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®

## **BATTLE LINES**

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, SAR

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### **NEW MEMBER WELCOME**

We extend a hearty welcome to the following new members of our chapter.

Mark M. Meyers – Mechanicville, NY

Joe A. VanDerwerker – Schenectady, NY

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Douglas Gallant

The Fall is always a busy time for Chapter activities and this year was no exception. The September 17th wreath-laying at the DAR monument within the Saratoga Battlefield got things started. There was some concern about weather leading up to the event. Fortunately there were no issues and the wreath-laying was well attended. As is customary, the Chapter's semi-annual meeting followed later in the day in downtown Saratoga. A new Chapter President and Treasurer were installed that night and we also welcomed 4 new members.

The next event was the Sword Surrender ceremony on October 17 at Fort Hardy Park. It was actually the first time that I had been able to attend it. It was nice seeing the students from both Schuylerville and Salem schools listening and participating in the event. They were also treated to several salvos from the 2nd Continental Artillery Regiment!

And finally, Saratoga Battlefield held a Veteran's Day commemoration event. This was the first time that the Park had done an organized event. With estimated attendance of about 200 people it was deemed a success and is on the Park calendar for 2017.

For more information about any of these events along with photos please visit the Articles section of the Chapter web site at [http://saratogabattle.org/pages/articles\\_main.html](http://saratogabattle.org/pages/articles_main.html).

In addition to the various events, preparations are underway for the Chapter Annual Meeting and Washington's Birthday dinner. This is an election year for officers. If any member might be interested in serving their Chapter please just send a brief email to any of the Chapter officers. Information about the meeting can also be found on the web site. Hope to see many of you there!

### **CHAPTER MEMBERS RECEIVE NSSAR AWARDS**

The following chapter members received Oak Leaf Clusters for their previously-awarded Liberty Medals:

Duane Booth – 3

Thomas Dunne – 1

The Liberty Medal is awarded to compatriots recruiting 10 new members; oak leaf clusters are awarded for each additional 10 new members. Congratulations Duane and Tom!

### **NEWS FROM THE MANSION**

On October 7, the ladies at the Van Schaick Mansion in Cohoes, NY (chapter house of the Gen. Peter Gansevoort Chapter, NSDAR) were delighted to accept the donation of an original heirloom of the mansion. Two paintings of "The Van Schaick Sisters," circa 1840, had been sold in an auction of items from the mansion in 1981. The purchasers of one of the portraits, Mark and Shirley Donovan, now of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, decided they would "like to donate the portrait so it could be returned to its original home." This wonderful artifact was accepted by a mansion Director, Donna Mullen, at her home, on behalf of the directors and members of the Van Schaick Mansion Project.

(Courtesy of the Friends of the Van Schaick Mansion Winter 2016 Newsletter).

## ANNUAL WREATH-LAYING

The annual Wreath-Laying ceremony at Saratoga National Historical Park was held on September 18. Always a colorful event, this year saw wreaths presented on behalf of 8 related organizations:

National Society – Peter K. Goebel  
Empire State Society – Duane Booth  
Schuyler Society C.A.R. – Elizabeth Oxaal  
Bemis Heights Society C.A.R. – Fiona Dolton-Coons  
Schenectada Chapter NSDAR – Judy Peck  
Saratoga Chapter NSDAR – Nicole Sheeler  
Gansevoort Chapter NSDAR – Kristen Moore  
Saratoga Battle Chapter NSSAR – Thomas L. Dunne

Members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Artillery served as our Color Guard this year.

As always, we extend our sincere thanks to the staff at the battlefield for welcoming us to hold this event.

Following the ceremony we traveled to Saratoga Springs for a dinner meeting at the Holiday Inn. We held a special installation of 2 officers: Douglas Gallant, who has been Acting President, was installed as President. Since he had to step down as Treasurer upon becoming President, compatriot David Flint was installed as Treasurer.

Registrar Tom Dunne reported that chapter membership stood at 207, by far the largest chapter in the Empire State Society. It takes a tremendous amount of effort to maintain membership at this level and our special thanks go to Tom and Duane Booth for their yeoman work in this regard.



L to R: Registrar Thomas Dunne, Historian Karl Dannel, Treasurer David Flint, ESSSAR Vice President Capital Region Joseph Fitzpatrick, Richard Fullam, President Douglas Gallant, National Trustee Col. Peter Goebel, Stephen Coyne, Empire State Society President Duane Booth, Christopher Oxaal, Walloomsac Battle Chapter President John Sheaf, Patrick Festa, Genealogist Dennis Marr, Ford Oxaal

## GENEALOGY CORNER

Dennis F. Marr

In April of 2016 a remarkable set of records went online, records that I never thought I'd live to see. This was the Irish Catholic Parish Registers 1655-1915 and they were posted on Ancestry.com among other places. Access to these records was very spotty in the past with Catholic bishops first allowing a county's parish records to be accessed locally, only to rescind this access later.

I have about 18 Irish immigrant lines and knew nothing of them except for my Dwyer ancestor who married my Marr ancestor in Troy, NY. This record was provided to me by a cousin who made 3 trips to County Tipperary before locating the proper parish.

With access to the full record set I was able to locate a number of immigrant ancestors' origins, parentage and even earlier generations. One huge surprise was the original surname of my Marr immigrant Patrick. On the few references I have found to him, he is uniformly called Marr. Upon locating his baptismal record from 1814 I learned that our surname in Ireland was MARA and that they were from the village of Killea, Parish of Templemore in County Tipperrary. We had always assumed that the name was originally Meagher/Maher, etc. (all pronounced Marr).

## SOME HELPFUL FACEBOOK PAGES

I have joined a number of Facebook pages that have a focus on genealogy and the Revolutionary War. There are many queries posted on these pages and often helpful information is provided by readers.

One page of general genealogical interest is the Lineage Society of America, maintained by Brian French. Brian is in the genealogy business and does advertise items from his eBay store but, again, there is a lot of interesting information on this site:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LineageSocietyofAmerica>

This is a closed group of 8100+ members, so ask to join (feel free to say that Dennis Marr referred you).

Another good page is the Revolutionary War Research page; this one is also closed group, so ditto the above:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RevWarRsch/>