

BATTLE LINES

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

APRIL 2020

VOLUME XXIV, ISSUE I

Flint Honored With Roger Sherman Award At Luncheon

Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.

Saratoga Battle Chapter Treasurer David Flint was honored with the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal during the February 22, 2020 Annual Meeting and Washington's Birthday Luncheon.

About 27 members and friends assembled at Century House in Latham for the luncheon.

Flint, who maintains the Chapter's finances, was lauded for his work by President Michael Companion, who presented the award to a round of applause. The medal represents appreciation and recognition for outstanding services rendered to a Chapter.

The award is named after Founding Father Roger Sherman (1721-1793), the only one who signed all Congressional papers of the United States: The Continental Association, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution.

President Companion presented three others with awards or certificates during the meeting. Registrar Thomas L. Dunne was awarded the Duane Booth Min-

uteman Award, the chapter's highest honor. Compatriot Dunne has served as Registrar and as President and has managed member dues collection for years in addition to creating the meeting programs.

The award is bestowed in recognition of extraordinary service to the chapter.

Past Chapter President Richard H. Fullam and his son, Steven M. Fullam, descendants of Thomas Staton, PS, VA; were recognized with certificates for supplemental applications.

MEMBERSHIP DECLINES

The updated Registrar and Membership Report showed membership down to 216 compared with 235 in September 2019, guests learned at the meeting.

A total of 22 members dropped out and six passed away. However, there were nine new members welcomed to the group, according to the report prepared by Registrar Thomas L. Dunne and Past President Duane Booth.

The meeting featured a brief discussion of the new book Don

(Continued on page 4)



Saratoga Battle Chapter Treasurer David Flint, center, receives the Bronze Roger Sherman Award from President Michael Companion, left, and Past President Duane Booth, at right, during the Annual Meeting.

Coronavirus Opens Learning Opportunities

Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.

The unprecedented closure of public facilities nationwide has expanded ways to learn about the American Revolution. The Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia closed to the public in March but opened several remote opportunities including virtual tours.

"In this challenging time, it is imperative that we prioritize the

(Continued on page 5)

INSIDE:

- ⇒ **NEW NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED**—pg. 2
- ⇒ **UPCOMING EVENTS** – pg. 2
- ⇒ **PATRIOT ISAAC PARMENTIER**—pg. 3
- ⇒ **NEW MEDAL: TIADAGHTON ELM**—pg. 4
- ⇒ **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**—pg. 6

American Revolution Institute Publishes Inaugural Newsletter

Submitted By Edward Munger Jr.

are manuscripts, artifacts, paintings and other material is telling the story of the first war veterans of the young United States of America.

The "Stories of America's First Veterans" exhibit at the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati is one of several resources featured in the Institute's inaugural newsletter published on April 1.



A Pensioner of the Revolution by John Neagle, 1830
The Society of the Cincinnati, Museum purchase, 2017
This somber and arresting portrait depicts a homeless veteran living on the street in Philadelphia named Joseph Winter. The painting attracted popular attention in early 1831, when John Sartain published a mezzotint engraving of the work titled Patriotism and Age, which became a call to the conscience of the nation to care for those who had fought its battles and won its freedom.

Headquartered in an historic mansion in Washington, D.C., the Institute is among numerous organizations and sites that were shut down to guests as the Coronavirus Pandemic swept across the globe. Despite its closure, the Institute makes a wealth of information available on its website: historic documents; portraits of Revolutionary War Veterans years after the war; and lessons for youngsters unable to attend school due to the Coronavirus.

(Continued on page 5)

Upcoming Events

Note: All listed events were scheduled in early March – check our website or follow our Facebook Page for notice of any postponements or cancellations.

Independence Day Citizenship Ceremony

Saturday, July 4, 10 a.m. Join us and other organizations at Saratoga National Historical Park as 20 people take their Oath of Allegiance and become American Citizens. Saratoga National Historical Park, 648 NY-32, Stillwater, NY 12170.

Turning Point Parade

Sunday, August 2, 1:00 p.m. step-off - Come join us as we march and ride in the Schuylerville, NY Turning Point Parade. Bring your family and friends! There is shuttle service from the parade end point, the Schuyler House on South Broad Street, to the high school / Pearl Street line up area for those of us that don't care to walk up to Pearl Street. The preferred dress is a white shirt and dark slacks, military uniform, or period clothing. Please stick around after the parade for a photo even if you're participating with another group!

Chapter Meeting and Wreath Ceremony

September (date TBD), 2:00 p.m. - Annual Wreath Laying at Stop #2 of the Saratoga National Park's Tour Road (DAR Monument), followed by Saratoga Battle Chapter Meeting. The wreath laying is at Stop 2 (DAR Monument) of the Saratoga National Historical Park Tour Road in Stillwater, NY. A moving and colorful event commemorating those who fought here and those who serve in America's military. A Chapter meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. and a dinner will follow at 5:30 pm.

Surrender Day Ceremony

Friday, October 16, 10 a.m. - Fort Hardy Park, Schuylerville, NY. The Chapter and the State Society will lay wreaths at the Surrender Day event hosted by other organizations. The event includes a re-enactment of the sword surrender by General Burgoyne to General Gates.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)



You can help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses with these actions:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose & mouth.
- Wash hands often with soap & water for at least 20 seconds.

 [cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

734795-A March 16, 2020 12:12 PM

Patriot Isaac Parmentier

Submitted by Michael Companion

Editor's note: Following is an edited excerpt of a biography of Patriot Isaac Parmentier submitted by Michael Companion, a descendant of Parmentier. A member of the 12th Regiment of the Albany County Militia, Parmentier and his companion were captured by Loyalists and Mohawks as the Raid on Ballston ensued in October of 1780. He was imprisoned for two years.

Tory and Mohawk forces crossed the Kayaderosseras Creek at about 4 a.m. and regrouped on the north side of Milton Centre. The raid lasted about three hours, and they were expecting the arrival of the Militia from the fort. Now they prepared to march back to Canada and each prisoner, including Isaac, was placed under the guard of two members of the raiding party.

The Raid on Ballston resulted in many homes being burned, two residents killed - Issac Stowe, an employee of James Gordon, and Isaac's companion, John Shew.

Thirty-six others were captured, including Col. James Gordon, Cpt Tyrannus Collins, and Isaac Parmentier. A few of the captives were able to make their escape near Lake Desolation as Munro hastily led a retreat.

The attackers retraced their steps back to Middle Grove and Lake Desolation, following the Sacandaga Trail northward and on to Crown Point. Oddly, the Ballston Militia did not pursue the invading Army, as they feared that any attempts to rescue the captives would result in them being killed by their captors. This was often a threat used to dissuade pursuers from attacking.

near Lake Desolation as they were determined too old or injured to make the arduous journey north.

Several of the younger captives were adopted by their Mohawk captors. Isaac Parmentier, James Gordon, and 22 others were loaded on ships at Crown Point and reached Montreal 16 days later.

On first arrival the prisoners were under guard in a church in Montreal, then the

Of the 36 captives taken in the Raid on Ballston, four were released

from Vermont, Zadock Steele, became very familiar with the men of Balls Town and described his experiences here:

"Many of the prisoners as well as myself has only one shirt and were obliged to go without any while we washed that. We are allowed only a pound of bread and a pound of fresh beef per day. But were often robbed even a part of this humble pittance. We were kept almost entirely without firewood, having scarcely enough to cook our meat. Pinched with hunger, half naked and chilled with the cold, we were forced to our vermin ridden straw beds ... and scented with the smell of the dying and the dead".

This described Isaac's life for the winter of 1780. Their British captors at times made offers of parole if a prisoner would take up arms in support of the King.

In sharp contrast, some officers were granted paroles if they gave their word they would not take up arms again. In many cases, as with Col. Gordon, he was allowed more freedom in Montreal, even working for local businessmen in Montreal on their word as gentlemen that they would not act against their captors.

Eventually the officers taken in the Raid on Ballston were sent to prisons in Quebec City, where conditions were far better than what Isaac would face. He and 15 other Ballston men would be transported about 40 miles southwest of Montreal along the St Lawrence to the Fort at Coteau Du Lac, known as Prisoner Island.

This fort was located on an island in the middle of the St. Lawrence. Isaac was confined here for over two years, until December of 1782. Being surrounded by raging rapids of the

St. Lawrence, this prison was virtually impossible to escape, though several attempts were made, usually unsuccessfully.

(Continued on page 5)



Incident in Cherry Valley - Fate of Jane Wells. Engraver Thomas Phillibrown, from the original by Alonzo Chappel. From the Library of Congress: "Jane Wells is pleading for her life, and a man attempts to protect her from an Indian who is about to kill her. House behind them is being burned by Loyalists and Indians led by Major Walter Butler and Mohawk Chief Joseph Brant, Cherry Valley, New York."

enlisted men, including Isaac, were transferred to a large stone building in the suburbs of Montreal. Here they spent the winter of 1780 with about 200 other prisoners taken in other raids. One prisoner

Flint Honored ...

(Continued from page 1)

Troiani's Campaign to Saratoga – 1777, authored by Eric Schnitzer with illustrations by American Painter Don Troiani. Treasurer David Flint said the book reveals important detail about the Battles of Saratoga and highlights the impact the first of these two battles had on the engagement.

HONORS FOR THE DEPARTED

In the past, the Saratoga Battle Chapter has donated \$50 to a charity named by family of members who pass away. When no organization is named in the obituary, the donation has been made to the Sons of the American Revolution Foundation.

During previous discussions, many have suggested that donation instead be sent to the Friends of the Saratoga Battlefield.

Following a vote at the annual meeting, the Chapter's Executive Committee will instead decide on an individual basis where that donation should be made.

ANNUAL MEETING DATE EYED

A vote was held to reschedule the Annual

the Chapter's Bylaws.

President Companion initiated discussion on the timing of the Annual Meeting, seeking to push the date to early March to make it easier for members to attend and hopefully boost attendance. Compatriot Duane Booth said it is possible the meeting date is set in the Chapter Bylaws.

A motion was made to hold the meeting on the last Saturday of February or first weekend in March. Compatriot Booth suggested the group first check the Chapter's bylaws. The assembly approved the motion.

As it turns out, Booth's instincts were correct – the Annual Meeting and Washington's Birthday gathering is, indeed scribed in the Chapter's bylaws and cannot be changed without further steps.

The Chapter's Executive Committee in discussion later agreed that noti-

fication will be made to the membership during the September meeting to elicit discussion and ensure all are aware of the idea.



Compatriot Thomas Dunne, center, receives the Duane Booth Minuteman Award from Past President Duane Booth, at right, and Saratoga Battle Chapter President Michael Companion, at left.

Meeting and Washington's Birthday luncheon to later in February or early March – a vote which will have to be re-taken due to

Tiadaghton Elm - Fair Play Men Medal

The Pennsylvania Society, SAR proudly presents a Pennsylvania

Society Medal honoring brave patriots known as the Fair Play Men and their fight for freedom declared under an elm tree. These struggling settlers, battling a vast wilderness 200 miles from Philadelphia, were forced to

fend off British and Indian attacks. On July 4th, 1776, unaware of the actions of the Continental Congress, they signed their own Declaration of Independence. Compatriots and historians see this concurrent event as a



sign of the hand of God on the Revolution. Many of the Fair Play Men would die fighting to create a new nation. This medal may be purchased and worn by any active member of the SAR, not limited to members

of PASSAR or to descendants of the Fair Play Men who signed their Declaration under the Tiadaghton Elm. Medal sets of large and mini medals enclosed in official SAR medal cases will be struck. The medals are offered at \$40.00 per set (postage included).

Ordering Information: Please make check or money order

payable to: Tiadaghton Chapter, Don Knaus, President, 31 Nichols Street, Wellsboro, PA 16901. Or send an email to: dmknas@ptd.net.

(Continued from page 1)

safety of our families and Communities,” Museum President and CEO Dr. R. Scott Stephenson said in a press release. “The Museum of the American Revolution is currently closed, but there are many ways to explore our galleries and digital content remotely. While there’s no substitute for experiencing a museum in person and standing in the presence of authentic art and artifacts, virtual exploration is the next best thing,” Stephenson said.

VIRTUAL MUSEUM TOUR

The Virtual Museum Tour features 360-degree, high-resolution images, offering a 360-degree view of the Museum’s nearly two-story replica of America’s first Liberty Tree. The tour includes mingling of men and women from the Oneida Indian Nation discussing whether to support the British or Revolutionaries and virtual guests can navigate aboard a

large-scale replica of an 18th-century privateer ship to discover the war at sea.

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP

Go behind-the-scenes at the Museum with Scholastic’s “Beyond the Battlefield” virtual field trip to the Museum with host Lauren Tarshis. Learn the stories of two teenagers who served during the Revolutionary War and see the actual tent that George Washington lived in as he traveled with his soldiers.

READ THE REVOLUTION ARCHIVES

The Museum’s popular bi-weekly Read the Revolution e-newsletter offers a curated collection of excerpts from thought-provoking books about the American Revolution. Archived livestreams of the Museum’s Read the Revolution speaker series, including talks by Dr. Stephen Brumwell, Dr. Vincent Brown, and Dr. T.H. Breen are also available. For more information, visit www.AmRevMuseum.org or call 877.740.1776.

Isaac Parmentier ...*(Continued from page 3)*

Coteau du Lac accommodated two hundred to three hundred prisoners living in cold damp stone barracks.

Conditions here were much worse than they had experienced in Montreal. Food was scarce at times, and fuel was often lacking to fight off the cold and dampness, especially in winter.

One prisoner, John Fitch, spent a little over a year there and related the following:

“We were made to endure great cruelties and tormented by the threat of murder at every turn. ... the multitudes of men already there had become quite discontented, ready, for any mischief. Each person had barely 1.85 meters of area to call his own.” In addition to the physical hardships, two of the commandants became known for their cruelty. The first was a Tory named McDaniel, whose treatment of the captives caused them to rebel, refusing to do his bidding.

For this they were put in shackles and were

refused firewood in the dead of winter, several men suffered severe frostbite. His replacement was far worse, especially for the Ballston men, as he knew and despised many of them. His name was James McAlpin, aged 16, an officer in the Loyalist American Volunteers.

In 1777, just four years earlier, McAlpin and his family had been rounded up by James Gordon and his Ballston Militia. Forced from their homes, they fled to Canada.

Read the rest of Isaac Parmentier’s story on our website: [CLICK HERE TO READ IT](#)

(Continued from page 2)

Here is a list of some of the resources highlighted in the Institution’s inaugural newsletter:

- Explore the American Revolution Institute Online – Highlights of the museum and library collections, publications available for download, historical lectures on video and virtual exhibitions are all available on the Institute’s website found at americanrevolutioninstitute.org
- A handwritten journal penned by a Dutch lieutenant during the French & Indian War reveals the “brutality of warfare” and records an important day in the military career of George Washington – his appointment to command one of the divisions preparing to force the French and their allies out of Fort Duquesne in the late 1750s.
- The impact of smallpox during the American Revolution – and Gen. George Washington’s bout with the virus that swept through the ranks of American troops during the Revolutionary War. In the Blog article *Lessons from a Revolutionary Epidemic*, author Kathleen Higgins details the Revolutionary War history of smallpox: “Washington and his senior officers worked ceaselessly to prevent the spread of disease among their troops. There was no glory in it, but it saved lives, and ultimately saved the Revolution.”

The Inaugural newsletter of The American Revolution Institute can be found online, here is a link: [CLICK HERE TO READ IT](#).

More information, lessons and resources are available on the website of the Institute, located at <https://www.americanrevolutioninstitute.org/>. [CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE WEBSITE](#).

Editor’s note: Many thanks to Saratoga Battle Chapter Compatriot Bob Miller for sharing the Institute’s inaugural newsletter with us!



Welcome New Members!

The Saratoga Battle Chapter welcomes with open arms the newest group of compatriots. Their membership brings honor and recognition to American Patriot ancestors, listed after their names:

- Bruce C. Baird, Albany, NY - Pvt. Francis Downe - MA
- Anthony F. Hall - Bolton Landing, NY - Pvt. Robert Joel Moseley - NC
- Adrian C. Lane, II - Cambridge, NY - Capt. Joshua Holt - MA
- David F. Masten, Ballston Spa, NY - 1st Lt. Nathaniel Fillmore - VT
- Douglas W. Rodriguez, Ballston Spa, NY - PS Claude Monty Sr. - NY
- Michael J. Rodriguez, Cropseyville, NY - PS Claude Monty Sr. - NY
- Roman M. Rodriguez, Cropseyville, NY - PS Claude Monty Sr. - NY
- Jeremy S. Shank, Valatie, NY - Sgt. Samuel Wright - NY
- Robert M. Wesser, Albany, NY - Pvt. Peter Newman - NY



In Our Memories

We want to express our sincere condolences to friends and family of our compatriots who passed away recently: Edward G. Soulier Sr., 31 Jan. 2019; Arthur S. Wadsworth Sr., 12 Sept. 2019; John H. Sheaff, 1 Nov. 2019; Kenneth H. Brownell, 7 May 2019; Capt. Frederick J. Kass Jr., USN (Ret) 13 July, 2019; William D. Rockwell, 21 July 2019. May they rest in peace and honor.

Saratoga Battle Chapter, Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution

President, **Michael S. Companion**, president@saratogabattle-sar.org

1st Vice President, Michael R. Skelly, vp1@saratogabattle-sar.org

2nd VP/Secretary, Edward W. Munger, Jr., secretary@saratogabattle-sar.org

Treasurer, David L. Flint, treasurer@saratogabattle-sar.org

Registrar, Thomas L. Dunne, registrar@saratogabattle-sar.org

Genealogist, Dennis F. Marr, genealogist@saratogabattle-sar.org

Historian, Karl L. Danneil, historian@saratogabattle-sar.org

Chaplain, Charles W. Wheeler, Jr., chaplain@saratogabattle-sar.org

Editor: Edward Munger, Jr.

© 2020 Saratoga Battle Chapter, Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

Questions or comments? Phone (518) 360-1327 | or email: secretary@saratogabattle-sar.org

Send letters and mail to: Edward Munger, Jr., Secretary,

Saratoga Battle Chapter, SAR, 319 Kings Road,

Schenectady, NY, 12304

Visit Our Website <http://www.saratogabattle-sar.org/>

Find us on 