

# “The Paumanok Alarm”

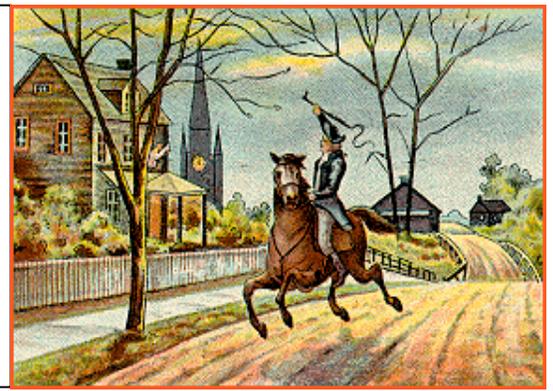
Long Island Chapter Newsletter

Empire State Society

Sons of the American Revolution

**LIBERTAS ET PATRIA**

Volume 97 September 2006 Number 2



## President's Message:

Dear Compatriots,  
This past week I visited the home of John Adams in Quincy, Massachusetts. I visited three homes of John Adams. The one he was born in, the one his son John Quincy Adams was born in and the



last home where he lived for more than 30 years until his death on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1826 - the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Besides the wealth of memorabilia that has been preserved what struck me most about the Adams' homestead is that it is a record not just of John Adams but of four generations of Adams; four generations who served the United States probably as no other family has served her. And the reason we know so much about their contribution is because each Adams' generation carefully preserved for posterity what it is they did. And that is what this president's message is about: have you recorded for posterity what you and your ancestors contributed to your community to our country? If not then consider doing so. One of the ways you do can do this is by contributing to this newsletter your stories (just as Sue Ann Gardner Shreve has done in this issue with her fascinating article about Lieutenant General Baron Friedrich von Steuben). The stories don't have to be about you or your ancestor, perhaps you visited a museum such as the Cradle of Aviation that Compatriot David Shields wrote about in March. So take a few minutes and share with us your stories because you never know the day will come that posterity will be glad that you did.

Desander J. Mas

## High School Citizenship Awards

The annual presentation of Citizenship Awards for High School students on Long Island was held on Monday evening, June 12<sup>th</sup> at the Town of Huntington Hall. The ceremony was presided over by Long Island Chapter Historian Reginald Metcalf. Rex coordinated with the Ketewamoke Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution who co-hosted this activity and provided refreshments afterwards for the students and their parents.

The evening opened with the Presentation of the Colors and Pledge to our Flag by the *Order of the Ancient and Honorable Huntington Militia* in full period dress. The



welcoming address was given by Ketewamoke Chapter Regent Ms. Lilian Najarian and Long Island Chapter President Mr. Desander Mas. The keynote speaker was Mr. Robert Hughes, Historian for the Town of Huntington who greeted the guests and parents as well as giving a rousing talk about the future leadership in our country.

The Daughters of the American Revolution Regent Ms. Lilian Najarian, under the direction of their Chapter Awards Chair, Cheryl Grossman, presented some 31 Good Citizenship Certificates to students representing 16 of the area High Schools.

Desander Mas, Long Island Chapter President of the Sons of the American Revolution presented students with the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Awards as follows:

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## Memorial Day Activities

Members of our chapter gathered around various locations on Long Island for Memorial Day Weekend Activities ranging from flag placement on graves at the National Cemetery at Pinelawn, to the many graves of Revolutionary War Veterans all over Suffolk and Nassau County.



**Tiger Cub Scout Jason placing a flag on the grave of Robert Davison at the Rockville Cemetery in Nassau County**



**National Cemetery at Pinelawn, Suffolk County**

## Memorial Day Parade, Setauket Long Island



**Compatriot Frank Roever, DAR members Mary Pinnata and Jean Sobalvarro from the Anna Smith Strong Chapter, Compatriot Joseph Betz, Compatriot Henry Blachly, Compatriot Albert Meyer**

## High School Citizenship Awards

(Continued from Page 1)



Amityville Memorial High School.....**Hussein Kalimuddin**  
 Cold Spring Harbor High School.....**John Cafaro**  
 Commack High School.....**Rachel Lamorte**  
 Copiague - Walter G. O'Connell HS....**Georgette Spanjich**  
 Elwood - John H. Glenn High School.....**Ming-Jie Wang**  
 Half Hollow Hills High School - East.....**Dana Schwartz**  
 Half Hollow Hills High School - West....**Christopher Pynn**  
 Harborfields High School.....**Zachary Schoephlin**  
 Huntington High School.....**Katy Ann Lyons**  
 Massapequa High School.....**Paul Park**  
 Northport High School.....**Eric Meyerowitz**  
 Walt Whitman High School.....**Justin Seltzer**  
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## Geography Quiz:

(without looking it up first)

1. Other than Canada or Mexico, which country is the closest one to the United States?
2. Drawing a line directly south from Detroit Michigan, which is the first foreign country you would come to?
3. While traveling from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean in the Panama Canal, which general direction would you be traveling?
4. Which of the following cities is closest to Honolulu Hawaii?  
 A) San Diego B) Los Angeles C) San Francisco
5. Which city is further west?  
 A) Reno NV B) San Diego CA
6. Which state is further north?  
 A) Washington B) Minnesota C) Maine
7. Within the thirteen original American Colonies, name at least four other English Colonies.

**Good Luck**

## A Revolutionary War German/Prussian Lieutenant General Baron Friedrich von Steuben (1730-1794)

Data compiled by: Sue Ann Gardner Shreve –  
Regent Col. Gilber Potter Chapter, D.A.R.

Several years ago I wrote a book on my husband's Shreve ancestors, "The Shreve Family Genealogy from 1641." Research on the American Revolutionary War was essential as his great great great grandfather Col. Israel Shreve (1739 NJ – 1799 PA) was colonel of the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey Regiment in the Continental Army. The Shreve family were members of the Society of Friends (Quakers), who frowned upon and forbade their members from "taking up arms". Those who joined the ranks of the Continental Army and answered the call of their country were "disowned" for their activities and became what was known as "fighting Quakers". Col. Israel Shreve & his son Lt. John Shreve (1762 NJ – 1854 OH) both served their country and distinguished themselves in most of the battles fought during this war between 1775 and 1781. Both were at the winter encampment at Valley Forge, Penn. during the winter of 1777/1778 with Gen. George Washington. While reading the history of the Valley Forge encampment I was introduced to one of General George Washington's more illustrious Staff members Major General Baron Friedrich von Steuben.

### Revolutionary War background ....

In 1777 the men in the Continental Army were poorly clothed, undernourished, lacked military training, were ravaged by sickness and disease and were ill-equipped. At this point it was obvious that the Americans would lose their battle against the well-trained British Army and lose their fight for independence. Help was needed.

American commissioners Benjamin Franklin & Silas Dean were in Paris France in the summer of 1777. A former Lieutenant General in the King of Prussia's service, Baron Friedrich von Steuben, was also in Paris during the summer of 1777. He was in need of employment and thought that he might possibly find work with the Continental Army in America. Through connections he contacted Count Claude Louis de Saint-Germain, the French Minister of War and was introduced to the Americans Benjamin Franklin & Silas Dean. They both agreed that he would be of great assistance to General George Washington and the Continental Army. With a letter of introduction from Benjamin Franklin in hand and travel funds advanced, von Steuben left Europe and by December of 1777 he was in Boston, MA, being extravagantly entertained. Congress had been ousted from Philadelphia and were now located in York, PA, where von Steuben joined them. The Congress accepted his offer to volunteer, without pay for the time, and by February of 1778 he reported for duty to General George Washington at Valley Forge. A big disadvantage was that von Steuben, who spoke German, did not speak English, but he had a



command of the French language and was able to communicate with some of the French officers and Washington's aide-de-camp Alexander Hamilton who acted as interpreters.

### Baron von Steuben's background ....

Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustin von Steuben was born 17 September 1730 in Magdeburg, Prussia (now Germany). His father was an "Engineer Lieutenant" in the military in 1730. Friedrich's adolescent years were spent in Russia. When he was about ten years of age the family returned to Germany, where Friedrich was schooled by the Jesuits in Breslau. At age seventeen he had become an officer in the Prussian military, serving in an infantry unit and as a staff officer in the Seven Years War (1756-1763). He became a member of the General Staff of the Prussian Army and eventually was given assignment with Frederick the Great's (King Frederick II) headquarters, where he distinguished himself with his technical knowledge. By 1763, when peace was attained, he had achieved the rank of Captain and was discharged from the army. In 1764 he somehow received the title of "Baron", when he became Chamberlain at the Petty Court of Hohenzollern-Hechingen, where he remained for some fourteen years. In spite of his title and with only a military background he found employment difficult to find. Without funds and deeply in debt von Steuben discovered that the noted American Benjamin Franklin was in Paris in 1777. Count Claude Louis de Saint-Germain, the French Minister of War, thought it would enhance von Steuben's position to be introduced to Benjamin Franklin as a "Lieutenant General in the King of Prussia's Army" and NOT as a mere "Captain." Von Steuben enjoyed the sudden escalation in rank.

## Von Steuben meets General George Washington at Valley Forge ....

After arriving at Valley Forge, Penn. on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 1778 Washington immediately assigned von Steuben the task of training the troops. He chose 100 men to form a sample “model company.” After their training these 100 men were assigned to units and it was their job to train the rest of the men at Valley Forge. Von Steuben proved himself so quickly that Washington appointed him Inspector General and on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 1778 promoted him to the rank of Major General. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1778 this was approved by Congress.

Von Steuben also instituted and developed a program of camp sanitation, which was very much needed. Kitchens and sleeping quarters were located on opposite sides of the camps from the latrines.

Probably von Steuben’s most acclaimed accomplishment was his preparation of a manual for “Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States.”, written in 1780. This manual became the army’s standard drill manual and is still used today. Rapidity and speed of firing firearms was of utmost importance. Much in the above mentioned manual deals with the motions of loading and firing weapons. Firing was done in eight counts and fifteen motions.

Fire! One Motion.

Half cock-Firelock! One Motion

Handle –Cartridge! One Motion.

Prime! One Motion.

Shut-Pan! One Motion.

Charge with Cartridge! Two Motions.

Draw-Rammer! Two Motions.

Ram down – Cartridge! One Motion

Return-Rammer! Two Motions.

This set of motions provided the army with the capability of being able to get in a good fast volley, take a return fire and re-load faster than the enemy.

In the winter of 1779-1780 von Steuben represented General George Washington at the Continental Congress regarding the reorganization of the army. He later served under Marquis de Lafayette in the southern campaign in 1781 and was at the final Revolutionary War campaign at Yorktown, he helped to demobilize the army in 1783 and assisted in the defense plan of our new nation, after the war. In 1784, by an act of the Pennsylvania legislature he became an American citizen.

Major General Baron Friedrich von Steuben was discharged from the military with honor on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 1784. He established residency in New York. His business acumen was not very good and once again he found himself in financial difficulties. He adopted a life style that he could not support, based on the prospect of financial compensation from the United States government. It was not until June of 1790 that he was granted a yearly pension of \$2500.00. His



friend Alexander Hamilton and other friends helped him gain a “friendly” mortgage on the 16,000 acres, near Utica, NY, given to him by New York State. He died a bachelor on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 1794 in Steubenville, New York, leaving his property to his former aides Benjamin Walker and William North.

Von Steuben is credited with discovering the deficiencies in the military discipline and their causes and helped to instill pride and professionalism in the Continental Army. The drills, training and standards adopted by his men WON THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR. Without him we might be flying the British flag over our nation’s capital today. We salute MAJOR GENERAL BARON FREDERICK VON STEUBEN.

Note: Both Steuben County New York & Steuben County, Indiana were named after Major General Baron von Steuben; as was the company formed by Frederick Carter, a competitor of the famous Louis Comfort Tiffany, who began the Steuben Glass Company in 1903 in Corning, NY, as an adjunct to the Corning Glass Works.

### Bibliography:

Friedrich William Von Steuben and the American Revolution by Joseph B. Doyle, 1913.

General von Steuben by John McAuley Palmer, 1937.

The American Heritage - History of The American Revolution, Richard M. Ketchum, 1971.

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History:

## **PROFILE OF SUFFOLK COUNTY**

Suffolk County comprises 1000 square miles of eastern two-thirds of Long Island. Long Island itself extends 120 miles into the Atlantic Ocean, East from New York City. The distance from the Nassau County border to Montauk Point is 86 miles. At Suffolk County's widest point the distance from Long Island Sound to the southern shore is 26 miles.

Long Island was formed during the Pleistocene Era when the earth warmed and the massive glaciers then covering the area melted, leaving glacial moraines of rock and soil deposits which shaped the island. Extending back 10,000 years and up to the 17th century, the island was inhabited by numerous small groups of Algonquins having a language and culture throughout the Middle Atlantic region and what is now New England. Historians estimate the native population to have been no more than 6,000 (In 1994 there were approximately 1,400,000 residents of Suffolk.) The Algonquins fished and harvested shellfish at the shore and hunted the inland wilderness. From clam shells and whelk they chiseled wampum, the currency of eastern natives and, in the 17th century, adopted as money by colonists.

The Dutchman, Adrian Block, the first explorer to touch land at Montauk point in 1614, encountered native Americans. The first white resident was Lion Gardiner, who settled in 1639 on the Island between the north and south forks. Gardiner's Island still bears his family name.

English colonists crossed Long Island Sound from Connecticut and Massachusetts colonies, founding Southold and Southampton (1640), East Hampton (1648), Shelter Island (1652), and Setauket, in Brookhaven (1655). Dutch settlers moved eastward from Manhattan Island. By the mid-1600s the Dutch had ceded control of eastern Long Island to the English.



In the 1670s, James, Duke of York, who owned Long Island, appointed Thomas Dongan to govern it. At a gathering of colonial representatives, the "Charter of Liberties and Privileges" was adopted (1 November 1683), establishing Suffolk county as a political entity and as one of the 12

original counties of the Province of New York, and laying the foundation for the State's present political subdivisions and governmental structure. The County was occupied by the British for the seven years of the Revolutionary War, from 1776 to 25 November 1783.

From the first years of colonization, the heavily wooded forests provided wood which Long Islanders cut and shipped as cordwood and as board footage for local ship and home builders. As the land was cleared, the rich acreage was farmed. Fishing and shipbuilding were other early industries. Until the 1850s whaling was an important source of income. Farming remains a staple of eastern Long Island commerce, although strawberries, cabbage, potatoes, pumpkins and sod acres are giving way to horse farms and vineyards. Its quaint historic villages, rocky north shore beaches and calm waters, the white sand and breakers off Fire Island, and the dependable winds and safe harbors for sailing make tourism a major Suffolk County industry. In the 1930s the County became the site of large-scale suppliers to the U.S. defense and aerospace industries. For example, Grumman Corporation played an important role in developing high-technology jet planes, such as the Navy F14 fighter, as well as the lunar module (LEM) which first landed men on the moon in 1969. After World War I, Brookhaven National Laboratory, a research institution administered by Associated Universities Inc. and funded by the Federal Government, was established on the site of Camp Upton in Yaphank. Its scientists develop peaceful uses of atomic energy. High technology centers make Suffolk County sixth in the nation in the production of radio and television communications equipment and aircraft manufacture.

Since World War II, Long Island has epitomized the phenomenon of growing suburbia. In 1955, mass-produced housing developments, along with new major institutions of learning, contributed to Suffolk County's population explosion. Foremost among the latter is the State University of New York at Stony Brook, which opened on a 1000-acre campus in 1962. Its Health Science Center and 18-story University Hospital became Long Island's tallest buildings in 1976. For some, the Island's bucolic pleasures are offset by new problems accompanying population growth: disappearing farms replaced by housing developments, strip-zoning along once pastoral roads, dependence on the automobile, overcrowded roadways, possible effects of pollution of inland and coastal waters, and mounting waste-disposal needs.

Long Island's leading newspaper, Newsday, founded by Alicia Paterson in 1940 in Hempstead, started a Suffolk edition in 1944. The paper features investigative news coverage of local public officials and institutions, up-to-the-minute sports, and coverage of world and national affairs.

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**Visit our Chapter Website at:**

<http://www.geocities.com/Hartland/Plains/9211>

**FINAL REPORT OF  
JUDGE ED BUTLER AS  
GENEALOGIST GENERAL  
FOR THE 2006 CONGRESS AT DALLAS, TX  
May 8, 2006**

As Genealogist General, I have participated in the following meetings:

Mid Atlantic District, Southern District, South Central District, New England District, ARSSAR, CASSAR, ILSSAR, FLSSAR, LASSAR, MOSSAR, MXSSAR, OKSSAR, TNSSAR, TXSSAR, VASSAR and VTSSAR, as well as chapter functions in Texas, Vermont and Kentucky.

As Genealogist General for the past two years, my most noteworthy accomplishments were as follows:

1. Established an e-mail list of state registrars/genealogists. Through that list I instituted frequent messages to them to enhance the quality of applications received from the states, and to keep them apprised of the latest developments. To my knowledge, no other past Genealogist General had communicated directly with SAR State Registrars and Genealogists on a regular basis. As a result, the quality of the applications improved substantially, reducing the work load of the office staff. This contributed to the staff being current in processing applications..
  2. Communicated frequently with the SAR membership
    - a. through e-mail messages on SAR-Talk and SAR Officers and Chairman e-mail networks regarding the status of the application process and new developments in the field of genealogy.
    - b. through articles in the SAR Magazine, Headquarters Dispatch, and several state SAR society (VASSAR, CASSAR, TXSSAR, TNSSAR, ILSSAR) and chapter newsletters about the membership application process and genealogical news.
  3. With the assistance of Compatriot Ralph Nelson, established the new SAR Genealogy Web Site at [www.sar.org/cnssar/gengen.htm](http://www.sar.org/cnssar/gengen.htm) also at <http://www.sar.org/committee/genealogy/genecomm.htm>
  4. Commenced the issuance of Rulings of the Genealogist General, to clarify vague, ambiguous, and conflicting information.
  5. Instituted a Genealogy Seminar at the 2005 NSSAR Congress in Louisville.
  6. Conducted Genealogy Seminars at State SAR meetings, including a "Seminar At Sea" in conjunction with meetings of MXSSAR and TXSSAR in Nov. 2004. I am currently planning for a genealogy seminar in conjunction with a MXSSAR meeting in Mazatlan, Mexico, Oct. 6-11; and another with the TXSSAR in San Antonio, TX in March, 2007.
  7. Made two special trips to Louisville to work on problem applications, and got the membership department caught up on a serious backlog of applications.
  8. Wrote and published "Genealogy, History and Patriotism: The SAR Formula for Success", for publication in Heritage Quest, a national genealogy magazine. This article was published in the Summer 2005 edition, Vol. 21, No. 2, Issue 114, pp. 2, 54-58, and should help in our national membership campaign.
  9. Organized and chaired a genealogy seminar at the 2006 NSSAR Congress in Dallas. NSSAR should gain a net profit of somewhere between \$3000.00 and \$5,000.00. I recommend that future Genealogist Generals conduct a genealogy seminar the day before each national congress. Through using speakers from the city where the congress will be held, and by using members who would be coming to the congress in any event, costs would be minimized. Also sponsored three genealogy workshops at the 2006 Congress on 1) Cox SAR software; 2) DNA; and 3) How to form a new chapter.
  10. Participated in the drafting, presentation, and passage of by-law amendments to streamline the application process, including the adoption of the Grandfather Clause..
  11. Served as Chairman of the NSSAR "DNA in the SAR Application Process Committee", which presented DNA workshops at the 2005 and 2006 Congresses; promoted members to have their DNA tested and established a SAR policy on DNA in the SAR Application Process.
  12. Recommended a new program in conjunction with Family Tree DNA to identify SAR members who are direct descendants of former US presidents, and to establish a DNA data base of the presidents of the US. If adopted, and if successful, this could possibly result in favorable national publicity for SAR on the National Geographic channel.
  13. Worked closely with Richard Steel, Chairman of the Genealogy Committee, to facilitate the business of the committee. We are currently investigating the possibility of requiring a criminal background check on all new applicants, to insure that we don't admit a convicted felon, child molester, etc.
- When I took over we had a backlog of several hundred new applications and over 900 supplemental applications. I am proud to say that we are now current and have been current for most of 2005-2006. The membership staff have readily accepted my new approach to evidence, proof, and burden of proof. The machine is running very smoothly.
- I have greatly enjoyed my tenure as Genealogist General as I got to know many compatriots who I might never have met had it not been for my position. I have learned a lot about genealogy and the SAR application process. I enjoyed working with the SAR membership department staff, and I look forward to working with members of the SAR in the future.

Edward F. Butler, Sr.  
Genealogist General  
2004-2005 and 2005-2006

# A Signature Event

Copied from Better Homes and Gardens July 2006 page 248

We need a long weekend to celebrate the Fourth of July. There's so much to do: gather up the lawn chairs for the morning parade, make potato salad for the family reunion, gather up the lawn chairs again for the evening concert and bombastic fireworks show. There are baseball games to attend, from little League on up to the majors, lots of burgers and hot dogs and ice cream to eat, and homemade lemonade to drink.

We'll fly our Stars and Stripes and wear red, white and blue to celebrate our patriotism. Americans do that with a certain sense of pride and passion now because we may have taken our freedoms and national identity a little bit for granted in the years before September 11, 2001. It gave me goose bumps last year just to see historian David McCollough's book, *1776*, become a best seller.

This year, it occurred to our family that maybe the Declaration of Independence itself was getting overlooked in the bustle of our Fourth of July rituals. So the kids and I explored the National Archives Web site and discovered that we could actually place our signatures on the Declaration. With a click of the mouse, you can choose a quill, type your name in a box, and a script version of your name appears not too far from John

Hancock's famous signature. The document is suitable for printing at home.

Before that happens, however, a new page appears asking whether you are sure you want to join the signers. It's a reminder of the dire circumstances that surrounded the original event. A meager army of

untrained and untried militia soldiers were going up against the world's then greatest super power that had a professional army to match.

The largest British armada ever assembled loomed in New York Harbor, and Boston would soon be under siege. With the revolution very much in doubt, some colonists argued for reconciliation. The 56 men from the 13 state who sighed beneath those self-evident truths knew they were risking their lives. They would be considered traitors by the King.

The page gives you and opportunity to change your mind. But signing feels instinctive

somehow, even to a grade-schooler, and even without 230 years of hindsight. Deciding whether to go for a hamburger or hot dog next, or have a piece of pie -- that's tough.

**Editor's note: Visit the National Archives in Washington, D.C. or virtually at [archives.gov](http://archives.gov).**



Better Homes and Gardens®, July 1954



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:  
October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006 10:00 am  
Long Island Chapter, ESSSAR  
General Membership Meeting  
And Family Outing (including Grandchildren)  
Old Bethpage Restoration Village  
“Haunted 1880 Long Island Halloween”  
Bethpage, NY  
Village Fees: Adults \$ 7.00, Children 4-14 \$ 5.00  
Seniors 60+ \$ 5.00, Children under 4 Free  
Bring your own food and beverage for the day.  
(There is no food/beverage services or Gift Shop)**