

BATTLE LINES

Saratoga Battle Chapter

Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution

November 2025

VOLUME XXIX, ISSUE III

Chapter Secretary Sought – Officer Election Slated for February 22 Meeting

Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.

The Saratoga Battle Chapter will hold its Annual Meeting & Washington's Birthday banquet at The Factory Eatery & Spirits in Ballston Spa. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. on Sunday, February 22.

The chapter will name the new slate of officers to serve two-year terms for 2026-2027. By November 9 there was no candidate to serve as Secretary.

This position is essential because the Secretary is one of two signatures on the ROTC and JROTC Certificates that we give to students each year.

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Members of the Saratoga Battle Chapter joined Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts during the memorial wreath laying event at the Daughters of the American Revolution monument in Saratoga Battlefield National Park on Sunday, September 21. Photo Submitted by Compatriot Bill LeForestier.

Dozens Attend Wreath Event on Hallowed Ground in Schuylerville

Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.

Dozens gathered in September to honor the souls who died nameless on the battlefields of Saratoga.

The September 21, 2025 gathering marked the 94th event at the Monument to the Unknown American Dead, where descendants of Patriots lay wreaths in remembrance.

Dedicated in 1931 by the Daughters of the American Revolution of New York State, the "DAR Monument" is the largest in the historic site. It was dedicated to unknown soldiers buried during the pivotal Battles of Saratoga.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Submitted by 1st VP Michael Skelly

Sunday, December 7, 2 pm, at the Bottskill Baptist Church on Church Street in Greenwich.

Saratoga Battle Chapter SAR Color Guard Graveside ceremony for John Peter Becker who was a driver for the Knox Expedition. His father was the lead driver for Knox.

Knox Events for December 12 – 14 Warren, Washington, Saratoga and Albany Counties

Friday, December 12 - Knox Arrival Reenactment

3:00 PM Lake George Battlefield Park - A re-enactor portraying Henry Knox will arrive at the head of Lake George on a replica bateau and be taken by horse & cart to the ruins of Fort George, where Knox stayed in 1775.

Friday, December 12 – Reception Featuring Rick Atkinson. 4:30 PM Lake George Battlefield Park. Historian Rick Atkinson will be the featured guest at a reception commemorating Knox's Noble Artillery Train in 1775-76.

7:00 PM Lake George High School - Public Conversation with Rick Atkinson, free event.

Saturday, December 13 – Washington County Knox Parade Start: 9:00 AM Fort Edward High School, Old Fort House, Fort Miller. Washington County will host a Knox commemorative parade, beginning at Fort Edward High School, proceeding to the Old Fort House. As part of the procession, wreaths will be laid at Knox markers along the route.

Saturday, December 13 – The Noble Train Arrives in Saratoga County 1:00 PM Hudson Crossing Park. Washington County will hand off the ceremonial linstock to Saratoga County. After the handoff, a procession from Dix Bridge will travel to the Field of Grounded Arms in Fort Hardy Park via the Old Champlain Canal Tow Path.



Saturday, December 13 - Knox Fest

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Fort Hardy Park. Learn more about Knox and life during the Revolution by joining us for historical interpreters, artillery demonstrations, food, and wagon rides at Fort Hardy Park! Line the old Champlain Canal Tow Path to welcome Knox's arrival at approximately 1:30pm.

Saturday, December 13 – 18th Century Concert

7:00 PM-8:30 PM Arts Center on the Hudson in Mechanicville. Enjoy an evening of 18th century music at a free concert featuring the Musicians of Ma'alwyck at the Arts Center on the Hudson to commemorate the Noble Train.

Field of Grounded Arms in Fort Hardy Park via the Old Champlain Canal Tow Path, Knox Marker Wreath Laying in Waterford

Start: 9:00 AM There will be a short wreath laying ceremony at the Knox Marker in Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park in Waterford before processing to Peebles Island State Park.

Start: 10:00AM The Noble Train will proceed from Peebles Island State Park to the Van Schaick Manor House in Cohoes

Start: 10:30AM The Noble Train Arrives in Albany County

Saratoga County will hand off the linstock to Albany County at Van Schaick Manor House. The home will be open for refreshments, exhibits and a Henry Knox Bench Dedication by the SAR, 10:30-12:00.

Sunday, December 14 – Living History & Exhibit at Schuyler Mansion. 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM Schuyler Mansion. Living historians reenact the Albany portion of Henry Knox's Noble Train- and Philip Schuyler's role as Major General and Albany host.

Sunday, February 22 (2026) – Saratoga Battle Chapter Annual Meeting & Washington's Birthday Banquet. 10 a.m. brunch-style buffet. The Factory Eatery & Spirits, Ballston Spa, NY

The Secretary also takes the minutes of the meeting and gets them typed up for review, in addition to being a voting member of the Executive Committee which is made up of Chapter Officers.

The meeting was scheduled breakfast style to make it easier for all members to attend with the advantage of full daylight for driving. The feast will include assorted danish & muffins, fruit salad, tossed salad, French toast and maple syrup, country fresh scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage and home fried potatoes.

Additionally, the buffet will feature chicken and biscuits and broiled haddock – plus coffee, tea and fruit juice.



The Saratoga Battle Chapter Color Guard participated in a graveside ceremony for Revolutionary War Marine Captain Stephen Earle and commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the US Marines at Factory Village Cemetery Ballston Spa. *Submitted by 1st VP Michael Skelly*



Wreath Event ... continued from Page 1

Marking a first in decades, or ever – the gathering was blessed with the presence of several youths. Following outreach from Saratoga Battle Chapter Scouts Committee Chairman Compatriot Bill Leforestier, several scouting troops participated in the ceremonies.

Troop 5540, Girl Scouts of the USA, Troop 2790, Girl Scouts of the USA; Troop 2785, Girl Scouts of the USA; and Troop 1073, Boy Scouts of America were all represented at the wreath presentation – many said they intended to return for future events.

Individuals with roles on the program included Cindy Hollowood, Regent, Saratoga Chapter, NSDAR, the Saratoga Battle Chapter, SAR Color Guard; Saratoga Battle Chapter, SAR President Edward Munger Jr.; Saratoga Chapter, DAR Chaplain Diane Davison; Empire State Society, SAR Color Guard Commander Michael Companion; Saratoga Chapter, NSDAR First Vice Regent Jill Litrell; Saratoga National Historical Park Superintendent Leslie Morlock; and Bells Across America Constitution Week Co-Chair, Saratoga Chapter DAR Corinne Scirocco.

The presence of the Scouts added a well-needed spark of youthful life to the site of the Monument to the Unknown American Dead. The site – once host to a small grove of trees that offered a welcomed respite from the sun - is in the middle of a renovation project and all the trees are gone.

While there, Chapter President Edward Munger Jr. provided several Scout leaders with an outline of the SAR Youth Video Contest for which the Saratoga Battle Chapter is now accepting submissions.



Chapter President Edward Munger Jr., left, joins representatives of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts at the Wreath Presentation September 21, 2025.



On October 4th the Saratoga Battle Chapter Color Guard participated in the dedication ceremony of a Veterans' Park in the town of Milton, New York. Color guard members present included compatriot Michael Skelly, NYS Color Guard Commander Michael Companion, Wes Sweet, Brian Corlew, and Bradley Allen. – Submitted by 1st VP Michael Skelly

Chapter Members Recognized for Military Service

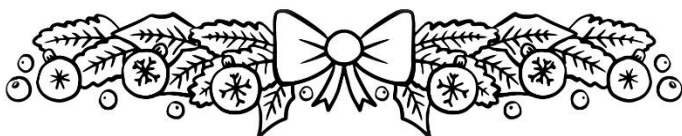


Chapter President Edward Munger Jr. presented the SAR War Service Medal and Certificate to Compatriot Charles W. Wheeler, Jr., U.S. Army. Receiving the SAR Military Service Medal and Certificate were Compatriot Maj. Michael P. Golden, U.S. Marines; and Compatriot Edward Munger Sr., U.S. Air Force.

Chapter Recognizes Cadets via SAR JROTC Medal & Certificate

Compatriot Bill LeForestier Presented the SAR JROTC Medal & Certificate to Cadet LTC Jameson Calacone during the Officers Commissioning on May 28, 2025 at La Salle Institute in Troy.

The Saratoga Battle Chapter presents ROTC and JROTC Medals and Certificates to cadets at high schools and colleges in the Capital Region.



Saratoga Battle Chapter

Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution
President, Edward W. Munger Jr., president@saratogabattle-sar.org
1st Vice President, Michael R. Skelly, vp1@saratogabattle-sar.org
2nd Vice President, Michael S. Companion, vp2@saratogabattle-sar.org
Secretary, Hon. Brian R. Haak, secretary@saratogabattle-sar.org
Treasurer, David L. Flint, treasurer@saratogabattle-sar.org
Registrar, Maj. Michael P. Golden, registrar@saratogabattle-sar.org
Genealogist, Duane P. Booth, 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.

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Questions or comments? Phone (518) 888-0698 | or email: president@saratogabattle-sar.org | Letters and mail to: Edward Munger, Jr., President, Saratoga Battle Chapter, SAR, 319 Kings Road, Schenectady, NY, 12304

Visit Our Website: www.saratogabattle-sar.org