

BATTLE LINES

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

OCTOBER 2019

VOLUME XXIII, ISSUE III



Dozens of guests gathered at Saratoga National Historical Park on July 4, 2019, where 20 people took their Oath of Citizenship and became American Citizens.

Moses Hall Jr.

Submitted by Michael Companion

Moses Hall Jr. was born on December 26, 1754 in the village of Wallingford in New Haven County, Connecticut. He was the son of Moses Hall and Elizabeth Johnson of Wallingford.

Moses, like his father and several brothers, served with the Connecticut forces in the War for Independence.

In May of 1776 a call went out to raise troops for defense of the state.

Moses Jr. joined the 4th Connecticut Regiment under the command of Col. John Durkee, and took part in the siege of Boston. In September 1776, Moses' Connecticut Regiment was reorganized as part of the Connecticut Line of Continentals,

as the 3rd Connecticut Regiment under Captain Eli Leavenworth. This regiment was attached to General George Washington's Main Army.

Following the evacuation of British troops from Boston, General Washington moved 19,000 troops to fortify New York and Long Island. At this point, British General Howe landed 32,000 men at Staten Island in preparation for an attack on Washington's army in New York.

Washington took heavy losses at the Battle of Long Island on August 27, 1776, which forced an evacuation to Manhattan Island. To close off the Hudson River to British warships, Americans constructed a series of defensive fortifications; Forts Montgomery,

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New Citizens Welcomed

By Edward Munger Jr.

Twenty people were welcomed as new American Citizens after taking the Oath of Allegiance in a U.S. Citizenship Ceremony held July 4 at Saratoga National Historical Park.

Hallowed ground where Patriots fought for American Independence is an appropriate place for a Citizenship Ceremony, said Amy Bracewell, Superintendent at Saratoga National Historical Park.

"It is on this landscape, here at Saratoga, where Americans sacrificed everything for the promise of a better life for their children, their grandchildren, and future generations, including us," Bracewell said.

The Sons of the American Revolution joined several organizations at the event, including Friends of Saratoga Battlefield, Daughters of the American Revolution, Children of the American Revolution and the Mechanicville-Stillwater Elks Lodge.

Independence Day is a fitting date for the occasion,

said Michael Companion, President of the Saratoga Battle Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution.

"Our nation is built up on a history of immigration," said Companion, who said his ancestors arrived in search of religious and political freedom three centuries ago.

"Today, these same desires still bring people to our shores. Like our Patriot ancestors, we all share in a common dream of a chance to make a good life for ourselves and our families, and to have the opportunity to contribute to this great American experiment," Companion said.

The fields and rolling hills of the battlefield glowed in hot July sunshine as Boy Scouts from the Twin Rivers Council conducted a Present the Colors ceremony. Vocalist Danielle McMullen performed the National Anthem

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President's Dispatch

By Michael Companion



L-R Former Chapter President Douglas Gallant, Mary Skelly and Tim Butler receive awards for their work as Color Guard from Vice President Mike Skelly and President Michael Companion during the September Meeting

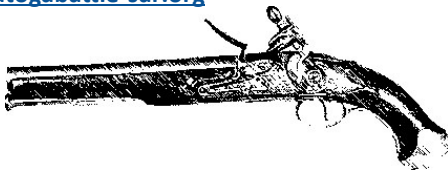
Upcoming Events

Thursday, October 17th, 2019, 10 AM - Surrender Day Ceremony, Fort Hardy Park, Schuylerville, NY

The chapter and the state society will lay wreaths at the Surrender Day event which is held by other organizations. This is a very well done event and includes a re-enactment of the sword surrender by General Burgoyne to General Gates.

Note: As this event involves young school children it is subject to cancelation if there is a threat of inclement weather. Visit our website for full details on upcoming events:

<http://www.saratogabattle-sar.org>



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Greetings Compatriots,

I am pleased to say that Saratoga Battle Chapter continues to be the largest Chapter in the Empire State with 234 members currently enrolled. This is, in large part, due to the efforts of our Registrar Thomas Dunne. This year alone, Tom had 12 new applicants approved, as well as 3 reinstatements and one new dual membership.

I feel that the best way to continue as the largest Chapter is to make our presence known in the community.

I would like to thank members of the Chapter who were able to participate in a number of events this summer. We took part in several ceremonies and parades commemorating the sacrifices of our Patriot ancestors and celebrating their victories.

In May, despite the rain, representatives of our Color Guard, Chapter officers and members took part in the Saratoga Memorial Day Parade with the Saratoga Daughters of the American Revolution (SAR), to commemorate the sacrifices of our Veterans. Also in May, Chapter Officers Dennis Marr and Edward Munger Jr. presented Junior ROTC Awards and Certificates to student-cadets of LaSalle Institute in Troy and Christian Brothers Academy in Albany. We also took part in the annual July 4th Citizenship Ceremony at the Saratoga Battlefield welcoming new citizens to our country.

In August, to celebrate our Patriot ancestors' victory at Saratoga, members of Saratoga Battle Chapter joined the Saratoga DAR and Walloomsac Battle Chapter SAR in the

Turning Point Parade in Schuylerville. We also joined several other DAR Chapters, the Vermont Chapter SAR and the Walloomsac Chapter SAR in recognizing our ancestors' victory at the Battle of Bennington with a ceremony at the Bennington Battlefield.

For those of us who have not yet been able to participate in Chapter events thus far this year, we still have a number of events planned for the fall, which I look forward to seeing my fellow compatriots attend and/or take part in. On October 17th we will be taking part in a school Program and Ceremony commemorating the British surrender at Saratoga, to be held at Fort Hardy Park in Schuylerville. This will also be followed by a ceremony celebrating the opening of a new National Historic site in Schuylerville, in cooperation with the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield and National Park Service. Members of the Chapter Color Guard and the 2nd Continental Artillery will also be taking part in a ceremony at the National Cemetery on Veterans Day.

I also wish to express my appreciation to those who attended the September 15th Ceremony at the DAR Monument at Saratoga Battlefield, and the Saratoga Battle Chapter Dinner/Meeting at the Holiday Inn that followed, where we had the privilege to swear-in four new members of our Chapter; Brian Companion, Alexander MacLeod, Robert Sammons, and Brian Yamada. We also had the opportunity to show our appreciation to members of the Chapter Color Guard, including

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Patriot Grave Plans Heard at September Meeting

By Edward Munger Jr.

About 40 people gathered at the Holiday Inn of Saratoga Springs, where members of the recreated Second Artillery Regiment set up a notable display of 1700's tools, gadgets, cannon balls and a mortar.

Compatriots Peter Hormell, Chapter President Michael Companion, Past President Doug Gallant, Mary Skelly and Tim Butler – all members of the Second Continental – gave a hands-on presentation on Revolutionary War-era firepower.

They covered the devastating impact of crude iron projectiles and the crafty methods of loading, aiming, firing – and avoiding unintended explosions.

Guests learned many interesting details of artillery's role in the war – and the risk artillery unit members took. The artillery units were the biggest targets on the battlefield. Members had a life expectancy of six months – most were dead within two weeks.

Though transported with draft animals and horses, the artillery equipment had to be moved around and aimed by hand, a laborious task. The barrel of a cannon that fired the three-pound cannonball weighs 1,100 pounds, and that isn't the largest cannon. These guns recoiled from six to 11 feet after being fired.

Some of the guns were shot with the goal of bouncing the cannonballs along the battlefield. Also on display was a "split shot" cannonball – two halves of an iron ball tethered by a chain. They took out the masts of ships to disable the vessels and preserve them for re-use.

A mortar on display was another focus of the educational presentation. Mortars feature in the lyrics of America's National Anthem. Francis Scott Key's "The Star-Spangled Banner" mentions the "bombs bursting in air" he witnessed during the War of 1812. It's a reference to the exploding projectiles that

were fired by mortars to blow up above the heads of troops.

RECOGNIZING WATERWAYS

Guests heard an update from Alexandra Oxaal, president of the Schuyler Society, Children of the American Revolution (CAR), about the New York State CAR's focus on recognizing the historic impact of New York State waterways. The organization is raising money for the Mattan Shipyard of Cohoes, built on the confluence of the Mohawk and Hudson rivers.

Three buildings remain on the site, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Oxaal said. The Erie Canalway Heritage Fund is matching donations contributed towards a project to transform the facility into an educational site to celebrate shipbuilding that took place there from 1916 to 1983.

Oxaal brought state Project Pins and assembled sweets to sell in support of the fundraiser and presented Saratoga Battle Chapter President Michael Companion with a State Project Pin, which depicts the Halfmoon under sail encircled with the words "New York Waters – Navigating Through History." After a motion and second, the assembly voted to provide a \$500 donation to the C.A.R.

OFFICER REPORTS

Semi-annual reports were submitted, including a financial statement from Chapter Treasurer David L. Flint with a list of several organizations supported by Chapter. Donations as follows: \$100 for a vocalist to sing the National Anthem on July 4; \$100 for the Covell Award, \$100 for Friends of Saratoga Battlefield and \$75 for the NYS Children of the American Revolution Annual Conference.

Secretary / 2nd VP Edward Munger Jr., submitted Minutes from the February 23, 2019 Annual Meeting, and Historian Karl Danneil informed the assembly he's

preserving documents from events and functions attended by the Saratoga Battle Chapter and members are encouraged to get him copies.

President Michael Companion recognized guests at the meeting including: SAR North Atlantic District VPG Col. Peter Goebel (Ret.); Shaun Smith and Jack Bredenfoerder of the Cincinnati Chapter, SAR, both of whom are dual Chapter members upon joining Saratoga Battle Chapter. Smith serves as webmaster for the Cincinnati chapter and Bredenfoerder is current Vice President and Treasurer of the German Society.

Under new business, Compatriot Goebel informed the group of the Rensselaer County Veteran's Breakfast planned for November 10. The chapter approved a motion to donate \$100 towards publicity for the event that honors those who selflessly served their country. Goebel read aloud a long list of names of individuals recommended for National officer positions. Brief discussion centered on supporting the incumbent candidate for Chaplain General, who lives in California, as opposed to a new candidate for the position who lives in Pennsylvania. Goebel said the incumbent's familiarity with the position made him the best choice. The chapter voted in favor of the slate of candidates as submitted.

NEW MEMBERS

Robert Sammons, Alexander MacLeod, Brian Companion and Brian Yamada were welcomed to the Saratoga Battle Chapter with applause.

The Chapter's membership rose from 218 to 235 between February and September 2019, according to the Registrar report submitted by Thomas L. Dunne and Duane Booth.

The following individuals joined the Saratoga Battle Chapter during this period, bringing

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Moses Hall ...

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Washington, and Lee. Following the defeat of the American forces on Long Island and subsequent evacuation of New York City, Washington's forces retreated up the Hudson River toward the village of White Plains.

Moses Jr.'s pension record shows he took part in the Battle of White Plains. It was here in October of 1776 the American forces once again met defeat, and Washington's Army once again made their escape to the town of North Castle (five miles to the north).

Unknown to Moses Jr. at the time, his father Moses Sr., had been captured by British forces during the surrender of Fort Washington, following the evacuation of Fort Lee.

Moses Sr. had enlisted as a corporal in 7th Company of the 1st Connecticut Regiment under General Wooster, under the command of Captain Isaac Cook. Following his discharge, Moses Sr. re-enlisted on August 14th, 1776 in Capt. Couch's Co. of Colonel Wadsworth's Brigade.

Moses Sr.' Regiment was sent to defend Bergen Heights in New Jersey. Following the loss of New York to the British, Moses Sr. and his company were assigned to the defense of Fort Lee. Fort Washington stood on the east bank of the Hudson (NY) opposite Fort Lee in New Jersey. As British forces moved up the Hudson, Fort Lee was evacuated, and Capt. Couch and his company were ordered to cross the Hudson and reinforce the defenses of Fort Washington. On November 16, British General Howe's forces captured Fort Washington with 2,837 prisoners, including Moses Hall Sr. Initially, the prisoners, were held in unheated barns and sheds, and eventually many ended up in prison ships in New York Harbor. Moses Sr. obtained his freedom soon after his capture, either through parole or escape, and he was discharged from service on December 29, 1776. What further role Moses Sr. played in the war is uncertain. What is known, is that on June 23, 1777, his wife Elizabeth Hall died, at age 44, and Moses was back home in Wallingford, where he remarried a widow, Hannah Hough, on December 25, 1777.

Following the fall of New York and Fort Washington, Moses Jr. and the 4th Connecticut were assigned to the Highland Department of the Continental Army. In the summer of 1777, his Company was camped

at Peekskill, and went on expeditions on lines above Kings Bridge. From August to October Moses was serving in General Israel Putnam's Brigade, tasked with fending off any movements of the British against the reestablished and reoccupied forts of Montgomery, Lee, and Washington. Moses Jr. reenlisted in the newly reorganized Connecticut Line of the Army on March 2, 1778.

His enlistment would last the duration of the war, serving in the 4th Company of the 6th Connecticut Regiment, commanded by Colonel Return Meigs. His company commander was Captain David Starr (Eli Leavenworth was now a major). The 6th Regiment would be temporarily assigned to the Highland Department at West Point. At West Point his duties consisted of building permanent fortifications, "Meigs Redoubt" at West Point, and on the opposing shore of the Hudson, under the direction of General Thaddeus Kosciuszko. They were also engaged in constructing "temporary" huts to provide shelters near Robinson House Tavern, opposite West Point. This settlement became known as Connecticut Village to local residents. In the summer of "78" the 6th was attached to Washington's main Army in White Plains to help contain the British in New York. By winter the Main Army had moved to Redding, Pennsylvania to check the movements of the British toward Philadelphia. The following spring, Moses and the 6th were back in the Highlands above NYC, carrying out operations on the east side of the Hudson.

By the winter of 1779-80, Moses and the 6th Regiment was back with the Main Army at Morristown, New Jersey living in a hut city, during one of the harshest winters of the war. In the spring and summer of 1780 Moses was involved in operations above NYC on both sides of the Hudson. On discovering the treason of Benedict Arnold his Regiment was moved back to West Point, in anticipation of a British attack, wintering at "Connecticut Village". In 1781, the Connecticut Line Forces went through another reorganization and the 6th Regiment was absorbed into the 4th Connecticut Regiment under General Zebulon Butler, and Colonel Return Meigs. On June 20, the 4th Connecticut marched to Peekskill in order to join Washington's Army in a joint attack on NYC with the French. In July they were ordered to move to Phillipsburg, closer to New York.

In the fall of 1781, Washington and French naval forces had made preparations for the battle at Yorktown. Ten of the thirty-six companies of the Connecticut 4th Regiment were sent to join Lafayette's forces as part of the Main Army to take part in the capture of Yorktown. Moses' company under Captain Starr, would remain in the Highland Department to maintain vigilance over the British in New York and prevent any moves by General Clinton against the Highland region or New England.

Washington's Army forced a surrender of General Cornwallis's forces on October 19th, 1781. In the battle 20 men of the 4th Regiment under the command of Alexander Hamilton captured Redoubt #10, battling 70 British soldiers and driving them out in 10 minutes time. This helped secure a strong position to force the British surrender in the last major battle in the war. With the war virtually over, on December 31, 1781 the 4th regiment was dissolved and split-up, with Moses being reassigned to the command of Colonel Zebulon Butler and the 1st Connecticut Regiment. The 1st Regiment remained in Camp around General Washington's headquarters in Newburgh for much of the rest of the war. On June 7, 1783, Moses was discharged from his duties in the Continental Army. As shown in his pension records, Moses would receive the Regimental Badge of Merit "for six years of distinguished service" to his country. At the wars end, Moses returned to Wallingford and married Lucy Hart on Christmas Day, 1783. Lucy and Moses Hall thereafter left Wallingford to start their new life in the "west" making their way along the Mohawk trail and eventually settling in the Town of Providence in Saratoga County, New York. This move may have been motivated by a land bounty he received for his service in the war. Many New England families came to New York after the war, including two of Moses' younger brothers. Families of Revolutionary War Veterans helped to establish communities in and around the counties of eastern New York, including Saratoga, Montgomery, Washington, Rensselaer, and Fulton. Accompanying Moses to New York was his youngest brother, Reuben. Town records reveal that Reuben and Moses were living in the area by 1797, and both took part in the construction of roads in district #2 in the Town of

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New Citizens ...

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— accompanied by many in the crowd and followed by applause.

Guest Speaker Vitaliy Volpov, an attorney in Albany, NY, described the hard work his family endured to achieve success after arriving from Eastern Europe in 1995.

He recalled the “rush of emotion” that accompanied the new looks, smells and sounds of a new country.

Born in Belarus, Volpov said he couldn’t speak English when he got to school at age 12. His parents’ educational degrees didn’t count, so they secured minimum wage jobs and worked their way up.

“Freedom of opportunity is what makes this country special. It is available to each and every one of us if we work hard,” Volpov said.

Volpov’s remarks were followed by comments from NYS Senator Daphne Jordan and NYS Assembly Member Carrie Woerner.

The 2019 event was the 16th Naturalization Ceremony at the Saratoga Battlefield. About 110 such occasions were planned for July 4 and 5 for a total of 7,500 new citizens, said Gwynne Dinolfo, a field office director at U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The new citizens welcomed at the Saratoga Battlefield in Stillwater arrived from 14 different countries: Afghanistan, Albania,



Saratoga Battle Chapter President Michael Companion speaks during the Naturalization Ceremony at Saratoga National Historical Park on July 4, 2019.

Burma, Canada, China, Columbia, Guyana, India, Malaysia, Netherlands, Pakistan, Thailand, Uruguay and Vietnam.

The group received a standing ovation after reciting the Oath of Allegiance, the text of which is as follows:

"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and

domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God."



Moses Hall ...

(Continued from page 4)

Providence and may have been employed as surveyors. Moses made his home in the village of Barkersville in Providence while Reuben established himself in the nearby village of Galway. Reuben started the 2nd Baptist Church in Hagedorn Mills in Providence, in 1799. Moses Hall Jr. applied for his war pension in Saratoga County on April 6, 1818. He died in Barkersville, New York on May 11, 1827. Lucy Hart Hall died March 17, 1848.

Children of Moses Hall and Lucy Hart

are:

- Abner Hall, b. Nov. 16, 1784 in Wallingford, CT.
- Charlotte Hall, b. 1788.
- Alice Hall, b. 1793; d. June 18, 1847. (probably dau.)buried Barkersville Cem. in Barkersville.
- Nathaniel Hall, b. 1799; d. May 16, 1839, buried in Barkersville Cem.
- Stokes Hall, b. Nov 11, 1800, d. Sept 24, 1875, buried in Barkersville Cem.
- Lemuel Hall, b. 1802; d. Dec. 1, 1859, buried in Barkersville Cem.

President’s dispatch ...

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past President Douglas Gallant, who was awarded the Bronze Color Guard Medal.

Also recognized were Capt. Tim Butler and Sergeant Mary Skelly of the 2nd Continental Artillery Reenacting Group, being awarded the Bronze Good Citizenship medal for their support of our Chapter at numerous events as part of our Chapter Color Guard.

Thank You

Michael Companion

Patriot graves ...

(Continued from page 3)

the listed Patriot ancestors into the embrace of our gratitude:

Brendan K. Bartow, Troy, NY; Cameron D. Bartow, Troy, NY; Christopher C. Bartow; Ballston Spa, NY; and Douglas L. Bartow III, of Troy, NY all trace their roots to Cpl. Morris Barto – NY. Christopher S. Burky, Cody L. Burky and Wyatt E. Burky, of Middle Grove, NY, joined in honor of Patriot ancestor Ensign Alexander Ewing – PA. Brian J. Companion, of Ballston Spa, brings tribute to Patriot ancestor Cpl. Moses Hall Jr. – CT. Alexander E. MacLeod, of Delmar, NY, descends from Pvt. Edward Edward Pratt – MA. Ray W. Miller Jr., of Gansvoort, NY, honors Pvt. Ezekiel Whitney – CT. Robert H. Sammons, of Burnt Hills, NY, carries the legacy of Ensign Sampson Sammons – NY. Daniel T. Woloszyn, of Schenectady, brings Patriot ancestor Pvt Isaac Lane – MA into the spotlight of patriotic recognition. Ten Eyck B. Powell III, of Selkirk, NY, highlights the patriotic service of his ancestor Jacob C. Ten Eyck.

AWARDS

Chapter 1st Vice President Mike Skelly and President Michael Companion presented awards during the meeting. Credited with bearing the flags and representing American Patriots at events and commemorations, several members of the recreated Second Continental Artillery Regiment were recognized for their work as the Chapter's Color Guard. Mary Skelly and Timothy Butler were presented the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal, also issued to Alfred Bartlett and Bradley Allen in absentia. Douglas M. Gallant, the Chapter's past president, was presented with the Bronze Color Guard Medal. The Bronze Good Citizenship Medal, dating back to 1895, recognizes individuals for important contributions to the community. The Bronze Color Guard Medal, established in 1998, is awarded to individuals for their in-uniform,

Color Guard service at events including Revolutionary War commemorations, flag retirement ceremonies, parades and other occasions.

PATRIOT GRAVES

Recognition might shine on the graves of several American Patriots once hidden under the weeds of abandoned Rensselaer County graveyards.

Stephentown Historian Patricia Flint – wife of Saratoga Battle Chapter Treasurer David Flint – announced applications are being submitted to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation's Historic Marker Grant Program. With the goal of celebrating community histories, the foundation provides historic



signs that commemorate historic events, places, people and events taking place from 1740 to 1919.

Flint compiled enough research to submit applications for signs at six cemeteries serving as final resting place of more than a dozen American Patriots.

A decade of work has centered on graveyards in the area, where Flint said Boy Scouts, cub scouts, a cemetery committee and other volunteers are all due gratitude for their work cleaning up and restoring these sacred sites. Flint said Compatriot David J. Cummings provided essential help

rigging up a pulley and hoist system, making it possible to lift several toppled stones and obelisks.

The gravestones are all being photographed so they can be listed on the Find A Grave website, a growing compilation of images and details of the final resting places at cemeteries throughout the United States and beyond.

Flint said permission is being sought to clean up another cemetery they found – this one with 125 graves in it. More volunteers are being sought, she said.

The Pomeroy Foundation has paid for 600 historic markers in more than 50 New York counties since it began the program in 2006, according to the organization's website at wgpfoundation.org.

The Foundation is expected to review grant applications and decide on winning entries in late December.

Saratoga Battle Chapter, following Chapter President Michael Companion's request at the start of the year, is serving as the nonprofit sponsor for Historic Marker grant applications aimed at honoring Patriot Ancestors in the chapter's broad geographic reach.

Compatriots aware of American Patriot burial grounds are encouraged to inform the Chapter. Sites are being evaluated based on a variety of criteria including how accessible the cemetery is and whether there are already historic markers there. The program requires permission from the property owner and Primary Source documentation backing up any writing proposed for the signs.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a dinner, the meeting of the Saratoga Battle Chapter, Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution was adjourned until February 2020. Stay tuned for details of the Annual Meeting.

Find us on 