



VOL. 11, NO. 3

®

BATTLE LINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, SAR

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FALL 2007

ANNUAL WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY **A ROUSING SUCCESS**

September 16 saw another wonderful annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Saratoga National Historical Park. The weather cooperated, and a nice crowd of visitors was on hand to observe the proceedings. A big "thank you" goes out to our sister organization, the Saratoga Chapter, NSDAR, for co-sponsoring this event with us.

Wreaths were presented at the DAR Monument at Stop 2 on the battlefield Tour Road by the following:

Barbara J. Green, Dist. IV Director:
NYS Organization, NSDAR

Duane Booth, VP-Capital: Empire State Society,
SAR

Marion Walter, Regent: Saratoga Chapter, NSDAR
Richard Fullam, VP-Saratoga Battle: Saratoga Battle
Jessica Wilson, Pres.: Bemis Heights Society, C.A.R.
Jessica Clark, Pres.: Schuyler Society, C.A.R.

Thanks were also extended to Dave Bernier and the 25th Continental Regiment from Massachusetts for their annual participation, lending color and import to the ceremony. And, as always, thanks to our friends at the Saratoga National Historical Park for their permission and cooperation in holding this event. We are so fortunate to have this tremendous venue in our own backyard.

The Welcome was given by Marion Walter; Carole Strong of Saratoga Chapter, NSDAR gave the invocation, and Rich Fullam led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Barbara Green led us in reciting *The American's Creed*, and Duane Booth led us in the *Pledge to the SAR*.

Following the ceremony, we moved to the Visitors' Center at the park for a chapter meeting. Finally, we went to Manna's Restaurant in Ballston Spa for fellowship and dinner.

In all, this was another fine chapter event. Thanks go out to all compatriots and others whose hard work helped to ensure the success of the ceremony.

BEMIS HEIGHTS CHAPTER, C.A.R.

In the summer issue, we made mention of the accomplishments of the Schuyler Society, C.A.R. We would now like to acknowledge the Bemis Heights Society, C.A.R. As most of you probably know, Saratoga Battle Chapter is a co-sponsor of both of these fine Societies, and we are proud of the hard work of the children in fulfilling the goals of their Society.

We have received a note from Kate Szewczyk of Bemis Heights, bringing us up to date on their Society's activities. They have marched in local parades and participated in the annual March for Parks event at the Saratoga battlefield. They have also donated numerous books and supplies to the Tamasee DAR School. The Society also held a Flag Retirement Ceremony at the battlefield.

Trips taken by Bemis Heights include ones to the Brookside Museum in Ballston Spa, the NYS Museum in Albany and the Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park.

Bemis Heights is participating in the NYS Society fund-raising project as part of this year's State President theme of *Honoring Our American Heroes*. To this end, the Society is selling lapel pins and sterling silver key chains with Purple Heart emblem. These items are \$5.00 each and can be obtained by contacting the Bemis Heights Senior Society President, Mrs. Carolyn Weatherwax. You can reach her at 518-584-1827, or by email at: Cweather5@aol.com.

The Bemis Heights Society was originally organized on June 6, 1896, and holds charter #7. The chapter was chartered with sixteen members at Pine Grove on North Broadway in Saratoga Springs. The Society has been disbanded and reorganized a number of times over the years, most recently in 2003.

With fine young Americans like these C.A.R.'s, our future is in good hands!

ANCESTOR CORNER

by
Compatriot Charles King

John Jacobs was born 13 March 1757 in Wells (York County) in the District of Maine (then part of Massachusetts). He was the 2nd great grandson of George Jacobs, who was one of the 19 men and women hanged for witchcraft in Salem in 1692.

John enlisted in 1776 at the age of nineteen in the 1st Massachusetts Regiment of the Continental Line. This regiment was at both Battles of Saratoga in 1777, but we are not clear on exactly what action the unit saw. John's brother George was with him in the 1st Regiment at this time. John's records state that he was at Saratoga, Valley Forge and was "in Canada" with the Massachusetts troops in 1776. His records indicate that he was wounded in the leg, but no details are provided.

John returned home in 1780, when he gained a "substitute" (Daniel Jacobs) to take his place in the 1st Regiment. In 1782, John married Tabitha Bennet, and they had two known children, one of whom, Woodman Bennett Jacobs, is my third great grandfather. Tabitha died in 1794, and two years later John married Sarah Eaton. In a document from 1820 in his Revolutionary War Pension File, John states that he and Sarah had the following children: Abigail, Betsey, Tabitha and Jesse E. Sometime, probably in the 1830's, Sarah died and John then married Phoebe Bigger in Mount Vernon, Maine.

John owned a 50-acre farm in Mount Vernon, which included a small house and barn, all worth \$150; John described himself as "destitute." He owned a few farm animals and minimal household furnishings. He owed \$114 in outstanding loans, his wife Sarah was ill, and he had 3 daughters and a son at home, with one of the daughters being disabled. It is possible that John's old leg injury impeded his ability to make a living at farming.

John's son Jesse had been working the farm for John at no pay for several years prior to John's pension application. Jesse married Jane Richer in 1821 and bought the farm from his father, paying off John's debts and allowing him and the rest of the family to continue living on the farm.

John's pension application was approved and the \$8 per month private's pension would have been sorely needed. John died at Mount Vernon, Maine on 22 November 1843 at age 86.

GEN. PETER GANSEVOORT CHAPTER CELEBRATES 110TH ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to our sister organization, the Gen. Peter Gansevoort Chapter, DAR on their 110th anniversary; they were among the first DAR chapters organized and chartered. They held a gala celebration at their chapter house, the Van Schaick Mansion in Cohoes, NY on November 18.

Dennis Marr was present to represent our President George Ballard, who was unable to attend. Dennis was also representing the Rhodes Memorial Fund, a long-time supporter of the chapter's acquisition and maintenance of the historic Van Schaick Mansion.

Members of the Schuyler Society, C.A.R. were also on hand to join in the celebration. The Society is co-sponsored by the Gen. Peter Gansevoort Chapter, Saratoga Battle Chapter and the Lawrence I. & Blanche H. Rhodes Memorial Fund. Dennis Marr was surprised and pleased to accept, on behalf of the Saratoga Battle Chapter, the Schuyler Society's Outstanding C.A.R./SAR Sponsor Award; Dennis also accepted the same award on behalf of the Rhodes Memorial Fund. Our thanks to Jessica Clark, Lexi Zerillo and Shanell Claffey of the Schuyler Society for making this event so special for us.

Our thanks go also to Johanna Shogan, the new Regent of the Gen. Peter Gansevoort Chapter, DAR.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

We are happy to welcome the following new members of Saratoga Battle Chapter:

Douglass "Tim" M. Mabee – Saratoga Springs, NY
Millard S. Reynolds – Danbury, CT
James M. Spencer – Clifton Park, NY

Tim is a new dual state member from the Vermont Society.

This is an opportune time to remind all members that they can be the best source of new members for our chapter and society. Most of us have some male relative who might be interested in joining. And remember, under the NSSAR "family application" procedure, there is a 50% savings on the National application fee for additional members joining at the same time as an applicant under the same ancestor.