



National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution  
Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter SAR

Timothy S. Middlebrook	Rodney S. Andrews	Alan D. Coon
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**Minutes of August 22, 2009, meeting held at the Cappuccino's Restaurant, Red Hook, NY**

The Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter meeting was held August 22, 2009, at the Cappuccino Restaurant in Red Hook, NY. Nineteen SAR members, three DAR members, and nine spouses attended the meeting for a total of thirty-one.

- Call to Order** 11:10 AM – President Rodney Andrews
- Invocation** Chapter Chaplain James Hadley
- Pledge of Allegiance** Chapter Past President John Helmeyer
- SAR Pledge** Chapter Vice President Tim Middlebrook

**Introduction of DAR Members**

President Andrews introduced Bea Croteau of the Hendrick Hudson Chapter, Hudson, NY, Pat Coon, Chancellor Livingston, Rhinebeck and Jean Shepherd, Melzingah Chapter, Beacon.

**Acknowledgements of Guests**

Mary Ann Andrews, Wendy Bowen, Mary Bradley, Beatrice Baxter, Anita Hadley, Beatrice Helmeyer, Judy Middlebrook, Irene Silvermail and Dorothy Tompkins.

**Present SAR Certificate to new Chapter Member:**

David W. Silverman, Copake Falls.

**Present SAR Years of Service Pin & Certificates to:**

William T. Shepherd – 40 years

Ralph Avery – 25 years (absent). Hank Croteau, Ralph's brother-in-law, accepted the award.

**Guest Speaker Alan D. Coon, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer and recipient of the Museum of Rhinebeck History 2009.**

Alan gave a brief history of himself and then explained the detailed progress of his eight year quest to have the "Doughboy Statue of Rhinebeck" restored to its original condition. In addition he proceeded to obtain the rights from the town of Rhinebeck for permission to move the statue from in front of the Rhinebeck Village Hall to the Dewitt Gurnell Park down and across the street approx. 150 yards. In preparation of the move, Alan raised funds to construct a four by four foot foundation where a four by four foot base was installed. Then a granite pedestal was installed on to which the restored "Doughboy Statue" was placed. In addition to that, Alan obtained funds to have bronze plaques of the WWI and WWII veterans installed on the statue. At a later date, Alan added two monuments of the Korea and Vietnam veterans placed on both sides of the statue. In total, Alan raised over \$26,000 over that eight year project of which some of the remainder of that money is being used preservation every three to four years. The landscape surrounding the statue and monuments was done by the Explorer Scouts of Rhinebeck. *(Accompanying slides for the presentation were provided by Richard Wambach with his Power Point computer using Alan's photos).*

Alan ended his presentation by expressing a concern that existing historical statues and monuments are being eaten away by the pollution and that our Chapter members and others should get involved with their communities in restoring them.

Alan D. Coon was presented the "Silver Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate by Rod Andrews.

*(Comments from the attendees during lunch and after the meeting were that Alan's presentation was the best that the members ever heard. I concurred and told Alan that I thought the presentation was superb).*

A detailed procedure of the restoration of the Doughboy Statue has been emailed or hard copy to all Chapter members after the meeting.

**Door Prizes** of the new Martin Van Buren Presidential "Gold" Dollar was each won by Jean Shepherd and James Hadley.

## **Officers Reports**

- **Treasurer Report** - Treasurer Alan Coon reported: Balance as of August 22, 2009 - \$2290.78. Complete detailed account was sent by either email or hard copy to Chapter members. Rod Andrews reported that several articles were purchased for our Chapter's outside display. He added that a 10 X 10 foot tent would be purchased for shelter for our display table.
- **Registrar** - Donald Schiro reported that in addition of David Silvernail receiving his SAR Certificate, Thomas Anderson and Brig. General Paul Benenati have had their applications approved bringing the Chapter's membership to 53. Don gave a little history of Brig. General Paul Benenati, his nephew. General Benenati lives in Virginia and currently is stationed out West. He had a desire to become a SAR member and Don helped him with his application; therefore he joined our Chapter.

- **Committees Reports**

Historian John Anderson absent. Rod Andrews reported no activity.

The Eagle Scout Committee John Anderson absent. Rod Andrews reported that John is currently working on a couple of items for the future.

George & Stella Knight Essay Contest- Chairman William Shepherd reported that he had generated a complete list of all the high schools in our area and needed help from our members to review the list and add any that have been missed. The list with cover letter has been emailed or hard copy mailed by Bill to all members for review by Rod Andrews after the meeting.

## **Old Business**

1. Copake Cemetery Ceremony – on hold
2. The Mills Mansion Committee (Eames Family Cemetery in Staatsburg) consisting of Bud Weaver, Alan Coon, and Tim and Andrew Middlebrook. Alan stated that he is making arrangements to have the grave marker placed in the Eames Cemetery because he has had no response from the Mills Mansion personnel. Tim Middlebrook is working on getting the Boy Scouts to participate in a ceremony.

## **New Business**

1. Canaan Church Cemetery in Canaan, NY. Elliott Bristol reported that the project is on hold.
2. 2010 potential cemetery project in East Chatham. No report by Dottie Avery.
3. Old Rhinebeck cemetery. Installation of grave marker on Revolutionary War Officer, Adam Sagendorf, on hold waiting for requester to contact Rod Andrews again.
4. Geocities, our current web site server will be dropping their free service at the end of the year. Renee Andrews Petsche, Webmaster, has found a Yahoo service for \$4.95 per month and will convert the web site to that service. Motion made by Roger Bradley to spend the money and keep the web site going. John Helmeyer seconded it and motion was approved by attending members to continue the web site @ \$4.95 through 2010.

5. Rod Andrews reported that some events off 2009 events were cancelled due to no volunteers. He made a plea that he and Tim Middlebrook can't do all the events and must have assistance to continue any display involvements in the future.

**Next Meeting** December 5 at the Pegasus Restaurant, Coxsackie at new time of **10:45 AM**.

**SAR Recessional** Alan Coon

**Meeting adjourned** 1:21 PM

**In Attendance** SAR Members (19):


President Rod Andrews, Vice President Tim Middlebrook, Secretary/Treasurer Alan Coon, Art Bowen II, Roger Bradley, Elliott Bristol, Henry Croteau, Rodney Gage, James Hadley, John Helmeyer, Gilbert Krom, Earl Mack, Donald Schiro, William Shepherd, David Silvernail, Alan Tompkins, Arnold Vernoy, Richard Wambach and Bud Weaver.

DAR Members (3):

Pat Coon, Beatrice Croteau and Jean Shepherd.

Member Spouses (9):

Mary Ann Andrews, Wendy Bowen, Mary Bradley, Beatrice Baxter, Anita Hadley, Beatrice Helmeyer, and Judy Middlebrook, Irene Silvernail and Dorothy Tompkins.



Respectfully submitted,  
Rodney S. Andrews, President