



# Maine State Society

## Sons of the American Revolution

### MESSAR Annual Meeting

When: Saturday, April 11, 2015. See specific times below.

Where: Clarion Hotel – Portland 1230 Congress St. Portland, ME 04102 P# 207-553-9544  
Hotel Rooms are available @ \$74+ reserve before March 25th, thereafter as available.

What:

- Ladies Event: No Ladies Event scheduled – see **Group Event below**.
- **9:00AM: Coffee/Check-In**
- **9:25AM: Annual Meeting**. Induction Ceremony for New Members, Medals and Awards Presentations, New Chapter Recognition, 2015 Board Voting and Installation Ceremony for State and Chapter Officers, Society Updates,
- **11:00AM: Presentation** Clark Whelton “10 Miracles that Saved America”: the Revolution.
- **12:10PM Buffet Lunch**: SEE REPLY/RESERVATION SHEET
- **1:30PM: MESSAR Group Event: Visit to Portland Landmark Observatory**. Since 1807, the Portland Observatory has offered spectacular views of Portland’s busy harbor and served as a beloved symbol of the city’s rich maritime heritage. Named a National Historic Landmark in 2006, the Portland Observatory is the only known remaining historic wooden maritime signal tower in the United States. Especially opened this date for MESSAR it is said you can see Mt Washington on a clear day.
- **Cost: \$20.95** per person (includes Observatory visit)
- **Reservations:** Please reserve a place by sending a check and sign-up sheet (attached to this notice) to the State Treasurer: Court Dwyer 84 Nash Ln Jefferson ME 04348.

### Presentation by Clark Whelton

### “George Washington and the Hand of Providence: Ten Miracles that Saved America.”

The presentation, with slides:

Between the spring of 1775 and December, 1776, our young nation went from victory and hope to defeat and despair. George Washington and the American army, victorious in Boston, suffered humiliating defeats in New York, and retreated to Pennsylvania. For all intents and purposes, the Revolutionary War was over. The British had won. General Cornwallis had booked passage on the next ship to England. Things were so bad for our patriot ancestors that Richard Stockton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, renounced his allegiance to the cause of American independence.

But in the midst of catastrophe, one extraordinary event after another kept the light of freedom aglow. So striking was this pattern of seemingly miraculous happenings, that Washington himself called it “The Hand of Providence” intervening on the American side. He wrote that anyone doubting that divine intervention was involved “must be worse than an infidel.”

About the Presenter, Clark Whelton:

Clark is a member of our own Maine State SAR. He is a graduate of Bates College, and lives in New York with his wife Diane, who also went to Bates, and who was chaplain of her DAR chapter in the Hudson Valley. For many years Clark and Diane had a camp on Highland Lake in Bridgton and consider Maine their second home. Clark’s ancestors, including his patriot ancestor James Randall of Limington, were Maine Quakers, primarily from the Clough and Jones families, who settled in Windham, Durham and on China Lake in the 18th century. Clark began his writing career as a journalist with the Village Voice in New York City, and later served as chief speechwriter for New York City mayors Ed Koch and Rudy Giuliani. He has a special interest in American history.



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**THE GROUP EVENT:** At approximately 1:30PM, after lunch: You will provide your own transportation/carpooling about a mile from the luncheon venue to the **Portland Observatory and Museum** where there is plenty of street parking. You can visit the museum (elevator to 1<sup>st</sup> floor) and, if you wish, climb the 104 stairs to the top of the Observatory. A must for all Portlanders, Mainers, and visitors! There's more to the observatory than meets the eye. It is said that on a clear day to see all the way to Mt. Washington, NH. A wonderful historical landmark with a must-see view of Portland! The docents are knowledgeable and very friendly, and they provide a great tour of the site. Normally tickets are \$12.50 each for an Observatory visit. MESSAR is offering this event **FREE** to all attending/paying for the Annual Meeting and Luncheon. Available, also free, will be the Convention & Visitors Bureau Magazine "Where to Stay, Eat and What to see in Portland".

**THE LUNCHEON:** Buffet-style luncheon: Garden Salad, Warm Rolls and Butter, Sliced Sirloin with Fresh Grated Horseradish, Chef's Selection of Complimenting Side Dishes, Chef's Dessert Table, Coffee and Tea Station.

**ABSENTEE VOTING: INSTRUCTIONS** These Instructions are duplicated on the ballot sheet following this page. – follow carefully or your vote may be negated:  
(1) **If you plan to attend** the annual meeting there is no need to send in this Absentee Ballot, you will vote in person there. Just send the meeting confirmation and payment.  
(2) **If you cannot attend** and you wish to vote absentee, mark your selection(s) with an X in the box(es) on the far right. Then place your BALLOT ONLY into an envelope, SEAL IT and sign your name across the seal on the back of the envelope and US mail it to the MESSAR Nominating Committee:

Lance Weddell, Chair 2015 MESSAR Nomination Committee  
P O Box 12 Frankfort. ME, 04438-0012

### **SIGN-UP - MUST FILL IN ALL BLANKS**

NAME(S) for name tags(s) PLEASE PRINT:

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TOTALS

# \_\_\_\_\_ Attending Lunch/Meeting, @ \$20.95 each for a total of.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional contribution(S) towards:

Administrative.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Color Guard.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

CAR.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cemetery/Headstone Work.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

To help defray costs of visit to Observatory/Museum.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL Amount Enclosed).....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks made out to "Treasurer, Maine Society SAR"

Fill out and mail with payment NOW to ensure your place but before March 20, to:

Court Dwyer, State Treasurer SAR

84 Nash Ln

Jefferson ME 04348