



The Empire Patriot

The Empire State Society

Sons of The American Revolution

Descendants Of America's First Soldiers

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"HOWE'S WAR"

by Francis H. Straus II

Delivered to The Chicago Literary Club April 4, 1994

Editor's Note: The following feature story, "Howe's War" was submitted to me by Compatriot Logan M. Cheek, III. I contacted Dr. Strauss, the author, who is by profession, a Physician and a Professor of Pathology at the University of Chicago, to formally request his permission to publish his article. He did grant me permission but because of the length I will have to print it in 2 parts. The second part will conclude in the August Issue.

"Howe's War" leaves a considerable amount of leeway for the scope of this paper. We could develop a detailed biography of John Howe who lived from 1630 to 1706. His war was the Puritan religious conflict in England where he served as domestic chaplain to Oliver Cromwell, Puritan Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland. After the collapse of the Puritan commonwealth and the passage of the Act of Uniformity, John Howe was required to go underground and preach only to handfuls of trusted believers. This is not the material for a Literary Club paper. Moving ahead from the middle 17th century we can push forward to the 18th century and focus on the two Howe brothers. One, Earl Richard Howe, lived from 1726 to 1799 and his younger brother 5th Viscount William Howe from 1729-1814. Earl Richard started in the Royal Navy at 14 years of age and moved steadily up the officer ladder making lieutenant in 1744, post-captain in 1746, Admiralty Board member 1763-65, Treasurer of the Navy 1765-70, Rear Admiral 1770, Vice Admiral 1775, First Lord of the Admiralty 1783-88; he commanded the Channel fleet and won the battle of the "1st of June" in 1794 and was given the Knight of the Garter in 1797. His was a brilliant naval career aided in its earlier years by the fact that his mother, Mary Sophia Charlotte, after the death of her husband became King George I's mistress.

Younger brother William Howe joined the cavalry in 1746, was lieutenant one year later, then captain and major, and became

a lieutenant colonel by 1757. He commanded the 58th regiment of foot, capturing Louisburg and then landing with Wolfe in the battle for Quebec in 1758. He marched on Montreal and defended Quebec through 1760. Then as Adjutant General he captured Havana in 1762. He was promoted to full colonel in Command of the 46th regiment of foot in 1764 and then major general in 1772. He was sent to Boston in 1775 serving second in command under General Gage, whom he did not respect, and led the troops in storming Bunker Hill. Later he left Boston for Halifax in the British withdrawal from Boston. In 1776 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and given command of all the land forces in North America. At the same time his brother Richard was placed in command of all the naval forces in North America.

Two years later Lord North's ministry sent a new peace commission to treat with the leaders of the rebellion and both Admiral and General Howe resigned their commands in a pique, feeling their home government had not supported them enough. Unfortunately Admiral Richard Howe's resignation came only after a strong French fleet under Count d'Estaing had joined in the American Rebellion requiring Richard to remain on station to fool the French squadron at Sandy Hook and then prevent them from landing at Newport, Rhode Island. General William defended his actions before members of the House of Commons. He was put in charge of ordinance and in 1790 led some land forces against Spain. He was made full General in 1793 later retiring to become Governor of Berwick-on-Tweed and later Governor of Plymouth.

Both of these Howe brothers took part in aspects of the Seven Years War: Earl Richard as Captain of "Dunkirk" captured the French warship "Alcide" as the opening engagement of the war, and William saw action on the Plains of Abraham. Besides this their eldest brother George

Augustus Howe lost his life in the Battle of Ticonderoga on July 6th, 1758, so by simple numbers this war could be called Howe's War. However as you have already heard, the two brothers as more senior officers were leaders of the British military forces in the American Revolution so that conflict could also justifiably be designated Howe's War.



General William Howe

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FIRST NEW YORK CONTINENTAL CHAPTER 2002 SONS & DAUGHTERS GALA BALL

The Yale Club of New York City was the setting for the 2002 Sons and Daughters Gala Ball presented by the **First New York Continental Chapter**, Sons of the American Revolution held January 11. The annual ball was held in honor of President General and Mrs. Larry D. McClanahan of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution and President General Linda Tinker Watkins of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Many dignitaries from both societies including SAR New York State President Walter Kuhn, DAR New York State Regent, Mrs. Frances M. Pattarini, NSDAR Librarian General, Mrs. Charles T. Edson, NSSAR Treasurer General Dr. Henry N. McCarl, Former Vice President General Richard Sage, Mrs. E. Peter Brinkley, Regent, New York City Chapter, DAR; Miss Molly Ker, Regent, Pe-



Photo Left to Right: Mr. Watkins, NSDAR President General Linda Tinker Watkins, NSSAR President General Larry D. McClanahan, Mrs. McClanahan

ter Minit Chapter, DAR; Mrs. Jane Stuart, Regent, Mary Washington Colonial Chapter, DAR attended. Representatives of other societies were recognized including, John Mauk Hilliard, President of the St Andrew's Society of the State of New York, James Thomas President of the St. David's Society of the State of New York, John H. Fitzsimons, President of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of New York, and Samuel D. Williams, President of the St. Nicholas Society of New York City.

The evening began with a cocktail reception in the Library of the Yale Club where guests were received by the Presidents General and the President of the First Continental New York Chapter, Aslanis J. Pappas.

More than 140 guests were greeted by the Peter Duchin Orchestra upon entering the Grand Ball Room for dinner and dancing. During the evening, President Pappas presented NSDAR President General Linda Tinker Watkins with the Martha Washington Medal for her dedication to the causes of the SAR and Mrs. Jimmie L. Sundstrom with the NSSAR's Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of her years service to the First New York Continental Chapter.

The festivities continued until well after midnight when the last revelers bid a fond farewell to their dinner companions. Ball chairman was Michael H. Charles. O

BINGHAMTON CHAPTER

An Active Year In Progress

The Binghamton Chapter opened up the current year with a joint meeting with the Newtown Battle Chapter on a beautiful autumn day. The meeting was held at Beemans, located in Sayre, PA. on 20 October, 2001. The speaker was Comp. Del Sahlberg, who gave a very interesting talk on an incident during the Battle of Ticonderoga which may have changed the outcome of the Revolutionary War. Along with the talk, Comp. Sahlberg brought with him mementos of the Battle of Saratoga. Also at the meeting, Sue Woodworth, the ESSAR coordinator for the "Ladies for the Library" cookbook, gave a short presentation on the value of the cookbook and what the schedule was regarding publication.

On 15 Dec 2001, the Chapter met at the Brothers Two in Endwall, NY where Susan Meredith, Town of Union Historian, gave a presentation on "History of the Local Area Through Vintage Photographs". The photographs were in excellent condition and a lively question and answer session followed the presentation. Mrs. Meredith stated that she had more photographs and she would love to show them at a future meeting. Many agreed that this should be considered.

The first meeting of the New Year was our annual joint meeting with the Tuscarora Chapter, DAR. The Binghamton Chapter was host
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Photo Left to Right: NSSAR Treasurer General McCarl, NSDAR President General Linda Tinker Watkins, Past Genealogist General Gailbrath, Mrs. McClanahan, NSSAR President General Larry D. McClanahan, Ball Chairman Michael H. Charles, Past NSSAR Vice President General Richard Sage, and First New York Continental President Aslanis J. Pappas



MY FELLOW COMPATRIOTS,

The National Society is engaged in a number of programs that you might not be aware of and should be brought to your attention. The areas of interest are important to all as it applies to both membership and finance.

Initially, there is a program called "The Census Project" where National will be contacting every member for a list of his male children, brothers, nephews, male cousins in order for them to consider membership in our Society.

The second area is fund raising. As you know the National Society has purchased the land adjacent to our headquarters in Louisville for the purpose of the construction of a genealogical, historical and patriotic library for a repository of our books and similar materials. The cost of this construction and its maintenance is very expensive for membership, among others, will be solicited to assist in the underwriting of these programs.

You are requested to support, assist and participate in these endeavors which, when successful, will contribute to the great future of our Society.

Walter R. Kuhn, Jr., President ESSAR ○

2002 ATLANTIC MIDDLE STATES CONFERENCE

The Empire State Society will host the 2002 Atlantic Middle States Conference to be held at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, on July 26-27, 2002.

The Conference rotates among seven state societies, and this year it is the Empire State Society's turn to be the host.

West Point was chosen as the site for the conference because of its historic significance and beautiful setting. This festive and patriotic event will begin on Friday evening July 26, 2002, with a Buffet Dinner and a warm welcome from Empire State Society Compatriots to those attending and a special welcome to those from the New England District who will be attending for the first time. The Conference will be held at the HOTEL THAYER located on the grounds of the United States Military Academy.

At the Saturday morning Business Meeting, compatriots will hear nominating speeches for candidates running for National Society office and will then vote to endorse a slate of candidates who will stand for election at the SAR's National Society Congress in Chicago in 2003. Those in attendance will later attend Workshop Sessions on the SAR's Youth Programs which include the Eagle Scout Award Program, ROTC/JROTC Awards Program, Knight Essay Contest, Rumbaugh Oration Contest, CAR and Membership Development.

During the morning meetings and workshops, wives and guests in attendance will visit the historic and elegant Bascabol Mansion in nearby Garrison, New York. Morris Dykeman, a wealthy Dutch trader, amassed a personnel fortune while his wife furnished the residence and landscaped the grounds. The Mansion is undergoing painting and minor renovations this winter but will be in first class condition by summer.

After the Buffet Lunch at the HOTEL THAYER, compatriots and guests will tour the grounds of the Academy. Of note is the Old Cadets Chapel and adjacent cemetery where many notable military men are buried, and Trophy Point where the famous "chain" was placed across the Hudson River to prevent British ships from sailing north from West Point.

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Binghamton Chapter continued from page 2

for this meeting held at the Endwell United Methodist Church on 16 Feb 2002. The attendance was close to 100 members and guests of the SAR/DAR, which was the largest in many years. The speaker was John T. Goodnough, President of the Susquehanna Valley Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. His topic was "An Overview of Regional Railroad History". The slides he showed brought back memories of the steam engines that rolled through the valley. Along with the speaker, a display of colonial flags was also featured. A quiz was given to identify the flags. The one that seemed to stump the attendees was the "Washington's Cruisers Flag".

On 20 April 2002, we will have Sherman Wooden speak on "African Americans in The Revolutionary War". The search engines on the web were scanned for articles regarding the subject and surprisingly one article stated that up to 5000 African-Americans fought in the war. His presentation will be well worth hearing.

Robert Morton Haff, President Binghamton Chapter ○



At the annual meeting of the Binghamton Chapter, ESSAR and the Tuscarora Chapter, NSDAR, held on 16 Feb. 2002, Compatriot Robert M. Haff, President, is shown with Arlene Niemyer, Regent of the Tuscarora Chapter. A display of Colonial Flags was featured with the "Star Spangled Banner" shown here between them.

Atlantic Middle States Conference - Continued from page 3

The Banquet on Saturday night will be held at the Officer's Club at West Point. At the Banquet Richard Brookhiser will be the speaker. He has a book that has just been published titled "America's First Dynasty: the Adamses, 1735-1918."

This event is an excellent opportunity for Empire State patriots to meet the National Society Officers and to learn more about the National Society's Youth Programs.

For further information contact: Atlantic Middle States Chairman, Richard W. Sage, (212) 737-1214, sage31611@aol or State Secretary and VPG Elect, Jonathan E. Goebel, (518) 766-2142, jgoebel16@juno

Howe's War Continued from Page 1

The Revolution as you all learned in grammar school stemmed from Great Britain's desire to receive raw materials from its colonies and then resell finished products back at considerably magnified prices. To this basic economic goal was added the perceived need to get the colonies to pay their share of the British military costs expended to protect the colonies from France and other governments. These economic policies were energetically carried forward by George III.

The King was a prematurely born sensitive introvert who was slow to learn as a child and later tended to be stubborn and firm with his subjects. He felt that Great Britain had treated the Americans with too great a leniency, increasing their pride which encouraged them to think independently. Now he felt it his duty to apply these economic policies with firmness to bring the Americans back into their dependent role. Lord North, Prime Minister from 1770 to 1782, was a total pawn to the King's wishes concern replace beer as the most popular beverage in New England. For a while England overlooked the propensity of New England merchants to trade illegally ("smuggle") but with the King and Parliament making such heavy work of it, colonial ministers and representatives in the armed forces began to enforce these rules more stringently. The Townshend Acts of 1767 were imposed placing duty on a long list of imports. Then they were rescinded leaving only the tax on tea. The colonials responded with the Boston Tea Party in 1773. This flagrant destruction of the imported tea confirmed George III's resolve to use force to reduce Massachusetts to submission. The port of Boston was closed and Parliament passed the punitive "Intolerable Acts". Troops had been stationed in Boston since 1768 and they enforced the new legislation.

This effort accomplished what none of the events up until then had, it brought the thirteen colonies together in Philadelphia where the "radical" elements took over ordering a boycott of British goods and a firm statement that Parliament had no constitutional right to legislate for the American colonies. With this evidence of togetherness colonists began organizing minutemen and stock piling guns and arms.

It was almost inevitable that on April 14, 1775, British soldiers searching for some subversives and brass cannon in Lexington would engage with the minutemen hastily assembled there. They did destroy some more arms in Concord, but had to withstand a running retreat back to Boston, suffering heavy casualties in the process. Two months later the Americans had built a small defense structure on Bunker Hill in Charlestown, north of Boston. General Gates' second in command, William Howe, led the British charge on the hill and after a very bloody battle managed to

dislodge the insurgents but only after losing an immense number of soldiers. The Americans retreated, but in fact had won a victory.

Amazingly rapidly Washington was appointed Commander in Chief of the Continental Army which was now made up of the many small militia groups that had started preparing for active service. The first thing General Washington did was order the cannon from Fort Ticonderoga to be brought 300 miles overland to Boston where they were set up on the Dorchester Heights. From this location the rebels could bombard the British fleet supporting the soldiers stationed in Boston. Besides this there were many small raids constantly harassing the perimeter of Boston. This led to the British army withdrawal from Boston on March 17th, 1776, with all their troops and any loyalists who wished to join them in moving to Halifax.

That was the end of General Gates, he was recalled back to England and William Howe was elevated to Commander with his brother Richard in charge of the naval aspects of the war. George III did not have a large enough armed force so he called on his cousins in German principalities to provide mercenary "Hessian" soldiers to augment the English. No formal declaration of war had yet been made. The Howe brothers were indeed given strengthened military forces but at the same time were instructed to try to negotiate a cease fire and a return of affairs to the previous mother kingdom-colonial relationship.

Unfortunately for the crown a dyspeptic ex-Londoner by the name of Thomas Paine had written a pamphlet called Common Sense which persuasively attacked the monarchy and the monarch. Small committees throughout the colonies sent men to the continental army and pressed for a formal declaration of independence.

Almost at the same time that the Continental Congress appointed several of their members, including Jefferson, Franklin and Adams, to draw up such a declaration, England decided to attack the middle colonies separating New England and the South. The Howes started landing a large military force on Staten Island. Ten days after the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Congress, the Howes tried to negotiate with General Washington. He referred them to the Continental Congress, but this came to nothing.

With that the Howes focused their 32,000 trained professional soldiers, 30 warships, and 10,000 seamen at Long Island. To deal with this Washington had at best 20,000 poorly equipped, poorly trained, poorly led troops. The Americans lost Long Island, then New York City, then White Plains in Connecticut. The revolutionary forces were depending on two forts on either side of the Hudson River at upper Manhattan. The eastern one was Fort Washington and the western one Fort Lee. This western fort was named after General Lee an ex-British army officer who came to the colonies and offered to help in the cause of independence. His rank was just beneath that of General Washington, a status he did not much appreciate.

Using his troops well General Howe managed to take both forts, and then sent the American forces in swift retreat southwest across New Jersey, with General Cornwallis chasing them across the Passaic River, the Rahway River and then the Raritan River, Millstone Creek and finally the Delaware River. The continental forces were despondent, sick and worn out, and their leader Washington was not much better. He tried to get General Lee up in Connecticut to join him for a stand against the harassing enemy at

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his rear but General Lee was taking his time and in fact never got there as we will hear later.

Eventually, towards Christmas 1776, General Howe went back to his mistress in New York City. General Cornwallis also returned to New York and was about to sail for England when he was called back to New Jersey after the Battle of Trenton. The English-German troops were settled in winter quarters strung out between Trenton on the southwest and New York at the northeast. New Jersey had been good territory for the British military forces as many residents had given them intelligence and taken oaths to respect the monarchy.

At Christmas with the one year enlistments running out for his entire army General Washington decided to attack back across the Delaware River, taking the German troops completely by surprise. Trenton and then Princeton were recovered and the British were pushed back to eastern New Jersey. Then the continental army settled in Morristown for the winter.

The English leaders were not worried about their cause because they had a plan for the next year. General Burgoyne had a master plan which would center on the Hudson River valley with a strong force marching down from Canada, another army marching from New York up the river, and a third military force coming down the Mohawk Valley from Oswego. This impressive plan never worked because Howe decided to attack Philadelphia first and never was in a position to help General Burgoyne and the Oswego force was detained by other American forces. Burgoyne ended up surrendering a large army and its equipment to the American General Gates near Saratoga, New York.

This essentially ended the Revolutionary War in the north. The British maintained occupation of New York City. The next year the Howe brothers resigned their commands, the French entered the war, and eventually the Americans won the battle of Yorktown, finishing all hostilities until the peace agreement.

There were another set of How brothers in this time period. They were Johnathan, James, David and Isaac, all sons of James How, a farmer in northern Massachusetts near Haverhill. Howe can also be spelled H-O-W or H-O-W-S. It is an old Anglosaxon name meaning hill or hollow. Due to the vagaries of English social and economic interactions, over the years a few Howes made it into the aristocracy and many Howes were left in the lower classes. Needless to say our Admiral and General were in the former category. The Massachusetts family referred to above were in the latter group.

This small branch of Howes came from Hatfield, Broad oak, Essex, England. They were Puritans and by the early 1600's were being persecuted for their religious beliefs. They emigrated to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635, settling first in Salem. A member of the second generation married a woman who later was accused of being a witch and was hung. Some time later the colony gave her children two pounds 7 shillings each, as a recompense for the unlawful death of their mother. The next generation moved to Ipswich and one son two generations later moved to Haverhill. This was the grandfather of the four boys who all enlisted in the army at the time of the revolution. Fortunately David How kept a brief journal of his revolutionary experience. Do not think that this account is a deep philosophical expression of his beliefs and motivation for fighting to gain liberty. In fact it is a down to earth account of his travels and daily chores. He notes a

few things he heard from fellow soldiers and most important to him it records some of his trading, an occupation which occupied much of his attention. He was very young and resilient, standing up well to the physical hardships forced upon him by the war. Above all David How was a young American with little education, little money, and was very much like many of the Americans who gained liberty for us. His view of the conflict is the "worm's eye view", quite different from the history books and the biographies of famous generals.

David How was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, in 1758, the third of ten children. He learned the trade of currier (leather worker) in Andover. As a young "minuteboy" David and two of his brothers responded to the post-Lexington alarm, headed to Cambridge and was one of those occupying Bunker Hill the night preceding the June 17th, 1775, battle. During the attack the soldier at his side was gunned down. David is said to have grabbed and thrown his comrade's musket at the advancing redcoats and then retreated undercover of the gun smoke.

He enlisted in the army of the revolution at the end of December 1775 when he was 17 years old. He became a private in Colonel Paul Dudley Sargent's regiment of the Massachusetts Line. First he marched with 1200 other enlistees south to the Mystic River, but they could not cross because the ice was not strong enough. They made camp, he sold a blanket for two dollars, had his gun inspected and five days later walked 28 miles home to Haverhill. He was there for two days, then returned via Andover to Cambridge to work for a Mr. Watson. He was not yet officially in the Continental Army but he writes that on the night of January 8th "this night our soldiers went over into Charlestown and burnt up eleven houses. Took six prisoners. None of ours killed." This expedition was designed to harass the enemy and deprive them of housing. How cut and transported wood until January 22 when he officially entered the Continental Army, again in Colonel Sargent's regiment.

Diary entries for the rest of January tell us that How cooked, bought 3 barrels of cider, 7 bushels of chestnuts, a wild turkey and 4 bushels of apples, and then sold portions of them to other soldiers. On February 1 he moved into lodgings at Harvard College. He worked making rifle balls and cartridges as well as participating in the burning of a mill in Charlestown in another night raid. He tells us that a fellow soldier died from excessive drinking and another "was found dead in a room with a woman". In the middle of February he described some British troops leaving Boston by boat and landing to the south on Dorchester Heights surprising the guard there, burning some houses and taking one inhabitant prisoner before they returned to Boston. For the rest of the month he made cartridges, collected money owed to him and helped to move four cannon to Lechmere Point during the night. His older brother James came and spent a night with him.

On March 2nd there was an exchange of mortar and cannon fire all night between Lechmere Point and Boston. Two continental mortars burst without loss of life and one British cannonball landed in the fort at Prospect Hill also without much damage. On March 4 American General Thomas occupied Dorchester Heights, built a fort there and set up some artillery. Private How helped in the construction. It was this artillery position controlling the Boston Harbor that forced the later British withdrawal from Boston.

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James How came to visit on the 5th and brother Jacob How visited David on the 7th. He bought a pair of leather pants for five dollars and a new pair of half boots. On the 15th a large barracks in Cambridge burnt down and David sold his gun for 3 pounds. The British burned Charlestown as they left and all their troops marched aboard ships with the American loyalists who wished to accompany them in the mass pull-out of the army from Boston. The fleet moved out to the Nantasket Road and sat there for seven days while the American forces occupied Boston. David was first assigned to Fort Hill. Several soldiers were punished by whipping for not coming on duty, for drunkenness or for stealing. The punishment for stealing a cheese (size unspecified) was 30 lashes.

In early April David packed a lot of cartridges. He was then chosen to load and carry cartridges, lead balls and filled powder horns to Norwich. Eight wagons and eight carts made up the ammunition train. It took seven days to reach Norwich, Connecticut where the load was put aboard a ship for New York; it took them five days to return to Boston. The next task David was assigned to was tearing down enemy works on Bunker Hill and constructing a new fort on Charlestown point. He regularly was assigned to guard duty and he always lists the sentry code word in his diary, such as "Canada", "Adams", "Ohio", "Virtue", or "Received". In May he was sent to Noddles Island (now East Boston)

to build a fort there. He still got away to Boston and/or Cambridge every few days and washed his clothes once a week. May 17th he reports the capture of the large British transport ship "Hope" by a privateer called "Franklin" out of Marblehead. The capture included 1500 barrels of gunpowder, 1000 rifles, as well as other valuables. Several days later a British naval force came into Boston harbor attacking the same privateer in retaliation. The American captain was killed but many British sailors were drowned and David writes that "the attackers were obliged to go off ashamed".

June brought rain and on the 3rd David says "I went on for teag at the fort". This meant fatigue which in modern parlance means worn out, needing rest, but in his vocabulary meant hard work, enough to wear you out. He carried rocks, unloaded cannon, moved earth, all to build this fort protecting Boston harbor. After the first

week he went home to Haverhill on leave, went to church which he calls "meeting" and stopped at Andover on the way back. Starting in the middle of June he records several regiments of soldiers being sent by ship to Nantucket and Long Island to prepare for an expected British occupation. These troop transports had to run a British warship blockade getting out to sea. On the 22nd he had time to "make me a chest this day". He was on guard duty on the 4th and the code sign was "New York". This of course was the day the Continental Congress voted to submit the Declaration of Independence to England. On the 7th and the 17th he went to the small pox hospital at Sewell's Point, Brookline, to visit patients there. He reported that two more British ships from the West Indies were captured, one with rum and one with assorted cargo. Samuel Eliot Morrison points out that after the British withdrawal from Boston the most important role of New England in the war was the continued privateer captures of enemy shipping. This disrupted the British efforts in America and it provided much of the necessary arms and provisions for a very poorly equipped army.

This 2 part series will conclude in the August Issue of the Empire Patriot starting out with "On November 17th they heard of the surrender of Fort Washington . . ." The ending promises to be very interesting. Don't miss out on this story in it's entirety. The Editor.

On July 15th David's regiment got their orders to march to New York and on the 18th they left for Norwich, Connecticut. Apparently David How stayed behind because for the next month he was still walking around Boston burying a friend who had died of small pox and visiting at home back in Haverhill. By August 13th he finally started for Norwich with six teams of horses and wagons carrying gunpowder. It took five days to reach Norwich and a day to load the goods on a sailing ship. The trip was a difficult one because the ship ran aground several times, faced contrary winds and only reached Hells Gate eight days later. They rejoined their regiment 6 miles from New York City.

This was August 22, exactly the time that the British left Staten Island and attacked Long Island routing the Americans from Brooklyn and to the north towards Long Island Sound. David was in a skir-

mish with British scouting parties but by the 29th all the American troops and baggage were brought to New York in their sad retreat from defeat on Long Island.

The Americans built a fort at Horns Hook and the British built one opposite across a short stretch of water. They connotated back and forth. David reports that both Corporal Haduc and Isacc Fowls had their heads shot off. This went on for ten days until the enemy crossed to York Island and the Americans had to leave the lower part of town so that ships' cannon could not reach them. Soon the British followed them up the island of Manhattan and there was a noteworthy battle on Harlem Heights.

The Americans continued to fall back, many settling into Fort Washington and Fort Lee built on either side of the Hudson River at the point just south of where the George Washington Bridge now stands. David How's regiment marched over Kings bridge at the tip of Manhattan to Westchester up the Hudson, setting up camp on September 19th. For the next several weeks there were only local travel, reports of whippings, trading of clothes, fixing and polishing his musket, listening to general orders and serving on picket guard.

On September 9th the British sent three warships up the Hudson River to a point above the two forts. The ships did get some damage as they passed between Forts Washington and Lee. An alarm went up

and David's company was sent to Dobbs Ferry 12 miles up river to repulse an expected landing there but in fact the warships were waiting for the main attack on Fort Washington which would come in early November. The regiment marched several times to Throggs Point where a group of the enemy had landed and encamped. They also had guard duty at Fort Independence in Yonkers. On October 22nd the regiment packed and marched to White Plains, New York, where they camped until the British regulars came on the 28th. Shots were exchanged and the Americans moved back a few miles, then on November 6 the British army unaccountably packed up and went south towards New York. In fact their move was to start the siege on Fort Washington. David stayed outside White Plains standing guard duty and treating himself for the itch. O

A TRUE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HERO

Deborah Samson was born on Dec 17, 1760 to John and Deborah Samson. The family could trace their lineage to the Mayflower on both sides including such notables as Priscilla Alden and Myles Standish. Deborah was the eldest of 3 daughters and 3 brothers. When Deborah was about 5 yrs old, her father left to go to sea and was supposed to have died at sea. Later day research shows that he simply walked out on his family and created a new life in Maine. This left the Samson family with 6 mouths to feed and Mrs. Samson was in poor health. She fostered the children for a while, but at the tender age of 8 or 10 Deborah was placed in indentured servitude with the kind, but large family of Jeremiah Thomas of Middlesborough. The Thomas family had no girls, but lots of boys and Deborah was responsible for taking care of them and getting them ready for school. She read the boys' school books at night and succeeded in learning enough this way that when she turned 18 and was freed she obtained a position as schoolteacher in Middlesborough. All the time she spent with the Thomas Family and afterwards was spent among the growing tension between the British and the Colonists. It was during this time that the Stamp Act was placed into effect, and revolutionary thinkers such as James Otis and Samuel Adams were starting to show the colonists that they didn't need the British to protect them, that in fact the colonies could protect themselves. Deborah watched as the British attempted to halt the rebellious talk and acts by closing the port of Boston and quartering troops in private homes. She watched as the "intolerable acts" were put into effect and she heard the news of the stand in Lexington and Concord that fateful April day. She heard the reading of the Declaration of Independence and she watched the young colonists get their first REAL taste of war. She was not frightened by this, her only question was "Why can I not fight for my country too?", a question which was to be repeated during every US war until after the Persian Gulf War in this Decade. Deborah finally decided that to do her duty to her country she would dress up as a man and enlist.

Her first attempt was in 1782 but after signing the enlistment papers to join the American Army, she had a change of heart and did not show up the next day. A while later in 1782 she firmed her resolve and attempted again to enlist in the military. She, on May 20, 1782, signed up to join the 4th Massachusetts Regiment using the name Robert Shurtleff. Her disguise worked and she was mustered into Captain George Webbs Co. Her local church hearing rumors of her "Unchristian" like behavior of wearing men's clothing and joining the army, decided shortly after her company left the Boston area, to excommunicate her. Such was often the price for individualist thinking. Deborah's company though was going to lower New York where while Washington held the area, many small guerilla attacks were still happening. Deborah's company was charged with assisting to halt those attacks. During one of the particularly bloody engagements in Tarrytown, NY, Deborah, while attempting to retreat, was wounded in the head and then the thigh. She was escorted to a field hospital where her head wound was treated. She did not tell the doctor about the musket shot in her leg for fear of discovery. She tried to treat the wound herself, but lacking the strength to dig the musket ball out, she left it there and as such her leg never healed properly. She, after many weeks,

healed enough to return to active duty. During this time though she was to come down with a fever and the doctor while treating her, discovered her secret. He had her removed to his house and personally oversaw her treatment, all the while keeping her secret. After Deborah was healed he secretly passed her secret on to a General at Fort Knox who then honorably discharged her on October 23, 1783, while publicly keeping her secret. Deborah when talked about as Robert, was thought of as a great soldier, with endurance and courage, something much needed in the military at that time. The war had been long and hard. O

NEWTOWN BATTLE CHAPTER

Compatriot William J. Woodworth, President

At our January Meeting, we elected the Slate of Officers for 2002 and they were installed by ESSAR Western Region Vice President, Rex Fuller. During the installation of Officers ceremony, VP Fuller was dressed in the Revolutionary War uniform costume of his Patriot Ancestor's Unit.

Newtown is continuing to pursue prospective members in the Tompkins County area in hopes of regaining the charter for this chapter sometime this year. We are planning a special meeting, in Ithaca, to make the public more aware of the SAR and its principles as well as helping prospective members with any questions they may have.

Plans are being made for our April Meeting to include award presentations in a number of different categories. A Law Enforcement Commendation Medal to Chemung County Deputy Robert Hurley, who was also recently named "Deputy of the Year, for his work is preventing a dangerous situation when a student brought bombs and firearms to a school in Elmira, NY; An Eagle Scout Award to Scott Witherow, from Canisteo, NY; several Flag Certificates, and New Member Certificates. The following weekend, April 27, 2002, Comp. Fleet Morse and I will be at Cornell University Department of Military Science presenting ROTC Medals. Comp. Morse has been presenting these medals every year for quite some time. He and his brother, Camp. Everett Morse, were Officers in the former Tompkins County Chapter and are now members of Newtown.

Plans are in the process for our Annual Chapter Picnic to be held at Newtown Battlefield during the Revolutionary War Re-enactment weekend in August. We will have more information regarding the details at a later date.

On a personal note, I will be representing the Empire State Society and Newtown Battle Chapter at a Cemetery Marker Rededication Ceremony in Steuben County Indiana. I was contacted by Mrs. Kay Smith, DAR Northern District Director of the Indiana Society, regarding some of my ancestors buried there. New headstones were ordered from the Government and a rededication ceremony will take place around Memorial Day. The Indiana State Society, SAR Color Guard will be presenting a Musket Salute and there will be dignitaries from the DAR, SAR, Indiana State as well as Steuben County Representatives. The markers will be replacements for one of my Revolutionary War Ancestors and his son, who was a Veteran of the War of 1812.

Susan, my wife, received over 130 orders for the SAR Cookbook and these books are still available, but the price now includes the shipping/handling fee of \$2.00 for a total of \$17.00

Continued Page 8 Column 1

Newtown Battle Chapter, Continued from Page 7 Column 2

per book. Ordering instructions and an order blank can be found on the SAR National Website or you can contact Susan at; 447 Brainard Place - Painted Post, NY 14870-1101. Make all checks payable to "Ladies For The SAR Library", in the amount of \$17.00 per book.'

Thanks for all you're doing with the newsletter, Hank. I think it's great and plan on passing out some of the "samples" at our Informational Booth during the Revolutionary War Reenactment Weekend at the battlefield.

Respectfully, William J. Woodworth,
President Newtown Battle Chapter, SAR ○

2002 EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The 112th Annual Meeting of the Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution will be held at the West Point Club on the grounds of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York on Saturday, May 4, 2002.

This year we are fortunate to have the Annual Meeting on Parade Day. The Corp. of Cadets will march on the Parade Grounds beginning at 11:30 am in honor of retired graduates of West Point. This is a splendid opportunity to see one of the greatest spectacles in United States military pageantry. Plan to arrive early as parking will be at a premium, and the distance from parking to the parade viewing area will involve a short hike.

Lunch will begin after the parade at the West Point Club located at Building 603 Cullum Road. The Annual Meeting will handle only the most essential of business items leaving as much time as possible to ceremony. After a memorable term our distinguished State President, Walter R. Kuhn, will pass the gavel to his successor.

After lunch the Empire State Society will greet General Daniel Morgan of the Continental Army. General Morgan of Virginia began the Revolutionary War at Bunker Hill and fought in battles at Saratoga and Yorktown. He is reenacted by William Chemerka who in dramatic biographical detail tells the story of a great patriot.

The Empire State Society will invite the local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Children of the American Revolution to our festive family affair. Although invitations will be sent to the local chapters of the DAR and CAR, anyone is welcome who appreciates and wishes to celebrate our American heritage. ○

LEXINGTON AND CONCORD

The following is the report of Lord Percy to General Gage. Lord Percy commanded the 1st brigade of the army and was dispatched with his brigade and a battalion of marines to cover the retreat of Lt. Col. Smith's column of grenadiers and light infantry from Concord.

Boston, April 20, 1775

Sir,

In obedience to your excellency's orders I marched yesterday morning at 9 o'clock with the 1st Brigade and two field pieces in order to cover the retreat of the Grenadier and Light Infantry in their return from their

expedition to Concord. As all the houses were shut up and there was not the appearance of a single inhabitant, I could get no intelligence concerning them till I had passed Menotoring, where I was informed that the rebels had attacked H.M.'s troops who were retiring overpowered by numbers, greatly exhausted and fatigued, and having expended almost all their ammunition: and about two o'clock I met them retiring thro' the town of Lexington. I immediately ordered the two field pieces to fire at the rebels, and drew up the brigade on a height. The shot from the cannon had the desired effect and stopped the rebels for a little time, who immediately dispersed and endeavoured to surround us, being very numerous. As it began now to grow pretty late and we had 15 miles to retire, and only our 36 rounds, I ordered the grenadiers and light infantry to move off first; and covered them with my brigade, sending out very strong flanking parties, which were absolutely necessary, as there was not a stone wall or house tho' before in appearance evacuated, from whence the rebels did not fire upon us. As soon as they saw us begin to retire they pressed very much upon our rear guard, which for that reason I relieved every now and then. In this manner we retired for fifteen miles under an incessant fire all round us till we arrived at Charlestown between seven and eight in the evening, very much fatigued with a march of above thirty miles, and having expended almost all our ammunition. We had the misfortune in losing a good many men in the retreat, tho' nothing like the number which from many circumstances I have reason to believe were killed of the rebels. His Majesty's troops during the whole of the affair behaved with their usual intrepidity and spirit. Nor were they a little exasperated at the cruelty and barbarity of the rebels who scalped and cut off the ears of some of the wounded men that fell into their hands.

I am, Sir,

Percy, Acting Brigadier-General

Frederick Mackenzie of the RWF describes the battalion's deployment to cover the retreat:

"We also advanced a few of our best marksmen who fired at those who shewed themselves. We immediately lined the Walls and other Cover in our front with some Marksmen, and retired from the right of Companies by files to the high ground a Small distance in our rear, where we again formed in line, and remained in that position for near half an hour, during which time the flank Companies, and the other Regiments of the Brigade, began their march in one Column on the road towards Cambridge."

Richard Williams, also of the RWF, has an account of the action in his journal.

Total casualties for the expedition amounted to 65 killed, 136 wounded, and 49 missing out of a force of 1800. Among those missing were some Fusiliers who were captured by the rebels as witnessed by General Gage's Orderly Book, 8 May 1775:

"The Commander-in-Chief having received advice that three soldiers of the Royal Welch Fusiliers and twelve Marines are prisoners in the gaol at Worcester, and have nobly despised the offers, and defied the threats of the rebels, who have tried to seduce them to take arms against their King and fight their brother soldiers: it is the Governor's orders that money be given by said corps to Major of Brigade Moncrieffe who has an opportunity of conveying it to the above men to prevent such brave spirited soldiers from suffering." ○

**Progress dictates chance! You cannot steal second base
with one foot still on first.**

COMPATRIOTS HONORED FOR LONG SERVICE TO THE SOCIETY

Compatriot Richard C. Saunders, President

Saratoga Battle Chapter held its Annual Washington's Birthday Meeting at the Century House Restaurant in Latham, New York on 16 February, 2002. In addition to the general Business Meeting, Service Awards and an SAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal was presented.

Seven compatriots were honored by the Chapter for their service to the society of 20, 25 and 30 years. Chapter President



Seated Front Row: Kurt H. Kilmer, Carlton E. Covell, William Benjamin Neal. - - Standing Rear: Charles F. Walter, Clyde W. Childs, Jr., Noel Haskell, William G. Loveday, Jr.

Richard C. Saunders Jr. officiated and made the presentations, noting that it is through the actions of long term members that we continue the ideals of the Society, with many long term members serving as leaders throughout the years.

Present to receive awards were William O. Loveday, Jr. (30 Years), Noel Haskell (30 years), Carlton E. Covell (Past Chapter President 25 Years), Kurt H. Kilmer (Past Chapter Graves Research Chair 20 Years), Charles F. Walter (20 Years), Clyde W. Childs, Jr. (Past Chapter President 20 Years), & William Benjamin Neal (Genealogist General 20 Years). Several other Compatriots have qualified for the Service Pins and Certificates but could not be at the meeting. They will be accepting their awards at a later date.

Among the remarks by recipients; Noel Haskell praised his father, Harold Raymond Haskell, for passing on such a proud heritage and membership in the SAR, noting that his father facilitated many new memberships for the SAR. President Saunders responded with the fact that Compatriot Haskell is then able to pass that proud heritage on to his children and grandchildren. Genealogist General Neal was most pleased that the Saratoga Battle Chapter sought to recognize his service.

President Saunders also presented a New Member Certificate to Charles A. Greenfield, who previously had received the SAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal at the State level for his effort in marking the graves of veterans from the Revolutionary war on-

ward.

Several compatriots commented that, for a business meeting, this gathering was a most enjoyable one. Business matters were attended to crisply allowing time for presentation of awards and camaraderie. ○

ROCHESTER CHAPTER PRESENTS GOOD CITIZENSHIP MEDAL

Compatriot Stephen P. Clarke, President

As part of our annual recognition of George Washington's birthday, the Rochester Chapter recognizes an outstanding civic leader from the greater Rochester area by presenting a silver Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate. This year's honoree was Monroe County Court Judge John J. Connell. His Honor was joined by his family and 35 other guests for the luncheon held at the historic Cartwright Inn. A highlight of the event was Judge Connell's story of how his great-great grandfather's signature changed over his lifetime after arriving in the U. S. from Ireland during The Famine. From a barely legible scrawl to, a clear and strong statement, the signature became a symbol to the Connell family of how much growth and development was available to those who chose to take advantages of the opportunities available in their new land. ○



Judge John J. Connell, left, being presented with Good Citizenship Certificate by Rochester Chapter President Stephan P. Clarke

COMPATRIOTDON'TFORGETS

1. Don't forget to pay your dues.
2. Don't forget - elections are coming up. Pay heed to your ballot
3. I hope you didn't forget to pay your taxes?
4. Don't forget your fellow man.
5. Don't forget to check out the next issue of the Empire Patriot - interesting story on Revolutionary Warfare.
6. Don't forget the rest of the story on Howe's War.
7. Don't forget to send me articles and pictures so I don't have to fill in space with these stupid DON'TFORGETS.
8. And above all - don't forget your WIFE'S BIRTHDAY or your ANNIVERSARY.

SAR GOLD GOOD CITIZENSHIP MEDAL PRESENTED POSTHUMOUSLY

Compatriot Richard C. Saunders, President

Also at the Saratoga Battle Chapter Annual Washington's Birthday Dinner Meeting the SAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal, previously approved for the late Congressman, Gerald B. H. Solomon, was presented by Chapter President Richard C. Saunders, Jr. Mrs. Gerald B. H. Solomon, the widow of the Congressman, accepted the medal which recognized his performance as a United States Congressman for a long list of actions, support, and beliefs far too numerous to list in entirety. Assisting President Saunders was Past Chapter President and Past State President, Dennis F. Marr, Registrar of the Chapter.

President Saunders began by describing the mechanical process of collecting documentation to present to the then Chapter President (Dennis Marr) which included securing copies of Press Releases, newspaper articles, and copies of Former Congressman Solomon's "Reports from Washington". Of particular interest to our Chapter was the support and financial dedication to the Saratoga National Historical Park; final siting of the new National Cemetery, now known as the Congressman Gerald B. H. Solomon, Saratoga National Cemetery; Arlington Cemetery Protection; Flag Amendment, and the list goes on.

Former President Marr then explained the assemblage of the 2 1/2 pounds of material shipped off to National and the process that the Medal and Awards Committee utilizes for evaluating a nomination. He noted that Former Congressman Solomon was the "ideal" candidate, one that all compatriots could be proud of, one certainly deserving of recognition for his contributions on a national level.

President Saunders mentioned that the Chapter had tried for

Five (5) Years to secure the former Congressman at a meeting in order to present the Award, that was approved when Dennis Marr was Chapter President, proceeding through the Presidency of Lt. Col. Peter Goebel, and unfortunately, with this presentation posthumously to his widow, Mrs. Gerald B. H. (Freda) Solomon.

In graciously accepting the award, Mrs. Solomon thanked the Chapter, and remarked that this was an honor that she wished the Former Congressman could have been awarded in person. Unfortunately/or fortunately, Gerry Solomon was always working, whether as a County Supervisor, Assemblyman, Congressman, or in private practice as a consultant/lobbyist, and lately, we just could not secure him on a date he was free.

Also on hand was the Congressman's life long friend and Treasurer of the Gerald B. H. Solomon Freedom Foundation, J. Ronald Williams, to speak on behalf of the foundation that was initially started by the former Congressman, and funded by excess campaign funds. The Foundation has provided funding to both the Boy and Girl Scouts of America, providing Scholarships to Eagle Scouts, and Gold Girl Scouts, and seeks to elicit applications from other youth of high ideals and achievement.

A time honored Chapter tradition, is the circulation of a jug with which to collect donations for Medals and Awards for the Chapter, known as the Clyde Childs, Medal and Awards Fund. The \$200.00 collected was presented to the Gerald B. H. Solomon Freedom Foundation. Should Chapters desire to donate funds, they may be sent to the attention of- The Gerald B. H. Solomon Freedom Foundation 204 Main Street South Glens Falls, NY 12803-5145 Attn: Daniel Orsini . O



Mrs. Gerald B. H. Solomon accepting SAR Gold Citizenship Medal for her late husband, the former Congressman, Gerald H. B. Solmon



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