

BATTLE LINES

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER - SAR

CHAPTER NEWS

IN OUR MEMORY

We were all saddened to learn of the death of Compatriot Norman Robert Hayes, Sr. on March 7. Norman, age 76, became a member in December 1995 by right of descent from Private Hendrick Hees of the Tryon County Militia.

Norman's son Norman, Jr. and his grandsons Charles Richard Hayes and Robert Alexander Hayes are also members of our chapter. His sister Dorothy (Dottie) Whiting assisted with the SAR application process. Norman served as a Major in the Army in the Pacific theatre during WWII and was the recipient of the Purple Heart.

Our condolences go out to his family, and we thank him for his service to our country.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

We are happy to welcome two new members to the chapter. William Charles Sweet of Troy became a member on March 22 by right of descent from Jonathan Sweet of Rhode Island, a Private in the Albany County Militia. James Kenyon Plourde's application was approved on March 30. James came in under his mother's DAR application, by right of descent from Elijah Kenyon of Rhode Island who served as a Captain in Rhode Island. A hearty welcome to both new Compatriots!

PRESIDENT GOEBEL GRADUATES

Saratoga Battle Chapter President Major Peter K. Goebel graduates June 4 from the Command and General Staff College. This completes an intensive one-year program for our military leaders. We look forward to Peter's return in early June, and the chapter is extremely proud to have an active military officer as its current president.

JUDY ROWE RECOGNIZED

At our Annual Meeting on 14 February, the chapter awarded Judy the SAR Daughters of Liberty Medal for her ongoing outstanding support of our chapter. A minor traffic accident prevented Judy and her husband Henry from being at the meeting to receive her award. Registrar/Genealogist Dennis Marr presented the medal to Judy at a meeting of her Ft. Crailo Chapter-NSDAR at the East Greenbush Public Library on April 17. The DAR press release resulted in some nice publicity for both organizations, including a photo of the presentation. Congratulations, again, Judy. You have our deepest appreciation for all that you have done for us over the years.

CHAPTER OFFICERS REELECTED TO STATE OFFICES

At the Annual Meeting of the Empire State Society in Rome, NY on 15 May, Dennis F.M. Marr, chapter immediate past president, was reelected to a second one-year term as state president. Also reelected were Jonathan E. Goebel, chapter secretary, for another year as state secretary; and Duane P. Booth, an auxiliary member from Walloomsac Battle, was reelected state treasurer.

We are also proud to announce that Secretary Jonathan E. Goebel was endorsed by the state Board of Managers to be National Trustee for the coming year. His candidacy will be voted on at the NSSAR Annual Congress in San Diego. Jonathan, his brother Maj. Peter K. Goebel and Dennis Marr will all be in San Diego for the Congress.

RICK SAUNDERS PLACES WREATH IN NAME OF SAR

Chapter Vice President/Treasurer Richard C. Saunders, Jr. recently placed a memorial wreath in the name of the SAR. Rick, a member of the Warren County Board of Supervisors, placed the wreath during the Memorial Day service at the Glens Falls Victory and Peace monument.

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ANCESTOR CORNER

by Compatriot Robert H. Fickies

My ancestor Serajah Comstock was born in Fairfield, CT on 17 Oct 1758. Raised on the family farm, he enlisted at age 16 in the Connecticut Militia in May of 1775 in response to the attacks at Lexington and Concord a month earlier.

From his application for a Rev. War pension we learn much of Serajah's military life. In 1775 his regiment marched north from Connecticut through Ticonderoga as part of the Canadian Campaign. He participated in the siege of St. John, the victory at Chambly and the battle of Longueuil. His militia enlistment expired 1 Jan 1776 and in Feb 1776 he enlisted in the Connecticut Line. He was discharged from service at Ticonderoga in Feb 1777 and returned home to his family in the Connecticut Valley.

Serajah again enlisted in Dec 1780 for a three-year term. He participated in the climactic battle of Yorktown and the capture of Cornwallis. He was discharged at West Point by General Knox in Oct 1783, again returning to Connecticut, and marrying Climenia Austin in Feb 1790.

In 1818 Serajah became one of the multitudes of "Yankee Yorkers" who moved into western New York state in search of better farm land than found in rocky New England. He and his family settled in Williamstown, NY in the Tug Hill Plateau region. His pension application of 1820 includes an inventory of his meager possessions, giving us a glimpse of just how hard life was for these people. His assets included: Real Estate-house and ½ acre, worth \$75; 1 cow, 2 hogs; and various minor household implements and tableware that few of us would think of today as "assets." The list is sparse, to say the least, and makes us pause and reflect on how hard life must have been for these people.

Serajah Comstock died on 23 Feb 1826 and is buried in the village cemetery in Williamstown, NY.

PLATTSBURGH AREA CHAPTER?

Compatriot Charles Jack of the NJ Society has expressed an interest in seeing a chapter formed in the Plattsburgh, NY area. Charles' ancestor served in that area, and he has friends and relatives there. In the mailing of the March newsletter, we included a form for Saratoga Battle Chapter members living in northern New York seeking to gauge the depth of interest in their leaving us to help form the nucleus of a new chapter. No replies have been received, which presumably means that those members are content to remain with our chapter, even though distance prevents most of them from taking part in chapter events. I believe that Compatriot Jack is still interested in recruiting new members up there in the hopes of attaining the requisite 15 needed under ESSSAR rules to petition for a new chapter. One possible name for it would be the *Valcour Island Battle Chapter*. Comments from members are welcome.

SEPTEMBER MEMORIAL SERVICE

Please mark your calendars now for Saturday, 18 September - at 1:00 pm that day we will conduct our annual Memorial Service and Wreath-Laying at the DAR monument in the Saratoga National Historical Park. Our friends at the park have again afforded us the use of the conference room in the Visitors' Center for a meeting afterwards. Dinner arrangements are incomplete at this time. Also participating will be the Saratoga Chapter-NSDAR and the Virginia Society-SAR. We hope to have one or more national officers on hand as well. Last year's event was truly memorable.....plan now to attend this year.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS SOUGHT

All members are encouraged to submit items of interest for publication in *Battle Lines*. These could be news stories concerning the latest outrages on the historical revisionism front, or anything that you feel would be of interest to the membership. *Ancestor Corner* submissions are especially needed.

Dennis F.M. Marr
Editor