

# BATTLE LINES

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

APRIL 2021

VOLUME XXV, ISSUE I

## Virtual Meetings Approved

*Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.*

**T**he Saratoga Battle Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution OK'd electronic meetings and extended officer terms for emergencies during an Annual Meeting held by video for the first time.

Roughly two-dozen members from several states attended the virtual gathering Sunday, February 21 to conduct essential chapter business.

The virtual meeting enabled members who live far away to participate for the first time.

The site Zoom carried the gathering in which our brother Compatriot Bertrand Jost, an American Citizen who

was born in France, served as guest speaker.

Jost detailed his new book "Life and Death of a French

Soldier in the American War of Independence 1778 – 1781," which opens a window into the life of French combatants in the American Revolution.

### BYLAWS CHANGES

The membership approved two changes to the Chapter's Bylaws, both in reaction to the deadly COVID-19 Pandemic that put a halt to in-person meetings due to the highly contagious

*(Continued on page 4)*



### *Surrender Site Now A Part Of Saratoga Park*

*The National Park Service shared this image of the Surrender Site in a news release announcing Saratoga National Historical Park has officially acquired the memorial.*

## Surrender Site Secured

*Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.*

**T**he site where British General John Burgoyne surrendered to American General Horatio Gates in 1777 is now part of Saratoga National Historical Park.

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## Upcoming Events

Due to continued disruption from the CoronaVirus Pandemic, plans for 2021 events are not yet certain.

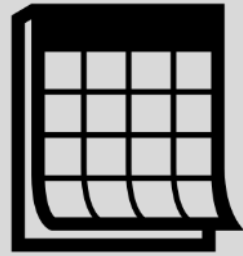
Please stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for updates.

Below is a link to our website:

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

You can find our Facebook Page at the following 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@saratoga  
battle-sar.org](mailto:secretary@saratogabattle-sar.org)

## Welcome New Members!

*Submitted by Duane Booth*

We want to express a hearty Saratoga Battle Chapter welcome to new member Patrick F. Morris of GLENS FALLS, NY.

He honors his ancestor Patriot Pvt John Cronkhite—NY with his membership.

## President's Dispatch

*Submitted By Chapter President  
Michael Companion*

As the 2021 campaign season begins, things are looking brighter. I want to thank the membership for their continued support. Unfortunately we had lost a few members, but we still continue to grow as a Chapter - due to the hard work of the officers and the commitment of our membership.

As the year progresses we are hopeful of being able to get out into the community and live again. Our continued participation and support in community events enable us to promote the values of the SAR and our Patriot ancestors.

I hope that we can take part in some parades by the middle of summer, specifically the Turning Point Parade, which we usually have a good turnout for. We also have a few grave ceremonies scheduled to commemorate various Patriot Ancestors - for which we can keep you updated on the Chapter website.

God willing, I am planning to have an in-person Chapter meeting in September at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga.

I hope that many of you can feel comfortable enough to attend. We will also try to maintain a hybrid presence for those who can't be here. If there is a silver lining in any of this, it is that we have the ability to interact with more membership virtually.

As I have said previously, the best way to recognize our fallen Compatriots and our Patriot Ancestors is to continue their legacies by making our Chapter the best it can be. I hope to see you again at the September Meeting. It is hard to believe that my tenure as President is almost at an end.

—Mike Companion





# Saratoga Site Welcomes New Superintendent

*Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.*

An anthropologist with a background in planning and archaeology will lead Saratoga National Historical Park into the future.

The National Park Service announced Leslie Morlock will serve as Superintendent of the Stillwater site that preserves artifacts and hallowed ground where American and British soldiers sacrificed their lives during the Revolutionary War.

Morlock replaces former Superintendent Amy Bracewell, who transferred last year to the F.D.R. historic site at Hyde Park.

Morlock is the former Chief of Strategic Planning and Project Management at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, a 70,000 acre site on the Delaware River bordering Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

In a press release, the National Park Service



**New Park Superintendent**  
*Leslie Morlock is the new Superintendent of Saratoga National Historical Park. Photo from the National Park Service*

said Morlock has overseen several programs related to environmental compliance, safety, leasing, lands and project management.

Grinnell College and a professional graduate certificate in Leadership for Public Lands and Cultural Heritage, according to the National Park Service.

A native of Minnesota, Morlock worked as an archaeologist and for county governments in New York, Pennsylvania and Colorado. She earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology and environmental studies from

## Good Luck To Past President Doug Gallant

*Submitted By Duane Booth*

In January 2021 Douglas M. Gallant left New York to be with his wife Teresa and son Benjamin in Indiana. Teresa had mostly been in Indiana for the last several years and Benjamin had moved there a few years ago to attend college.

Doug was admitted to the SAR's Saratoga Battle Chapter on December 10, 2009 through his ancestor Sgt. Timothy Taft who served from Massachusetts. On February 23, 2013 at the Chapter's Annual Meeting and Washington's Birthday Dinner at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs member Douglas Gallant was elected to the position of Chapter Treasurer. At the Chapter's Annual Meeting / Washington's Birthday Dinner at the Century House in Latham held on February 21, 2015 Treasurer Gallant was again elected as Treasurer and was also elected as the Chapter's 1st Vice President.

Doug Gallant served with distinction in both positions.

At the Chapter's

Annual Meeting / Washington's

Birthday Dinner held February 17, 2017, again at the Century House, 1st Vice-President & Treasure Douglass Gallant vacated both of those positions as on that date he became Chapter President. Again, during his term Douglas Gallant performed exceptionally well.

Doug in the last few years was an active reenactor with the 2nd Continental Artillery. At the Empire State Society level Doug was active serving both as a Manager and as the



**Doug Gallant**

Chapter President representative during his term of office. We are grateful for Doug's service on the online database committee where he helped with both the initial design of the system and after it went live prepared and distributed the member dues invoices and membership cards.

Doug and Benjamin have transferred their primary memberships to the Indiana Society, but we are happy to report that Doug is a Dual State member right here in our Saratoga Battle Chapter. Thank you, Doug, your support is appreciated.

We are sure that all of you who know Doug, Teresa and Benjamin are happy that they reunited on a fulltime basis and join with us to extend to them best wishes as they make their home in Indiana. Please stay in touch Doug and if you are in the area when we have an event, please join us.

## Virtual Meetings ...

(Continued from page 1)

nature of the virus.

In order to continue to hold the Annual Meeting, Chapter officials can now call a meeting to be held in electronic format.

The calendar year 2020 was to be the final year of the two-year terms of the Chapter's officers.

No elections were even planned as the

Pandemic's reach grew. Current officers agreed to maintain their positions and responsibilities.

During the February meeting, the membership formalized the extension of terms in the event elections are cancelled.

In light of the retirement of longtime Chapter Genealogist Dennis Marr, former Chapter President Duane Booth agreed to fill the post.

### MEMBERSHIP

The Chapter's membership was listed at 223 on January 21, 2021, according to figures provided by Chapter Registrar Thomas Dunne.

This comes as the Chapter mourns the loss of four members: Russell S.

Stocker Jr., John Bruce McKinley, Robert J. Hedgeman and Paul H. Goebel. May they rest in peace.

The Chapter welcomes 13 new Compatriots whose memberships

update to membership.

The Chapter will be donating \$500 more to the restoration project at Van Schaik Mansion and agreed to boost its donation for the Children of

the American Revolution up to \$100, Companion told the group.

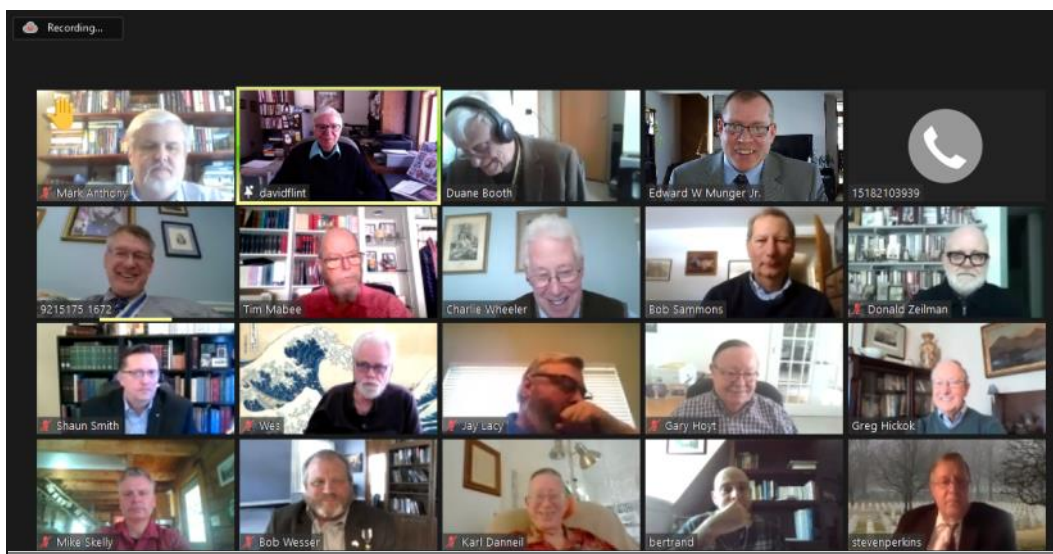
As the meeting concluded, several expressed appreciation for the electronic format because they live far from New York

and are unable to attend local meetings.

It is likely future in-person meetings will now include an electronic attendance option to ensure that all members will get a chance to provide input.

The meeting was recorded. Those interested in viewing the meeting, which lasts one hour and 13 minutes, can follow the following link.

LINK TO VIDEO OF FEBRUARY 21 ANNUAL MEETING: <https://adilo.bigcommand.com/watch/M01FaXRJ>



### Virtual Meeting Successful

*About two dozen people went online and joined the Saratoga Battle Chapter's Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 21. This image is one of the views of the meeting.*

add several Patriots to our list of honored brethren.

### GRATITUDE

Many people have maintained membership with the Saratoga Battle Chapter for years, but their dedication has not been formally recognized.

The Chapter's Executive Committee agreed to issue Certificates to members whose participation has lasted 10 years or more.

And, during the next physical meeting, members with 20 and 30 years of participation will receive a commemorative pin in addition to the Certificate, Chapter President Michael Companion said during his

## Surrender Site ...

(Continued from page 1)

Developed by Friends of Saratoga Battlefield with the help of other organizations and public officials, the 19-acre site off U.S. Route 4 near Schuylerville was dedicated in the fall of 2019, 242 years after the historic event.

The National Park Service announced that Saratoga National Historical Park has accepted the donation of the artwork, interpretive signage, memorials and other amenities from Friends of Saratoga Battlefield.

The March announcement said the land's owner, Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc., provided an easement over the site.

In a news release issued by National Park Service, Saratoga National Historical Park acting Superintendent Chris Beagan said the Surrender Site is "a truly tremendous addition to the park."

"Fifteen years in the making, this acquisition demonstrates both extraordinary generosity and cooperation by many partners," Beagan said in the news release.

The National Park Service, in the announcement, outlined the global impact that October 17, 1777 surrender represented:

*The Saratoga Surrender Site marks the location of the first instance in world history that the British Army capitulated. It is where British General John Burgoyne surrendered his army to American General Horatio Gates on October 17, 1777. This prompted French recognition of United States' independence, an alliance between the two nations, and an international war between Britain and France. Worldwide warfare expanded further still between Britain and Spain (1779), Britain and the Netherlands (1780), and Britain and Mysore (1780). Needing to extricate itself from*

*fighting five wars simultaneously, Britain sued for peace and recognized United States' independence in 1783.*

Several organizations helped make the site – and its preservation – possible. They include New York State, the Open Space Institute, the Town of Saratoga, The New York Natural Heritage Trust, the American Battlefield Protection Program, Friends of Saratoga Battlefield, the Historic Hudson Hoosic Rivers Partnership and individual and organizational donors.

Visit our website to learn more about the site in the January 2020 edition of BATTLE LINES.



## In Remembrance



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

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the family and friends of these

men whose membership in the Sons of the American Revolution was a testament to their patriotism:

- Robert J. Hedgeman
- Paul H. Goebel.
- Russel S. Stocker Jr.
- John Bruce Mckinley,





# French Military Life Revealed In New Book

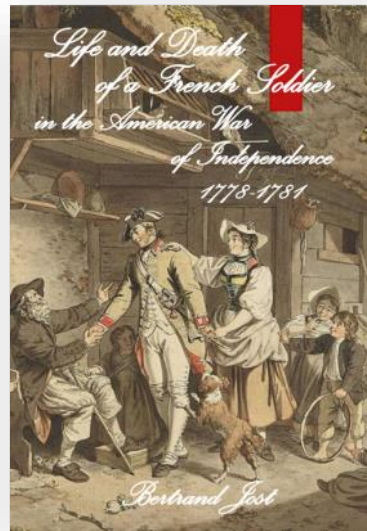
We're extending congratulations to Saratoga Battle Chapter Member Bertrand Jost following the publishing of his new book, ["Life and Death of a French Soldier in the American War of Independence 1778—1781."](#)

Here is the synopsis of the book:

*"Through extensive research, the author reconstructed the story of a young French foot soldier from his enlistment in the King's army in 1778 to his death in November 1781, shortly after the battle of Yorktown. The story of Hans Stiegel serves as a thread to paint a broader picture of the American War of Independence through the eyes of the lower French ranks and helps answer some of the fundamental questions behind the reality of this war.*

*Why did these men enlist? How were they treated by their aristocratic officers? What was military life like in the barracks of*

*France, in the colonies and while on*



*expedition in America? What was it like to cross the Atlantic on an overcrowded transport? Upon arrival, what did these uneducated men think of the Americans they encountered: soldiers, civilians and slaves? What did they think of America itself and what was it like to fight in Yorktown when one had to spend the nights digging trenches*

*under constant enemy shelling and days fighting British sorties or storming enemy positions? To portray the war through the eyes of an enlisted soldier, the author focused on previously overlooked details in a large set of officers' accounts, incorporated new less known and unpublished sources and studied regiment rolls to gather details and statistics on the war casualties.*

*It took sixteen years to compile this extensive material, translate it and weave it into a chronological account."*

Mr. Jost, discussed the revelations of his research during the February 2021 Annual Meeting.

You can listen to the discussion towards the end of the meeting online. [HERE IS A LINK TO THE MEETING.](#)

You can find the book on Amazon at [THIS LINK](#)



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