

BATTLE LINES

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER - SAR

CHAPTER NEWS

EAGLE SCOUT PROGRAM

For many years Compatriot Ronald E. Newton has served as our chapter's Eagle Scout Committee leader. Ron's 30+ years of involvement with scouting eminently qualified him to handle this task.

As many of you know Ron, who is a past president of our chapter as well as of the state society, has recently moved to the State of Maine; in addition, he has been elected Vice President General for the New England District.

Ron has graciously agreed to handle the paperwork involved for the current Eagle Scout award cycle. However, we now find ourselves in need of a new Eagle Scout Committee chairman. Any compatriot with an interest in this vital SAR program and who is willing to work on it at the chapter level is encouraged to contact Pres. Marr. Many thanks!

FIRE SAFETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS

The NSSAR has authorized the Fire Safety Commendation and Law Enforcement Awards for presentation to deserving individuals. The Fire Safety Medal may be presented by a chapter to an individual "who has served with distinction and devotion in the field of fire and chemical safety." The Law Enforcement Medal may be awarded to those "who have served with distinction and devotion in the field of law enforcement." It is not limited to peace officers; it may recognize a variety of services in this field. If you know of any individuals who may qualify for these prestigious awards, please prepare a written description of the individual's background and accomplishment and send it in to Pres. Marr. Our chapter has not been as active in presenting these awards as it could be; these awards are a fine way both to recognize deserving individuals in the community as

well as of generating favorable publicity for our chapter and society.

REPORT FROM ORLANDO

Pres. Marr attended the 108th Annual Congress of the NSSAR held in June in Orlando, FL. The congress proved to be both productive and exciting. Two matters of particular importance were voted on from the floor and were defeated. One involved the proposed increase in the fee for supplemental applications from \$20 to \$35; a compromise proposal to go to a smaller increase was withdrawn. The second had to do with the "grandfathering" of older SAR applications that would not pass muster using today's higher standards of genealogical proof. This proposal would have allowed individuals to join SAR using old applications that would not be accepted today, with the proviso that the applicant subsequently work on obtaining the additional proof required. With the defeat of this proposal, our standards remain at the proper level and are consistent with our sister organization, the DAR.

Other news included the announcement that the Empire State Society won the SAR Magazine Award for the state society providing the most useful information to the national magazine for publication.

Pres. Marr was proud to accept awards on behalf of two Empire State Society compatriots who were not able to attend the congress: Compatriot Bill Woodward of the Newtown Battle Chapter was one of three recipients of the prestigious Florence Kendall Medal presented to the compatriots recruiting the most new members; Bill placed second nationally with 25! Also, Roy Goold, the ESSAR Registrar, earned an Oak Leaf Cluster for his Liberty Medal for recruiting an additional 10 new members.

Finally, Pres. Marr was honored to be named to the National Genealogy Committee by our new Genealogist General, Charles T. Galbraith of 1st NY Continental.

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ANCESTOR CORNER

by Compatriot Carlton E Covell

My primary Patriot Ancestor is Ezra Covell of Martha's Vineyard, MA. Ezra was baptized there 21 Sep 1746. Ezra enlisted on 22 Sep 1776 Col. John Moseley's Regiment from Hampshire County.

In April 1784 Ezra sold land for 20 pounds in Continental Currency, as recorded in the land records at Rutland, VT. When he found that he was unable to exchange it for "real" money it is reported that he burned it. [Ed. Note: the inability to convert this currency gave rise to the expression "not worth a Continental."].

Ezra married Hannah Hollister on 12 Jan 1767 at Lanesboro, MA. Hannah was daughter of Capt. William Hollister. They later removed to Hudson, NY, where it is said that Ezra used to walk about with a hymnal in his hands. He died in Hudson around 1793, but his burial site is unknown to us. In the 1790 census he appears with four females in his household, presumably Hannah and three daughters, although only two sons are known to us. Hannah was still alive in 1816, but we do not have her death record.

We sometimes think it's a tough world we live in; our early people really had it tough. We should all thank God Almighty for what our forefathers endured to give us this country.

Additional submissions for "Ancestor Corner" are desperately needed! Please send yours in to the Editor. You don't have to be the next Hemingway, just sketch out your story! Many thanks.

If you have yet to complete the Member/Ancestor questionnaire that will form the basis for a possible chapter member directory, please send it along with your ancestor profile. If you need additional forms, please contact Dennis Marr at 283-2908.

MORE FROM ORLANDO

At the Wednesday night installation banquet, new President General Russell D. Page outlined three areas on which he intends to concentrate during his term: Membership; work with Veterans; and the SAR Flag certificate program.

While our chapter has done quite well with its membership recruitment in recent years, we need to do more involving working with vets. Compatriot Carleton Covell has been actively involved in a veterans' outreach program at the VA Hospital in Albany. He can always use more involvement from chapter members who would like to do a bit for the old timers (and some not-so-old timers) who have served our country.

The Flag Certificate was authorized by NSSAR in 1987. It is presented to individuals, companies and government agencies that fly the US flag *for patriotic purposes only*. It is not to be given to any business enterprise that obviously flies it for advertising purposes only. Chapters can present this certificate. Please submit your suggestions for awardees to Dennis Marr and he will pass them along to the Flag Chairman.

PG Page's three areas of interest will be fine ones for Saratoga Battle to emphasize as well.

The National Membership Committee Chairman has set a goal of a 14% net increase in membership for the current year. This is a very ambitious goal. However, in the fiscal year ended March 31, 1998, NSSAR actually had a net decrease in membership. This is not good.

I would like each Saratoga Battle member to try to come up with one new referral this year. Relatives who share your patriot bloodline are the most obvious prospects, but we all have friends and acquaintances to whom we can talk up SAR. Wear the SAR rosette to luncheons, etc. It may draw comments or questions that can be a good ice-breaker.

Dennis F.M. Marr
Editor