

BATTLE LINES

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER - SAR

CHAPTER NEWS

We are happy to welcome new member James Charles Bailey of Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA. Jim is a cousin of Dennis Marr, whose mother was a Bailey.

This issue marks the beginning of the third year of our chapter newsletter. Thus far, comments have been quite favorable. Your editor does need your submissions, especially for *Ancestor Corner*; any other news that you would like to share with your compatriots is also welcome.

At the November ESSSAR Board of Managers meeting in Syracuse, State President Marr reported on the ruling he had received from State Chancellor Henry Dutcher regarding the fiscal year 1997 state membership contest. At the March Board meeting, it was voted to abolish the two-tier membership prize structure of a \$500 cash prize for the chapters in the large and small divisions that had the most approved applications in the April 1-March 31 year. This vote was taken two weeks before the membership year ended on March 31, and Pres. Marr, along with other members, assumed that the change was prospective, taking effect on April 1, 1998. It was only at the ESSSAR Annual Meeting that he realized that the change had been made retroactive to April 1, 1997, thus costing our chapter its \$500 prize as the winner in the large chapter division with 10 new members. A review of the meeting minutes revealed that the vote was improperly moved and seconded, and Chancellor Dutcher agreed with Pres. Marr that, as the vote was a nullity, the two-tier prize structure remained in effect and our chapter was entitled to its prize, which we have now received. These funds have been earmarked for a Revolutionary War uniform for our budding chapter Color Guard.

The chapter Annual Meeting and Election will be held on February 14 at the Century House in Latham, NY. See the enclosed notice for details. We are trying to get Jerry Solomon to this meeting to receive his SAR Gold Good

Citizenship medal. Pres. Marr will be stepping down after two years as President and he hopes for a fine turnout at this enjoyable and important event.

US FLAG FLOWN OVER CAPITOL IN HONOR OF SARATOGA BATTLE

At our November meeting in Saratoga Springs, Treasurer Rick Saunders read a very nice letter sent to the chapter by Congressman Jerry Solomon. We also received a US flag that the Congressman had flown over the US Capitol on November 17 in honor of our chapter. We are deeply gratified by this wonderful gesture.

SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER HISTORY NEARS COMPLETION

For the past year Pres. Marr has been compiling a history of our chapter from 1974 to date. The rather skimpy chapter records for certain periods have been supplemented with information from ESSSAR board minutes and other sources. Copies of this history will be passed out at the Annual Meeting in February; if you cannot attend, a copy will be mailed to you. Dennis is underwriting the expense of producing this document and will be asking each member to make a voluntary donation to the chapter treasury in lieu of charging a fee for it; this will help to supplement the meager \$4.00 dues that we currently collect.

BICENTENNIAL OF WASHINGTON'S DEATH

1999 marks the 200th anniversary of the death of President General George Washington, who was called to eternal rest on December 14, 1799. NSSAR is encouraging chapters to initiate programs and publicity in their area to commemorate this milestone. This provides us with an opportunity to praise Washington and combat the historical revisionists. Additionally, NSSAR will be issuing a special SAR medal for this event; any compatriot who is a member during 1999 will be entitled to purchase and wear this medal. Watch the *SAR Magazine* for details.

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ANCESTOR CORNER

by Compatriot Richard C. Saunders, Jr.

My primary Revolutionary War ancestor is Hezekiah Saunders. He was born in Westerly, RI ca. 1736. His father George died when Hezekiah was only 10 years old. Hezekiah served for 5 years in the French and Indian War in Rhode Island, rising to the rank of First Lieutenant. After his military service, he married Mary Bliven in 1763. He served in the home guard during the Revolution. On January 14, 1777 he was named First Lieutenant of a company of Alarm Men.

Hezekiah and his family remained in Westerly until the early 1790's; they appear in the Rhode Island census of 1776 and the 1790 Federal census. By the time of the 1800 census, they are living in Petersburg, Rensselaer County, NY; Hezekiah is listed on the assessment rolls of the town of Berlin at its formation in 1806. While he does not appear in the 1810 census, he is listed as a mortgagor in 1809 with an address of Bridgewater, Oneida County, NY.

Hezekiah and Mary had six sons and two daughters. In 1809 an Hezekiah Saunders (either him or his son) bought 61 acres of land in Bridgewater. Hezekiah died 14 April 1812 and is buried in the West Winfield Cemetery, Herkimer County.

*From Our Ancestors in America
by Donald J. Saunders*

PRES. MARR INVITED TO SERVE ON NATIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE

Compatriot Paul Frantz, President of the VA Society and Chairman of the NSSAR Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee has asked Pres. Marr to serve on a new National Society *National Park Service Committee*. Members of this committee will serve as points of contact with the National Park Service as it conducts its survey of Revolutionary War sites. With one of the premier Revolutionary War battle sites in our own backyard, we will now be in a position to work closely with our friends at the Saratoga National Historical Park and the

SAR to insure that these most important historical sites are preserved and cared for.

CHAPTER CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS

It has been some time since the chapter by laws were updated and, to the best of our knowledge, we have never had a constitution. President Marr is chairing a By Laws committee that is writing a chapter constitution and revising the by laws. Both the National and ESSAR constitutions and by laws are being used as guidelines to insure that none of the provisions in our constitution and by laws conflict with National or State requirements.

Serving on this important committee are:

VPG Ronald E. Newton - past chapter and ESSAR President;

Clyde W. Childs, Jr. - past chapter President

Carlton E. Covell - past chapter President and current Chaplain;

Peter K. Goebel - chapter Vice President

Jonathan E. Goebel - chapter Secretary

We hope to have a final version of these two documents available for review at the Annual Meeting in February; copies will be mailed to those who cannot attend. It is anticipated that these will be voted upon at the first meeting after the Annual Meeting.

A PERSONAL NOTE

As I reflect back upon my two years as president of our chapter, I realize that there are several compatriots whose wisdom and wise counsel were invaluable to me in the governance of our chapter. In fact, in the course of compiling our chapter's 25 year history, it became clear that these same compatriots deserve the lion's share of the credit for the fact that our chapter exists today as a viable organization. My special thanks, then, to: Ron Newton, Clyde Childs, Carl Covell and George Chesbro. Through physical infirmity and personal tragedy, these compatriots continued to serve our chapter and society well. A hearty thank you to all.

*Dennis F.M. Marr
Editor*