

# “The Paumanok Alarm”

Long Island Chapter Newsletter  
Empire State Society

Sons of the American Revolution

**LIBERTAS ET PATRIA**

Volume 102 September 2011 Number 3



## President’s Message:

Dear Compatriots,

We had a busy and hot summer that ended with hurricane Irene. Hopefully most of you survived without injury to yourself and little damage to your property. The Chapter successfully completed several programs since our last newsletter, especially the *Student Good Government Awards Program* and the *ROTC* and *JROTC Programs*.



We presented certificates and the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship medals to twelve (12) high school seniors from twelve different high schools. Desander Mas, Past President of the Chapter, together with the DAR Ketewamoke Chapter Regent, and the Honorable Robert Hughes, Town of Huntington, presented Award Certificates signed by the Honorable Frank Petrone, Huntington Town Supervisor.

Compatriots David M. Shields and Ronald Sage had another successful year with the *ROTC* and *JROTC* Program. Compatriot Shields had the honor of presenting the SAR Silver ROTC Medal to Army Cadet Andrew Hughes at Hofstra University. In the *JROTC* Program the Chapter had two winners: one first place winner and a second place winner who also received a monetary award from the Empire State Society (NY). The first place winner on the State level received a \$600.00 check and the second place winner received a \$300.00 check. Both recipients were Naval JROTC Cadets. The first place winner received the SAR JROTC Silver Enhanced Medal from the Chapter. The second place winner received the SAR JROTC Bronze Enhanced Medal. In order to achieve this success, these cadets had to submit an original essay on the topic, “*How JROTC has prepared me to be a better citizen of the United States*”. In addition the Chapter awarded seven (7) SAR Bronze JROTC medals to cadets from seven high schools.

We also need to extend a special thanks to Compatriot William Ludlum, our new Chapter Treasurer, for pulling together all our accounting records and rectifying all outstanding issues with the State Society, the IRS and NYS Department of Finance.

We would be amiss if we didn’t extend our thanks to Mrs. Kathleen Vermaelen and Anthony Sage for volunteering their time and effort to help the Chapter improve our relationships with the D.A.R and C.A.R. Chapters on Long Island.

Everyone has been working hard over the summer to see that everything comes together for smooth operations. It is a privilege to work with these individuals and the Chapter is fortunate to have such dedicated members.

It has been an honor to serve as your President for the past five months and I thank the Chapter Officers and the members for their confidence in me. As always, I would love to hear from you with your suggestions, or to discuss if you would like to become more involved in your Long Island Chapter. Please call me at 516-286-5302 or email me at [eburns@longislandsar.org](mailto:eburns@longislandsar.org).

Edward A. Burns, President

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## Long Island Chapter Youth Program IN HIGH GEAR

### High School Bronze Citizenship Award

Following last springs HUGH success in having the Empire State Society First Place winner in the Knight Essay Contest and both the First and Second place winners in the Enhanced J.R.O.T.C. program, the Long Island Chapter held it’s annual High School Citizenship Awards night in conjunction with the Daughters of the American Revolution Ketemawoke Chapter’s High School Awards Presentations in Huntington on Monday evening, June 13th. Winners in each High School received the SAR Bronze Citizenship Medal for excellence in American History and Citizenship.

- Amityville Memorial High School**
- Cold Spring Harbor High School**
- Commack High School**
- Copiague–O’Connell High School**
- Elwood–John H. Glenn High School**
- Half Hollow Hills High School–East**
- Half Hollow Hills High School–West**
- Harborfields High School**
- Huntington High School**
- Massapequa High School**
- Northport High School**
- Walt Whitman High School**

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**General Membership Meeting**  
**Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011, 10:00 AM**

Information on the next page

**General Membership Meeting**  
**Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011, 10:00 AM**

**Location: The Ketemowoke Daughters of the American Revolution House, located on Nassau Road, in Huntington. (Nassau Road is off of Main Street, just east of the Revolutionary War Cemetery in Huntington Central) The agenda will include Officers' reports and upcoming activities. Everyone will be receiving postcards about the meeting. Chapter President Edward Burns requests the presence of all chapter members at this very important meeting. Thank you.**

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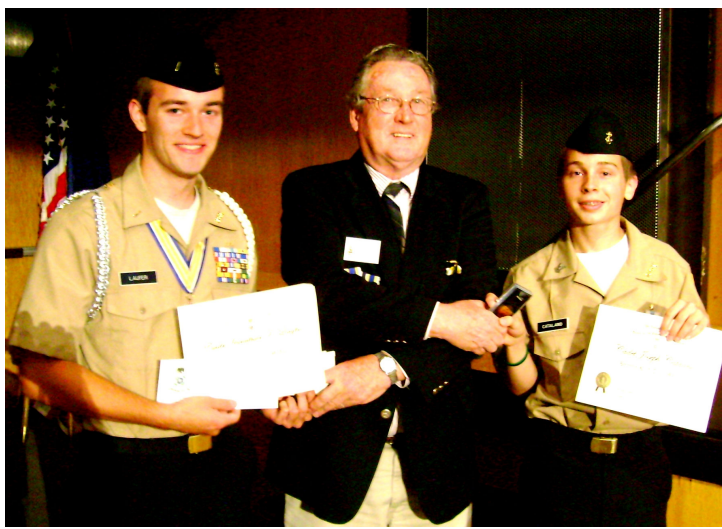
**In MEMORIAM**

**HEATHER ELIZABETH APPLEWHITE**  
**(Age 20)**

On Tuesday, August 23, 2011, of Richmond, VA. Beloved daughter of Compatriot Rev. Mark V. Applewhite and Jane Ellen (Maplesden) Weaver; sister of Justin Joshua Maplesden Villanueva and Lindsay Suzanne Weaver; step-daughter of Philip Andrew Weaver; granddaughter of Hugh and Millie Maplesden, Harry and Merrily Applewhite and the late Barbara Maplesden. Also survived by many beloved aunts, uncles and cousins. Funeral Service was held at Christ Congregational Church, 9525 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Internment followed at Union Cemetery, Burtonsville, MD. Memorial contributions may be made to School of Art & Design at Montgomery College, 7600 Takoma Avenue, CF120, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

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**William Floyd High School J.R.O.T.C.**  
**ESSAR 2nd Place Enhanced Award**



**William Floyd High School**, United States Navy, Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, located at 240 Mastic Beach Road, Mastic Beach, NY and under the leadership of Commanding Officer, Commander Jay Tweed, USN (Ret) and Command Senior Chief Petty Officer Dwight Beacherer was the High School who's Cadet earned 2nd Place in the Long Island Enhanced Cadet Program, and 2nd Place in the

Empire State Society Enhanced Cadet Program. This Cadet is High School Junior Jonathan T. Laufer. In the photo below, Cadet Laufer is pictured on the left of Compatriot David M. Shields, Long Island Chapter R.O.T.C. Chairman. Cadet Laufer received a check from the Empire State Society for \$300.00 and the Bronze Enhanced Neck Drape and Certificate from the Long Island Chapter.

Pictured on the right side of Compatriot Shields, is Cadet Joseph Catalino, the William Floyd High School recipient of the J.R.O.T.C. Bronze Medal as the cadet most deserving in the field of American History, Citizenship and Soldierly bearing. The Awards ceremony was held on Monday evening, June 13th, 2011 at William Floyd High School.

The Long Island Chapter congratulates both Cadet Laufer and Cadet Catalino on receiving their awards and wishes them continued success in their military careers.

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**Southold High School J.R.O.T.C.**

**ESSAR 1st Place Enhanced Award**

**Southold-Mattituck High School**, United States Navy, Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, located at 420 Oaklawn Avenue, Southold, NY, and under the leadership of Commanding Officer Major William Grigonis, Senior Naval Science Instructor was the High School who's Cadet earned 1st Place in the Long Island Enhanced Cadet Program, and 1st Place in the Empire State Society Enhanced Cadet Program. This Cadet is High School Junior Matthew M. Ireland. Cadet Ireland received a check for \$ 600.00 from the Empire State Society and the Silver Enhanced Neck Drape and Certificate. Cadet Ireland was also the recipient of the Long Island Chapter J.R.O.T.C. Bronze Medal as the most deserving in the field of American History, Citizenship and Soldierly bearing. The Awards ceremony was held on Tuesday May 31st, at the Vineyard Caterers in Aquabog on Long Island's north fork. Presenting the Awards at the ceremony, and representing the Long Island Chapter was Compatriot Ronald "Sage" Sage. Sage is a member of the chapter's R.O.T.C. committee and a welcome addition to the chapter and the committee.

The Long Island Chapter congratulates Cadet Matthew M. Ireland on receiving both the Silver Enhanced Award and the Bronze J.R.O.T.C. medal and wish him continued success in his military career.

(Unfortunately there are no photos available)

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Recipe: **CORN FRITTERS**

**INGREDIENTS:**

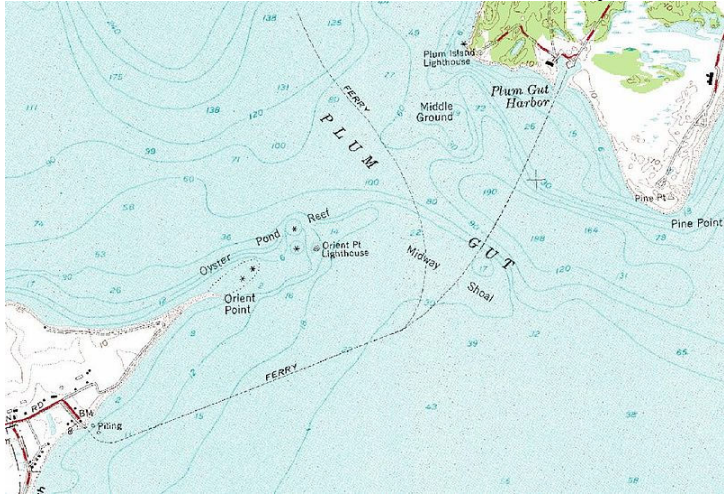
- 2 cups canned corn, reserving liquid
- Add enough milk to liquid to make 1 cup
- 1½ cups flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- ¾ tsp salt
- 1 egg

**DIRECTIONS:**

Mix egg with milk and liquid mixture. Add dry ingredients and mix just till moistened. Add corn. Drop batter from spoon into hot fat (375° F). Fry until brown about 3 minutes, turning once. Drain on paper towels.

## #17 ORIENT POINT LIGHTHOUSE

Orient Point Light is a sparkplug lighthouse off Orient Point, New York. It has also been described as a 'coffee pot'.



The deep and narrow gap between Orient Point and Plum Island is called Plum Gut, and at ebb tide, the waters of Long Island Sound rush through at currents exceeding five knots, creating a churning mix of white-capped waves and dangerous riptides. This mile-wide passageway is challenging for even the most experienced mariners. Oyster Pond Reef, a dangerous obstacle lying just beneath the surface of the water, extends from Orient Point one-third of the way across Plum Gut.

The Lighthouse Service started placing day markers near the outer end of the reef in the mid-1800s, but winter storms and huge ice floes dislodged or destroyed many of them. At first, plans were made to upgrade the day markers with a simple light beacon and fog signal, but in 1896, after considerable debate, it was decided to build a caisson tower composed of curved cast-iron plates, bolted together through flanges on the inside of the plates. The lighthouse was erected right on the reef, out at its far end, where it would be most beneficial to mariners.



Construction began in October of 1898, but it turned out to be the stormiest autumn in decades. Forty-eight prefabricated steel plates making up the lower part of the foundation had been barged to the site, fastened together and sunk into place on October 24. Three days later a strong gale swept the entire caisson off its base and destroyed it, ending construction until the following spring. The lighthouse was completed in 1899 and exhibited its red light from a fifth-order lens for the first time on November 10th of that year. The new beacon proved too dim and was upgraded to a fourth-order lens on May 1, 1900.

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Although 600 tons of riprap had initially been placed around the foundation to protect the structure, prolonged exposure to powerful ice floes and winter storms created constant problems. Over the next three years, more than 10,000 additional tons of riprap were used at the base of the structure to build a breakwall. The pier, which sits on the reef and protects the lighthouse, is twenty-five feet wide at its base and thirty-two feet tall. The lighthouse tower itself is forty-five feet tall, with six interior decks. A few years after it was built, some cracks and rust were found on one side of the foundation. After more plates were added to patch the problems, the extra weight caused the lighthouse to tilt about five degrees. (Some accounts blame the tilt on currents undermining the foundation on that side.)

The basic, no-frills style of this and similar lighthouses of its time was a reaction to the expensive and high-maintenance, but architecturally fascinating lighthouses previously built in the region. Not one of the most attractive lighthouses ever built, the brown and white structure was nicknamed “The Coffee Pot” by local mariners. The Orient Point Lighthouse is similar in design to a number of other Coffee Pot lighthouses built around this time – starting in the early twentieth century, after automobiles became a common sight, they became more famously known as Spark Plug lighthouses.

The first keeper at Orient Point was a Norwegian immigrant named Ole Nicholas Alfred Anderson. Since the station’s location in open water was considered too dangerous for a keeper’s family, Anderson’s wife was forced to live in the nearby town of Orient, on Long Island. Anderson served as keeper until September of 1901, when he was transferred to Bridgeport Connecticut. Later, Anderson would serve twenty-five years at the twin lights at Navesink New Jersey. When Anderson's son Olaf sailed into New York Harbor from France aboard a troopship at the end of the First World War, he could see the light from his father's lighthouse welcoming him back to America.

On August 30, 1912, the steamer Halyoake was passing through Plum Gut when its steering suddenly went out. The strong currents turned the ship, and with its engines still in gear, it headed straight for the Orient Point Lighthouse. The ship's captain ordered the engines to full reverse, while at the lighthouse Keeper Charles Whitford watched and anxiously braced himself for the inevitable impact. Fortunately, the captain had acted just in time. Whitford wrote that “the bow ran up on the rocks surrounding the station, but the steamer backed off immediately, and no damage was done to either the steamer or the station.”

Orient Point Lighthouse had a fairly quiet history from that point, although there is a local legend that says one of the keepers during the 1920s went mad from the isolation and jumped to his death from the outer walkway.

On April 5, 1958, the Coast Guard Cutter Hawthorne arrived at the Orient Point Lighthouse and carried away all the station's furniture and personnel. The Coast Guard keepers were replaced by “the click of micro-switches and solenoid valves.” In 1970, the Coast Guard announced plans to tear

**Continued on Page 4**

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down the automated lighthouse, which they deemed unsafe for servicing personnel and too expensive to repair, and replace it by a "reinforced pipe tower." However, a citizens' campaign was soon organized to save their beloved Coffee Pot, and the Coast Guard backed down. Chesterfield Associates was hired to pump concrete into the base, sandblast the tower, and cover it with a new coat of paint and an epoxy preservative. When the work was over, the tower was restored to its former respectable appearance.



The Fresnel lens was replaced by a modern optic in 1988, and in 2000 the Coast Guard returned for major work on the lighthouse. The tower's emergency generator and equipment for filtering, pumping, and storing the associated fuel were removed, and solar panels and batteries were installed to eliminate the light's dependency on a submarine power cable. The lighthouse is now a less hazardous place and easier to access as well thanks to the installation of a new boat ramp.

The Orient Point Lighthouse cannot be reached by land and is not open to the public, although it can be viewed from Orient Point. While the lighthouse can be approached by water in private vessels, care must be taken to avoid the shallow reefs surrounding the lighthouse. A year-round ferry that runs between Orient Point and New London offers good views of at least five lighthouses, including Orient Point, Plum Island, Little Gull Island, New London Ledge, and New London Harbor.

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**SAR NEWS**

Both Articles were taken from the NSSAR Website

**Susan Covey Presents "Soldiers' Stories: Early War Pension Records"**

On July 9, 2011, the SAR Genealogical Research Library hosted the second workshop in its summer genealogy series. Covey's presentation was titled "Soldier's Stories: Early War Pension Records." It focused on the vast and often underused genealogical information that can be found in pension files of soldiers that served from 1775-1902. Researching genealogy for over 25 years, Covey is very involved in the local genealogy community. She is a current board member and past vice president of the Southern Indiana Genealogical Society, a member of the Louisville

Genealogical Society, and the National Society Daughters of the Union. In addition, Ms. Covey is a 2011 recipient of the Floyd County, Indiana, "Gold Leaf Volunteer Award" for her efforts in local genealogy.



Following Ms. Covey's presentation, Assistant Librarian/Archivist Rae Ann Sauer spoke about the SAR library's resources on pension records. The library awarded a door prize of a year's membership in the Friends of the Library. The lucky winner was Tim McDonald of Louisville. Around 20 patrons attended the workshop and most stayed after to perform

independent genealogical research. The attendees varied in their genealogical experience, and it was the first time many had visited the library. The final workshop of the library's summer genealogical seminar series was on August 6 at 9:30-10:30 and featured local genealogist Jane-Rives Williams. Williams presented "Treasure Hunting in Kentucky's Overlooked Records

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**NSSAR Color Guard reinstating The SAR Colorguardsman magazine**

The NSSAR Color Guard is reinstating The SAR Colorguardsman magazine as an E-Magazine. The publication schedule is set for quarterly issues that will be distributed via email and be available on the committee webpage. Each issue will be published in a PDF format (Adobe Acrobat).

The plan is for The SAR Colorguardsman to contain articles of interest to the Color Guard including, but not limited to the following:

- Uniforms – history, where to get replicas made, etc
- "How To" Articles – establishing a color guard, drill manuals, handling weapons, etc.
- Events – what should be expected of color guards, pictures and articles of color guard participation, etc
- Announcements – what upcoming events need color guard participation, etc

Deadlines are as follows:

- October publication – September 30th deadline
- January publication – December 31st deadline
- April publication – March 31st deadline
- July publication – June 30th deadline

Thus, the call is now going out for submissions for the first issue of the new SAR Colorguardsman e-magazine. Entries should be emailed. Each submission should be sent in a DOC or RTF format (Microsoft Word) or similar format. Pictures should be sent in JPEG format.

Thank you,  
Mark C Anthony

## History:

### Long Island Polo

The Meadowbrook Polo Club is the oldest continuously operating polo club in the United States. It was first established in 1881 and was home to the 1994 US Polo Open Championship.

The history of Long Island polo began in 1879 when several members of the Meadowbrook Polo Club including Thomas Hitchcock, Sr., Oliver W. Bird, August Belmont, Jr. and Benjamin Nicoll started to play the game in the infield of the racetrack of the Mineola Fair Grounds. The Club was formally incorporated in 1881 and the first official polo field was built in 1884.



**Finley Johnson Shepard and his wife Helen Miller Gould at the Meadowbrook Polo Club on June 14, 1913**

The most important national event was the annual Open which was held at Meadowbrook from 1923 until 1953. Teams such as Meadowbrook, Great Neck, the Hurricanes, Templeton, Greentree and Old Westbury played on the fields with riders as Tommy Hitchcock, Michael Phipps, Stewart Iglehart, Laddie Stanford, James Watson Webb, Sr., Devereux Milburn and Winston Guest.

The crowds were large for the major events such as the national Open and the international matches. For the 1926 Open, over 30,000 fans came to see Laddie Stanford's Hurricanes against Argentina. And the Westchester Cup matches (United States vs. England) of 1924, 1927 and 1930 drew as many as 45,000 spectators while the three-game 1928 Cup of the Americas, (United States vs. Argentina), drew over 100,000 people, including an astounding 25,000 for a Tuesday match.



The excitement of a major polo match was vividly captured by writer Damon Runyon, who attended one of the 1930 Westchester Club Cup games.

Though the game didn't start until 4 pm, the Long Island roads leading to Meadow Brook were clogged with traffic from

early afternoon. Thousands of motorists used the parkway, which you can travel at the cost of a dollar and go as far as you please. Special trains on the Long Island Railroad unloaded packed cars at the gates of Meadowbrook where the mob of hustlers and souvenir vendors that follow every big Eastern sporting event were kicking up the dust. Acres of automobiles were parked in the area, some as far as a mile from the field. As early as 1 pm, there were little picnic parties spread out on the grass behind the stands, munching hard-boiled eggs, ham sandwiches and what-not. Chiefly, what-not ... There was a grand entrance before the game, just like a circus. The ponies were led past the stands, all saddled and bridled, their legs swathed in bandages ... The Panama hat and white flannel trousers survived among the males, although it is September, and a lot of the gals clung to their sports clothes."



**Meadowbrook Polo Field**

World War II brought top-flight polo at Meadowbrook to an abrupt end. After a brief recovery, the original Meadowbrook Club in 1954 became a casualty of the building of the Meadowbrook Parkway and postwar suburbanization. The club relocated to a smaller facility in Jericho, New York and then, in 1968, the fields were again sold for development. The Meadowbrook polo players established a new club in Old Westbury, New York.

Over the last couple of decades, the amount and quality of play has steadily progressed, attracting an ever increasing number of players (including a steadily growing contingent of women) and spectators. Much of the credit for the initial revitalization of Meadowbrook was owed to Al Bianco, the then club chairman, his wife Barbara and to the late Peter Henderson, Sr. Their involvement, along with those of scores of supporters, culminated in the United States Polo Association awarding the club the prestigious Open Championship in 1994 and 1995. These two Opens were among the finest played in the post-war years and the 1994 final match arguably ranks as the most memorable and exciting ever. In more recent years the Club's continued renaissance has been attributable to the ceaseless efforts of its current Chairmen, Luis Rinaldini and Brian Lazarus.

## Dates To Remember:



**Fly your Flag on:**

**Monday September 5<sup>th</sup> Labor Day**

**Monday Oct 10<sup>th</sup> Columbus Day**

**Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup> Election Day**

**Friday November 11<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Day**

**Thursday November 24<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day**

**Wednesday December 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Remembrance**

**Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day**



**To:**

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