



VOL. 12, NO. 1

®

# BATTLE LINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, SAR

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SRING 2008

## NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Matthew D. Anderson – Glens Falls, NY  
Edward L. Cox – Syracuse, NY  
James P. Festa – Essex Junction, VT  
Matthew J. Festa – Houston, TX  
Patrick J. Festa – Mechanicville, NY  
Thomas P. Festa – Albany, NY  
Herbert L. Mulford – Sebastian, FL\*  
Rodman D. Stewart – Lexington, KY  
Charles W. Wright, Jr. – Columbia, MD

\*Sadly, Herbert passed away on January 3, 2008.

Welcome, too, to the following members who have transferred into our chapter:

David C. Ross – Clifton Park, NY  
William F. Schlomberg – Schenectady, NY

And finally, welcome to new dual member from the Alabama Society, Bruce A. Stritter, who found us via the web site and who is originally from Niskayuna.

## MEMBERS RECOVERING FROM ILLNESS

Our best wishes to our President George Ballard, who has had to temporarily step aside due to continuing illness. Also to Past President Bill Glidden who recently had quadruple bypass surgery.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by  
George Ballard

First, I would like to thank those who have been helping out during my illness. I still have a long way to go and need all the prayers that anyone has to offer. There are upcoming events that could use your support. July 4<sup>th</sup> is the Citizenship Program at the Battlefield, and if you have never attended please do so. It is one of the most rewarding programs that you will ever attend. Next is the Turning Point Parade in Schuylerville on August 3<sup>rd</sup>; this year we will again be joined by the Walloomsac Battle Chapter. Finally, the annual Wreath-Laying at the Saratoga Battlefield will be held on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Please keep these dates open and participate if at all possible.

## CHAPTER WINS ADDAMS CUP AGAIN

For the third year in a row, Saratoga Battle won the ESSAR membership trophy and \$500 prize for the most new members in the preceding year. Congratulations to Duane Booth and all who helped to achieve this goal.

## CHAPTER MEMBER WINS ESSAR SCOUT AWARD

Hearty congratulations to Past President Rick Saunders on winning the Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer award and medal. The award presentation was made at the ESSAR Annual Meeting in Coxsackie on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The award was authorized by NSSAR in 2006 and may be presented to an SAR member who is currently active in a Boy Scout Unit, District or Council, or to members who have displayed outstanding dedication to the Scouting Program.

As many of you know, Rick has worked tirelessly with the scouts over many years and has actively promoted NSSAR's recognition programs at the chapter level. Rick has chaired the Eagle Scout Recognition and Scholarship program for the chapter.

Congratulations, Rick, on this fine recognition!

## NSSAR ROTC MEDALS PRESENTED

Dennis Marr presented the NSSAR JROTC medals at two local military schools recently. The Christian Brothers Academy event was Military Honors Night on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the school. The LaSalle Institute event was the Cadet Officer Promotion and Commissioning ceremony on May 29<sup>th</sup> at the school. ROTC medals were also presented to the combined service units at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy.

## NEW BOOK OF INTEREST

A thank you to member Joshua Hall of Pittsfield, MA for bringing to our attention an interesting new book. The title is Friends of Liberty by Gary Nash and Graham Hodges. The book centers on the Revolution and includes a detailed discussion of the relationships among Agrippa Hull, Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Thomas Jefferson. Agrippa Hull came to Stockbridge, MA from Northampton, where he mustered into Col. Paterson's regiment; he eventually transferred to work for Kosciuszko at West Point.

Compatriot Hall works at the Stockbridge Library Historical Room on weekends and the two authors of the above book were recently on hand for a discussion and book signing. Thanks, Joshua, for bringing this to our attention.

## MEMBER RECOGNIZED BY SCHUYLER C.A.R.

Dennis Marr was recently named a National Promoter for 2007-2008 by the Schuyler Society, N.S.C.A.R. Through the Rhodes Memorial Fund, Dennis has provided valuable financial support to the Schuyler Society.

### CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS

Another enjoyable annual meeting was held February 23<sup>rd</sup>. This year's event was at Manna's Restaurant in Ballston Spa. NSSAR Service Awards were presented as follows:

#### **30-Year Members:**

Kurt H. Kilmer  
LCDR Frank E. Moy, USN (Ret.)

#### **20-Year Members:**

Charles W. King  
Douglass "Tim" M. Mabey  
Clark T. Mead  
Daniel J. Mead  
Dr. Garret A. Wirth

Treasurer Mike Companion reported a healthy cash balance on hand, and Registrar Duane Booth provided a report on membership. As of that date our chapter had 176 members, including 9 dual state members and 9 dual chapter members. And, this was after transferring 15 members to the newly-formed Schoharie-Leatherstocking Chapter.

### SCHUYLER SOCIETY C.A.R. STANDS TALL

Once again, the children of the Schuyler Society C.A.R. have received outstanding recognition for their programs and participation in C.A.R. events.

At the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual N.Y.S.S.C.A.R. meeting in March in Poughkeepsie, Schuyler was named a Gold Star Society, one of 6 across New York State. Schuyler was named 2<sup>nd</sup> Most Outstanding Society in the state for 2008. It also won the Blunderbuss Award for the society making the most submissions to the N.Y.S.S.C.A.R. newsletter.

In the numerous contest categories, the Schuyler Society won 17 First Place and 10 Second Place awards for societies in the over twenty members category.

On hand at the evening ceremony was our own Lt. Col. Peter K. Goebel, past chapter president and, at the time, ESSAR President. Peter had the pleasure of presenting to the Schuyler Society the NSSAR Eleanor Smallwood Niebell Award. This award, won in 2007, is for the State C.A.R. Society judged to have the best newsletter according to guidelines set up by N.S.C.A.R.

Senior Society President Sandy Zerillo concluded her message to us as follows:

"Finally, I want to thank our DAR and SAR supporters from the Gen. Peter Gansevoort Chapter NSDAR and the Saratoga Battle Chapter SAR along with the Executive Board of the Lawrence I. and Blanche H. Rhodes Memorial Fund for their financial support and their leadership. Without your continued support it would be virtually impossible for our society to accomplish the goals of the N.S.C.A.R."

### MORE C.A.R. NEWS

The good news just keeps coming on the local C.A.R. front. At the N.S.C.A.R. National Convention held in Crystal City, VA in April, both Schuyler Society and Bemis Heights Society received Gold in the National Outstanding Society Awards. Over 100 societies submitted entries for this award, and 3 from New York State won gold, the other being the Highland Pass Society. Schuyler Society was named 3<sup>rd</sup> Most Outstanding Society in the country for 2007-2008.

As a co-sponsor of both Schuyler and Bemis Heights, Saratoga Battle could not be more proud of these accomplishments. The Gold award is not given for one or two good programs, but rather represents consistent high achievement in numerous programs and events all during the year.

Schuyler Society also won the following National Awards:

NSSAR Eleanor Smallwood Niebell Award – Best Local  
Society Newsletter – 1<sup>st</sup> place (2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row)  
Best Program-Endowment Fund – 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Local Society With Best Program – 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Magazine Fund Contest – 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Mountain Schools Contest – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Patriotic Education Contest – 1<sup>st</sup> Place

### GENEALOGY TIP

by

Dennis F.M. Marr, Genealogist

For those of you who use Ancestry.com, which is becoming more valuable every day as a research tool, I'd like to give a heads-up on search techniques. When you enter a name in the "Search" area, you will receive a number of hits in the Census, Military, Immigration, etc. databases. What you may not know is that the master search does not cover all 26,000+ databases at Ancestry, only the most commonly used ones.

If you don't initially find what you're looking for, click on the "Search" tab at the top of the home page; when that page opens, scroll all the way down: near the bottom on the right side of the page you will see "list all databases." Clicking on this brings you to the Ancestry Card Catalog; at the bottom of this page is a search box where you can look for specific databases (e.g., Troy Directories; Albany churches; etc.). This may bring you to just the source you need to further your research. Alternatively, you can go directly to the catalog search feature at:

<http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/alldblist.aspx>

I have found things using this technique that never came up among the hits using just the master search feature, including numerous Revolutionary War databases that won't turn up in a typical master search.