

BATTLE LINES

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER - SAR

CHAPTER NEWS

We would like to welcome the following new members whose applications have been approved since our last meeting:

Richard Hale Fullam
Stephen Charles Coye
David E.P. O'Dell

I am particularly proud of the approval of Mr. O'Dell's application; he had retained me to research his O'Dell family and, while I have yet to solve that line for him, I did discover a Revolutionary War soldier that he was not previously aware of, John Martin of Columbia County, NY.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Enclosed you will find a reservation form for our Washington's Birthday/Annual Meeting dinner. This will be held on the evening of February 15 at the Century House Inn on Route 9 in Latham, NY. We will be awarding SAR medals to several deserving individuals for their service to our chapter, and I urge you to attend if at all possible. At the 1997 Annual Meeting the chapter elected its slate of officers for a term of two years. Recently, a question was raised as to whether the terms were indeed for two years or only for one year. Several years ago apparently our chapter and others were advised by ESSAR that two-year terms were being discouraged. I recently spoke with a past chapter president who recalls that this issue came up and that our chapter elected to stay with two-year terms. So that there not be any question as to the terms of the current officers, the Nominating Committee chaired by Compatriot Carl Covell has been asked to resubmit a slate of officers for the remaining one-year term.

SARATOGA BATTLE TO HOST ESSAR BOARD MEETING

At the November meeting of the State Society Board of Managers, it was decided to have the March meeting of the Board in the Albany

area; this means that our chapter will once again be host for this important affair. The meeting will be in Albany on March 14; if interested, please contact Treasurer Saunders for a reservation.

SAR GRAVES REGISTER

Our chapter Treasurer, Rick Saunders, has been actively involved in the updating of the SAR patriot graves register. The current book of grave sites was published in 1993 and contains burial information on only about 25,000 patriot ancestors.

Enclosed is a registry form for you to use to submit the burial information on your patriot ancestor(s); if you need additional copies, please contact Treasurer Saunders or President Marr.

DONATIONS RECEIVED TOWARD DOWNING MARKER

Several clients of President Marr's tax practice came through with donations to help defray our chapter's share of the cost of the NYS historical marker for Patriot Samuel Downing being jointly erected with Stone Arabia Battle Chapter. A special thanks to the following for donations or pledges:

MK Transportation, Inc.-----Ravena, NY
Brackett's Exxon-----Clifton Park, NY
Westfall Associates-----N. Greenbush, NY
Zelenke Developers, Inc.-----Rensselaer, NY
A & S Diesel Svc., Inc.-----Troy, NY

KNIGHT ESSAY CONTEST

Chapter Vice President Peter Goebel has been appointed Chairman of the Essay Committee. Our chapter has not actively sponsored this important NSSAR event in a number of years and it was felt that this was a good time to become more active in it. We presently have one private and two public schools that will be participating in this year's contest.

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ANCESTOR CORNER

by Compatriot Ronald E. Newton

My primary SAR ancestor is David Newton, born 25 Mar 1753 in Milford, CT. David married Mary Hazen who had been born in Lebanon, CT on 11 Sep 1754. They were married on 16 Sep. 1773. David's occupation was farmer; he also made carts.

David served as a Private in Capt. Joshua Hazen's Co., Col. Woods' Regiment of Vermont Militia during the Alarm of 1780. David later filed for a pension based upon two years of service in the Connecticut Line from 1775-1777. This claim was rejected due to a lack of records of the CT service; David died before he could supply witnesses to his claim.

David and Mary had 16 children, all of whom survived childhood; Mary survived these 16 births as well. The aggregate age reached by the 16 children was 1,118 years! This works out to an average age of nearly 70 years, quite an unusual record. Each of the sons was over 6 feet in height.

One morning, David saw Indians on the nearby brook. Seeking a more secure location for his house, a log cabin, he placed skids under it and, with his oxen, moved the cabin to the top of a knoll!

David died in Hartford, VT on 29 Dec 1839; his wife Mary had died there 4 Feb 1823. They are buried in the Christian Street Cemetery at Hartford, VT.

We need your member/ancestor data sheets back so that planning can begin on a chapter directory. After an initial flurry, submissions have dried up. If you have lost your questionnaire and need another, please contact Pres. Marr. Without this input, we will be limited to publishing a mere listing of members. We are, after all, a lineage society. It is because of our patriot ancestors that we are in SAR. Please take this opportunity to memorialize your ancestor(s).

AREA MAN MARKS VETERANS' GRAVES AT NO COST

Compatriot Covell represented our chapter at a DAR meeting late last year at which the featured speaker was Mr. Charles Greenfield of Cairo, Greene Co., NY. Charles has as his avocation the location of graves of veterans of the Revolution, War of 1812, Civil War, etc. If a particular grave lacks a marker, or has one that has been broken, or deteriorated by the weather, he files the necessary paperwork with the VA to obtain a new marker.

If your ancestor's grave site is known, but unmarked, or if it has a marker in poor condition, please contact Pres. Marr. We have already arranged with Mr. Greenfield to initiate work on marking graves of ancestors of two Saratoga Battle members.

Charles calls his operation "Forgotton Warriors." The misspelling of "forgotten" happened when IRS misspelled it on his application for exempt status. Charles had recalled seeing just this misspelling in the papers of old veterans: he figured if it was good enough for them, it was good enough for him! We hope to have Charles give a presentation to our chapter in the near future.

POTPOURRI

Congratulations are in order for Ft. Crailo Chapter, DAR member Judy Rowe, who has just been appointed Town of Sand Lake Historian. Judy, you may recall, spoke at our June, 1997 meeting on the Underground Railroad, one of her many areas of expertise. Judy is a wonderful historian and genealogist and we wish her well in her new capacity.

This begins the second year of our chapter newsletter. I have received many favorable comments on it, and I believe that it is succeeding in maintaining better contact between the chapter and its members. We can always use your input for the newsletter.

Dennis F. Marr
Editor