

BATTLE LINES

VOL. 1, NO. 1

MAY, 1997

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER - SAR

CHAPTER NEWS

Saratoga Battle held its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers at the Century House in Latham, NY on March 2, 1997. Elected to two-year terms were:

President - Dennis F. Marr
Vice President - Peter K. Goebel
Secretary - Jonathan E. Goebel
Treasurer - Richard C. Saunders, Jr.
Registrar - Dennis F. Marr
Chaplain - Carlton E. Covell

The Empire State Society held its 107th Annual Meeting at the Beeches in Rome, NY on April 25-26. It was a fine affair, with several Saratoga Battle members in attendance. It was announced that our chapter had, once again, come in a strong second to the First NY Continental Chapter. First NY had 28 approved new members for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997, while we had 21. Congratulations First New York!

It was also announced that Compatriot Charles T. Galbraith of First NY and Dennis F. Marr of Saratoga Battle will receive the Liberty Medal with oak leaf clusters for new members signed up by them. These will be presented at the NSSAR Annual Conference in Baltimore this coming July.

MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT

Our Secretary advises that Saratoga Battle's membership stands at roughly 85 members. This is a fine showing, and several nice things were said about us at the ESSAR Annual Meeting. On April 1 our Registrar sent in an additional three applications which are all going in based upon the papers of one of our newest members, Compatriot James Hays. This illustrates that one of the best sources of new members is relatives of current members.

Compatriots Dennis Marr, Carlton Covell and Duane Booth manned the SAR booth at the recent Annual Conference of the Capital District Genealogical Society. This event has resulted in several new members over the past few years that we have been in attendance.

WELCOME TO NEWER MEMBERS

Since this is our first newsletter, and since not all compatriots have yet met each other, this is an opportune time to introduce those who have become members during the year ending March 31, 1997:

Arthur S. Wadsworth, Sr.
Elmer Octave Bunker
Richard Clifford Saunders, Jr.
Walter Jackson Munson III
Ray Leslie Whiting
Robert Gerard Qulia
George Dewey Martin
Walter Dean Jennings
Walter Dean Jennings, Jr.
Richard Clifford Saunders, Sr.
Walter Cornwell Milbank
Lester Elmer Hendrix
James Thomas Hays, Jr.
George Dewey Martin, Jr.
John Myndert Paris III
James Edwin Martin
Benjamin Lawton Meyers
Stephen Shawn Meyers
Shirley Harris Clickner
Allen Harris Clickner
Paul Edward Clickner

As you can see, we have several instances of fathers and sons joining.

With the applications that are currently pending, we look to have a total of ten or so new members for the current fiscal year which began April 1, 1997. It is not beyond the realm of possibility that we could have 100 members in Saratoga Battle by year-end. This would represent a real milestone. Please remember that our Registrar is always willing to work with prospective applicants who may need a bit of help to finish off an application.

ROTC AWARDS

3 Silver SAR ROTC medals have been awarded by our chapter at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY. 1 Bronze ROTC medal will be awarded at LaSalle Institute, Troy and CBA, Albany.

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ANCESTOR CORNER

We would like to have as a regular feature of this newsletter a profile of a compatriot's ancestor. I know from working on applications that there are often interesting stories and anecdotes that turn up in researching an ancestor, and these help to fill out a picture of the man beyond the dry recitation of his dates of birth, death and so on. To kick things off, I will exercise my prerogative as editor and profile my ancestor John Luther. I would like all compatriots to consider sending in a couple of paragraphs on one of your revolutionary war ancestors. Don't worry about not being the next Hemingway! Just tell the story and I'm sure we will all find it interesting.

John Luther was the first Patriot Ancestor that I discovered. Because he had been involved in litigation in Albany his pension file from the National Archives is 80 pages! From this I was able to learn much of his life and his family. John served 9 months with the NY 1st Rgmt and then 4+ years with the NY 3rd. He was a soldier for all but the last 5 months, when he acted as a personal servant to the Paymaster, Jeremiah Van Rensselaer. These two men had great affection for each other, in spite of their vastly different stations in life. In 1802, Jeremiah gave John a 3-acre "garden plot" of land in "the Colonie" on "the first street from the city of Albany." I was able to locate this parcel on an old map: it fronted on present-day Clinton Avenue, two blocks up from where the Palace Theater stands today.

John's wife was Elizabetha Roller, daughter of Andreas, another revolutionary soldier in the Tryon Co. Militia. She was born in Stone Arabia, Tryon Co. All 8 of their children lived to maturity. They had twin girls, for one of whom Jeremiah Van Rensselaer and his wife Lena were sponsors at the baptism. This girl also received a bequest in Jeremiah's will.

John, born in 1755, died in Albany in 1836; his wife followed him in death in 1849. While I have record of her burial in a private family plot in present-day Delmar, no trace of John's resting place can be found. He received a one-sentence obituary in the Albany Argus: John Luther.....a soldier of the revolution and an honest man.

A WORD OF THANKS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank several veteran compatriots for their guidance, advice and wise counsel during the transition to my term as chapter President. I had intended to remain solely as Registrar for as long as I was able and the chapter wanted me, higher office not being a goal of mine. I would be remiss if I failed to thank the following: Ron Newton, Clyde Childs, George Chesbro and Carl Covell. I hope to prove that your confidence in me was not misplaced.

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

As most of you know by now, our former Treasurer, Ed Tulloch, is not well. Ed served our chapter for several years as Treasurer, one of the more demanding Chapter offices. Ed is in our prayers, and his service to the Saratoga Battle Chapter is deeply appreciated. Likewise, Ed's lovely wife Marty did much of Ed's work during the initial stages of his illness and is also deserving of our thanks. Our best wishes go out to them both.

NEWSLETTER INPUT NEEDED

All compatriots are encouraged to submit any interesting news for our newsletter so that we can share it with our fellow members. Of special interest would be news of patriotic events, interesting anecdotes and even the latest outrage on the "political correctness" front. We need your help to make this a vehicle for better contact with our compatriots between meetings.

JUNE LUNCHEON MEETING

Enclosed you will find a meeting notice for an afternoon luncheon meeting on Saturday, June 7. We hope that those of our compatriots who are "snowbirds" and not able to make winter meetings will be able to come to this meeting; likewise, those members who are not comfortable driving at night. We will have a first-rate speaker, DAR member Judy Rowe of Averill Park. Judy is a recognized authority on the Underground Railroad and will give a presentation on:

The Invisible Road to Freedom:
The Underground Railroad in the Tri-Cities.

Dennis F. Marr
Editor