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®

BATTLE LINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, SAR

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FALL 2014

IN OUR MEMORY

We are deeply saddened to report the deaths of 5 chapter members.

Noel Haskell of Nyack, NY passed away at the age of 85 on August 13, 2014 after a long illness. Noel was instrumental in reviving the Stony Point Chapter of SAR and was a member of our chapter. He was a retired high school science teacher with an extended "family" of former students who remained in his life. At the request of the family, a delegation of Saratoga Battle and Stony Point chapter members attended the funeral and performed the SAR funeral ritual at Oak Hill Cemetery.

Arthur Rockwell passed away on September 2 at his home in Berlin, NY at the age of 75. Arthur was a self-employed jeweler and inventor as well as an artist. He owned his own airplane and he and his wife would fly together on gold prospecting trips. He was a Marine Corps veteran and was buried in Saratoga National Cemetery.

Gary P. Rounds, 72, passed away unexpectedly on September 5th at his home in Warrensburg, NY. Gary worked for 44 years as a millwright for Sandy Hill Corp. Earlier this year, Gary joined his son Bryan and Bryan's son Gary in a 3-generation round of golf. Burial was in the Warrensburg Cemetery.

Past chapter President Clyde W. Childs, Jr. died at the age of 82 on September 14. Clyde spent 20 years in the clothing business and 26 years as a New York State employee, retiring in 1995. Clyde is remembered as a gentle man and a consummate gentleman. Entombment took place at Memory Gardens in Coloine.

Clark T. Mead, Jr., 79, died December 18 at his home in Amsterdam, NY. "Junior" was employed as a carpenter for the NYS Thruway for over 30 years. Clark was celebrating his 25th year of SAR membership. He and his high school sweetheart Kay would have been married for 59 years in January 2015. Burial in the spring will be in Edinburg Cemetery.

VAN SCHAICK MANSION IMPROVEMENT

On September 13, 2014, a dedication ceremony was held at the Van Schaick Mansion in Cohoes, NY to celebrate the completion of the installation of a new roof on this historic site. The Mansion is home to the Gen. Peter Gansevoort Chapter NSDAR and the Schuyler Society N.S.C.A.R. Honored Guests included Empire State Society NSSAR President Duane Booth and Rhodes Memorial Fund Executive Director Dennis Marr. The Rhodes Memorial Fund was recognized as a Major Benefactor of the roof restoration project.

ANNUAL WREATH-LAYING

The annual wreath-laying ceremony at Saratoga National Historic Park took place on September 21, 2014. Always a colorful event, this year featured the re-enactors from the New York Continental Line as our Color Guard. Among the 10 organizations placing wreaths at the DAR Monument were: NSSAR, placed by Past President Peter Goebel; Empire State Society SAR, Past President Dennis Marr; Vermont Society, President Tim Mabee; Saratoga Battle Chapter, 1st VP George Malinoski.

Following the ceremony we adjourned to the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs for fellowship, dinner and a chapter meeting. We were honored to have with us Philip J. Mosher, State President of the New York State Society C.A.R. Philip spoke about his state project, the placing of a marker at the Fort Herkimer Church cemetery in honor of the Revolutionary patriots buried there.

The Registrar's report listed 12 new members since the last meeting in February, as well as 10 new Supplemental applications approved. The chapter membership stood at 192, making us the largest chapter in New York State. We owe a debt of gratitude to Tom Dunne, Registrar, and Duane Booth, Asst. Registrar, for their tireless efforts to maintain our chapter in a healthy state. Treasurer Doug Gallant reported a strong treasury balance; this allows us to support other worthy organizations and carry out our own programs as well.

SURRENDER DAY 2014 CEREMONY

by
Tom Dunne & Duane Booth

On October 17th, 2014, the Saratoga Battle Chapter SAR participated in the annual surrender day ceremonies at Fort Hardy Park in Schuylerville, New York. The event is sponsored by the Town of Saratoga and the Village of Schuylerville. Local historian Bill Reynolds was master of ceremony and Senator Kathy Marchione from the NY 43rd Senate District was present and addressed the gathering. Also present was Tom Wood, Supervisor of the Town of Saratoga.



*From the left; Joe Fitzpatrick, V-P Capital Region, Empire State Society;
Duane Booth, President, Empire State Society;
Tom Dunne, President Saratoga Battle Chapter;
Daniel Franklin, Saratoga Battle Chapter;
John Sheaff, President Walloomsac Battle Chapter*

The event included 5th graders from Schuylerville Central who sang two songs and for the first time 4th graders from Salem Central came to witness the reenactment of this historic event. Three of the Schuylerville students read essays they had written about the events leading up to surrender day and/or the people involved. Saratoga National Historical Park Ranger Eric Schnitzer and Town Historian Sean Kelleher recreated British General John

Burgoyne's sword surrender to American General Horatio Gates. Ranger Schnitzer in speaking to the children emphasized that right in this village, and in fact right where they were sitting, the turning point of the American Revolution occurred.

Chapter members Mike Companion, Peter Hormell and Mike Skelly were present with other re-enactors from the 2nd Continental Artillery firing their muskets and cannons to the delight of the students. Wreaths honoring all American military were laid by Duane Booth, President, Empire State Society; Joe Fitzpatrick, V-P Capital Region, Empire State Society; Tom Dunne, President Saratoga Battle Chapter; John Sheaff, President Walloomsac Battle Chapter; Pat Festa, Saratoga Battle Chapter and Corinne Scirocco, Saratoga Chapter, NSDAR.



*After The Wreath Laying
(L-R) Duane Booth, President, Empire State Society; Joe Fitzpatrick, V-P Capital Region, Empire State Society; Mike Skelly and Michael Companion, members of Saratoga Battle Chapter and 2nd Continental; John Sheaff, President Walloomsac Battle Chapter; Brian Companion, 2nd Continental; Peter Hormell member of Saratoga Battle Chapter and 2nd Continental; Tom Dunne President Saratoga Battle Chapter, Daniel Franklin and Pat Festa, Saratoga Battle Chapter*

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOMED

I encourage members to send in articles of interest for our newsletter. I would particularly like to be able to revive our former *Ancestor Corner* feature. This was popular with the membership, but I need you to send in your brief narrative about a Revolutionary War ancestor. About 500 words equate to one column; you don't have to be the next Hemingway! I will gladly make any necessary edits.