

BATTLE LINES

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
DECEMBER 2020

VOLUME XXIV, ISSUE IV

Veterans Honored In Stephentown

Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.

People who gathered to recognize veterans in Stephentown were among the first to set eyes on a new series of cast iron markers bound for the final resting places of Patriots.

Warm weather greeted the crowd in Stephentown's Veterans Park November 7, where a temporary display of the signs was set up.

Six cast iron signs were obtained with a \$6,600 grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation's NYS Historic Marker Grant Program.

The Town of Stephentown and Empire State Society, Sons of the American

Revolution cooperated on the application for a grant, written by Stephentown Historian Patricia Flint.

The town provided the skill and workmanship for the sign installation.

In all, 16 Patriots are named on this series of six signs, one for each appropriate cemetery.

VETERANS REMEMBERED

Dozens of people attended the celebration – an annual event the Town of Stephentown holds during the week of the Veterans Day holiday.

Words of remembrance were spoken not only for the Revolutionary War soldiers but also for local veterans of

(Continued on page 4)



Stephentown Honors Veterans

Dozens gathered in Veterans Park in Stephentown Nov. 7 for a ceremony recognizing veterans from the American Revolution to modern wars.

Chapter Supports Historic Site Repairs

Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.

The historic home that once sheltered Patriots planning the Battles of Saratoga became the subject of an urgent repair project this fall after caretakers found severe deterioration.

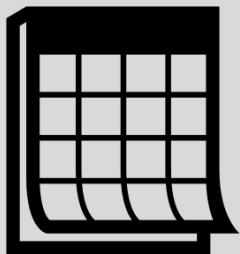
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Upcoming Events

At the time of this printing, the Covid-19 Pandemic continued to leave future



events uncertain.

We still hope to hold our Annual Meeting and Washington's Birthday

Luncheon that takes place near George Washington's birthday.

Plans are tentative at this point, but please stay tuned to our website or Facebook Page to learn details once they are set.

Below is a link to our website:

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

You can find our Facebook Page at this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/SaratogaBattleSAR>

Letters Welcome

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

President's Dispatch

Submitted By Michael Companion

Greetings Compatriots,

As 2020 comes to an end I can only think, 2021 has got to be better.

In a recent discussion with a coworker, I summed up 2020 as the year that never was. A year which put our lives on hold, including the activities of our Chapter.

I hold out hope that we will be able to hold our annual February Meeting, to take care of Chapter business, but also as an opportunity to meet with the membership for fellowship.

As we know, the strength of any organization is dependent on the commitment of the membership to the goals and vision of that organization, unfortunately circumstances this year limited our opportunities to take part in this process.

At most Chapter meetings we typically see the same friendly, familiar faces, mixed with a few new members and their families.

For me, one individual in particular has always been a standout at the meetings, in the person of Dennis Marr.

Dennis always catches my attention because he always has a chest full of bling - medals and ribbons which he wears to commemorate his service to the Chapter over the past 27 years.

I would probably guess that Dennis has earned every award the Chapter has to offer, which includes our highest honor, the Duane Booth Minuteman Award.

The success of our Chapter has in large part been due to members such as Dennis.

I bring this up, because Dennis recently informed me that in the upcoming year he was going to step back from his responsibilities to the Chapter.

While his assistance to the Chapter as the current Genealogist will be missed, he has certainly earned the right to relinquish his duties to the next generation.

Since 1993, Dennis has served in a number of official positions, including Registrar and Genealogist, as well as President from 1997-2000.

Additionally, for as long as I can remember Dennis has represented the Chapter as the presenter of the ROTC Award to cadets at LaSalle Institute.

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Statue Restoration Project Draws Support

Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.



A monument to the 77th Regiment, NY Volunteers before it was destroyed in 2020. Photo by Howard C. Ohlhaus taken Feb 20, 2011 for the [Historical Marker Database](#)

The Sons of Union Veterans Of

The Civil War raised \$8,400 by December 11, 2020 towards a \$20,000 goal to support restoring the destroyed statue in Congress Park, Saratoga Springs.

The Saratoga Battle Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution received a warm thank-you letter from the Col. G. L. Willard Camp

154, the local camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), for the chapter's \$250 donation to the cause.

The statue, destroyed by vandals in July 2020, recognizes the regiment from which nearly 300 soldiers died fighting for the Union in the Civil War.

People can learn more or donate to the cause on the Go Fund Me website at the following link:

<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/restoration-of-saratoga-springs-77th-soldier-monument-civil-war>



Pieces of a monument to the 77th Regiment, NY Volunteers are seen laying on the ground in Congress Park, Saratoga Springs in this 2020 image from the [Facebook Page of the Saratoga History Museum](#).

Welcome New Members!

Submitted By Duane Booth

We express a patriotic welcome to our newest members, listed here with the names of their Patriot ancestors who are honored and recognized by their membership:

- Bret D. Canary - CANTON, NY; Soldier Frederick Britt-NY
- Michael J. Canary - SCHENECTADY, NY; Soldier Frederick Britt-NY
- Brandon A. Episcopo - VERNON, NY; Pvt Conrad Mattice-NY
- Matthew A. Episcopo - COHOES, NY; Pvt Conrad Mattice-NY
- Michael P. Golden - BALLSTON SPA, NY; Lt Wessel Salisbury-NY

- Jamey T. Goodwill-Rogers - RAVENA, NY; Ens John Keeler-CT
- Shaun H. Graham - BROADALBIN, NY; Pvt Thaddeus Dewey-MA
- Christopher P. Greene - WATERFORD, NY; Cpl William Manley-MA
- Brian Hunt - SLINGERLANDS, NY; Pvt Jacob Constantine-MA
- David J. Kehn - COHOES, NY; Cpl William Manley-MA
- Eric D. Kehn - UPPER MARLBORO, MD; Cpl William Manley-MA
- Jacob T. Love - PHILIPSBURG, PA; Ens John Gearhart-PA

- Stephen R. Sammons - BURNT HILLS, NY; Ens Sampson Sammons-NY

A warm welcome to our New Dual State & Chapter member.

Member Name and Hometown and Patriots

Gary J. Hoyt – CANTON, GA* Ens Benjamin Martin-VA (Primary); Capt Stephen Niles-NY (Supplemental)

* Gary joined here to honor his ancestor Stephen Niles who served in the 4th Albany County Militia Regiment commanded by Col. Kilian Van Rensselaer.

Stephentown veterans ...

modern wars: Tom McVeigh, Frank Bailey and Joe Bruno, who passed away recently.

They were all recognized as playing a role in the development of the Stephentown Veterans Park.

Those attending the event included the Color Guard of the Saratoga Battle Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution; members of the Daughters of the American Revolution (some dressed in colonial garb); the Stephentown Veterans Group; the Stephentown Historical Society and members the Sons of the American Revolution from several chapters including Saratoga

Battle Chapter.

Also in attendance and providing remarks were New York State Assemblyman Jake Ashby; Rensselaer County Executive Steven F. McLaughlin and Rensselaer County Legislator Bruce Patire.

The occasion featured the roar of a Revolutionary War-era cannon replica, courtesy of the recreated Bauman's Company, Second Continental Artillery Regiment.

The educational group of re-enactors provided a tour of the cannon station after the event.

View a video of the event at this link:

<https://youtu.be/WiPdubUzBOM>



Historic markers to honor Rensselaer County Veterans of the Revolutionary War were unveiled during a veterans ceremony in Stephentown on November 7. Photo by Ed Munger.



Members of the recreated 2nd Continental Artillery Regiment fired off a Revolutionary War-era cannon replica during a veterans remembrance event in Stephentown November 7. Photo by Ed Munger.



In Remembrance

We bow our heads for a moment of silence in honor of our brethren compatriots who passed away recently:

- Russel S. Stocker, Jr., June 17, 2020
- John Bruce McKinley, September 08, 2020

- Paul Henry Goebel, December 10, 2020

To family and friends, we wish you peace to bring you comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your heart.

VanSchaick Mansion ...

(Continued from page 1)

Officers of the Saratoga Battle Chapter agreed to donate \$500 to the Van Schaick Mansion Project's work to preserve the 18th Century home situated on an island at the confluence of the Mohawk and Hudson rivers.

Built around 1735, Van Schaick Mansion in Cohoes served as a military headquarters during the French & Indian War and later hosted thousands of Continental soldiers gearing up for the Battles of Saratoga.

Now owned by the General Peter Gansevoort Chapter of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, the building's porch was leaning, and further inspection revealed deteriorated support beams and flooring, according to the Van Schaick Mansion Project.

Emergency structural repairs cost \$15,000 the group reported.

The one and one-half-story early Dutch residence was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971.

The property once hosted a Revolutionary War camp on a hill overlooking the Hudson River, and, later, the wedding between Catherine Van Schaick and Colonel Peter Gansevoort, according to historic detail on the nonprofit's website at vanschaickmansion.org.

It was in this home that John G. Van Schaick, a

third-generation member of the Van Schaick family in America, provided a large loan of gold to the Continental Army's Brigadier General and Adjutant General Horatio Gates - for war supplies.

The loan went unpaid by Congress, which said

the general had no authority to take a loan, according to the website.

Efforts to preserve the 285-year-old home rely on two main events: An Annual Cocktail Party and a Ghost Event held in October.

Neither function could take place

under severe restrictions imposed by state government in reaction to the Coronavirus pandemic during 2020.

As volunteers await the ability to resume normal operations, a fundraising campaign is ongoing and they welcome donations from anyone interested in helping to save this historic treasure.

To help, make checks payable to the Van Schaick Mansion Project and send to: **VSMP Treasurer, Sandy Zerrillo, 29 Erie Drive, Slingerlands, NY 12159-9444.**



Built around 1735, VanSchaick Mansion in Cohoes served as a military headquarters during the French & Indian War and the Revolutionary War. Image from the Library of Congress.



President's Dispatch ...

(Continued from page 2)

For many years, Dennis also managed the Knight Essay contest for our Chapter.

He is also responsible for creation of the Chapter History from 1974-1998, found on our Chapter website, from which I retrieved the information to write this article.

If there is anything I left out, I apologize for now. I owe Dennis a personal thanks for his current work as Chapter Genealogist, but also for aiding me in my efforts to join the SAR in 2006.

Dennis, your efforts will certainly be missed, but take comfort in the fact you continue to serve as an inspiration for many of us.

I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

- Michael Companion



Many thanks to compatriot Dennis Marr, a former Saratoga Battle Chapter President, who is stepping down from the role of Chapter Genealogist.

2021 Member Dues

As the memory of our forefathers and their history face increasing threats, your continued membership recognizing and memorializing the sacrifices of your ancestors is essential. To make membership more convenient, you can now pay 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>.

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

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



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