



BATTLE LINES

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER
EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

CHAPTER NEWS

IN OUR MEMORY

We are saddened to report the deaths of two members reported to us since the last issue of *Battle Lines*. George Dewey Martin, Sr. of NJ joined SAR in March of 1997 and was the father of member George Dewey Martin and grandfather of member James Edwin Martin. George passed away in December of 2000.

Thomas Joseph Rynn of Troy, NY, who joined SAR in February of 1998, passed away 16 January 2001. Tommy was the father of seven daughters, all of whom joined DAR. Our condolences to his wife Joan and his daughters Kathleen, Joan, Anne, Margaret, Eileen, Mary and Christine.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY MEETING

Our Annual Meeting and Washington's Birthday celebration were held on 24 February 2001 at the Century House in Latham. The following slate of officers for the 2001-2003 term was unanimously elected and sworn in by Past President Lewis Slocum:

President.....Richard Clifford Saunders, Jr.
Vice President & Treasurer.....Duane P. Booth
Secretary.....Jonathan E. Goebel
Chaplain.....Maj. Peter K. Goebel
Registrar/Genealogist/Historian..Dennis F.M. Marr

Distinguished guests included: Shirley Schadow, Regent of the Saratoga Chapter NSDAR and her husband Alfred; Past Vice President General-North Atlantic Richard W. Sage; ESSSAR Vice President-Central Robert French.

President Saunders, in his brief remarks, stated that he intended to emphasize the SAR Youth Programs, namely Knight Essay Contest, Eagle Scout Competition, ROTC Awards and citizenship awards.

Several awards were made at the meeting. Outgoing President Maj. Peter K. Goebel was presented with the Past President's Certificate and pin as well as an SAR desk gavel set. Maj. Goebel was also presented with the SAR Meritorious Service Medal for his outstanding service to our chapter. President-elect Saunders was presented with the SAR Silver Good Citizenship medal for his extensive services to the community. Past President Goebel presented the SAR Certificate of Distinguished Service to Registrar/Genealogist Marr.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS ANNOUNCED

President Saunders has named his initial committee assignments. Several slots are vacant and volunteers are encouraged to step forward and take this opportunity to help further the goals and programs of the chapter. Also, committees can always use an extra pair of hands, so if a particular committee interests you, please contact President Saunders at 518-792-1412 or e-mail at RS4Liberator@aol.com.

CAR Committee: Stephen Coyo
Color Guard: Jonathan Goebel, Peter Goebel
Medals & Awards: Clyde Childs
Membership: Duane Booth
ROTC: Peter Goebel & Dennis Marr
Rumbaugh Oration Contest: Jonathan Goebel
Veterans/Cemetery: Carlton Covell

Vacancies:
Eagle Scout; Knight Essay; Publicity

In addition, Pres. Saunders appointed a Saratoga National Cemetery Monument Task Force consisting of Carl Covell and Dennis Marr. They will work on the memorial stone that the chapter will be placing in the Saratoga National Veterans' Cemetery. The chapter has received a grant from the Rhodes Memorial Fund of Albany to underwrite the cost of the chapter's monument.

ANCESTOR CORNER

By Compatriot Edward Myron Scribner

My mother Carrie Richtmyer Scribner was a very devoted member of the local DAR Chapter and was very proud of her ancestry, as am I. Our Patriot Ancestor was George Richtmyer, a Captain in the 15th Regiment of the Albany County Militia.

George was born in Schoharie, in what was then Albany County. He married Anna Hummel, who had been born in Ulster Co., NY in 1748, on 3 November 1763. George and Anna had eleven children between the years 1768 and 1790, three of whom died young.

George Richtmyer resided east of the Middle Fort in Schoharie. He joined in the attack on McDonald's forces at Chrysler's Mills and served in defense of the Middle Fort during Johnson's Raid. Serving the patriot cause on what was then the frontier, George was commissioned a Captain in the Albany County Militia on 20 Oct 1775, to which post he was re-appointed on 20 Feb 1778.

George died in Schoharie in 1803 and is buried in the Richtmyer Family Farm Cemetery in Middleburgh, Schoharie County.

[Editor's note: Compatriot's Scribner's application process had been delayed because the 1913 DAR papers of his mother, which we were using for his SAR application, lacked several dates and locations. With the help of a DAR member from Schoenectady and the *Richtmyer/Richtmyer Genealogy*, published in March, 1994 by Lawrence V. Rickard of Kinderhook, NY, the missing information was finally obtained].

OTHER NEWS

Registrar/Genealogist Dennis Marr represented the chapter at a fund-raiser held 13 February 2001 by the Gen. Peter Gansevoort Chapter, NSDAR. Held at the Cannon Club at the Watervliet Arsenal, the purpose was to raise funds towards the chapter's purchase of the historic Van Schaick Mansion located at the junction of the Mohawk and Hudson rivers. Compatriot Marr was a member of the Honorary Committee for this event and is also a member of Friends of the Van Schaick Mansion Project.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Richard C. Saunders, Jr.

I am extremely honored to serve as President of the Saratoga Battle Chapter, especially proud that my tenure will include the 225th anniversary celebrations of the Battles of Saratoga and Surrender of Burgoyne. I sincerely hope that our chapter and its membership will be involved and noticed. It seems that we are a well-kept secret, the Sons of the American Revolution, and we should attempt to gain more exposure as well as carrying out our purposes.

My focus is on the Chapter and our Mission, and I invite each and every Compatriot to get involved, furthering our mission of Patriotic, Historical and Educational programs and celebrations, and serving the community in fulfilling these objectives. I would like to see more Compatriots attending our meetings, even if you cannot make every one. I am certain that you would find the company enjoyable and that it would lead to new friendships. (Many years ago, I inadvertently slid off of the road in Athol, and was "rescued" by a kind gentleman who used his tractor to pull me out of the ditch. Who would have known that we were both working on the documentation to join SAR? I have been waiting for him to come to a meeting for some time now. Thank You to Compatriot Elmer Bunker! Hope to see you at the next meeting!).

We must continue to add new members, and it certainly would be nice to firmly break the 100 mark this year. Please promote SAR, enlist your sons, fathers, brothers, nephews and friends. Visit with our friends in the DAR and CAR for potential new members.

We will have many occasions to meet and will especially need Compatriots to step forward and take the reins, whether it be helping plan events such as the annual Memorial Service at Saratoga National Historical Park this September, the 225th celebrations in September 2002, or just helping on one of our several committees.

Thank you for your support, and I look forward to serving as President. I hope that you will join us at an event in the near future (a calendar of events is in the works).