

BATTLE LINES

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER - SAR

CHAPTER NEWS

JONATHAN GOEBEL AWARDED ESSSAR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

At the ESSSAR Board of Managers meeting in Elmira on September 11, ESSSAR President Dennis F.M. Marr presented our Secretary, Jonathan E. Goebel, with the ESSSAR Distinguished Award.

This award, first authorized by NSSAR in 1998, may be presented by a State President once during his term of office, regardless of whether that term is one year, two years, or two one-year terms. It is presented for outstanding service during the term of the President making the award.

In the citation accompanying the handsome diamond-shaped silver medal, Pres. Marr noted Jonathan's service during his 1998-2000 term of office: Chapter Secretary; State Secretary; Alternate National Trustee; National Trustee; member of chapter, state and national committees. Jonathan has handled all of these tasks with grace and diligence, in spite of heavy demands upon his time from his own business and the family farm.

Congratulations, Jonathan, and wear your medal proudly!

CHAPTER MEMBER ENDORSED FOR PRESIDENT GENERAL

Col. Bruce Baird Butler, DDS, a dual member of the chapter from the Louisiana Society, was endorsed for the office of President General at the Atlantic Middle States Conference held in Washington in July. Bruce, who is currently serving as Secretary General, has rendered yeoman service to our society at all levels, and he will make a fine PG. We could not be more proud to have the next PG as a member of our chapter!

ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE AND WREATH-LAYING

The Lord blessed us with another glorious day on September 18 when we held our annual ceremony at the Saratoga Battlefield. Coming at the end of the week in which the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd pounded our area, we had a perfect fall day for the event.

Wreaths were placed by the Saratoga Chapter-DAR, Virginia Society-SAR, and the 1st NY Continental and Saratoga Battle Chapters. Shirley Schadow, Regent of the Saratoga Chapter-DAR did the honors for her group. Mike and Marty Lymon again placed a wreath on behalf of the Virginia Society and VPG-North Atlantic. Richard W. Sage represented 1st NY Continental.

Chapter Pres. Peter K. Goebel placed our wreath and gave a most patriotic oration.

On hand again this year was Peter Dubacher of the Berkshire Bird Paradise with an American Eagle, "General Schwartzkopf." The "General" was none too pleased to be taken out of his traveling crate and struck an fierce pose for the assembly! The chapter made a modest donation to Peter's bird sanctuary as a token for his efforts in helping to make this such a special event.

A chapter meeting was held in the Saratoga National Historical Park Visitors' Center following the wreath-laying. Treasurer Saunders reports that we remain solvent and that donations are still being accepted for the Chapter History & Highlights. You may recall that Dennis Marr had this produced at no cost to us and provided copies to every member with a request that each make a donation in an amount of their own choosing to the chapter in lieu of the chapter charging for this book. To date 16 members and 1 friend of the chapter have contributed a total of \$484, in amounts ranging from \$5.00 to \$100.00. If every member would make even a modest donation, it will be greatly appreciated!

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ANCESTOR CORNER

by Compatriot Harry G. Taylor, Jr.

My ancestor James (Jacobus) Buys, son of Hendrick Buys, Jr. and Rachel Van Etten, was baptized on 24 Dec 1755 at Rhinebeck Flats, Dutchess Co., NY.

We learn the following about James from his application for a Revolutionary War pension. He enlisted in February of 1776 for a term of 9 months in the Batteaux Service in NY under Capt. William Peters/Peterson of the Quartermaster's General's Dept. He was discharged at the completion of his term at Saratoga county. He served in the militia during the summer and fall of 1777, and was at the taking of Burgoyne.

James re-enlisted in 1778 for another 9 months in the Batteaux Service, this time under Capt. William James, and was discharged at Fishkill, Dutchess Co. at the expiration of his service. He again served in the militia in 1779 and 1780 and was at the burning of "Stone Robly" (sic). [Ed. Note: this most likely refers to Stone Arabia in what was then Tryon County; I have seen this place name given many ways, including "Stonrabie" in the pension file for one of my ancestors].

James married Susanna Quackenbush of Albany in January of 1783 (I have the original marriage certificate in my possession, but have not been able to find a record of the marriage). Two of their children were baptized at the Dutch Church in Schaghticoke. At the time of his pension application in 1829 James was renting 1/8 of an acre in Halfmoon and lived in a house valued at \$100; his chattels included one pig and one cow worth \$50.

James died in either Halfmoon or Waterford, but his place of burial remains unknown.

[Ed. Note: Harry is still working on this ancestor and discloses that he may never find documentation sufficient to get him approved as a Supplemental Ancestor].

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

At our meeting in September, Registrar Marr reported that we have one application completed and awaiting signing and nine more in process. In addition we have a few others which need more work and which may or may not materialize as new members.

A review of our membership lists over the past few years is encouraging. In August of 1993, our chapter had but 35 members. As of this date we have 79 members plus 6 dual members from other chapters/societies. With a bit more effort, we may be able to reach the 100 mark in membership before too long.

If any member can identify a potential member who may need some assistance with his research, please remember that our Registrar has many Revolutionary War references at his disposal, and is more than willing to work with interested prospects.

The new "family application," which offers a 50% discount to additional close family members who apply at the same time should be an incentive for a man to bring in his sons, grandsons, brothers, nephews, etc.

EAGLE SCOUT PROGRAM

Our *ad hoc* Eagle Scout Committee of Rick Saunders and Dennis Marr report that we have a total of 148 new Eagle Scouts.

Each of these young men will receive a packet from us with the NSSAR Eagle Scout Certificate, a letter of congratulations and information on the NSSAR Eagle Scout competition. We provide each scout with an application form and a four-generation ancestor chart to fill out as completely as he can. As the materials make clear, his ancestry has no bearing upon his eligibility: it is an exercise only. Some of these scouts will have received a merit badge in genealogy and so may already have quite a bit of information on their lineage.

Dennis F.M. Marr
Editor