



BATTLE LINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, SAR
Dennis F.M. Marr, Editor 3 Ravens Court, Troy, NY 12180
518-283-2908 Dfmarr@aol.com

VOL. 9, NO. 3

FALL 2005

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Thomas O'R. Maggs-Schenectady, NY
Justin C. Maggs-Schenectady, NY
Raymond W. LeMay III-Watervliet, NY
Primitivo Africa-Saratoga Springs, NY
Eric S. Bone-Naperville, IN

Dual Member

Joseph W. Dooley III-Falls Church, VA

Correction

Russell Stocker-Wappingers Falls, NY
(incorrect home town in last issue)

JUDY ROWE'S MEDALS REPLACED

As many of you know, Gertrude (Judy) Rowe of the Ft. Crailo Chapter NSDAR is a long-time good friend of our chapter. For her long and consistent service and assistance to Saratoga Battle Chapter, Judy was in the past awarded both the SAR Medal of Appreciation and the Daughters of Liberty Medal.

While she was in the hospital this past summer, Judy's home was broken into and all of her insignia, including the two medals that we had awarded her, were stolen.

After discussion, the officers of our chapter voted unanimously to purchase replacement medals for Judy. At the annual Christmas Party of the Ft. Crailo Chapter NSDAR, held at the Lakehouse Inn in Averill Park, NY, Past President Dennis Marr presented Judy with her replacement medals.

Judy was deeply gratified by this gesture, as were her chapter members. She offers her thanks to Saratoga Battle for thinking of her in this way.

ANNUAL WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY

One of the highlights of our meeting year is the annual Wreath-Laying ceremony held in conjunction with the Saratoga Chapter NSDAR at the Saratoga Battlefield.

This year's event took place on September 18 and was an inspiring and rousing occasion. We were honored by the presence of immediate past President General and dual chapter member Henry N. McCarl and his lovely wife Mary. Also joining us were officers and members of the Bemis Heights Society NSCAR and Schuyler Society NSCAR.

Wreaths were placed by the following dignitaries:

Richard H. Fullam, our 1st Vice Pres. and Treasurer, on behalf of Saratoga Battle

Marion Walter, Regent, Saratoga Chapter NSDAR

Past President General Henry N. McCarl, on behalf of the National Society SAR

President Peter K. Goebel, on behalf of ESSAR

Jessica Wilson, President, Bemis Heights Society NSCAR

Corinne Hare, President, Schuyler Society NSCAR

Eleanor Kenyon, on behalf of Schenectada Chapter NSDAR

A chapter meeting followed in the Visitors' Center Conference Room. We then adjourned to Manna's Restaurant in Ballston Spa for a wonderful dinner and fellowship.

A special thank you to the staff of the Saratoga National Historical Park for all of their help.

CHAPTER MEMBERS ATTEND
SARATOGA MONUMENT REDEDICATION

by
Duane P. Booth

Nine chapter members journeyed to Schuylerville on Columbus Day 2005 to participate in the rededication of the Saratoga Monument after its nearly three million dollar renovation. The monument, an area icon, was closed in 1987 because it was deemed unsafe, largely due to years of water damage.

In 1999, through the efforts of long time area Congressman Jerry Solomon, funding was secured to renovate the 155-foot high granite obelisk. The monument opened again in 2002 and area residents and tourists could again admire the interpretive plaques and climb its stairs to enjoy the scenic beauty of the Hudson Valley and the Green Mountains in Vermont.

The rededication ceremony began with period fife and drum music by the Sons and Daughters Fife and Drum Corps. The ceremony continued with the Invocation by Father Turnbull of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Stillwater, Posting of Colors by the Saratoga National Cemetery Honor Guard and a moving rendition of our National Anthem by the New Covenant Community Voice Ensemble. Marion Walter, Regent, Saratoga Chapter NSDAR led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. After the Colors were retired, Frank Dean, Superintendent of the Saratoga National Park and Master of Ceremonies, spoke of the transfer of the Monument to the National Park Service and the restoration process.

Several patriotic organizations were present, some of which laid wreaths. Chapter President Jonathan Goebel and State Society President Peter Goebel laid wreaths in honor of our nation's first soldiers and those who have served in our military since then. The remarks introducing the wreath-layers were written by Chapter Registrar Duane Booth. This part of the ceremony was quite moving, with the inclusion of fife and drum background music.

Saratoga Town Supervisor Tom Wood, an expert local historian, led us through the history of the monument from the time it was first envisioned to the present day. He noted the importance of the monument as a teaching tool, a work of beauty in itself and the beauty of the surrounding countryside as seen from the observation deck atop the monument.

Congressman John Sweeney spoke on the importance of the sacrifices made by our forefathers in fighting for our Nation's independence and establishing a system of government that has stood the test of time. He noted the importance of setting aside lands where historic battles were fought and preserving monuments commemorating historic events such as the Battles of Saratoga.

Saara Johanson, Bruce Cornell and Congressman Sweeney cut a ribbon to mark the official opening of the Monument. Saara, then a young girl, wrote the letter to former Schuylerville Mayor Cornell in 1994 asking why she couldn't go up the Monument. Mayor Cornell passed the letter to Jerry Solomon and the rest is history. The Ensemble then sang the Battle Hymn of the Republic, Benediction was given by Virginia Cornell, Pastor, Church of the Good Shepherd, and the ceremony ended with the Fife and Drums playing Yankee Doodle.

Participants were invited to the American Legion Hall in Schuylerville for light refreshments, to view Monument memorabilia and other exhibits on display.

BOOKS OF INTEREST

Our friend Kathy Keenan, Regent of the Ft. Crailo Chapter NSDAR, has passed along some information written by a DAR in Maryland.

Shadow Patriots by Lucia St. Clair Robson tells the story of the Culper Ring, a group of New York patriots who gathered intelligence for Gen. Washington throughout most of the Revolutionary War. Central to it is "355," a woman whose identity remains a mystery all these years later. The book also covers the stories of the prison ship martyrs, and the soldiers at Valley Forge, Monmouth and Morristown.

For ordering details go to:

www.luciestclairrobson.com

Another book that sounds interesting, although your Editor has not yet gotten it, is *Revolutionary Mothers: Women in the Struggle for America's Independence* by Carol Berkin. The author, a historian who also wrote *A Brilliant Solution: Inventing the American Constitution*, offers a lively account of women's various roles in the long, bloody conflict. Women showed resistance to Britain, for example, by boycotting British cloth and bringing their spinning wheels out of retirement. Ordinary women often served as spies and couriers.

This book was published by Knopf and is available at Amazon.com and better bookstores.

A WORD OF APPRECIATION

Your officers would like to extend their appreciation to our loyal chapter members for the very impressive rate of renewal during this current dues billing cycle. Some very nice donations were also received, helping to ensure the continued success of our chapter. We do realize that you face many other commitments in your life. With your help, Saratoga Battle has grown to some 125 members, with a good number of new members either pending at National or in the works. Registrar Duane Booth is doing a fine job, handling the transition in that office with his usual thoroughness and dedication.