

# BATTLE LINES

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

OCTOBER 2020

VOLUME XXIV, ISSUE III

## Unknown Soldiers Honored On Battlefield

*Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.*

Descendants of American Patriots gathered to remember unknown soldiers of the American Revolutionary War on September 20.

Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution joined compatriots from the Sons of the American Revolution to lay memorial wreaths at the Monument to the Unknown American Dead at Saratoga National Historical Park.

The Saratoga Battle Chapter Color Guard marched ceremoniously to the monument in 18th Century American military uniforms before posting the flags adjacent to the stone marker.

Color Guard members on the scene included Saratoga Battle Chapter President Michael

Companion, First Vice President Michael Skelly, Chapter Past President Doug Gallant, Compatriot Peter Hormell; and Bob Wesser, David Wren, Bradley Allen and Mary Skelly.

Wreaths were presented by Douglas M. "Tim" Mabee, VPG, New England District, Sons of the American Revolution; Diane Russell, Vice Regent, Saratoga Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR); Tamaris Dalton, Regent, James McCrea Chapter, NSDAR; Kristen Moore, Regent, Peter Gansevoort Chapter, NSDAR; Judith Peck, Regent, Schenectady Chapter, NSDAR; Elizabeth Moore, President, Schuyler Society, Children of the American Revolution; and

*(Continued on page 4)*



### *Continued Tradition*

*Representatives of the Sons of the American Revolution gathered with members of the Daughters of the American Revolution for the Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Monument to the Unknown American Dead on September 20, 2020. Photo by Ed Munger*

## Recognizing Patriot Burial Sites

*Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.*

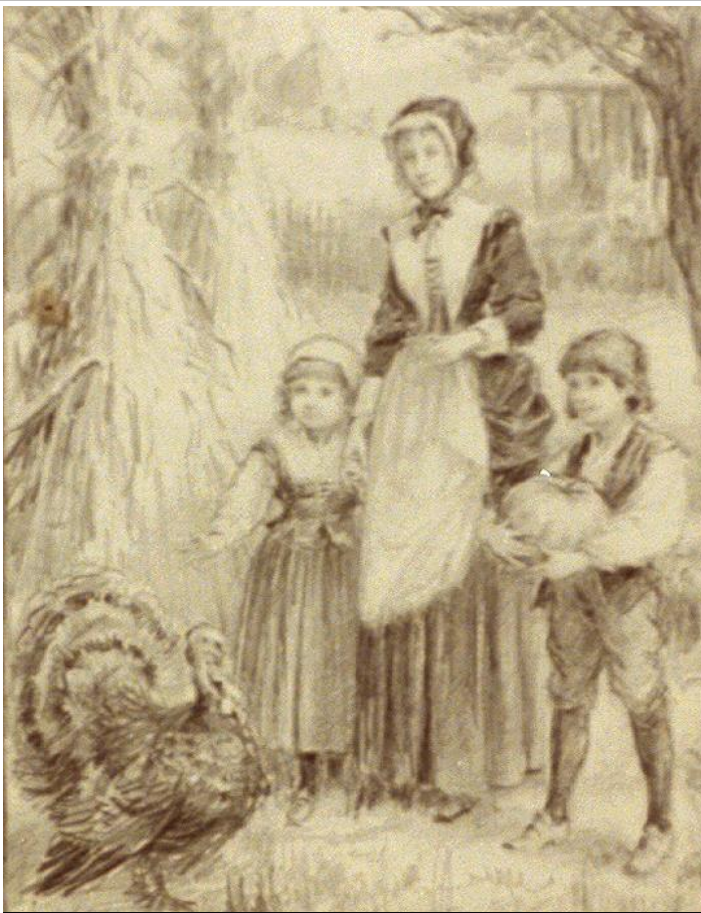
The Saratoga Battle Chapter is joining in an effort to ensure that Revolutionary War-era Patriots are recognized and never forgotten.

The William G. Pomeroy Foundation is helping

*(Continued on page 4)*

### **INSIDE:**

- ⇒ **LETTER: SCHUYLER STATUE**—pg. 3
- ⇒ **UPCOMING EVENTS**—pg. 2
- ⇒ **RHODES MEMORIAL FUND GRANTS**—pg. 2
- ⇒ **COMPATRIOT LAID TO REST** —pg. 5
- ⇒ **RESEARCH TOOLS AVAILABLE**—pg. 6



*The Youth's Companion, Thanksgiving Number (1865 – 1935).  
Pencil, by artist Frederick Dielman, (1847-1935). From the  
Library of Congress.*

## Upcoming Events

### Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony

Saturday, Nov. 07, 1:00 p.m.—A dedication ceremony is planned at Veteran's Park, Stephentown, for new historic markers honoring Revolutionary War soldiers. Burial sites were recovered by volunteers and documented by Stephentown Historian Patricia Flint to win grant funding from the Pomeroy Foundation. The Saratoga Battle Chapter Color Guard plans to attend, and a cannon fire salute is possible.

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



## Dues For 2021 Can Be Paid Online

As symbols of our nation's history face increasing threats of destruction, your continued membership recognizing the sacrifices of your ancestors is essential. Please remember that dues can now be paid conveniently online!

2021 membership dues total \$55 and if paid online the processing fee of \$1.54 makes it a total of \$56.54. For those not accustomed to the system that went online last year, you will need your National Member Number, Empire State Society Member Number, and your zip code that's on file. The process is outlined on the website of the Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution. You can view the webpage at the following link: <https://www.ess-sar.org>.

### Rhodes Memorial Fund Grants

We want to express our gratitude to the Lawrence I. & Blanche H. Rhodes Memorial Fund, Inc. for providing grant funding to the Saratoga Battle Chapter.

The Fund announced grants provided this year to several organizations:

- Gen. Peter Gansevoort Chapter, NSDAR Van Schaick Mansion Project: \$20,250
- Schuyler Society, N.S.C.A.R.: \$750
- Saratoga Battle Chapter, SAR: \$1,000



# Correspondence

Compatriot Michael Companion,  
I have rarely involved myself as a member of the Saratoga Battle Chapter.

Right now, I cannot keep quiet. I am and have always been a political Independent. I am a descendant of at least six American Patriots. All were farmers. None were slave owners.

I am also an amateur historian and have both studied and practiced genealogy for a number of years.

I am incensed at the current effort to attack memorials to Revolutionary War Patriots, recognized by lineage societies like ours or not, who may have owned slaves at a time when slavery was a socially acceptable practice.

These men and women had frailties like all of us. Some of those frailties are well known,

others are not to historians who may have researched their lives.

Slave ownership, however, was not a frailty then.

Neither Christianity nor any other faith had an issue with slave ownership. Slavery was legal, just as ownership of livestock or real estate was legal.

We cannot apply the societal values of 2020 to 1780. Neither should we be denigrating the memory of the men and women who fought and provided leadership in our War for Independence.

Mayor Sheehan was wrong to order the removal of General Schuyler's memorial from the forecourt of the Albany, NY City Hall.

He is a part of the proud history of New York. Political correctness cannot and should not attempt to erase that.



I would encourage a public expression by the Saratoga Battle Chapter NSSAR of nonsupport of any effort to remove any memorial to a Revolutionary War Patriot in our region.

I would further support heavy prosecution of persons who damage or deface memorials to our history and our heroes in our region.

Compatriot David A. Marsh

## Letters Encouraged

Compatriots and their loved ones and others with input regarding the American Revolution, the Saratoga Battle Chapter or other germane topics are encouraged to send letters for inclusion in an upcoming edition of *BATTLE LINES*. Send letters to: Battle Lines Newsletter, C/O Ed Munger, Secretary, Saratoga Battle Chapter SAR, 319 Kings Road, Schenectady, New York, 12304. Letters can also be sent via email to: [secretary@saratogabattle-sar.org](mailto:secretary@saratogabattle-sar.org)

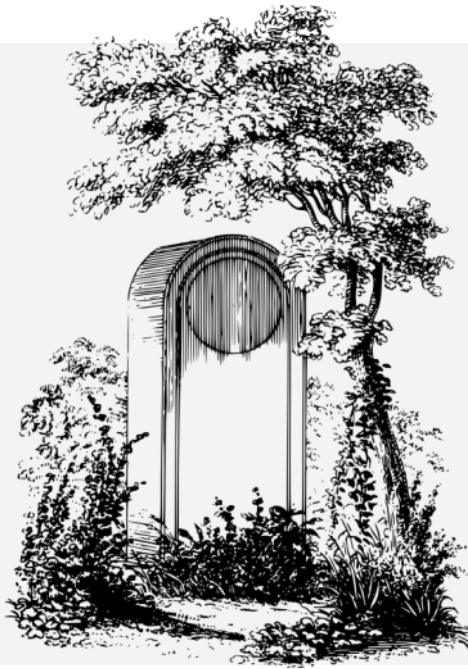


## ***Patriot burials ...***

*(Continued from page 1)*

the Empire State Society, SAR and SAR chapters statewide apply for grants to install historic markers on sites that serve as final resting places for American Patriots.

The Pomeroy Foundation's New York State Historic Marker Grant Program provides grant funding to pay for the marker for successful applications.



You can learn more about the program on the Foundation's website at this link: <https://www.wgpfoundation.org/history/nys-historic-markers/>

Those who believe they have a likely candidate for recognition can contact Chapter Secretary Edward Munger Jr. via email at: [secretary@saratogabattle-sar.org](mailto:secretary@saratogabattle-sar.org).

## ***Unknowns honored ...***

*(Continued from page 1)*

Doug Gallant, Past President, Saratoga Battle Chapter, SAR.

In his Invocation, Saratoga Battle Chapter Chaplain Charlie Wheeler called for all Americans to recognize the examples of the unknown soldiers who sacrificed their lives in Saratoga.

"Almighty God, in whose name the founders of our country won liberties and the torch of freedom. Let us recognize those who came together on this site in the fall of 1777 to stop the onslaught of Burgoyne's troops before they could reach Albany and the Hudson Valley. We are here today to honor those who lost their lives in this quest. It is through their belief in liberty that the victory here was indeed the turning point of the American Revolution. We beseech thee that we and all Americans follow their example and selflessly

work to maintain the liberties they fought and died for. Let us go forth into the world with courage, grace, and the knowledge that thee will guide us to do what is good for our neighbors, the citizens of these United State and for those in need around the world. We ask the blessings of god the Father, God the son, and god the Holy Ghost, be with you always. Amen."

### **MONUMENT NEARLY 90 YEARS OLD**

The Monument to the Unknown American Dead, also known as the "DAR Monument," is the largest in Saratoga National Historical Park.

The obelisk features a radiant sunrise representing the dawn of liberty. It displays 13 stars for the original 13 states; a sword to symbolize death and a laurel wreath for victory.

It was erected in 1931 after the DAR held a fundraiser and raised \$11,000 for its construction by asking for

thirty cents from each of the organization's members nationwide, according to the National Park Service.

It is inscribed with the following words:

"To  
unknown  
American  
Soldiers  
who



perished in the Battles of Saratoga, Sept. 19 and Oct. 7, 1777, and were here buried in unmarked graves, helped to assure the triumph of the War of Independence, to create the Republic of the United States of America and to establish liberty throughout the world. In honor of these patriots, and in recognition of the bicentennial of the birth of George Washington, this memorial is erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution of New York State, 1931."

# Compatriot Laid To Rest

A longtime compatriot credited with boosting cooperation between SAR chapters was honored with canon fire and a Revolutionary War-era salute.

The Walloomsac Battle Chapter Color Guard and Bauman's Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Artillery attended the interment ceremony for compatriot John H. Sheaff at the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery. A Navy Veteran, Sheaff was a past president of the Walloomsac Battle Chapter and a dual member of the Saratoga Battle Chapter.

Representing the SAR were: Michael Skelly, VP of the Walloomsac Battle

chapter; Douglas Gallant, past President of the Saratoga Battle Chapter; Peter Hormell, Walloomsac Battle Chapter President and David Wren. Photos Provided by Peter Hormell



John H. Sheaff



L-R: Walloomsac Battle Chapter VP Michael Skelly, Saratoga Battle Chapter Past President Douglas Gallant; Walloomsac Battle Chapter President Peter Hormell and David Wren.



L-R Michael Skelly, VP of the Walloomsac Battle chapter; Douglas Gallant, Past President of the Saratoga Battle Chapter; David Wren and Walloomsac Battle Chapter President Peter Hormell.





# Newspaper Images Now Among Free Research Tools

Millions of historic newspaper images are now available to search thanks to

a machine learning project from the Library of Congress. Digitized newspapers can now be searched for images with the Newspaper Navigator. To use the system, simply enter a keyword which will

return a variety of photos. Then, you can choose photos of the kind you seek and other images related to those chosen will be shown. Visit the newspaper navigator at the following link: <https://news-navigator.labs.loc.gov/search>



## Some Ancestry Research Is Free

If you're looking to learn more about your ancestors, be sure to take a look at the free collections available from Ancestry.com. Not everyone can afford a subscription – but the genealogy site does provide some search options without charge. Free collections anyone

can search include the New York City Birth Index, 1878 – 1909; the NYC Marriage Index, 1866 – 1937, and the NYC Death Index, 1862 – 1948. Also free are the U.S. Naturalization Record Indexes, 1791 – 1992; U.S., Newspaper Extrac-

tions from the Northeast, 1704 – 1930, the New York, Jewish Holocaust Survivor Names printed in Aufbau Newspaper, 1944-1946; and Colonial Families of the USA, 1607-1775. Visit the New York page on Ancestry at this link: [https://www.ancestry.com/search/places/usa/new\\_york/](https://www.ancestry.com/search/places/usa/new_york/)

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

President, **Michael S. Companion**, [president@saratogabattle-sar.org](mailto:president@saratogabattle-sar.org)  
1st Vice President, Michael R. Skelly, [vp1@saratogabattle-sar.org](mailto:vp1@saratogabattle-sar.org)  
2nd VP/Secretary, Edward W. Munger, Jr., [secretary@saratogabattle-sar.org](mailto:secretary@saratogabattle-sar.org)

Treasurer, David L. Flint, [treasurer@saratogabattle-sar.org](mailto:treasurer@saratogabattle-sar.org)  
Registrar, Thomas L. Dunne, [registrar@saratogabattle-sar.org](mailto:registrar@saratogabattle-sar.org)  
Genealogist, Dennis F. Marr, [genealogist@saratogabattle-sar.org](mailto:genealogist@saratogabattle-sar.org)  
Historian, Karl L. Danneil, [historian@saratogabattle-sar.org](mailto:historian@saratogabattle-sar.org)  
Chaplain, Charles W. Wheeler, Jr., [chaplain@saratogabattle-sar.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 