



BATTLE LINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, SAR
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SPRING 2006

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

We are off to a strong start in membership growth for 2006. A hearty welcome to the following new Compatriots:

Bryan M. Booth – Saratoga Springs, NY
Kevin T. Booth – Greenwich, NY
Robert H. Booth II – Greenwich, NY
Michael S. Companion – Ballston Spa, NY
Robert A. Proctor III – Mount Kisco, NY
David S. Redick – Washburn, MO
LTC Earl P. Redick (Ret.) – Waterloo, NY
Geffrey P. Redick – Ballston Spa, NY
LTC Gregory M. Redick (Ret.) –
Springfield, VA
Bret D. Trufant – Greenwich, NY

We also welcome back two reinstated members:

Matthew K. Skellie – Greenwich, NY
William C. Sweet – Troy, NY

SARATOGA BATTLE WINS ESSSAR MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

Registrar Duane Booth proudly announces that your chapter enrolled the most new members of any Empire State Society chapter for calendar year 2005. For this we have received a \$500 prize check from ESSSAR as well as possession of the coveted Addams Cup for one year.

Registrar Booth recognized compatriots Harry Taylor, Rick Saunders and Dennis Marr as having contributed to this achievement.

As of 15 May 2005, your chapter is now the largest in the Empire State Society, with 140 primary members, 7 dual state members and 3 dual chapter members, for a total of 150. 34 applications are pending approval (19 of these are included in the above count), which gives us a great head start towards possibly repeating as Addams Cup winners for 2006. Even after we lose 7 members to the new Valcour Battle Chapter in the north country, we will still be the largest chapter in the State society. Congratulations to all whose hard work makes these numbers possible.

CHAPTER SUPPORTS ROTC PROGRAMS

Continuing a longstanding chapter tradition, representatives of Saratoga Battle presented 3 silver SAR ROTC awards at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy as well as bronze awards at the JROTC programs of Christian Brothers Academy in Albany and LaSalle Institute in Troy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Members are encouraged to participate in any or all of the following events; these are important, because they put SAR on display to the general public. As your editor goes around to various genealogical events he still encounters blank stares when mentioning the SAR...it seems that we are still much less well known than the DAR, and we were organized first! So, do your part and support your chapter at these events.

July 4: we will be co-sponsor of a new citizen ceremony at Saratoga National Historical Park. What better way to celebrate the Fourth than by welcoming new citizens of our great nation? Feel free to bring family and friends to this inspirational ceremony. Refreshments and music will be provided.

August 6: Turning Point Parade, Schuylerville, NY. Assembly is at 12:30 pm, step-off at 1 pm. You may march or, if necessary, ride in a car. If you need to ride, please contact Pres. Jonathan Goebel (766-2143) or Registrar Duane Booth (733-0830). Check our website in late July for any additional details:

www.saratogabattle-sar.org

September 16: Annual Wreath-Laying, Saratoga National Historical Park. We do this event jointly with the Saratoga Chapter-NSDAR, and it is always a moving and colorful event. The ceremony is at 2 pm at the DAR Monument at Stop 2 on the park Tour Road. Chapter meeting will follow in the park Visitors' Center, after which we will move to a local restaurant for dinner. Check the website in August for further details.

**LOCAL CAR SOCIETIES RECEIVE
NATIONAL RECOGNITION**

We are very proud to learn that the two CAR societies that our chapter sponsors won Gold National Merit Awards at the NSCAR Conference in Washington, DC in April.

Both the Schuyler Society and Bemis Heights Society received this recognition from their National Society.

Schuyler Senior Society President Sandy Zerillo stated: "Our members, seniors and our sponsoring organizations (Gen. Peter Gansevoort Chapter, NSDAR; Saratoga Battle Chapter, SAR; the Lawrence I. & Blanche H. Rhodes Memorial Foundation) deserve a special round of applause for their dedication, hard work and financial support for the success that we have achieved during this 2005-2006 year. Thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment to our society."

The Schuyler Society also won an additional 8 National Awards:

National President's Program Contest-
Best program honoring WW II veterans

National Recording Secretary Contest-
Best society meeting minutes for one meeting
by a member 11 years old or older

National Treasurer Contest-
Society with most appointments and
reappointments as National Promoters

NSCAR Archives Contest-
Society purchasing the most archival spoons

Endowment Fund Contest-
Society with the most endowment fund pins
purchased during year: 26+ members

C.A.R. Magazine Fund Contest-
Society with the most creative fund-raising
effort

Patriotic Education Contest-
Society with the best overall program:
Second Place

American Indian Contest-
Grand Prize, Best American Indian Program

In addition the Society won two recognition awards for the National Chaplain Contest and Patriotic Education, as well as \$95 in prize money.

Congratulations on all of your hard work!

**CHAPTER MEMBERS ASSIST
WALLOOMSAC BATTLE CHAPTER**

Duane Booth and Dennis Marr participated in a genealogical program of the Walloomsac Battle Chapter. This event was held on June 3 at the Cambridge Historical Society and Museum in Washington County. Entitled "Connecting To Your Revolutionary Ancestors," the program attracted a number of strong candidates for SAR membership, including a possible "family application" group of 6-7 members. Also participating was the Ondawa Cambridge Chapter, NSDAR. As many of you know, the Walloomsac Battle Chapter was an offspring of our own Chapter a number of years ago.

OLDEST REV. WAR PATRIOT?

A startling item appeared on the SAR-TALK mail list recently. Citing an article in the October 1928 issue of the *Minute Man*, the official bulletin of the NSSAR, the oldest Revolutionary War patriot seems to be one Henry Francisco, born in France on 11 June 1686 and who died in Whitehall, Washington Co., NY on 24 Oct 1820 at the age of 134+ years!

Your skeptical editor checked around, and found him a qualifying ancestor in DAR with those dates. I also located online an interview conducted with Henry in the fall of 1819 by Prof. Benjamin Silliman, Jr. of Yale College.

Henry stated that his father fled France to Amsterdam, after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, which had granted religious tolerance to French Protestants (Huguenots). His father married a Dutch woman, returned to France and fled again when Henry was age 5, first to Holland and then to England. Henry said that he fought in all of Queen Anne's wars and was in many battles. He showed his numerous war wounds to the professor. After coming to America, he fought at Niagara, at Owsego and on the Ohio in the French and Indian War. During the Revolution, when he was around 90, he was taken prisoner and sent to Quebec.

Henry kept a tavern at Fort Edward during the Revolution, and Tories burned his house and barn. He had 2 wives and 21 children, his second wife being 60 years his junior. In 1819 he was living in the house of his youngest daughter, who was age 52 and born when Henry was 82. He avoided meat and ate mostly bread and butter and baked apples and drank 9 cups of tea per day. He still worked daily in 1819.