



# THE BAY STATE SPIRIT

Official Publication of the Massachusetts Society Children of the American Revolution

Summer 2009

## National Theme

### *Reflections of Independence*

2009-2010 National Project

*Preservation of the Morris Island  
Lighthouse*



The 2009-2010 National Project is to raise funds to aid in the restoration and preservation of the Morris Island Lighthouse. C.A.R. will have a larger impact on this important restoration by working with Save the Light, Inc., a non-profit organization located in Charleston, South Carolina.

The Morris Island Lighthouse, or the "Old Charleston Light" as it is more affectionately called, has welcomed ships entering Charleston for more than three centuries.

Funds raised by the National Society of the Children of the American Revolution will go specifically towards the completion of Phase 2 of Save the Light, Inc.'s "Master Plan."

### **Next M.S.C.A.R. Event!**

**Hold the date!**

Saturday, August 29, 2009

M.S.C.A.R. Packet Meeting  
& End-of-summer Outing to  
Canobie Lake Park in  
Windham, NH!

Please go to the website  
(<http://www.mscar.org>) for  
additional information.

C.A.R. kids attending will  
each receive a \$20 subsidy  
from the State Society.

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## State Project of Julie Mitchell - House of Possibilities

State President Julie Mitchell saw a TV program last March that gave her the idea for her state project this year. The program was on the "Yawkey House of Possibilities" (HOPE), a non-profit respite care facility in Easton, MA. Parents and caregivers of children with special needs will

be able to drop their children off for a day or even overnight. More info in Julie's message on the next page!

## State President's Message



**2008 – 2009 State President Mariena Harris (on left) congratulates new State President Julie Mitchell. Photo taken at the National Convention swearing-in at Mount Vernon.**

Dear C.A.R. Members & Friends,

I am so excited and honored to be your next M.S.C.A.R. State President! Thank you all for electing me! Mr. Doug Harris, our Senior State President, and I were installed on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, at Mount Vernon, Virginia. What an awesome day it was! The picture above was taken after Mariena placed the State President ribbon around my neck. With Mariena's support, my first National Convention was a blast! What a great job Mariena did as our State President this past year! Everything that she has accomplished for M.S.C.A.R. with her state project has paved the way for all of us to follow. Thank you, Mariena!

For some of you who may not know me, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Julie Mitchell and I am a senior (yeah!) at Milton High School. In my spare time, I enjoy being a member of the Bay Youth Symphony in Duxbury, a 13<sup>th</sup> year Ballet student, a lector at the Parish of Saint Elizabeth and helping out in my community. I have been an active C.A.R. member with the First Free School Society since 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, along with my brother, Matthew. My memories of attending society and state meetings and having met special friends along the way are one of the best things about being part of the C.A.R.

~~This year's National Theme is "Reflections of Independence"....Funds raised through the National Project will go towards~~  
I will also provide more information about this awesome project at our State Packet Meeting sometime this summer.

Our 2009 -2010 State Project Theme is "Light the Way to Independence". It was after watching a news clip on Channel 5 in March and then meeting with (House of Possibilities) HOPE founder and HOPE mother, Mrs. Paula Kavolius, in April that I realized "HOPE could use our help"! Through beverage can recycling, raffle item sales, and corporate donations, we will raise funds for HOPE located in Easton, MA. HOPE is a house like no other in the state. This special house will give disabled children and their families a much needed feeling of "independence" in a safe and fun environment. Please visit [www.houseofpossibilities.org](http://www.houseofpossibilities.org) to learn more about this wonderful house.

Please visit [www.mscar.org](http://www.mscar.org) often for updated information on upcoming meetings, our state project, etc. Active member involvement is the future of M.S.C.A.R. ☺ I look forward to working with all of you, attending your society meetings, and listening to your ideas.

In patriotism,

Julie J. Mitchell

M.S.C.A.R. State President

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**L to R: Julie,  
Ms. Jane  
Keegan, and  
Mariena Harris  
at the  
Convention**



## Senior State President's Message

Greetings !

I hope that all of you are enjoying this summer, despite the weather.

We had a great meeting at the House of Possibilities on July 11th, and Julie's state project is off to a great start. I encourage all of you to get behind her project and do what you can, such as donating gently used toys and books for the boys and girls who will be the beneficiaries of the work being done at the House of Possibilities.

Take this opportunity to get involved with the state project, and see what you and your local society can do. I also hope that you will be able to attend the August packet meeting on the 29th, which we will hold at Canobie Lake Park. Please check the MSCAR web site for further details.

It was great to see the many Massachusetts members at the New England Regionals in Mystic Connecticut. A good time was had by all, and many thanks go out to all the Massachusetts members who participated and contributed to the success of the Regionals.

Douglas Harris

Massachusetts Senior State President

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### **Honoring an American Patriot - Saturday, May 16, 2009**

C.A.R., DAR and SAR members participated in a program on Worcester Common to honor Col. Timothy Bigelow, an American Patriot who trained minutemen for the Revolutionary War. Mariena Harris, a member of Nancy Bigelow Society and Col. Timothy Bigelow Chapter DAR, laid a magnolia wreath at the Bigelow grave. Staff Sergeant Jake Kingsbury of Col William Henshaw Chapter SAR decorated the grave with a SAR marker and American flag. Kay Kingsbury, a member of the Col. Timothy Bigelow Chapter DAR coordinated the event with Ray Raphael, who spoke about Col. Bigelow, whom he featured in a recent book, "The Men Who Brought You a Nation."

## Nancy Bigelow Society News

### *Congratulations to Andrew Begin!*



Andrew Begin was elected to the office of National Registrar for N.S.C.A.R. at the National Convention in April. Andrew is a tireless supporter and enthusiastic promoter of C.A.R. Congratulations to Andrew from all of his fans in M.S.C.A.R. !

As National Registrar, Andrew's initial duties were to participate in the Regional Tour in Mystic, CT. He will later attend the Eastern Regional Meeting in Cherry Hill, NJ.

Andrew is majoring in Politics and Law at Bryant College, with a double minor in Business Administration and Literary and Cultural Studies. He is not yet sure about plans after college: He is currently thinking about studying law or getting the appropriate degrees to become a teacher or professor after graduation. Outside of school and C.A.R., Andrew loves playing tennis, football and basketball; he told this correspondent "Playing Fantasy Football with my friends is somewhat of a passion of mine." He also likes to read classic fiction and philosophy.

Andrew continues, "I love C.A.R. because of the good work it does, but also because of the great friends and memories that are made while at C.A.R. events. It was because of these connections I go back to Nationals and on Regional Tour every year. As Registrar I work to promote C.A.R. membership and enrolling new members."

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### *Additional Congratulations to Nancy Bigelow Society Members:*

- To **Christine Begin**, who graduated with honors from Leicester High School in May
- To **Steven Gavazzi**, who graduated from High School in June
- To **Michael Harris** who graduated from Eagle Hill School in May

### **Welcome to New Society Members:**

Joining in March 2009:

- **Alexandra Jameson** of Uxbridge, MA
- **John Jameson** of Uxbridge, MA

Transferred from CT in May 2009:

- **Jeffrey Peiczarka** of Thompson, CT

## "KIDS HELPING KIDS" PROJECT - "Just One Pull Tab Away"



**PURPOSE:** To collect Pull-Tabs from beverage cans to help the kids at Shriners Hospital for Children in Boston, Massachusetts.

**REASON:** The aluminum that the pull-tabs are made from have value when recycled and help to purchase non-medical supplies for the hospital. These are items like board games, books, videos, play

room equipment, art and craft materials and other fun items.

Once again *PLEASE* consider putting a container on your kitchen counter to become involved in the "*JUST ONE PULL-TAB AWAY*" project for Shriners Hospital for Children in Boston. This is really a worthwhile project for all of us to take part in! It's so easy to help PUT A ☺ on the face of a Shriners' kid!



Our 2008 - 2009 "*JUST ONE PULL-TAB AWAY*" project for the Shriners Hospital was a BIG SUCCESS!! Many thanks to all the members who took part in this worthwhile project! We are planning to continue this project during 2009 - 2010, so please keeping collecting those pull tabs.

Thank you,

Julie Mitchell

[allthemitchells@comcast.net](mailto:allthemitchells@comcast.net)



### Summer Reading Corner - Fun Fact

For fun this summer, Julie is reading a children's series, "Five Little Peppers and How They Grew" by Margaret Sidney. Margaret Sidney was the pen name of our own Harriet Lothrop, the founder of Children of the American Revolution! Mrs. Lothrop began writing the series in 1881 and she founded C.A.R. in 1895.

## Cotton Tufts Society News

Each year the Town of Dennis presents the Henry Boles Citizenship Award to a graduating eighth grade girl from Wixon Middle School and a graduating third grade girl from Ezra Baker Elementary School. The award is based on being an excellent example of school and community dedication, leadership, friendliness and cooperation.

This year's winners were **Olivia Bowie** for Wixon Middle School and **Nora Bowie** for Ezra Baker Elementary. Olivia is the President of the Cotton Tufts Society and Massachusetts Society, C.A.R. Treasurer. Nora is the Chaplain of the Cotton Tufts Society. It is believed that this is the first time in the 30-year history of the Boles Citizenship Award that two siblings won the award in the same year.

Congratulations to Olivia and Nora!

## First Free School Society News

First Free School member Emma Nizzari donated some musical instruments to the House of Possibilities during the July 11<sup>th</sup> grand opening of the new facility, which is on the campus of Stonehill College in Easton. The House of Possibilities (HOPE) is the State President's project for 2009 – 2010. Mrs. Nizzari and her late husband, Frank were both professional musicians.

*L to R: Emma Nizzari, HOPE director and founder Paula Kavolius, and Marcia Nizzari*



*First Free School members marched in the Patriots' Day parade in Concord, MA. Jane Richardson, Julie Mitchell, and Kate Richardson wore colonial dress for the event.*

## Fun Facts – Etymology

Do you know what *etymology* is?

Etymology -- as opposed to *entomology* – is the study of the history of words and phrases. (Entomology is the study of insects!)

I have always been fascinated with the origin of words and phrases. This is probably because I am very logical, and lots of these phrases don't seem to make sense. So, I want to figure out how they came about. For example, the saying "Happy as a clam" made absolutely no sense to me at all. Why would a clam be happy? When I finally heard the whole phrase, the saying was completely sensible: "Happy as a clam at high tide." *Those* clams are totally happy, as no one can dig them up at high tide!

Recently, I learned the etymology of the phrase "to get fired." Today, we use this phrase when someone is forced to leave a job. The original meaning was more literal, and more extreme. In medieval days, when a clan decided that there were unneeded people in the group that they wanted rid of, but didn't want to murder, they would burn the unfortunate folks' homes down as a hint they should move on. Some hint! Thus, the origin of the phrase "to get fired."

At a DAR meeting a few years ago, we learned about the meaning of several phrases that originated from Colonial days.

One of my favorites was the origin of "bigwig," as in "He's a bigwig," meaning a person of wealth, standing, influence.

Apparently, it was common in Colonial days for men to shave their heads, due to the prevalence of head lice. They would then wear wigs, of course. However, the lice would invade the wigs and that wasn't good. So, to kill the lice in the wigs,

the housewives would hollow out an old, stale loaf of bread, tuck the wig inside, and bake it in the oven to kill the lice.

Wealthy men had wigs of better quality hair, which fluffed up in this baking process. As the wealthy were distinguishable by their "big" hair, they were called Bigwigs.

The origin of the phrase "Mind your p's and q's," which innumerable parents have said to innumerable children, actually has its origin in Colonial era pubs (probably imported from England). Barkeeps would keep a tally of the pints (p's) and quarts (q's) of beer consumed. The tally was kept for each customer by marking in chalk on wood somewhere on the bar, such as on a pillar. When a customer was becoming drunk, the barkeep would say "Mind your p's and q's" – in other words, "Looks like you've had enough, buster."

Another story we heard was the origin of the phrase to "throw the baby out with the bath water." This phrase means that you should be careful about throwing away someone good or worthwhile with the bad.

The origin of this phrase was from Colonial times when people very rarely took baths. When the time finally arrived, the women and girls would haul the water into the house, heat it, and pour it into a huge tub. The father would bathe first, then the boys, then the mother, the girls, and finally the baby. By the time the baby got into the bath, the water was so filthy that he would almost disappear! Thus, the saying "Don't throw out the baby with the bathwater."

In leaving this particular DAR meeting, I remarked to my daughter that it was a good thing that history books don't come with "scratch and sniff" features.

-- Ye Olde Editor



## Support the National Society

There are a variety of items you can purchase to support the National Society. These include pins to support the library, magazine, endowment, and other targeted donations. Visit the National website at <http://www.nscar.org> for details.

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR EMAIL ON THE STATE SOCIETY WEBSITE (<http://www.mscar.org>) OR EMAIL MARCIA.NIZZARI@YAHOO.COM TO GET ON THE LIST. WE ARE TRYING TO "GO GREEN" AND RESTRICT SNAILMAIL NEWSLETTERS TO JUST A FEW PER YEAR. THANK YOU! Ed.

We want **your** news. Please send announcements, pictures, and story ideas to [marcia.nizzari@yahoo.com](mailto:marcia.nizzari@yahoo.com).

Thank you!

**HOLD THE DATE -- PACKET MEETING  
SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 29<sup>th</sup> AT  
CANOBIE LAKE PARK!**

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M.S.C.A.R. NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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