendants to feel the same way? Please don’t hesitate and begin the process now. This is one easy New Year’s resolution you can make and posterity will thank you for it!

Desander Mas

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The Long Island Chapter, Empire State Society provide the following award programs for the youth of Long Island:

**J.R.O.T.C.** Bronze J.R.O.T.C, Medal to members of High School programs throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties who an outstanding manor within the program.

**R.O.T.C.** Silver R.O.T.C. Medal to members of College and University R.O.T.C. programs throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties who have an outstanding manor within the program.

**High School:** Bronze Good Citizenship Medal to those students that are nominated by their respective schools and have demonstrated outstanding ability in History and Citizenship.

### Nominations for 2007-2008 Officers

The following names have been presented to the Executive Committee by the Nominating Committee at the Executive Committee Meeting held on Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> in Woodbury:

President:	Desander J. Mas
Vice President:	Paul Hartje
Secretary:	David M. Shields, Jr.
Treasurer:	Albert H. Meyer
Registrar:	
Historian:	Reginald H. Metcalf, Jr.
Membership:	Walter R. Kuhn, Jr.
Chancellor:	Nathaniel L. Corwin
Chaplain:	Joseph A. Betz

Anyone wishing to place a name in nomination for any of the offices above may do so by contacting David M. Shields, Long Island Chapter Secretary, either by U.S. Mail at: **59 Dart Street, East Rockaway, NY 11518** or e-mail at [DMS59Dart@aol.com](mailto:DMS59Dart@aol.com) . If any positions are in contention an election by mail-in voteing will take place. Nominations will be accepted until March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

As you can see, the position of Registrar is currently open. This position requires someone with reasonable computer skills to work with the application process, helping prospective members through the necessary paperwork. Obviously help and training will be provided. Another position that needs filling but is not one on the Executive Committee is that of Webmaster. Perhaps someone with an up and coming new member in their family and necessary computer skills will be able to assist us in getting our Web-site updated and keeping it current. One update which is desirable is to place our newsletters on the site so new and prospective members can read about the activities of our chapter.

**Empire State Society**  
**Sons of the American Revolution**  
**Board of Managers Meeting,**  
**23 September 2006**

Report,

I attended this meeting as a newly elected "Manager" from Long Island. The meeting was held in Coxsackie, NY, a two hundred plus mile drive from home. Like all business meetings, there was a lot of discussion, some differences of opinion and many reports. I did enjoy the opportunity to meet with and put faces to a number of State Officers who I have had the pleasure of working with over the last number of years as in my position as Chapter President and Treasurer.

While there I was given the 2007 Dues Notice packet. The State dues have been increased from \$7.00 to \$10.00 for the year 2007. There was much discussion about the State budget. It seems that even with the dues increase, the actual expense per member is currently \$17.52. A survey of other State Chapters indicates annual dues of \$20.00 to \$25.00 per member. Our State Budget has no "fat" and it looks as if other dues increases will be necessary if the State is to provide needed programs in the future.

I will be putting our Long Island dues notices in the mail shortly, but wish to call all members' attention to the **DUE DATE** of 15 December 2006. This date is early and prompt response by our members with their dues payment is critical. Members, please remit your dues early.

I was asked to serve on the state Knight Essay Contest Committee, and am pleased to do so. I brought up the need for the local chapters to be listed on the Empire State website in order that essays come to us in a timely manner.

The subject of communication with local schools regarding the Knight Essay Contest and the awarding of ROTC and JROTC medals was brought up. I will be speaking to our Long Island members responsible for these two programs to see that we are doing all that we can to promote these activities.

Presentations were made at the meeting to several members who were responsible for bringing in six, eight or more new members within the past year., which begged the question, are we actively reaching out to bring in members? I think we on Long Island could do a better job in this area. Talk up membership!

Albert Meyer

## Old Bethpage Restoration Village

Unfortunately due to inclement weather our meeting and Fall family activity at Old Bethpage Restoration Village was cancelled. This is what we missed:

### A Haunted 1880 Halloween



**Schenck Barn**

Long Islands in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century still lived the life of the rural farmer. Volunteers in period dress for the fall months prepared seasonal meals which included a harvest feast of fresh vegetables, homemade ciders, roasted meats and the smells of fresh baked berry, fruit and pumpkin pies permeated the air.

Farmers and residents of the Restoration Village gathered in the Old General Store to socialize, learn the latest in community news and enjoy a piece of rock candy. In the village, blacksmiths made not only horseshoes but all the metal needed to hinge the barn door, repair a turnbuckle and make tools. Women churned butter, children fed the livestock and men gathered the grain. Everyone pitched in.

The village is an opportunity for families to have some quality time while seeing how our Great Grandparents lived and celebrated the harvest season. This is a great place to visit and just enjoy an afternoon of fresh air and togetherness.

It is our hope that the fall meetings of this type will be attended by more and more of our members and their families. Long Island is awash in Historic Sites and our Chapter is honored to provide the opportunity to attend, learn and have some fun. Join us in these historic activities. They are enjoyable and lotsa FUN for the entire family.

History:

## Rockville Centre Home to Sea Captains and a Diocese

More than 350 years ago, as the winter of 1643 arrived, so did some visitors to the ancient village established by the Rockaway Indians.

The community, at the southern end of what was then a swamp, was in the approximate area where Rockville Centre stands now. About 500 people lived there, led by the one-eyed sachem Tackapousha, and some suspect that Shellbank Avenue in the village took its name from enormous piles of shells the Rockaways had amassed to make wampum.

The visitors were John Carman and Robert Fordham, representatives of a group of Englishmen who were unhappy where they lived at the time, in Stamford, Conn. Carman and Fordham forged south from Hempstead Harbor to Tackapousha, and negotiated the purchase of the southern half of modern-day Nassau County.

Indians coexisted peacefully with the new residents, but European diseases - smallpox and measles - wiped out almost the entire population in less than 50 years. The last of the Indians moved to Barnums Island, leaving little trace behind. The area remained largely uninhabited until 1710, when Michael DeMott constructed a dam for a mill across the stream at the southern end of what was then Long Swamp.

The isolated settlers in the area wanted nothing to do with the rebellion against the British 60 years later. They became a nuisance to the rebels, and Gen. George Washington ordered them arrested. Several hid out in the swamp north of DeMott's mill, at a spot near modern-day Peninsula Boulevard. Rebel soldiers persuaded the Tories to surrender with a single shot, which injured George Smith in the shoulder. It was the first blood of the Revolution spilled on Long Island.

The area became known as Near Rockaway, and by 1849 there were enough people to warrant a post office. Residents wanted to honor the current mill owner and civic leader, Mordecai Rock Smith, but the name Smithtown was already in use in Suffolk County. So, they used his middle name and dubbed their community Rockville Centre. The mill disappeared a few years later when the Brooklyn Water Supply Co. tried to build a massive reservoir there. Its failure resulted in what is now Hempstead Lake.

The combination of water company activity and a new plank road to Jamaica spurred development in Rockville Centre and elsewhere on the South Shore. Sea captains came to favor Rockville Centre, because it was close to the sea and to the port of New York. Indeed, Maine Avenue was named for the many captains who came from that state. (And some

became eternal residents: When the winter of 1836-37 brought two horrifying shipwrecks on the South Shore, residents collected money to bury the victims in the Mariners' Lot at the Sandhole cemetery in the village.)

The 1860s marked the arrival of the Wallace brothers, men who would shape Rockville Centre's development for decades. George Wallace owned the South Side Observer, an influential Freeport newspaper, but in 1873 he moved it and himself to Rockville Centre.

Wallace, a former teacher who became a state assemblyman, soon began campaigning for the formal incorporation of Rockville Centre. Residents debated the issue for more than two decades before voting to do so in 1893. (Wallace also introduced the bill in the legislature that established Nassau County in 1898).

Within months of Rockville Centre's incorporation, the board of trustees began to set up its electric and water supply service - utilities that remain to this day. Indeed, it was thanks to Rockville Centre's own electric utility that the village escaped the blackout that crippled the Northeast in 1965.

In 1927, the new Sunrise Highway reached Rockville Centre on its way to the Suffolk County line and beyond, and the village's population doubled during that decade. Twenty years later, during Long Island's seminal postwar boom, the Roman Catholic Church decided to split the Brooklyn Diocese in two. The eastern half, serving Nassau and Suffolk Counties, became the Diocese of Rockville Centre in 1956, and St. Agnes Church in the village became the new cathedral.

Where to Find More: "The History of Rockville Centre," by Preston Bassett and Arthur Hodges, Rockville Centre Library.

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### Answers to the Questions in the Last Edition:

1. Other than Canada or Mexico, which country is the closest one to the United States? Ans. **Russia**
2. Drawing a line directly south from Detroit Michigan, which is the first foreign country you would come to? Ans. **Canada**
3. While traveling from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean in the Panama Canal, which general direction would you be traveling? Ans. **Easterly**
4. Which of the following cities is closest to Honolulu Hawaii? Ans. **C) San Francisco**
5. Which city is further west? Ans. **A) Reno NV**
6. Which state is further north? Ans. **B) Minnesota**
7. **Within the thirteen original American Colonies, name at least four other English Colonies.** Ans. **Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay, New Haven, East Jersey, West Jersey (If you have more, tell me.....)**



Long Island Chapter  
Empire State Society  
Sons of the American Revolution  
David M. Shields, Secretary  
59 Dart Street  
East Rockaway, NY 11518

**A Date To Remember:  
Annual Luncheon  
And Installation of  
Officers  
Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Three Village Inn  
Stony Brook**