



BATTLE LINES

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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Honors at Annual Meeting

By Edward Munger Jr.

A compatriot behind the Chapter's steady membership drew honors and applause at the Annual Meeting and Washington's Birthday Dinner on February 23, 2019. About 40 people gathered in the East Room at Century House in Latham as the Saratoga Battle Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution installed officers and welcomed new members.

President Douglas Gallant passed the gavel to new President Michael S. Companion, who thanked Gallant for his dedicated service. Michael R. Skelly was named First Vice-President and Edward Munger Jr. will serve as Second Vice-President and Secretary. Also installed were Treasurer David L. Flint; Past-President and Registrar Thomas L. Dunne; Chaplain Charles W. Wheeler and Genealogist Dennis F. Marr.

Richard Beckwith, a descendant of Benjamin Austin; and Robert Wubbenhorst, a descendant of Captain Teunis Vrooman, were presented Member Certificates and welcomed to the membership, which now totals 218.

HONORS

Past-President Thomas L. Dunne, who also served simultaneously as Registrar, was awarded the Bronze Roger Sherman Award. The award bears the name of Founding Father Roger Sherman, (1721-1793), the only person who signed all four Congressional papers of the United States: the Continental Association; the Declaration of Independence; the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution.

A passionate member for more than a decade, Dunne is a "key officer in member retention," Gallant said in

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Schuyler House

By Sean Patrick Kelleher, Saratoga Town Historian

The Schuyler House is the country home of General Philip Schuyler, a businessman, politician, and entrepreneur, and father-in-law to Alexander Hamilton.

The Schuyler Estate of Saratoga NHP encompasses

62.15 acres of the core of Major General Philip Schuyler's original large, eighteenth-century manor in the present-day Village of Schuylerville, New York.

Built in 1777, the Schuyler House is a two-story frame structure with a stone foundation.

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President Douglas Gallant, right, presents Compatriot Thomas L. Dunne with a Bronze Roger Sherman Award Certificate

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L-R: President Michael Companion, Secretary and 2nd Vice President Edward Munger Jr. and 1st Vice President Michael Skelly are sworn in during the Annual Meeting. Photo by Jenn Munger.

Annual Meeting ...

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prepared remarks. "For the past several years, when someone asks if we are still the largest chapter in the state, we can proudly say yes with thanks to Tom Dunne." Dunne was awarded Liberty Medal with Three Oak Clusters during the meeting, and Compatriot Patrick Reilly was awarded the Military Service Medal.

NEW MEMBERS

The organization's slate of honored Patriots grew with applications completed by the following descendants:

- John S. Loucks, V - Austin, TX - Pvt. Frederick Britt, NY
- John S. Loucks, IV - Austin, TX - Pvt. Frederick Britt, NY
- John J. McNamara - Schenectady, NY - Sgt. Stephen Fisk, MA
- James W. Pater - Schenectady, NY - Pvt. Timothy Vibbard, NY
- Robert H. Wubbenhorst - Bolton Landing, NY - Capt. Teunis Vrooman, NY
- Brian S. Yamada - Clifton Park, NY - Soldier David Jackson Sr., SC.
- Richard Beckwith -

Benjamin Austin.

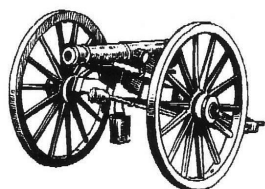
Supplemental Applications were also approved for Joseph P. Fitzpatrick, a descendant of Forage Master Frederick Fine, NJ; and Mark M. Meyers, a Descendant of Pvt. Alexander Ross, PA.

DONATIONS AND STIPENDS

An accounting of income and expenses included a list of donations made by the chapter:

- Rensselaer County Veterans Fund, \$100
- Friends of NYS Military Museum, \$100
- NYSSCAR State Project, \$500
- Schuyler CAR, \$200
- Bemis Heights CAR, \$200
- Wreaths Across America, \$150

The Annual Meeting itself served as a form of charity, as well. The hosting venue, Century House, is donating one meal to charity for each one served at the event.



President's Dispatch

Michael S. Companion, President, Saratoga Battle Chapter, Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Greetings Compatriots,

In my first address as President of the Saratoga Battle, I want to offer you thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve our Chapter.

I also want to acknowledge the sacrifice that my fellow officers, past and present, make in providing invaluable assistance and support for the benefit of our membership. Because of their leadership we continue to be the largest chapter in the State.

This in itself is an achievement, but I would also like to stand out in the State, as a Chapter which exceeds others in the pursuit of the goals of the Sons of the American Revolution, as expressed in the first three parts of the SAR Mission Statement:

- I. To perpetuate the memory of the men who, by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people;
- II. To unite and promote fellowship among their descendants;
- III. To inspire them and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers.

The Sons of the American Revolution is a brotherhood of patriotic men bought together by a common interest in our heritage and dedicated to the preservation of American ideals and our Constitutional freedoms.

As members of the SAR, we have taken on the "voluntary" responsibility in furthering patriotic education as well as preserving, understanding, and appreciating the principles of government established by our forefathers. We achieve this by inspiring national pride and educating our next generation of patriots.

The best means of achieving this mission is to put ourselves more in the public eye and taking part in community events that demonstrate the values of our patriot ancestors.

In pursuit of this mission, I ask the membership to help us create a greater public presence. This can be done by members suggesting possible venues that could serve this purpose.

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Secretary's Report

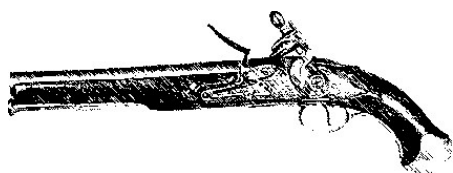
By Edward Munger Jr.

Stone walls that once echoed the voices of Patriots are still standing in Hopewell Junction, NY, where an effort is underway to save what's left of the former home of Col. Jacob Griffin. Members of the **Empire State SAR Board of Managers** heard about a goal to preserve the ruins of the Revolutionary War-era meeting site which, after a renovation, suffered severe damage in a

1994 fire. The Saratoga Battle Chapter hosted the assembly of the Board of Managers Saturday, March 23, 2019 at the Pegasus Restaurant in Coxsackie, NY. The meeting included the presentation of an Eagle Scout Award to Louis Orlando of the Boy Scouts' Nanuet Troop 78. Orlando was recognized for rehabilitating an outdoor patio area at the Tolstoy Foundation Rehabilitation & Nursing Center in Nyack, NY. Saratoga Battle

Chapter President Michael S. Companion updated the group on the chapter's activities during the meeting, which featured a presentation from Julie Diddell, president of [Friends of Griffin's Tavern](#), the group working to preserve the remains of Col. Griffin's home, located southeast of Poughkeepsie near East Fishkill. The stone-walled structure was

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Honoring Patriots

Editor's Note: Compatriot Robert Glenn Miller shared research on his Patriot Ancestor Dependence Colbreath. Included was the following, Colbreath's deposition to Niagara County Court for Pension in 1832. Not surprisingly, the pension was approved ...

State of New York

County of Niagara. On this Fourth day of September 1832. Personally, appeared before the Court of General Session of the County of Niagara in the State of New York the said court now sitting. Dependence Colbreath a resident of Lewiston in the said county aged over seventy years who being first duly sworn according to law, doith on his oath take the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions made by the Act of Congress dated June 7, 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1777 where he then resided viz at Durham in the county of Staffordshire and State of New Hampshire in the company commanded by Captain Frederick Bell for during the war and served in the in the second New

Hampshire Regiment of the Continental line under the following named officers, viz Capt. Frederick Rice, Major Benjamin Titcomb, Lieut. Col. Winborn Adams and Colonel Nathan Hale and said Regiment was attached to General Poor's Brigade. Capt. Bell was killed at the Battle of Bemis Heights near Stillwater, Saratoga, New York after which Lieut. Samuel Adams commanded the company in which his deployment served until a Capt. Enoch Chase took command thereof. The company was at Redding in the State of Connecticut in winter quarters when volunteers were called from the Regiment to form a corps of light infantry to be commanded by La Fayette. This deployment volunteers and the company so

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Upcoming Events

- May 4, 2019—Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution Annual Meeting. 10 a.m., Holiday Inn Utica/New Hartford. Reserve by April 21. [Info: ess-sar.org](#) or Tom Foley, Treasurer, Oriskany Battle Chapter (315)-865-5256 E-mail foley43@yahoo.com
- May 23: Revolutionary War Cemetery, artillery demonstration and School Program (12-1 p.m. Thursday), Salem NY
- May 25th Hague Memorial Day Parade and ceremony
- May 25-26: Fort Ticonderoga living history event
- May 27: Corinth Memorial Day Parade, Start at 6:00 p.m., Palmer Ave
- July 4: Parade, Argyle-Rt 40 11:00 a.m. start
- July 4: 16th Annual Citizenship Ceremony. A joint event with other organizations, held on the lawn of the Saratoga National Historical Park's Visitor's Center, Stillwater, NY.
- July 6: 9 a.m. parade, Fort Ann, NY.
- July 6-7: Revolutionary War living history event, Hubbardton Battlefield, Hubbardton VT.
- July 27: Fort Stanwix, Honor America Days, Living History and 1812 Overture

Prepared by Michael Skelly, 1st Vice President, Saratoga Battle Chapter. Chapter events are underlined.

President ...

(Continued from page 2)

If you hear of upcoming events which can fit this bill, please feel free to contact me and I will bring it to the membership for consideration. As a Revolutionary War reenactor and member of the Saratoga Battle Chapter Color Guard, I take pride in my efforts to educate the public, by perpetuating the memory of our patriot ancestors and the values they fought for.

In recognition of this goal, Vice President Mike Skelly, has provided a list of events which the Chapter has currently scheduled for this year, as well as other Historic and Civic events which will be taking place in the coming year.

In support of our mission, I would encourage other members of the Chapter to get involved with the Color Guard, or at least to try to attend as many of the Chapter Events as they feel comfortable doing.



Funding for Battle Sites

By Edward Munger Jr.

Groups working for the benefit of historic sites – several with ties to the American Revolution – will share \$450,000 in [state funding announced March 19 by New York State](#).

The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Park and Trail Partnership Program grants will help 22 groups that maintain and promote historic sites and parks, according to the state. Some of the historic sites on the list are as follows:

- Friends of Bennington Battlefield: \$8,500 to develop and install interpretive signs that include firsthand accounts of the battle from various perspectives. It was here where Patriots pummeled two waves

of British troops led by General John Burgoyne in 1777.

- Fort Montgomery Battle Site Association: \$50,000 for restoring the site's trail system. It was at this site near the Hudson River where outnumbered Patriots stalled British troops, belaying their trip north, in October of 1777.

Other historic New York State sites to receive funding include Friends of Johnson Hall; \$7,245 to finish restoring 1700s wallpaper in Johnson Hall - the 1763 estate of Sir William Johnson; and Friends of Ganondagan; \$22,630 for a Program Assistant to help manage year-round activities at the State Historic Site. Southeast of Rochester, it was a 1600s Native American village.

Honoring Patriots ...

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raised was commanded by Capt. Samuel Cherry in Col. Cortland's Regiment after which time the corps of light infantry usually served during the different campaigns under La Fayette and the officers of that corps, but in winter the men joined their original Regiments. From Durham where he enlisted his deployment was ordered and marched to Ticonderoga from there to Skenesboro now Whitehall, State of New York and then to Saratoga where he joined the American Army and continued to after the capture of General Burgoyne. His deployment was in the battle at Bemis Heights this is where Capt. Bell was killed and in the battle at Bemis fields, the last of my thoughts before Burgoyne's surrender.

Marshalled the return to Albany where the stay was short and then to join the army under the command of General Washington at White Marsh, New Jersey. Wintered at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania via in the spring of 1778 marched there in pursuit of General Howe who was moving with his army from Philadelphia to New York viz not in the battle of Monmouth was at White Plains while General Lee was on trial. Marched to Hartford, Connecticut and wintered at Danbury. In the spring of 1779 march with General Sullivan into the western part of New York to Big Tree (now Geneseo) on the Genesee River.

Then returned to Connecticut and wintered at Danbury. The next spring 1780 went to New Jersey and were under command of La Fayette. Wintered again about four miles Danbury. In March 1781 left for West Point, New York then to head of Elk, Delaware went down the Bay as far as Annapolis and continued to the head of Elk than marched through Baltimore to Richmond, Virginia. Remained in Virginia till the surrender of General Cornwallis.

He continued serving until the 7th of June 1783 when his discharge at New Windsor, New York. After discharge, he lived in New Hampshire with a sister in 1791 from which time he has seen or heard of. The deponent provided facts that he was promoted to be a Sargent and served in that capacity for about three years before the time of his discharge and was discharged as a Sargent. At the time of discharge Capt. Cherry commanded the company and Col. Reid of New Hampshire was Colonel thereof. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll this agency or any other state. Sworn and subscribed ... Dependence Colbreath The day and year aforesaid. H. Gatlin, Clerk of the Court of General Sessions, County of Niagara. And the court do hereby declare their opinion that the above named applicant was a revolutionary and served the states. Members of the Court: T. Butterfield, G.W. Allison D. A. Coond Jr. I Henry Gatlin, Clerk for the court above named do hereby certify the forgoing contains the original proceedings of said court in the matter of the application Dependence Colbath of Lewiston, Niagara County, New York.

Schuyler House ...

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Philip Schuyler (1733-1804) built the house to replace one burned by the British in 1777 after the battles of Saratoga. Lt. General Burgoyne used the previous house during the Battles of Saratoga, then ordered it to be destroyed upon his retreat to his camp across Fish Creek.

Schuyler operated his thriving country estate from 1763 until his death. The estate included mills, a fishery, barns, agricultural fields, formal gardens and barracks that housed Schuyler's slaves, servants and workers. Many residents of Saratoga (Schuylerville today) worked for Schuyler.

The 1777 Schuyler House, restored to its c.1787-1804 appearance, is the dominant building on the property. There is an attached kitchen at the north-east corner of the house. A privy and a well house are the only other historic buildings that remain on the grounds. Archeological evidence remains from many other historic buildings that once dotted the landscape.

The Schuyler Estate was once clear cut for agricultural and industrial operations. The house commanded the open 3,000-acre operation. Today the house lot is more enclosed with many trees growing in the lawn, including many nineteenth-century black locusts. Two old lilacs grow near the house to the south and east.

The Schuyler family, mainly General Philip Schuyler, was in-

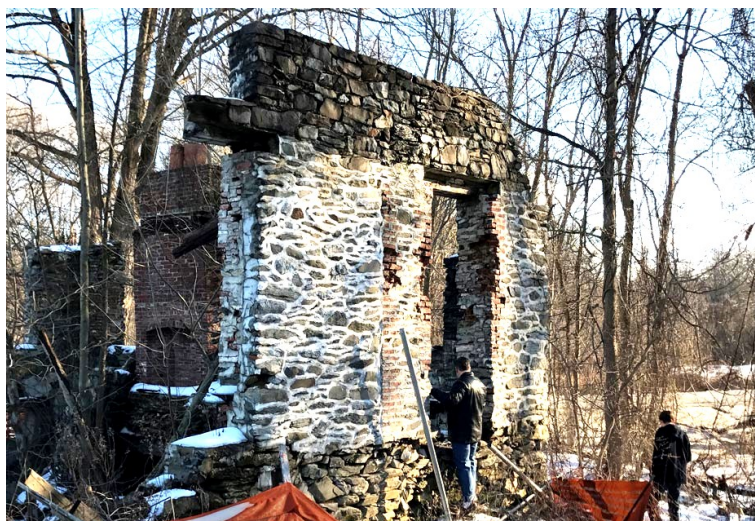
strumental in the development of the Village of Saratoga, now Schuylerville, as an agricultural and industrial village that relied on milling, farming and fishing.

In 1831, the citizens of Saratoga voted to rename their village Schuylerville in honor of General Schuyler, but the Schuylers' period of prosperity was coming to a close. Philip Schuyler II fell deep in debt during the national economic panic of 1837. He abandoned the long-held family leasehold and sold many of the farms in fee simple to the tenants occupying them, and he was forced to sell the Schuyler Estate to creditors in 1837. George Strover purchased the estate in 1839. Many outbuildings had been built, moved, or razed under Schuyler II's tenure, and the construction of the Champlain Canal in 1822 had a lasting impact upon the landscape and operations of the farm.

Today, the Schuyler Estate site is administrated as a house museum and public park that interprets the history of General Schuyler, his family, his manor and its relation to the two battles of Saratoga in 1777.

The community has strong ties to the Schuyler Estate as a source of pride and tourism.

The Schuyler House is opened most weekends in the summer and limited times in the fall. The estate grounds are open from sunrise to sunset. For details on the Schuyler House please visit <http://www.nps.gov/sara> or call 518 670-2985.



The remains of Griffin's Tavern, a Revolutionary War-era meeting place, are the subject of a rescue effort. Photo by Julie Diddell

Secretary's Report ...

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called Griffin's Tavern, or "The Rendez-vous," and it hosted Revolutionary War figures including George Washington, French General Marquis de Lafayette and Continental and French soldiers. Friends of Griffin's Tavern is working to preserve the ruins of this historic site, which was marked with a plaque in 1928 by the Melzingah Chapter, D.A.R. and the State of New York. Following the presentation, the board agreed to provide a \$1,000 donation towards the cause.

PATRIOTS EXHUMED

The remains of Revolutionary War soldiers unearthed at a Lake George construction site early this year were taken to the New York State Museum in Albany. Lisa Anderson, Curator of Bioarchaeology, said in an e-mail she shares concerns about ensuring the remains are treated with dignity and respect. Anderson said plans for re-interment would be led at the local level. Study is expected to last more than a year.

SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD LAND FOR SALE

The American Battlefield Trust (ABT) seeks to buy 26 acres of land in the Saratoga Battlefields area along with 68 acres in Newtown, south of Elmira, for \$57,000. The Newtown site is in the area of a 1779 campaign led by General John Sullivan against the British and their allies. Among the values of the American Battlefield Trust, a historic land preservation organization, is "a deep, abiding respect for the sanctity of historic battlefields." ABT has preserved more than 50,000 acres of battlefield lands throughout the United States. [Learn more about the ABT at battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org).





"Disbanding the Continental Army, at New Windsor, New York, November 3, 1783." Drawn by H.A. Ogden. An Illustration in Harper's Weekly, 1883 Oct. 20, p. 664. From the Library of Congress.



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