



EMPIRE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution
Volume 12 Number 3 <http://www.sar.org/esssar/> Fall 2010

Our Youth

This issue is dedicated primarily to the youth involved in our youth programs. David Pegado was the NSSAR 1st place winner in the Eagle Scout Scholarship program. He was entered through the Buffalo Chapter. Cody Nager was the NSSAR 1st place winner in the George and Stella Knight Essay Contest. He was entered through the Stony Point Chapter. Kevin Reyer was the NSSAR 2nd place winner in the JROTC program. He was entered through the Long Island Chapter. Great work!

The following is the essay that was presented by Cody Nager. Cody is a sophomore at the Noth Salem High School, North Salem, NY. He has always had a love of history and is a research assistant at the John Jay Homestead New York State Historical Site, Katonah, NY. He has visited many historic sites such as Valley Forge, Bunker Hill, Gettysburg, West Point, Stony Point, Concord and Lexington. He is active in 4-H at the local and national level, and he is a member of his school's newspaper and track team.

Message from Logan M. Cheek, III

In addition to the ESSSAR members, my special personal thanks to the chapter committee members across the state for their support and efforts in recent years in making a state winner in the Eagle Scout Scholarship program, and especially to the Buffalo Chapter Chairman, Ron Koch. Also, I hope that we will be seeing David, Cody and Kevin join as new members of the Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution 2009-2010 Eagle Scout Scholarship
First Place, National Winner
First Place, Empire State Winner
First Place, Buffalo Chapter Winner

Tribute to a Private's Service

by David Cadwell Pegado

Thousands of footsteps echoed in unison as troops marched past. The turncoat from Connecticut, Benedict Arnold, was leading the British occupation of Williamsburg. In April 1781, I was only ten years old, but knew the shrill call of fifes and the beat of drums as our own militia men drilled. I scrambled down from my tree-top vantage point to take action; hurling an apple at a Redcoat, it made a satisfactory thud. I quickly disappeared into the crowd.

My immersion into the past at Colonial Williamsburg left a lasting impression. Historical reenactments and preservation sites became my portals to the past, providing first-hand experience of the sights and sounds of the battle for independence. I saw great leaders and unnamed patriots play equally important roles.

My ancestor, John Cadwell, baptized in 1762 in Hartford County, really did grow up amidst revolutionary struggles. Although no battles were fought in Farmington, "years of war left the town exhausted."¹ Families kept a Continental Fast to save provisions for soldiers and stopped Tories from redirecting supplies to the British.² They hung traitors' portraits upside down in rejection. My great-great-great-great grandfather was the same age I am now, in September 1780, when Benedict Arnold's treasonous scheme at West Point was uncovered.

On March 5, 1782, Parliament agreed to negotiate peace. Connecticut townspeople reacted to the news with "a mixed sensation of pleasure and pain."³ Nineteen days later, Cadwell enlisted at Farmington and was posted in the area of West Point with the Second Regiment of the Connecticut Line, serving under Colonel Heman Swift.⁴ Not much military activity occurred during his service. No extraordinary stories of bravery were uncovered, but his assignment fulfilled an important role. Defense of the strategic Hudson Highlands remained a priority. His regiment made encampments in Connecticut Village and Nelson's Point and may have helped close-down the northern division's largest and most important provisions hub, the Fishkill Supply Depot. On July 28, 1782, Swift's regiment began guard duty of King's Ferry, the Hudson crossing at Verplanck's Point. With the British still holding New York downriver, King's Ferry was a critical stronghold and potential target. Cadwell likely witnessed the

arrival of 12,000 of Washington's and Rochambeau's troops preparing to converge on New York for a final show of strength.⁵ Two months into his service, May 1782, the Second Regiment revolted from the "daily routine of a seldom paid and poorly supplied army"⁶ but were soon suppressed. Unpaid salaries and scant food prompted the Connecticut Mutiny; on March 15, 1783, near the end of John Cadwell's service, a widespread revolt among Continental troops erupted. His civilian life in the fledgling republic must also have been difficult, describing himself as "indigent" in his 1818 pension application.

"Occasionally in the study of history we find an 'unknown' man, a man who has received no recognition from his countrymen, yet is justly deserving of it."⁷ These words described Colonel Swift, but I believe they ring true for Private John Cadwell and countless other soldiers whose contributions must be searched out to be remembered. Interactive opportunities and research gave me awareness and appreciation of my ancestor's struggles. In piecing together the path of one long-forgotten patriot, a link connecting our past with the future was preserved.



National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution 2009- 2010 George & Stella Knight Essay Contest
First Place, Empire State Winner
First Place, Westchester-Putnam Chapter

Battle of Stony Point - July 1779: The Defense of the Hudson River, Lifeline of the Colonies

by Cody E. Nager

The year was 1779 and the situation was critical. West Point, a fort along the Hudson River and since 1802 the site of the U.S. Army academy, was in danger. If the British captured West Point, they would control the Hudson. Stony Point, thirteen miles south along the river, was the location of Kings Ferry, the principal communications and supply route for the Continental Army. Its importance was noted by Sir Henry Clinton, General of the British forces in New York City, "having been ever sensible of the importance of the post of Stony Point and Verplank the most direct and convenient communications route..."¹ The British wanted the Hudson because by holding it they could separate the trouble making New England colonies from those in the South. The river was the lifeline of the colonies because it allowed the Americans to remain in contact with commanders and supplies from either side of the river. However, if the British occupied it, a natural wall would separate the two sides.

To prevent the separation from happening, General George Washington had pulled all his troops back to defend the Hudson. Washington needed a victory but could not put West Point in danger for fear of losing the war. Baron Von Steuben, the man who trained the Continentals at Valley Forge, said in his 1779 report "I am positive that their operations are directed exclusively and getting possession of the river as far as Albany."²

Stony Point was a natural fort, one hundred fifty feet high with rock walls on three sides and a marsh on the other. The Hudson River is right next to all the rock walls. When British General Clinton advanced up the Hudson in May 1779, Stony Point was garrisoned by only fifty Continental laborers who were overpowered by the six hundred and fifty three British under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Henry Johnson.

After capturing Stony Point, the British began to fortify it. First, they chopped down all the trees and made two lines of abatis (walls made of trees with their branches sharpened that are laid down toward the enemy). Next, the British brought in fourteen cannons but made a crucial mistake in their placement. The British placed the cannons in embrasures (little fortifications used for protection) that allowed them to fire in only one direction. The British were relying on their naval superiority to protect the direction that the cannon did not face (along the edge of the Hudson River).

While all this was happening, General George Washington was in trouble. He had called many of his troops back to defend West Point. Now they were complaining. He needed a victory, one that would be bold, quick and decisive and would take the minimum amount of troops. Washington decided it would be Stony Point. But which General should lead the assault? Washington selected Anthony Wayne, one of the Revolutionary War's most daring generals, to lead an attack on Stony Point. Wayne took command of the light brigade. The light brigade consisted of the very best troops picked for their courage and ability to follow orders with precision. They were the fore-runners of today's Special Forces units. Only the light brigade was to attack Stony Point.

The main strategy was to have the men, under cover of night, make a silent bayonet charge (*continued on page 4*)

EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Susan, Jonathan Goebel, and I attended the 120th SAR Congress held in Cleveland, Ohio June 25 – July 1, 2010. With all the meetings, as well as other activities going on, we were kept pretty busy, but all in all it was a very interesting time and we got the chance to see old friends and meet new ones. One interesting event that Susan and I were “caught in” was the passing over of a tornado while we were on our way back to our motel. It touched down just East of Cleveland, in Ashtabula, Ohio, and destroyed a trailer park/campground along with knocking out the power to 30,000 residents.

We, the Empire State Society membership, owe ourselves a rousing hand of applause as the ESSSAR was well recognized during the Awards Presentation Night. The Society received awards in the following categories;

1. Society that sponsored the 1st Place Winner for the Eagle Scout Competition.
2. Society that sponsored the 1st Place Winner in the Knight Essay Competition.
3. CAR Involvement Award – Flag Streamer and Certificate.
4. JROTC 2nd Place Winner was from the ESSSAR – Long Island Chapter.
5. In addition, several individual members were awarded the SAR Liberty Medal and other special awards.

The Eagle Scout winner, David Pegado, was present at the Congress with his parents and grandparents. He read his essay and was presented with an \$8000.00 check as the NSSAR 1st Place winner. I received the medal, certificate, and a check in the amount of \$2000.00 in the absence of the NSSAR 1st Place Knight Essay winner, Cody Nager who didn't attend the Congress. A SAR Silver Enhanced JROTC medal and check in the amount of \$500.00 were presented earlier by the Long Island Chapter to NSSAR 2nd Place winner, Kevin Reyer. My congratulations goes out to all those who received awards.

During the Congress, I was elected to the position of North Atlantic District (New Jersey and Empire State Society areas) Vice President General and will be attending, with Susan, the upcoming Atlantic Middle States Conference in Philadelphia, PA on August 13-14, 2010 and then attending a Boy Scout Court of Honor to recognize 5 Boy Scouts who will be inducted into the rank of Eagle Scout during this ceremony on August 15, 2010.

Thanks to all for making this a great Society.

Respectfully, Bill Woodworth, President

Iroquois Confederacy & The American Revolution

The American Revolution split the Iroquois Confederacy. The Mohawks led by Joseph Brant adhered to their long-standing allegiance to the British, and eventually most Cayugas, Onondagas, and Senecas joined them. But the Oneidas and Tuscaroras sided with the Americans, owing in large measure to the efforts of their Presbyterian missionary, Samuel Kirkland. The Revolution became a civil war for the Iroquois, as Oneidas clashed with Senecas at the Battle of Oriskany in 1777. Iroquois sufferings were compounded in 1779 when General John Sullivan led an American army through their country, burning forty towns and destroying crops.

“All the perplexities, confusion and distress in America arise, not from defects in their Constitution or Confederation, not from want of honor or virtue, so much as from the downright ignorance of the nature of coin, credit and circulation.” *John Adams*

with unloaded muskets. The attack was to come from the bottom of a steep hill from behind the heavily fortified British position. Wayne would lead the column of seven hundred men that attacked from the South. Colonel Butler commanded the column of six hundred men that attacked from the North. Major Murfree would lead the one hundred men that created a diversionary feint with an attack up the middle.

On July 15, 1779, the attack was mounted. It was to be done in complete silence. There were to be no loaded muskets, so that accidental firing would not occur. Anybody firing a shot except the distraction group was to be shot by the soldier next to him. This is the only incident in American military history where surprise was so crucial that if orders were not followed, a soldier would be killed for the good of the attack. As Wayne said, "if any soldier presumes to take his musket from his shoulder or attempt to fire or begin the battle until ordered by his proper officer, he shall be instantly put to death by the man next to him, for the misconduct of one man is not to put the whole troops in danger and disorder and be suffered to pass with life."³

When the attack began, it was midnight and the British were all asleep. Outside the fort, Murfree's diversion column had gotten into position and had begun to fire their muskets. Lieutenant Colonel Johnson, the British commander roused his troops and began charging down the slope at the diversion. At this stage in the battle, Wayne's plan was working very well. Johnson had fallen for the deception. Sir George Collier of the Royal Navy said this about Johnson's reaction, "at the first alarm from the picket he ran down with the main guard to defend the abatis and support them."⁴

Johnson's mistake was to run off and not leave anyone in command. European armies were trained to do everything at the command of an officer. The British were so over trained, that they would not fire the cannons without a command from an officer. Many of the cannons did nothing during the battle. The result was that the British, encircled and sleepy, lost the battle.

Stony Point proved to be the last major battle in the Northern colonies. Three of the eleven total congressional gold medals (a precursor of the Congressional Medal of Honor) awarded during the whole Revolutionary War were given for service during this one clash. The Journals of Continental Congress stated "*Resolved, unanimously*, that the thanks of Congress be presented to Brigadier General Wayne, for his brave, prudent and soldierly conduct in the spirited and well conducted attack of Stony Point."⁵

Baron Von Steuben said in his 17789 report to Washington, "the taking of Stony Point was a great advantage for our side. It has not only encouraged the army, but the people. It has shown the enemy that our generals know how to make a plan, and that our officers and soldiers know how to carry it out with boldness and precision. It has delayed the field operations of the enemy."⁶

Von Steuben recognized the main effect of Stony Point, the morale boost. Stony Point had this impact because it proved the army wasn't just endless guard duty. They were actually doing something for the independence of the Colonies from England. The battle rekindled the dying flame of American spirit and allowed Washington the troops he needed to finish the Revolution. Soldiers were encouraged to reenlist because they were now one step closer to winning the war. The Americans had proved to the British that their soldiers were a match for the European soldier.

Constitution and By-Laws

Have you received your copy of the proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. If you haven't, then you should get a copy from your chapter president. They are available and should be reviewed prior to voting on a possible approval of the changes. There are many and they are needed to bring these documents up-to-date. (Editor)

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Dear ESSAR Eagle Scholarship Committee Members,

I would like to express my gratitude to each committee member for reading my application, for finding it worthy of consideration and for ultimately choosing it as First Place Winner in the Empire State Society. I will always be grateful for the extra honor of being selected to represent New York State at the national level.

Attending the NSSAR Congress in Cleveland as First Place recipient of both the state and national Eagle Scout Awards was an experience I will never forget. I enjoyed the festivities very much. Reading "Tribute to a Private's Service" to SAR members was a very special privilege in Cleveland, as it was in Buffalo.

I have been wearing my Chapter Medal with pride and truly treasure the State Eagle trophy with engraved brass plate that Mr. Berg presented to me at the Chapter Dinner.

When I became a Scout, I pledged to Do My Best and Help Other People. Over the years I learned the meaning of these promises by putting them into action and saw how the hard work of completing a worthy project or offering a useful service provides assistance to others. As the Empire State Society Eagle Scout Scholarship recipient, I will continue to honor my Scout promises in college, developing my strengths in order to find new ways to help others. I promise I will put the scholarship to good use.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stewart".

Dear Mr. Cheek,

Thank you and the ESSAR Scholarship Committee members for reading my application and finding it worthy of the Empire State Society's highest prize. I will always be grateful for the extra honor of being selected to represent New York State at the national level.

It was a tremendous honor to attend the NSSAR Congress in Cleveland as First Place recipient of both the state and national Eagle Awards. I enjoyed the festivities very much and was pleased to give credit to the Empire State Society at the Congress. Reading "Tribute to a Private's Service" to share it with all who attended was a very special privilege in Cleveland, as it was in Buffalo.

I enjoyed meeting you in May, especially after your phone calls which brought such great news! I wear my Chapter Medal proudly and truly treasure the State Eagle trophy with engraved brass plate that Mr. Berg presented to me. Thank you for presenting me with the scholarship check in Buffalo. The giant check is on my bedroom wall as a souvenir.

When I became a Scout, I pledged to Do My Best and Help Other People. As the Empire State Society Eagle Scout Scholarship recipient, I will continue to honor my Scout promises in college, developing my strengths in order to find new ways to help others.

I promise I will put the scholarship to good use.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stewart".

BINGHAMTON CHAPTER

The Binghamton Chapter had its spring meeting on Saturday, June 5, 2010 at the Spot Restaurant, Binghamton. The meeting started with the announcement of the loss of two members of the Chapter. Compatriot John Brant Dunckle passed away on Feb 10, 2010. He was 81. John joined the SAR on July 28, 2005. On March 18, 2010, Compatriot Francis Robert Bolles died. He was 84. Francis joined the SAR on July 24, 1995 and served the Chapter in various offices. A prayer and a moment of silence were given in their memory.

A report was given on the annual joint luncheon that was held on Saturday, February 20, 2010 at the Endwell United Methodist Church with the Tuscarora Chapter, NSDAR. This year we were the host. The speaker was Tim Drake who spoke on his book "Inherited Freedom" before a turnout of 72 members and guests.

The speaker at this meeting was Eileen Patch who gave a talk on "Letters from George." George was an ancestor of hers who served in the Civil War. The family kept most of the letters that he wrote home. Eileen spoke of them, dressed in gown of that period, a wonderful treasure that was preserved for us to read and study.

The meeting then continued with the presentation to our newest member his certificate of membership. Compatriot Mark Richard Burdick received his framed certificate from Chapter President Robert Morton Haff. Several members of his family and friends were there to observe the ceremony.

The Chapter unveiled a stone marker honoring the memory of William Bramley after 170 years. A bronze plaque mounted on a granite base was situated next to the grave of one of Brameley's sons since the actual sit of William's grave has not been determined. William served approximately 22 months and was discharged with the rank of Lieutenant in the New York Troops



(l-r) President Haff and Compatriot Mark Richard Burdick



(l-r) Barbara Shaw, Chaplain, Oneonata Chapter, NSDAR; John Bramley, Sec. Binghamton Chapter; Anne Bramley Laing, Irondequoit Chapter, NSDAR; Robert Morton Haff, Pres. Binghamton Chapter; Linda Sokolowski, Regent Oneonta Chapter, NSDAR.

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR CHAPLAIN

I recently subscribed to the magazine Patriots of the American Revolution. In the March-April issue I came across a story of one chaplain who served in the American Revolution. He was the Reverend John Gano and was born in Hopewell, New Jersey in 1727. John enlisted as a soldier and a chaplain and served throughout the war. Unusual for chaplains that served, he was known for his purity of character. One notable example of his calling was when he came upon two soldiers disagreeing over who should cut wood. The story is as follows: "One day, standing near where some soldiers were disputing as to whose turn it was to cut wood, he heard one of them say he would be d—ned if he would cut it. Soon, however, the profane soldier was convinced that the task was his, and took up the ax to perform it. Immediately Mr. Gano stepped up to him and said 'Give me the ax.' 'Oh, no,' said the soldier, 'the chaplain shall not cut wood'. "Yes, I must," said Mr. Gano. "But why?" said the soldier. "Because", said Mr. Gano, "I just heard you say you would be d___ed if you cut it; and I would rather take the labor off your hands than that you should be miserable forever. Reverend Gano is said, by his grandson, to have baptized General George Washington at Valley Forge. You may have never heard of this minister but I am sure you have heard of his ancestor Howard Hughes, famous aviator, industrialist, film mogul and philanthropist. **The Reverend Terry L. Sheldon, State Chaplain**

Rochester Chapter

On Saturday, June 12, at 1:00 p.m., four Rochester Chapter members joined the DAR in a dedication for the Revolutionary War veterans buried in the Vincent Hill Cemetery on Vincent Hill, Bristol, Ontario County, NY. This small cemetery has 16 Revolutionary War Patriots in it. Our former Patriot Graves Committee Chairman, Daryl Verstrete, helped install a number of replacement gravestones in this cemetery. The weather was perfect. Eighteen people attended the ceremony, including members of four DAR chapters; the East Bloomfield American Legion, several descendants of the patriots, and Bob Fuller, Charlie White, Bill Andrews and Mike Tunison from the Rochester Chapter, SAR. Bob Fuller brought his Bennington Flag and Mike Tunison carried our Chapter's SAR parade flag.

The Victor Village Cemetery Bicentennial held in Victor, Ontario County, NY., on May 22 was a huge success. The Rochester Chapter had eight members in attendance; Bill Andrews, Ron Hanley, Charlie White, Bent Downing, David Richardson, Floyd Gage, Mike Tunison and Preston Pierce, who gave a fine speech in his role as the Ontario County Historian. Downing, Richardson, Gage and Tunison took part in the color guard.

Stony Point Chapter

Our chapter has had several events in the past few months. On Memorial Day, we marched with our sister Shatemuc Chapter and members of the Lt. Onderdonk, CAR. In June, we took a day trip to New York City to see the Valentine-Varian Revolutionary War house in the Bronx. We spent the afternoon at the Fort Schuyler Nautical Museum. On June 12, we had a flag retirement ceremony at Fort Montgomery Battlefield attended by members of the SAR, DAR and CAR. The event was attended by a large audience as we retired several large 20x40 sized flags. On July 17, we attended the Washington Tree Ceremony at the Phillips-Millman Lawyers office, which was the former site where Washington paid his troops in 1778 after the skirmish where we captured the Stony Point Battlefield from the British. A beautiful marker designates the spot where this tree stood until its demise by a lightning storm in early 1930's. Compatriot Judge William Sherwood, SPC, now supervisor of the town of Stony Point was the main speaker at the event. A color guard composed of members of our chapter and the DAR carried our respective flags at the ceremony. We have displayed on our website pictures of these events.

Finger Lakes Chapter

We have been very active with our youth programs. In 2009, we awarded 20 Eagle Scout Certificates. This was our first year. This year we have awarded 6 Eagle Scout Certificates. Also, we have awarded 10 Flag Certificates.

On Memorial Day, several of our members marched in the Memorial Day Parade at Waterloo, NY.

On June 6th we conducted a re-dedication of the grave of George Rhodes, Revolutionary War soldier, who is buried in the Old Dutch/German Cemetery in Lansing, NY. He is the Patriot Ancestor of Michael Tunison, President, Rochester Chapter. This had been a developing project for about a year. Norman Wheeler has been doing research on all revolutionary soldiers buried in the various cemeteries in Lansing. He was in contact with Michael who informed him of George Rhodes. George had not previously been identified as a revolutionary soldier on the town/county records, but he is now. Michael brought a 13 star American Flag and the SAR flag. We had a color guard composed of members from the Troop 48, Lansing Boy Scouts. Louise Bement, Lansing Town Historian was present, and other descendants of George Rhodes. Mike Tunison and Blaine Elkie, President, Finger Lakes Chapter were in period dress. Allan Buddle, Secretary, assisted in the ceremony. The ceremony was covered by the Lansing Star and the Lansing Ledger.

Members of our chapter have been working with Daryl Verstrete in accurately identifying 18 Revolutionary War gravesites. The method used is to locate the gravesite, take a photograph of the gravestone, and research the record of the individual to include any research done by SAR or DAR members. This is an ongoing project. It has proven to be a worthy project. In the town of Lansing, we have been able to find more soldiers than what is listed in the town/county records.



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Buffalo Chapter



(l to r) Logan M. Cheek, III, David Pegado,
and Carl Berg, President



David Pegado with members of the Buffalo Chapter

We are proud of David Pegado, winner of the 2009-2010 Eagle Scout Scholarship Award. First he met the high standard of the Buffalo Chapter, then went on to win the Empire State Society, and then met the higher standards of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution.



