

The Soldiers' Hut

The Semi-Official Newsletter of the Jockey Hollow Chapter, SAR

Volume 02, No. 1

October 2025

Greetings!

Greetings, Compatriots! So much has occurred over the past few months, and we have so many activities planned over the coming weeks that the only way to get everything out to our members is through a newsletter. Please be sure to read through what is included here so that you will not miss out on our planned events! Additionally, a few flyers and a form have been added at the end of this newsletter. Topics include:

- [Liberty Tree Dedication](#)
- [Wreaths Across America](#)
- [Renew Your Membership!](#)
- [New Board Member](#)
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Major Event - Liberty Tree Dedication Ceremony!

The Jockey Hollow Chapter, in collaboration with the Town of Morristown and in partnership with the Morristown Shade Tree Commission, will host a Liberty Tree Dedication Ceremony on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at 1:00 P.M. at Burnham Park (Washington Street

side, in front of the pond). This event has been made possible only through the kind generosity of some of our Chapter members, who contributed to the purchase of the tree and the marker.

Our Chapter is very proud to be the first in the state to dedicate a Liberty Tree in recognition of America 250. Specifically, this meaningful event honors America's enduring commitment to freedom and the sacrifices made by our nation's veterans. The dedication of this Liberty Tree is part of the SAR's 250th Liberty Tree Program, a national initiative launched in 2023 to plant 250 Liberty Trees across the United States in commemoration of the country's 250th anniversary in 2026.

The original Liberty Tree, a famed elm in Boston (1646–1775), served as a rallying point for colonists in the years leading up to the American Revolution. By planting and dedicating new Liberty Trees, the Sons of the American Revolution aim to preserve the spirit of that original symbol and inspire future generations to uphold the values of patriotism, courage, and unity.

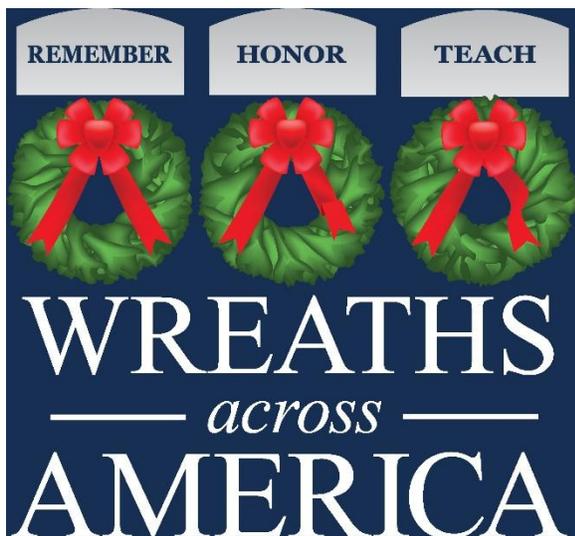
The Jockey Hollow Chapter, the largest of New Jersey's thirteen SAR chapters, continues this legacy locally through community engagement and education. With the support of the Morristown Shade

Tree Commission, this dedication will serve as a living tribute to veterans and a reminder of the principles upon which our nation was founded.

All Chapter members, members of the community, and visitors are encouraged to attend and take part in this special event celebrating both local and national history.

[Additional information may be found on our web site.](#)

Wreaths Across America



For the second year in a row, the Jockey Hollow Chapter is pleased to participate in the Wreaths Across America Program. Last year—our first—was a trial run; and while it was beneficial in getting our feet wet, there were several issues that were disappointing (for example, while we were one of the sponsors of the program, our chapter wasn't even acknowledged during the program). As a result, we will now be participating in a different

program, which is not only established but has been managed by the Ferro Monte Chapter, DAR, for the past 11 years. By all accounts, this program has grown significantly and has a well-deserved reputation for being the most organized and meaningful in the state! Indeed, it has been described as a program that others should emulate!

This year's program will be held at the historic First Presbyterian Church and the United Methodist Church cemeteries (these are adjacent to each other) in Succasunna, NJ. It is the intent of the program to place wreaths on the graves of the departed servicemen and women interred at the cemeteries; these include the graves of Revolutionary War Patriots. It is hoped that approximately 700 wreaths will be placed this year.

The program will consist of placing wreaths on the graves of veterans (regardless of the weather), followed by a Remembrance Ceremony. The event is expected to attract a large group from the community, members of the military, and other organizations, including our Chapter. Details for the event include:

Date: Saturday, December 13, 2025

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Place: [First Presbyterian Church](#)

99 Main St

Succasunna, NJ 07876

Cost: FREE and open to the public

All members of the Jockey Hollow Chapter are invited to attend.

Please Sponsor Wreaths!

In addition, the [Jockey Hollow Chapter](#) would like to request that members help [sponsor wreaths](#) (as these must be purchased). At the moment, the Ferro Monte Chapter, DAR has already received donations to purchase more than 200 wreaths, while the Jockey Hollow Chapter, SAR has received donations for just 11 wreaths. Each wreath may be sponsored for \$17. Our goal this year is to sponsor at least 100 wreaths.

To date, Jockey Hollow Compatriot Ellis Bailey and his wife, Bobbi (who is a member of the Ferro Monte Chapter, DAR), and Compatriot Bob Stark (who is also the Caretaker of the cemetery) have been highly instrumental in establishing our connection with this program.

Volunteer Help Needed – Friday, December 12 at 12:30 P.M.

We need you! In preparation for the Wreaths Across America event on Saturday, December 13, volunteers are needed on Friday, December 12, at 12:30 P.M. Due to the large size of the cemetery, wreaths will be delivered to designated sections on Friday to make Saturday's placement more efficient. While many will assist with laying wreaths on Saturday, help is essential the day before to ensure everything is ready. [Directions to the cemetery are provided here](#) (as well as above).

Grave Cleaning in Preparation for Wreaths Across America

Jockey Hollow Compatriots Bailey, Stark, and President Jeff La Marca, have already attended a planning committee meeting and recently helped clean headstones that will receive wreaths at this year's program. Cleaning gravestones can be a lot of fun and lead to unexpected discoveries. As shown in the photograph, Jockey Hollow members discovered the burial site for Patriot Abraham Drake. Previously, his burial site was unknown as his gravestone was covered in lichen, which completely obscured the text.



Compatriots Bailey, Stark, and La Marca help find patriot's grave site that had been previously obscured.

Renew Your Membership!

It's that time of year to renew your membership. Please note that Jockey Hollow members are strongly encouraged to renew now and not to delay. A copy of the renewal form has been attached to this newsletter and may also be [found on our web site](#).

New Board Member

George Robb, Ph.D., has graciously agreed to serve as our Chapter's Historian/Librarian. As many of our members know, Dr. Robb gave a spectacular presentation at last December's Chapter meeting. Thank you, Dr. Robb!

Nomination Committee

Our Chapter currently has a need for a few members to serve on our Nomination Committee to nominate our next round of officers. Work on this committee should be minimal, as it entails compiling a list of officers for the 2026–2028 term. If you are interested, please contact President Jeff La Marca, ASAP as this committee should be in place by our December 6, 2025, Chapter meeting.

New Chapter Committees

For the first time ever, the Jockey Hollow Chapter now has two committees to assist with much-needed programs! As our Chapter continues to grow, we are

able to engage in additional activities to support our goals.

Education Committee

This committee will help our Chapter participate in a variety of SAR education programs. In the past, our Chapter has had very limited participation, although for the past two years the winners of the High School Essay Program and the High School Video Program came from our region. Currently, we have not fully participated in the education programs, although participation at both the state and national levels has also been extremely minimal. To date, our Chapter has participated in the:

- Eagle Scouts
- Junior ROTC Programs

We have had limited entries for the:

- High School Essay, and
- Middle and High School Video Programs

We have not yet participated in the:

- Elementary School Poster,
- Middle School Brochure,
- High School Oration Program, and
- Other programs.

Additional information about these programs may be found on the [NJSSAR web site](#) - as well as the [NSSAR web site](#).

As our participation in most of these programs has been very minimal in the past (other than Scouts and ROTC), by establishing a Chapter Education Committee (Jockey Hollow may be the

only one in the state to have one), we may be able to produce more winners and contribute to our community.

The following Jockey Hollow members have agreed to serve on our Chapter's Education Committee (we may be the first chapter in the state to have such a committee); members include:

- George Robb, Ph.D.
- Ellis Bailey, and
- Glenn Mcquire

Planning Committee

Our Chapter has traditionally held quarterly meetings to conduct business, enjoy a little camaraderie, and to hear fascinating speakers on a wide range of topics pertaining to the American Revolution. This task has traditionally been done by the Chapter President. As our Chapter continues to grow and engage in new events to support our mission, the following members have stepped forward to obtain guest speakers:

- George Robb, Ph.D., Chair
- Vice President Michael Smilek
- Ellis Bailey

George Washington Endowment Fund

National SAR has an established program to provide financial support for a variety of programs, nationwide, that fund SAR activities. The principal of the fund is

restricted, and any of the grants provided each year may never exceed more than 80 percent of earnings.

At present, only a handful compatriots from New Jersey are "George Washington Fellows." Anyone who pledges \$1,000 is considered a Fellow. Individuals may pledge to contribute \$1,000, either as a single payment or on an installment plan over a period of five years. It's possible to contribute very low monthly amounts (such as \$20 per month) and still become a Fellow.

Why is this important to our Chapter? Perhaps the most important reason, other than contributing to programs that support SAR, is that grants from this fund may be used to help fund special projects at the chapter level. At present, the number of George Washington Fellows within our Chapter is very low (indeed, there may just be one). By increasing the number of Jockey Hollow members who contribute, we will certainly look more favorable when the Chapter applies to fund some of our projects. [Please consider becoming a George Washington Endowment Fund Fellow.](#)

Our Next Chapter Meeting & Luncheon

Our Chapter is excited to announce that Suzanne Bowles, Ph.D., will be our featured speaker at our next Chapter Meeting (December 5, 2025); her topic

will be "Religion in New Jersey during the American Revolution." We will be meeting at our usual location, The Exchange Restaurant at 11:30 A.M.

Dr. Suzanne Geissler Bowles received a Ph.D. in History from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University in 1976. She taught American history at Upsala College for sixteen years and at William Paterson University for twenty-three years, retiring in 2018 with the rank of Professor Emerita. She has written five books, all of which relate to the topic of religion in American history. Two relating to the colonial and revolutionary period are *Jonathan Edwards to Aaron Burr Jr.: From the Great Awakening to Democratic Politics* and *Lutheranism and Anglicanism in Colonial New Jersey*.

America 250 Medals

Please note that attendance at most of our Chapter's events helps members earn points to obtain America 250 medals. Three such medals are available: Bronze (awarded at the Chapter level for 25 points), Silver (awarded at the State level for 60 points), and Gold (awarded at the National level for 150 points). Many of our Chapter members are now eligible for the medals at each level. Compatriot Ellis Bailey has been trying to maintain a list of those who are eligible but needs information about events other than the chapter meetings that you attend. [You may forward information or questions about possible eligible events to Ellis.](#)

Other Events

Two last-minute items have come to our attention that will be of interest to our members. If you attend either one of these, please inform Ellis Bailey of your participation, as these will count toward the America 250 Medal. Both events will take place on Saturday, November 1, 2025.

Morristown DAR Invitation to Jockey Hollow Members

Our friends from the Morristown Chapter, DAR will have reenactors providing a short talk on Washington Crossing the Delaware on Christmas Day 1776. They will have their boat with them.

Frelinghuysen Arboretum
Haggerty Education Center
353 E. Hanover Ave., Morristown
Sat., Nov. 1, 2025, at 10:30 A.M.

This should be a very fascinating event for our members to attend. See the flyer attached at the end of this newsletter for additional information.

Bonnell's Tavern Marker Dedication

A commemorative marker will be placed at the historic Bonnell's Tavern. The NJJSAR Color Guard will be present.

Bonnell's Tavern
2 Pittstown Rd.
Clinton, NJ
Sat., Nov. 1, 2025, at 11:00 A.M.

See the flyer attached at the end of this newsletter for additional information.

New Jersey Society Sons of the American Revolution

2026 Dues Form

Treasurer, NJSSAR
73 Inwood Ave
Upper Montclair, NJ 07043

25 September 2025

Dear Compatriots: National, State and Chapter dues are now due. Please provide all information below and enter the indicated amount for each chapter in which you wish to have membership. Enter the total in Balance Due. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Dues are due by October 31st.

Description/Dues	Chapter Memberships	Total
National Dues		\$50.00
State Dues		\$20.00
Chapter Dues		
Abraham Clark \$10.00		
Elizabethtown \$5.00		
Capt. A Godwin \$10.00		
Col. John Rosenkrans \$10.00		
Col. Richard Somers \$15.00		
First Mountain \$10.00		
Jockey Hollow \$15.00		\$15.00
Monmouth \$10.00		
Pinelands \$10.00		
Princeton-Cranbury \$25.00		
Raritan Valley \$5.00		
South Jersey \$12.00		
West Fields \$15.00		
Additional Contribution (optional)		
Balance Due:		

ATTENTION

Make checks payable to NJSSAR.

New mailing address:

Treasurer, NJSSAR
73 Inwood Ave
Upper Montclair, NJ 07043

Now is the time for ail good men to come to the aid of their State Society!



(Please include all information below).

National Number _____

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ **Phone Number** _____

Email _____

Mail this entire page and your check payable to NISSAR to:

to: Treasurer, NJSSAR
73 Inwood Ave
Upper Montclair, NJ 07043

Morristown Chapter

Invites You to Come and see the *Batteau Moon*
Rowed in the Reenactment of
General Washington's Crossing of the Delaware
Christmas Day, 1776

Frelinghuysen Arboretum
Haggerty Education Center
353 E Hanover Ave, Morristown
Saturday, November 1st, 2025 10:30



Meet us at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum and you will be able to see the boat and meet the crew of the *Batteau Moon*. The reenactors will talk about their experiences. Join us for a presentation, a visit with the *Batteau Moon*, and refreshments following.

You Are Cordially Invited

DEDICATING A COMMEMORATIVE HISTORIC MARKER
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025 • 11:00 AM
BONNELL'S TAVERN
2 PITTSTOWN ROAD
CLINTON, NEW JERSEY

HONORING NJ'S MINUTEMEN/MILITIA IN HUNTERDON CO.

- Introduction by Bob Gula, SAR, VP | *Forgotten Victory* and Hank Bonnell, *Sons of the Revolution, DFNJ*.
 - Remarks by the Honorable Janice Kovach, *Mayor of Clinton*, the Honorable David DeGiralamo, *Mayor of Union Twp.*, Linda Bongiovanni Jurczak *DAR Madame NJ State Regent*, & Rev. Linda Gaden, *Presbyterian Bethlehem Grandin Church*
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- UNVEILING OF THE FORGOTTEN VICTORY TRAIL -

- SAR Color Guard, *Wreath Laying*
 - Closing Remarks by Kevin Vancio VP | *Forgotten Victory*
-

Remembering the

Minutemen Act - September 28th, 1775

www.BonnellTavern.com | www.ForgottenVictory.com