



VOL. 19, NO. 3

®

BATTLE LINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, SAR

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FALL 2015

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Charles D. Ball IV – Jakarta, Indonesia
Hiroki J. Ball – Jakarta, Indonesia*
Yusuke J. Ball – Jakarta, Indonesia*
David L. Flint – Stephentown, NY

*Junior members, sons of Charles

We also welcome Brian Castler who has transferred from the Stone Arabia Battle Chapter.

ANNUAL WREATH-LAYING

The chapter's annual wreath-laying ceremony took place at the Saratoga National Historical Park on 20 September 2015. We enjoyed a beautiful day, with color added by the participation of the members of the 2nd Continental Artillery who served as Color Guard. Wreaths were placed by: NSSAR, ESSAR, Saratoga Chapter NSDAR, Gen. Peter Gansevoort Chapter NSDAR, Schyuler Society N.S.C.A.R., Bemis Heights Society N.S.C.A.R., New York Society N.S.C.A.R. and Saratoga Battle.

A dinner and business meeting followed at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs. The Treasurer's Report indicated a healthy fiscal position and the Registrar's Report shows that we had 197 members, still the largest chapter in New York State. Two awards were presented as follows:

Michael Skelly – Bronze Color Guard Medal
Dennis F. Marr – Thomas Jefferson Medal (National)

N.S.C.A.R. New York Society President Nicholas Oxaal, also a Saratoga Battle member, gave us a presentation on his state president's project involving the restoring of an historic bell mechanism located at the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway's Burden Iron Works Museum in Troy, NY. The chapter voted to contribute \$500 towards Nicholas' project.

5 new members were on hand to receive their membership certificates and were sworn in by Past Chapter President and current ESSAR President Duane Booth.

LIBERTY MEDALS AWARDED

At the recent NSSAR Congress, two chapter members received Oak Leaf Clusters for their Liberty Medals: Duane Booth and Thomas Dunne. The Liberty Medal is awarded for recruiting 10 new members; an Oak Leaf Cluster is awarded for each additional ten.

ANCESTOR CORNER

By

Compatriot William R. Poppino

My ancestor is Major John Poppino, who served with the 4th Regiment of the Orange Co., NY Militia under Col. John Hathorn. John was a farmer who lived on the Warwick Road about three miles from the Town of Florida in Orange County. He is described as being of French descent, and as a slim man about five feet tall. He reportedly also served in the French & Indian War.

A letter by his grandson William Poppino in 1877 describes John's dramatic escape during the Battle of Minisink. When the company was surprised and overcome by Indian forces, he evaded them by lying alongside a log and covering himself with leaves. One account also states that he was wounded. He apparently crawled on his hands and knees in the dark for a long distance and arrived home several days after the battle. The residents of the area had presumed him to be dead; his wife answered his well-known knock on the door that night, saying "come in, John Poppino, dead or alive."

John's obituary appears in the New York Spectator, Warwick, NY of 4 April 1828, reporting his death on March 7. His age is given as 100 years, 10 months and 10 days, which does not exactly correspond to his supposed birth date of 27 April 1727.

His obituary states that John retained his mental faculties to the last, and manifested a desire to depart and be with Christ, in whom he had long trusted. John was a member of the Presbyterian Church.

<http://www.albertwisnerlibrary.org/Factsandhistory/History/Revolutionarywar.htm>

SARATOGA NATIONAL PARK QUARTER ISSUED

By
Compatriot Richard H. Fullam

On 17 November 2015, at the Schuylerville High School, the U.S. Mint released the 30th quarter in their series depicting U.S. National Parks. The coins are issued in the order in which the parks became part of the National Parks system.

Past Saratoga Battle Chapter president Richard Fullam represented the SAR, and attended with members of General Peter Gansevoort Chapter DAR and Schuyler Society C.A.R. Superintendent of Saratoga National Historical Park Amy Bracewell spoke, park historian Eric Schnitzer gave a historical perspective of the battle, and acting quality manager of the U.S. Mint Ron Harrigal gave remarks. The school's symphonic band and vocal ensemble both performed. After the ceremonial coin pour, all children under the age of 18 were given a free quarter to mark the occasion. A local news station live-streamed the event. Afterward, the public was given a chance to buy up to ten rolls of uncirculated quarters from the Philadelphia Mint and commemorative sets containing coins from both Philadelphia and Denver Mints. The day concluded with a visit to the battlefield for photo ops at the park's cannon by the visitor center.

The Saratoga quarter is the first in the National Park series to portray an event from the Revolution, and the first coin since 1999's New Jersey state quarter portraying Washington crossing the Delaware to do so. In 2017, Indiana's entry will portray George Rogers Clark National Historical Park.



Park Superintendent Amy Bracewell addresses the gathering.



Reverse of the Saratoga Quarter

Large 5 oz. silver versions of the quarter will be issued in early December as a part of the U.S. Mint's America the Beautiful series.

ANCESTOR CORNER

By
Compatriot Hugh Wallace

My ancestor John Lewis was born around 1746 in the Mohawk Valley of New York State. He married Sarah Putnam who was baptized at Schenectady on 4 May 1751. He served as a Sergeant in Col. Frederick Fisher's Regiment of the Tryon County Militia. He was taken prisoner by Ross and Butler's party of British and Indians on 24 October 1781 near the river and after the funeral of Mrs. Frederick Putnam had broken up. He was taken to Canada, a 17 days' march from the Genesee valley, living on a stinted allowance of horseradish. The prisoners were taken to Montreal and later to Halifax.

John was released with others in November of 1782 in Boston and reached home in December, likely having walked the entire 240 miles. It is said that the penniless veterans found food and welcome along the way.

John submitted a bill to the State of New York for his pay as Sergeant during the period of his captivity, 24 October 1781 to 18 December 1782, a period of 13 months and 26 days at 10 dollars per month, a total of 55 pounds, 9 shillings, 4 pence (Records of the Comptroller of New York, Vol. 19, Folio 197). John was paid in New York notes.

("Cromwell and Lewis Families of the Mohawk Valley," New York Genealogical and Biographical Record., Vol. XLI, 1910).