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BATTLE LINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, SAR
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FALL 2010

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Daniel B. O'Neill – Castleton-On-Hudson, NY
David J. O'Neill – Castleton-On-Hudson, NY
Joel E. Bixby – Heuvelton, NY

Joel originally joined as a Member At Large. He has seven supplemental ancestors.

NEW YORK STATE MILITARY MUSEUM

GATHERING

By John Sheaff

As had been planned, members and friends of the Walloomsac and Saratoga Battle Chapters gathered at the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs. We had 28 in attendance on November 21. The program started off with an overview of the museum and its history by Museum Director Michael Aiky. This was followed by a pizza party supplied by the chapters. Time was then available for touring the museum at one's leisure.

The museum's exhibits of artifacts and art work related to the participation of New York citizens in America's military history are outstanding. They cover from the American Revolution up to the present time, and were appreciated by the attendees.

A donation of \$125 was made to the museum by our chapters for use in the New York State Battlefield Flag Restoration Program.

[Editor's note: Saratoga Battle is a Charter Member of the Museum].

NATIONAL ANTHEM BRINGS RECORD PRICE

A rare first edition of *The Star Spangled Banner* sold at auction at Christie's Auction House for the sum of \$506,500 (including buyer's premium). This was a record price for any piece of sheet music sold at auction. Pre-sale estimates ranged from \$200,000-\$300,000. It was purchased by an American private collector. The copy sold was one of only eleven in existence, and is the only one in private hands.

RHODES FOUNDATION RECOGNIZED

In recognition of its long-standing support, the Lawrence I. & Blanche H. Rhodes Memorial Fund was honored by the Gen. Peter Gansevoort Chapter, NSDAR and the Schuyler Society N.S.C.A.R. The ceremony took place on the grounds of the Van Schaick Mansion in Cohoes, home of the Gansevoort Chapter. The recognition consisted of the planting of a weeping cherry tree by the children of the Schuyler Society. The event was held on November 13, a spectacular, sunny day. Foundation Executive Director Dennis Marr expressed the profound gratitude of the foundation members for this touching recognition. Appropriate poems were recited by Schuyler members Brandon Hare and Nicholas Oxaal. As of this past July, the Foundation's aggregate support amounted to \$77,000 for the Gansevoort chapter, and \$4,750 each for the Schuyler and Bemis Heights Societies.

PRES. FULLAM JOINS ARMY RESERVES

Chapter President Richard H. Fullam has announced that he has joined the US Army Reserves, effective November 16. Rich has been a member of the New York Guard, an organization often confused with the National Guard, with which it trains.

Rich has enlisted as a 42A, Human Resources Specialist. He will ship out to Fort Sill, OK on 4 April for Basic Training, then shift to Fort Jackson, SC for AIT. He will return in August and be assigned to the 302nd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade at Westover Air Reserve Base near Springfield, MA. He will be discharged from the New York Guard in order to pursue this change.

Rich states: "To say this is an incredibly bold step for someone my age (41 when I ship out) is an understatement and I am quite nervous about being the 'grandpa' in the training class. But, like I said before, it seems I've never done anything the easy way!"

We thank Rich for his dedicated service to our chapter and the SAR, and congratulate him on this life-altering decision.

CHAPTER HAS A BUSY FALL SEASON

The chapter held its annual Memorial Wreath Laying at the Saratoga National Historical Park on September 19. This colorful event seems to grow in popularity each year. Held in conjunction with the Saratoga Chapter NSDAR, the ceremony honors those who fought and fell at the battles of Saratoga to secure the freedoms that we all enjoy today.

Wreaths were presented as follows:

Saratoga Chapter NSDAR – Heather Mabee
NSSAR – Dennis F. Marr
ESSSAR – Charles Walter IV
Saratoga Battle Chapter – Michael Companion
Bemis Heights Society N.S.C.A.R. –Kate Szewczyk
Schuyler Society N.S.C.A.R. – Brandon Hare

Lending luster to the event were mounted re-enactors and militia re-enactors. Our profound thanks to the staff of the Park for allowing us to hold this event.

A chapter meeting followed in the park Visitors' Center, after which we made our way to the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs for fellowship and dinner.

We were very happy to see past chapter and NYS SAR president Ron Newton and his wife Helen at the ceremony.

On October 3rd, we participated in the dedication of a Gravestone for Patriot Jeremiah Cady. This event was held at the Cady Cemetery in Saratoga Springs. The cemetery is on property owned by Mary Lou Whitney. Chapter Treasurer Mike Companion, a re-enactor with the 2nd Continental Artillery, took delivery of the new gravestone from the Veterans Administration. Thanks go to Saratoga Supervisor Matthew Veitch and Saratoga City Historian Mary Ann Fitzgerald for their help in planning a fitting ceremony. A descendant of Jeremiah's was on hand to unveil the new stone. We were also honored to have Ms. Whitney herself present for the dedication.

October 15th saw the annual Surrender Day ceremony at Fort Hardy Park, Schuylerville. This event commemorates the surrender of the British on that date in 1777. All compatriots are always welcome to participate in these various chapter activities; by doing so, you will greatly enhance your SAR membership.

VAN SCHAICK CEMETERY PROJECT

On November 13, immediately following the dedication of the tree for the Rhodes Memorial Fund, the attendees made their way to the Van Schaick Cemetery adjacent to the Mansion. This family cemetery had become overgrown, and was also nearly inaccessible from the Mansion due to years of undergrowth.

Schuyler Society C.A.R. member Brandon Hare took as his Eagle Scout Project cleaning up the cemetery and improving access to it. This was laborious, and a labor of love. A pathway was hacked through the undergrowth and covered with truckloads of donated crushed stone. The cemetery itself was tidied up and is now in a very presentable state of repair. Actual ownership of the cemetery had become hazy over the years, with the City of Cohoes doing occasional work at the site.

Cohoes Mayor John T. McDonald III was present for the ceremony, and was most impressed with the results. Scout Hare thanked the Mayor for providing assistance in the form of city men and equipment.

Our chapter was represented by Pres. Richard Fullam, who brought greetings on our behalf. The cemetery was dedicated by Johanna Shogan, Regent, Gen. Peter Gansevoort Chapter NSDAR and Patricia Marshall, Gansevoort Chapter Chaplain. The ribbon-cutting was performed by Scout Brandon Hare of Troop 42 Corpus Christi and Schuyler Society C.A.R. President; Sandra Zerillo, N.Y.S.S.C.A.R. Senior President and Honorary Regent of the Gansevoort Chapter.

The Color Guard was comprised of Brandon Hare; Sandra Zerillo; Lexi Zerillo, Honorary President, Schuyler Society and 2010-2011 N.Y.S.S.C.A.R. President.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LEXI ZERILLO

We were pleased to learn that N.Y.S.S.C.A.R. President Alexandra "Lexi" Zerillo has reached the goal set for her state project "Cherish Our Freedom-Honor Our Veterans." This ambitious fund-raising project succeeded in securing funding for the placement of a C.A.R. memorial stone in the Memorial Walk at the Saratoga National Cemetery. Funds over and above that amount will provide for restoration of battle flags in the NYS Military Museum. Congratulations, Lexi....we are all so very proud of you!