

BATTLE LINES

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

JULY 2020

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Patriot Burial Grounds Approved for Sign Funding

Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.

Historic signs honoring Revolutionary War Patriots will adorn six cemeteries with the help of \$6,600 in funding from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation's NYS Historic Marker Grant Program.

In a joint program with the Empire State Society and Saratoga Battle Chapter of the SAR, Town of Stephentown Historian Patricia Flint, wife of Saratoga Battle Chapter Treasurer David Flint, researched the history of 16 soldiers buried in six different Rensselaer County cemeteries.

Flint said restoration work with the cemetery committee began in 2009 and included clearing brush, cleaning headstones and taking pictures in the area's graveyards.

Two years of research revealed enough detail to convince the Pomeroy Foundation of the historic value of these Patriot burial sites.

"I was extremely ecstatic to hear from them ... that all six had been approved," Patricia Flint said. There are other cemeteries

in the area Flint said she hopes to see recognized. There is one cemetery on private property for which access has been denied.

There are hopes a ceremony can take place to unveil the new markers near Veteran's Day but plans were not yet certain in late June.

All of the signs – the distinctive historic signs seen throughout New York – will have yellow lining and print with a blue background.

As an example, one of the six signs will read as follows:

PATRIOT BURIALS

STEPHENTOWN CEMETERY

BURIALS AS EARLY AS CA. 1792.

FOUR REVOLUTIONARY WAR

VETERANS INTERRED

HERE 1792-1837.

WILLIAM G. POMEROY
FOUNDATION 2020

Treasurer David Flint said it's his understanding the signs will include the logo of the Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

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Brockway Cemetery is one of six burial sites where Revolutionary War Veterans will be recognized following successful grant applications by Stephentown Historian Patricia Flint. The William G. Pomeroy Foundation approved \$6,600 for the projects from its NYS Historic Marker Grant Program. Photo provided by David Flint.

Battlefield Protection Funds Awarded

Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.

Federal funding will help protect New York land where Revolutionary War Patriots clashed with the British and their allies.

About 100 acres of land is being purchased with \$162,323 in federal grant funding, according to a news release from the National Park Service.

The Town of Fort Ann in Washington County and Chemung County

(Continued on page 5)

INSIDE:

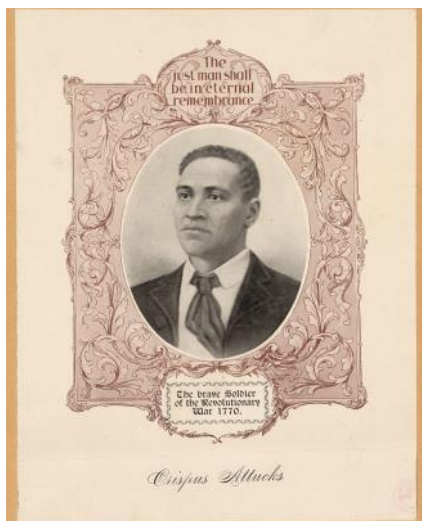
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War Exhibit Extended

The stories of free and enslaved African Americans who fought on both sides of the American Revolution will be featured in an extended exhibition at the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

Temporarily closed during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the museum was scheduled to re-open on June 24 and the "Forgotten Soldier" exhibition will be continued to July 8, according to a press release from the Jamestown Settlement and American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

Using artwork, artifacts and historic documents, the exhibition delves into the experiences of



Crispus Attucks Memorial portrait, Circa 1897. From the Library of Congress.

African American soldiers who either took up arms for Independence or fought with the British with the hope of gaining freedom.

Figures featured in the exhibit include Crispus Attucks, a former slave with American Indian and African heritage who was killed in the Boston Massacre.

African American slave Bristol Rhodes secured his freedom when he joined the Rhode Island Regiment. Rhodes lost a leg and a hand to cannon fire.

Learn more about the Forgotten Soldier exhibition and other features of the American Revolution Museum on the web at www.historyisfun.org.

Upcoming Events

Independence Day Citizenship Ceremony CANCELED

The Saturday, July 4, public event at Saratoga National Historical Park was canceled due to COVID-19.

Fourth of July Cannon Salute

Join the 2nd Continental Artillery Regiment for a spirited celebration of our nation's independence. Using four artillery pieces, they will fire 13 rounds to commemorate each colony, with the last round being a feu de joyeux, with all guns. Rather than gathering at the site, spectators will be able to view this event via live-stream on Facebook. Headphone users beware! LIVE VIDEO by Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site [CLICK HERE TO VISIT](#).

Turning Point Parade CANCELED

August 2 in Schuylerville, canceled due to COVID-19.

Chapter Meeting and Wreath Ceremony TENTATIVE

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 Chapter meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. and a dinner will follow at 5:30 pm.

Surrender Day Ceremony TENTATIVE

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. **Note: Visit our website for updated event information. [CLICK HERE](#) to visit.**

Remote Options For Family History Conference

Family history experts will gather to share stories and tips during the 2020 New York State Family History conference taking place September 10 – 30.

As of late June, in-person activities were still planned, but the conference may also take place virtually, according to the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society.

Programs on the event schedule include: A beginner workshop for Germany Ancestry, NYS Canal records and Where to Find

Them in New York Repositories; Uncharted Waters: Diving Into the Holdings of the New York State Archives; New York vs. New Hampshire and Vermont: Records and Research in the Late 18th Century; British Colonial Period in NYS: Resources Available at the NYSL; DNA Signatures of Mayflower Passengers and more.

Visit the organization's events website to learn more and register: newyorkfamilyhistory.org/

Battlefield Tour Road To Reopen

Saratoga National Historical Park will be opening the Battlefield Tour Road that's been closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The park on June 22 announced a target date for **July 1** to allow access to the road for vehicles

from 9 am to 5 pm.

Still closed are the Visitor Center, Saratoga Monument, Neilson House, and the Schuyler House.

Learn more about the park online at www.nps.gov/sara

Removal Ordered For Schuyler Statue

Submitted By Edward Munger Jr.

The statue of Revolutionary War General Philip Schuyler, installed in downtown Albany in 1925, was ordered removed by Albany Mayor Kathy M. Sheehan, according to a June 11 press release from the City of Albany.

A native of Albany and one of four Major Generals appointed as the Revolutionary War began, Schuyler served in the French & Indian War before then. He came from a wealthy family, many of his ancestors served as Mayors of Colonial Albany.

Schuyler's practice of owning slaves prompted complaints to the City, according to the press release.

Treasurer Darius Shahinfar, one of several city officials providing statements in the press release, stated the following:

"I fully support the removal of the Philip Schuyler statue from in front of City Hall, to a more appropriate location that will properly put into context his legacy to Albany, the State of New York and America. No one should forget his contributions as a military commander in the Revolution, as an Alderman in our City of Albany, as a member of the Continental Congress, as a New York State Assemblymember and Senator, and as



The Philip Schuyler Statue as seen in 2017. Photo Illustration by Edward Munger Jr.

a U.S. Senator. However, we can and will no longer whitewash the fact that his prominence and public service was supported by his 'ownership' of the largest number of enslaved people in our region."

A HUSBAND'S LOVE

Schuyler is portrayed in his military uniform in the statue. It was unveiled June 14, 1925 in front of a crowd of several thousand people, according to a June 15, front page article in the Knickerbocker Press.

The bronze sculpture was commissioned as a gift to the city of Albany from George C. Hawley in honor of his wife, Theodora Millard Hawley, who died October 12, 1922.

The artwork was the creation of J. Massey Rhind, whose works include bronze portraits of presidents Roosevelt, Harding and Taft, among other pieces.

Hawley was a prominent Albany businessman who is described as a philanthropist in the newspaper article. He was owner of the Dobler Brewing Company.

After he died, a 1928 article in the Albany Times Union reports that Hawley left large sums of money to the people who worked for his company.

Details of the June, 1925 unveiling of the Philip Schuyler statue, which included a parade, are preserved by Ancestry.com, in a copy of the program that was passed out on

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New App Offers Yorktown Tour

People can tour the Yorktown Battlefield from the safety of their own homes with the help of a new App developed by the American Battlefield Trust.

The Yorktown Tour Guide brings guests to the site of the final major battle of the American Revolutionary War, pitting George Washington against General Charles Cornwallis.

People can download the app for use from

anywhere, according to a press release from American Battlefield Trust.

Using photos and audio content, the app provides tours of three elements of the national park's focus on Yorktown.

Featured are the battlefield of 1781; the encampment shared by the American and French allies and historical sites of the community of York Town that dates back to 1691.

The Yorktown app is among more than a dozen created by American Battlefield Trust, an organization dedicated to preserving America's battlegrounds and educating the public about them.

People can visit their app store or get an easy link on the American Battlefield Trust website at battlefields.org.

Cemetery Signs ...

(Continued from page 1)

All six cemeteries will receive signs recognizing these patriots' roles in the American Revolution.

According to a list of details provided by the Flints, the cemeteries and patriots to be recognized are as follows:

BROCKWAY CEMETERY, MADDEN ROAD

Privates Justus Brockway and Simeon Gardner of the 4th Regiment Albany County Militia.

GARFIELD CEMETERY, GARFIELD ROAD

Captain Israel Platt of Graham's Regiment NY Militia and Captain John Wylie of John Douglas Regiment, CT., Wylie was the Town of Stephentown's first Town Supervisor, serving from 1791 – 1794.

STEPHENTOWN CEMETERY, CEMETERY HILL ROAD (ALSO KNOWN AS BAPTIST)

Private Daniel Brown of the 4th Regiment Albany County Militia, Captain Asa Douglas, NY Militia; Captain William Douglass who served under Colonels Benjamin Simond & Jos Henshaw; and Pvt Abel Tanner of the 4th Regiment Albany County Militia. Brown was elevated to the rank of Major after the war.



The grave marker of Captain Israel Platt of Graham's Regiment, NY Militia, is in Garfield Cemetery in Stephentown. Photo courtesy of David Flint

Asa Douglas fought at Ticonderoga in 1775 and served as the chairman of the Berkshire County Committee of Safety in 1776.

STEPHENTOWN CENTER BAPTIST CEMETERY, CALVIN COLE ROAD

Captain Oliver Barrett, 2nd Regiment, Berkshire County Militia

DENISON-JONES CEMETERY, EAST ROAD

Captain Stephen Arnold of the 4th Regiment Albany County Militia; Sergeant Daniel Denison Jr. of the 4th Regiment Albany County Militia; Captain James Denison of NY Militia and 2nd Lieutenant James Jones of NY Militia. Arnold's great-grandson was U.S. Senator Stephen Douglas. Jones was elevated to the rank of Major.

PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY, PRESBYTERIAN HILL

Private Elisha Egleston of NY Militia; Sergeant Beriah Holcomb of the 4th Regiment Albany County Militia and Lieutenant Hosea Moffitt of the 4th Regiment Albany County Militia.

Moffitt was later promoted to Brigadier General and served as Town Supervisor, Sheriff, NY Assemblyman and as a U.S. Congressman.

The William G. Pomeroy Foundation's New York State Historic Marker Grant Program recognizes historic events and people from the time period of 1740 to 1920. Since it started in 2006, the organization has paid for more than 600 signs in more than 50 New York counties.

President's Dispatch

Chapter President Michael Companion

Sadly, there is really not much to report as far as Chapter activities, or upcoming events.

We have all had to adapt to a new reality we could not have imagined three months ago, which has forced us to deal with unforeseen challenges - closed businesses and schools, loss of employment, unexpected loss of loved ones, feeling of isolation, or just a feeling of having no control over what comes next.

These are extraordinary times in our country. Life has many ways of testing us, either by having nothing at all happen, or having everything happen at once.

While we all feel inconvenienced at this point, we have to

remember that this will pass, and we can look forward to a return to some normalcy and seeing each other, hopefully in the not too distant future.

I hope you and your families are healthy, which is all that really matters.

- Michael Companion



Battlefields ...

(Continued from page 1)

are partnering with American Battlefield Trust to preserve parts of the Fort Ann and Newtown battlefields, according to the National Park Service.

Details provided by the National Park Service are as follows:

Fort Ann Battlefield: \$49,473 will fund the acquisition of 40.84 acres of the core and study area of the Battle of Ft. Ann in Washington County, New York. The property will be protected in perpetuity with a conservation easement held by the Agricultural Stewardship Association. This battle, fought on July 8, 1777, was an engagement between Continental Army forces in retreat from Fort Ticonderoga and the British Army early in the Saratoga campaign of the American Revolutionary War.

Newtown Battlefield: \$112,850 will buy 63.9 acres of the Newtown Battlefield to be added to Newtown Battlefield State Park. The battle was part of the Continental Army's Sullivan Campaign, ordered by General George Washington, on Aug. 29, 1779, during the American Revolution. British troops and their Native allies retreated from the region following their defeat on this frontier.

Funding for these battlefields in New York State is part of a total of \$923,314, announced in late April 2020, to protect about 207 acres

of battlefield lands.

These grants are important opportunities for cooperation among governments and nonprofit organizations, according to the National Park Service.

"Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants create partnerships among state and local governments and nonprofit organizations to act quickly and proactively to preserve and protect nationally significant battlefields," National Park Service Deputy Director David Vela said in the news release.

"This grant program leverages local community commitments and provides opportunities to experience our shared heritage," Vela said.

The National Park Service outlined the grant program as follows:

The Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant program, administered by the American Battlefield Protection Program, provides up to 50% in matching funds for state and local governments to acquire and preserve threatened Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War Battlefield land through the purchase of land in fee simple and permanent, protective interests in land. Eligible battlefields are listed in the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission's 1993 "Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields" and the 2007 "Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States."

Schuyler statue ...

(Continued from page 3)

the day of the event.

The program includes the inscription on the statue, which reads:

**PRESENTED IN LOVING
MEMORY OF HIS WIFE,
THEODORA M. HAWLEY, TO THE
CITY OF ALBANY BY GEORGE C.
HAWLEY.**

Citizens' Committee Hon. William S. Hackett, Mayor; Frank B. Graves, Hon. William E. Woollard; Dr. Arthur W. Elting. MCMXXV

The program also describes more of the background behind Hawley's choice of gestures to honor his wife:

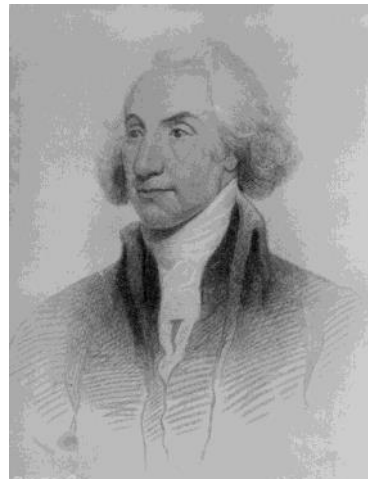
"In November 1923, Mr. Hawley, an ardent student of the

American Revolution, conceived the plan of perpetuating the memory of his beloved wife, of signaling his desire to beautify the City of Albany and of honoring the name of a native Albanian who was one of the creators of this Republic, by erecting a portrait statue of heroic size of Major General Philip Schuyler."

TIME CAPSULE

The program also details what they stored in a bronze chest that's described as being "INCASED IN MONUMENT."

Time capsule contents: Munsell's Annals of Albany, 10 volumes; Hopkins' Atlas of City of Albany, 1876; Current Map of City of Albany; Current Directory of City of Albany; Current Albany

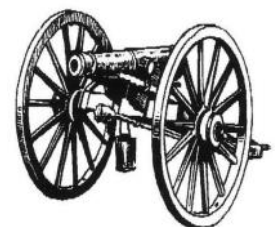


*A portrait of Revolutionary War
General Philip John Schuyler*

Newspapers, Photographs of Theodora Millard Hawley; Photographs of George Clement Hawley; Photographs of Hawley residence, Albany, N.Y.; Photograph of Mausoleum of Mr. and Mrs. George Clement Hawley, Rural Cemetery, Albany,

N.Y.; Memorabilia of Hawley and Amsdell Families; Photographs and life sketches of members of Monument Committee, viz.: Dr. Arthur W. Elting; Frank B. Graves, Esq., Hon. William S. Hackett, Mayor of City of Albany, and Hon. William E. Woollard; Bag containing current and obsolete United States coins; Envelope containing current and obsolete United States paper currency; Copy of this dedicatory volume.

As of June 20, 2020, the removal of the Philip Schuyler statue had not yet taken place.



Eleazer French's Arm

Submitted By Thomas L. Dunne

Editor's note: This poem, written by Eleanor W. F. Bates, honors Eleazer French, brother of Samuel F. French, an ancestor of our Chapter Registrar Thomas L. Dunne. Three of the French brothers were in the June, 1775 Battle of Bunker Hill.

When dwelling on the heroes of field, re-
doubt and trench,

Shall we not tell the story of young Eleazer
French?

With fowling piece and powder horn

Under the clear June starlight borne,

They labored till the early morn

On Bunker's honored height;

Long hours the pick and shovel plied,

And each who, weary, stepped aside,

Found eagerly his place supplied

Throughout the summer night.

No stouter hearts of stronger frame

Were there, with patriot fire aflame,

Than those from Dunstable that came

To battle for the right.

And when the invading force was met,

With powder grime and bloody sweat,

The farmers' flintlocks paid the debt

They owed to Howe's great guns.

Muskets of old-time minute men!

Ye told the story once again,

How tyrants doubt and falter when



Assemble Freedom's sons.

Full soon they heard the bugle call

And saw the young Eleazer fall,

Where sped the British cannon ball

Upon the path of harm.

"Fall back! keep safe from further ill!"

They shouted; he, unconquered still,

Quoth stoutly, and with steadfast will,

"No! not without my arm!"

The severed limb all bleeding lay,

But he who fought that glorious day,

Took it upon his anguished way

And left no trophy there;

Racked with fierce pains and bitter qualms,

Fainting, and stunned with war's alarms,

Bravely he bore off both his arms

To show what soldiers dare.

O ye who sing our heroes of parapet and
trench,

Fail not to tell the story of brave Eleazer
French!

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