

# BATTLE LINES

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## NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER - SAR

### CHAPTER NEWS

#### NEW MEMBER WELCOME

It is a pleasure to welcome the following new members who have joined since the March newsletter was published:

Ernest Harold Rogers, Albany, NY  
William J. Bellinger, Jr., Howes Cave, NY  
Charles R. Watson, Toledo, OH  
Robert D. Kelley, South Glens Falls, NY  
Joel S. Coye, Ravena, NY

Joining as a dual member from the Delaware Society is William B. Neal, a good friend of the Saratoga Battle Chapter.

Welcome to all!

#### CHAPTER MEMBERS HONORED AT ESSSAR ANNUAL MEETING

The Empire State Society held its Annual Meeting and Election on May 20 at Auburn, NY. Our Past President Dennis F.M. Marr presided over his last meeting as ESSSAR President and passed the gavel to our new state president Walter R. Kuhn of the Huntington Chapter.

The ESSSAR was allowed to award two Patriot Medals this year, based upon its roster of 500-1,000 members. Honored this year with the State Society's highest award were: Jonathan E. Goebel, ESSSAR Secretary and National Trustee; and Dennis F.M. Marr, outgoing ESSSAR President.

President Marr made several medal and certificate awards. Maj. Peter K. Goebel, chapter President, received the Meritorious Service Medal for his work with the JROTC and Color Guard Committees. Chapter members receiving Certificates of Appreciation were: Jonathan E. Goebel; Peter K. Goebel; Duane P. Booth and William G. Loveday, Jr.

Congratulations to all of these compatriots for their many services to our society at the chapter, state and national levels.

#### ROTC AWARDS PRESENTED

Secretary Jonathan E. Goebel represented our chapter at the annual Senior ROTC awards ceremony at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy in April. RPI runs a joint ROTC program with Siena College in Loudonville and we presented the NSSAR Silver ROTC medal to cadets selected by the colleges in the Army, Navy and Air Force Programs.

Registrar/Genealogist Dennis F.M. Marr presented the NSSAR Bronze medal at Christian Brothers Academy in Albany on May 4 and at LaSalle Institute, Dennis' *alma mater*, on May 25.

#### NEWS FROM THE BOSTON CONGRESS

The NSSAR Annual Congress was held in Boston, MA from June 24 through June 27. This Congress was one day shorter than those in recent years, which meant for a full schedule for the attendees.

Attending from Saratoga Battle were: Pres. Peter K. Goebel; Secy. Jonathan E. Goebel; Registrar/Genealogist Dennis F. M. Marr. Dual members attending included Ronald E. Newton of ME, former Chapter President; William B. Neal of DE; and, of course, our new President General Bruce Baird Butler, DDS.

President General Bruce B. Butler gave a most inspiring address on the last night of the Congress. He outlined a vision for moving ahead with the new library building adjacent to headquarters, as well as a desire to beef up the endowment funds of the Society. Membership remains a primary concern. Like most lineage societies, demographics are overtaking us; with a preponderance of aging members, we need to recruit new, younger members to ensure the continuation of our organization. This is not easy in an era of two-earner families with many commitments upon them. It falls to us, then, the current members, to see that we replace ourselves with new, vital men who will guarantee that the NSSAR will continue on after we are gone.



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## ANCESTOR CORNER

By Compatriot William J. Bellinger, Jr.

My ancestor Marcus Bellinger II was baptized 19 Feb 1742 at the Schoharie, NY Reformed Church. He was born in Hartmann's Dorf, then part of Albany County and later Schoharie County.

Marcus was the son of German Palatine immigrant Markus Bellinger I and his second wife Maria Margaretha Zeh, who were married 24 Sep 1737 at the Fuch's Dorf Reformed Church by Lutheran minister Wilhelm Christoph Berkenmeyer [Ed. Note: for a wonderful picture of early Lutheran church affairs in Albany County, see *The Albany Protocol: 1731-1750*, Rev. Berkenmeyer's chronicle of his stewardship of the early Lutheran community].

Marcus II married Maria Borst on 18 Oct 1764; they had six children, three of whom are qualifying DAR/SAR/CAR patriots: Johannes (DAR #421487), Johan Jost (DAR #114995) and Henderich (SAR #153549).

In 1767, Marcus was appointed the first Supervisor and Justice of the Schohary (as it was then spelled) Settlements, the area only recently having left the jurisdiction of Albany County.

During the Revolution, Schoharie County was referred to as the "breadbasket of the American Revolution." Many local farmers had grain contracts with the Continental Army. Marcus, who had been appointed Commissary Supervisor of the Schoharie District, was dispatched to Albany by the Committee of Safety for a wagonload of munitions; he returned on the evening of 16 Oct 1780 to the Old Stone Fort. The next day, proceeding with powder to the Middle Fort, he passed by his own residence, which was in flames.

Marcus served as a Corporal at the Middle Fort in Capt. George Richtmyer's Third Company, 15<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Albany County Militia, under Col. Peter Vrooman.

## MORE FROM BOSTON

We congratulate new dual member William B. Neal of Delaware on his taking first place in the Florence Kendall membership competition this year. Bill, with 49 new applications sponsored, placed first in the nation in recruitment. Bill also received 5 oak leaf clusters to add to his Liberty Medal, each cluster representing 10 new members.

Congratulations are also in order to outgoing VPG-North Atlantic Richard W. Sage of the 1<sup>st</sup> NY Continental Chapter. Dick placed second in the nation with 31 new members sponsored, entitling him to the Florence Kendall medal and 3 oak leaf clusters for his Liberty Medal.

Also receiving a Liberty Medal oak leaf cluster representing an additional 10 new members was our Registrar/Genealogist Dennis F. M. Marr (total of 50 new members since 1993).

## KNIGHT ESSAY CONTEST SUPPORT

Dennis F. M. Marr presented a \$5,000 donation to the NSSAR Knight Essay Contest Prize Fund. The donation, obtained from the L.I. & B.H. Rhodes Memorial Fund of Albany, will help ensure that the contest will be able to sustain its increased prize levels, which have engendered much interest nationwide, thanks in part to the information on the SAR web site: [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org).

## CHAPTER RECEIVES DONATION FOR MEMORIAL STONE

At our Annual Meeting in February, compatriot Carlton E. Covell discussed a program at the Saratoga National Veterans' Cemetery, whereby certain groups could have a memorial stone placed on the grounds to signify their support for this hallowed place. Carl told us that the stone would cost in the range of \$3,000-\$4,000.

We are happy to report that Dennis F.M. Marr has obtained a grant from the Rhodes Memorial Fund in the amount of \$4,000 for the placement of such a stone in our chapter's name.

*Dennis F.M. Marr  
Editor*