

BATTLE LINES

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER - SAR

CHAPTER NEWS

A HEARTY WELCOME!

We are pleased to welcome the following two new members to our chapter: Donald Freeland of Oneonta, NY and David Michael Zayachek, Jr. of Wynantskill, NY. Compatriot Freeland is the father of Compatriot Michael Willis Freeland, President of the Philadelphia Continental Chapter in PA, and is descended from William Niles, a Private in the PA Militia. Compatriot Zayachek is a descendant of Benjamin Webster, Private in the CT Line. A hearty welcome to these new compatriots!

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY ANNUAL MEETING

The chapter held a festive Annual Meeting on February 26 at the Century House in Latham, NY. This meeting was highlighted by the presentation of both the NSSAR Fire Safety Commendation Medal and the Law Enforcement Medal. Recipient of the former was Carl O'Brien of Brunswick, NY, whose long and varied career in fire safety is richly deserving of this SAR award. Recipient of the Law Enforcement Medal was Nassau Town Justice, of 34 years and counting, Henry Goebel, father of chapter Pres. Peter K. Goebel and Secy. Jonathan E. Goebel.

An NSSAR Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Dennis F.M. Marr in recognition of his past services to our chapter.

SARATOGA BATTLE TO HOST ESSSAR BOARD MEETING

Our chapter will host the March 18 meeting of the ESSSAR Board of Managers meeting. The meeting will be held at the Quality Inn on Watervliet Avenue in Albany, just off of I-90. Coffee and doughnuts served at 10:30; the meeting will begin at 11:00 and end in mid-afternoon. Contact Treasurer Rick Saunders at 792-1412 if you would like to attend. This will be the last local meeting presided over by ESSSAR Pres. and chapter member Dennis Marr, and is a fine opportunity to see the

workings of your state society "up close and personal."

CDGS CONFERENCE

Once again, we have been invited to man a booth at the Annual Conference of the Capital District Genealogical Society. This year's conference is on May 20 at the Holiday Inn-Turf on Wolf Road in Albany. This event has been a fine source of new members over the past five or so years that we have been in attendance.

Unfortunately, Registrar/Genealogist Marr will be presiding at the Annual Meeting of the ESSSAR in Auburn, NY on that date and will not be available to attend. We need a volunteer to man the booth, hand out worksheets, etc. Dennis will make his set of Virgil White's *Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files in the National Archives* available to anyone who can volunteer to take care of this task. This is a fine conference and you get to attend free! Thanks to Compatriot Harry Taylor, program chairman, for this year's invitation.

If you can take on this chore for your chapter, please contact Dennis Marr at 283-2908 to make arrangements. Many thanks!

CHAPTER MEMBERS ATTEND NATIONAL TRUSTEES' MEETING

The following compatriots attended the recent semi-annual NSSAR Trustees' Meeting at headquarters in Louisville, KY:

Peter K. Goebel, President
Jonathan E. Goebel, Secretary
Dennis F.M. Marr, Registrar/Genealogist
Col. Bruce Baird Butler, DDS, Secy. General
dual member from the LA Society
Nominee for President General
William B. Neal
dual member from the DE Society

These members serve on a large number of national committees and are proud to serve both their chapter and national society.

BATTLE LINES

ANCESTOR CORNER

by Compatriot David M. Zayachek, Jr.

My ancestor was Benjamin Webster of Connecticut. He was born 29 Dec 1759 in Hartford and died on 20 Jun 1832 in Schaghticoke, Rensselaer Co., NY. On 8 Jul 1807 he married Eve (Melius) Ross, who had been born at Schaghticoke on 9 May 1781 and died there on 8 July 1864. I am descended from their son George Webster.

Benjamin received both a pension and bounty land. He actually received two bounty land warrants, one of which he sold to a Theodosius Fowler, most likely a land speculator.

Benjamin served in Capt. Lemuel Clift's Company in the CT Line from April 1777 to Sept. 1783. He applied for his pension in 1828 at Schaghticoke. His widow subsequently applied for a pension in 1853 and for bounty land in 1855. His sons Edward and Matthew made affidavits with regard to the pension in 1853. Various sources give his wife's name as "Boss," "Bass" and "Ross."

Benjamin was buried in the Webster (Elmwood) Cemetery in Schaghticoke.

Abstracted from DAR and other records used to support my application.

THIS MONTH IN THE REVOLUTION

March 4/5, 1776: American forces captured Dorchester Heights, overlooking Boston Harbor, with cannons from Ft. Ticonderoga.

Mar. 17, 1776: Boston evacuated, led by Gen. William Howe.

Mar. 15, 1781: Battle of Guilford Courthouse, NC. Cornwallis achieves victory, but suffers heavy losses from American forces under Gens. Greene and Morgan

BATTLE OF SARATOGA QUARTER?

As many of you know, the United States mint is in the early stages of a 10-year commemorative quarter coin program. The new quarters feature a redesigned obverse; each year, 5 new reverses will be made, honoring the 50 states in the order in which they joined the union.

Past president G. William Glidden of Plattsburgh has forwarded a copy of a letter sent in January to Gov. Pataki, urging him to support the concept of using the Battle of Saratoga as the theme for the NYS quarter. It seems that two motifs that have been suggested are Henry Hudson's ship *Half Moon* and the Statue of Liberty.

Both of these motifs have already been used on US coinage: the 1935 commemorative half dollar for Hudson, NY features Henry on the obverse and his ship on the reverse. The statue of liberty has appeared on the 1986 Ellis Island commemorative dollar.

To put in your two cents' worth, so to speak, you can write to the Hon. George E. Pataki, State Capitol, Albany, NY 12224.

By the way, did you know that the Washington quarter was originally intended to be a commemorative? It was first issued in 1932, the bicentennial of Washington's birth. The coin proved so popular that it was retained until the present day.

COL. CHESBRO HONORED

Compatriot George Washington Chesbro, past chapter president, was recently honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Capital District Senior Housing Project. Col. Chesbro, who turned 91 on Washington's Birthday this year, was honored for his many achievements in his civilian and military careers. George has received the highest decoration of both England and France, the Order of the British Empire and the Croix de Guerre. Congratulations, George!

Dennis F.M. Marr
Editor