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®

## ***BATTLE LINES***

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, SAR  
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SPRING 2012

### **CHAPTER PRESENTS ROTC/JROTC AWARDS**

Dennis Marr made the JROTC presentations on behalf of the chapter as follows:

April 26 – Christian Brothers Academy, Albany  
Cadet Michael Merecki

June 7 – LaSalle Institute, Troy  
Cadet Lt. Col. Jordan Crandall

Dennis is a 1960 graduate of LaSalle.

Jonathan Goebel made the ROTC presentations at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on June 7:

Army – Michael Burke  
Navy – Timothy Snyder  
Air Force – Brandon George

### **RHODES FUND GRANTS ANNOUNCED**

Dennis Marr, Executive Director of the Lawrence I. & Blanche H. Rhodes Memorial Fund, reports that the following grants have been approved for our related organizations for 2012:

\$1,000 Saratoga Battle Chapter  
\$ 500 Walloomsac Battle Chapter  
\$6,000 Gen. Peter Gansevoort Chapter, NSDAR  
\$ 750 Schuyler Society, N.S.C.A.R.  
\$ 750 Bemis Heights Society, N.S.C.A.R.

### **BRANDON HARE, C.A.R., HONORED**

On June 14, Schuyler Society member Brandon Hare was honored with the prestigious NSDAR Founder's Medal, the Mary Desha Medal. The presentation ceremony was held at the Van Schaick Mansion in connection with the Flag Day celebrations.

Brandon was honored for his Eagle Scout project involving the cleaning and restoration of the Van Schaick family cemetery adjacent to the mansion. This project included the clearing of a trail through the woods between the mansion and the cemetery. The completion of this project was honored on November 13, 2010.

Cohoes Mayor John McDonald gave his remarks, as did Dennis Marr, representing the Rhodes Memorial Fund.

We extend our congratulations to Brandon, and we are proud to be a co-sponsor of the Schuyler Society, along with the Gansevoort DAR chapter and the Rhodes Memorial Fund.

### **NEWS FROM BEMIS HEIGHTS, C.A.R.**

The Spring 2012 issue of "*Bemis Heights Notes*" brings news of awards received at the N.S.C.A.R. National Convention.

The Society was the recipient of a Gold National Merit Award as well as two National awards:

Archives Contest – First Place, Local Society  
With the Best Program

C.A.R. Magazine & Newsletters Contest –  
Local Society, 25 Members or Fewer,  
Most Creative Articles, Pictures and  
Overall Newsletters

At the NYS C.A.R. Conference, Bemis Heights received a State Gold Star Merit Award Certificate, along with 18 participation certificates for its Society Committee Reports.

Our congratulations go out to the members and Seniors for their continuous hard work in advancing the goals of N.S.C.A.R.

## **REGISTRAR DUNNE PARTICIPATES IN GRAVE MARKING**

Registrar Tom Dunne sends along a nice write-up on the placement of a new grave marker on the grave of his Revolutionary War uncle, Jotham Bemus, Jr.

Jotham (1760-1813) enlisted in 1776 in Van Schaick's NY Regiment, and later served in the Rhode Island Regiment under Lt. Col. Jeremiah Olney and Col. Christopher Greene. It is likely that Jotham saw action at the Battles of Saratoga. Continuing his service with the Rhode Island units, Jotham was discharged on June 15, 1783 at Saratoga with the rank of Corporal. He later served in the War of 1812 from western New York. Jotham died on March 24, 1813 in the town of Hamburg, Erie Co., NY of a leg wound or disease incurred in the War of 1812.

Jotham was buried in the Deuels Corners Cemetery in present-day Orchard Park, NY. On May 24, 2012, Tom Dunne, along with Daryl Verstrete, ESSAR Graves Chairman and Mr. Alfred F. Keeler, President of the Deuel Cemetery Association, placed a new marker on Jotham's grave.



**L-R: Daryl Verstrete, Tom Dunne,  
Alfred Keeler**

The stone was unveiled by the Orchard Park Historical Society on June 16. (Thanks to Society Historian Suzanne S. Kulp for the above data).

## **1940 CENSUS FACTS**

The long-awaited 1940 census was released by NARA on April 1. Several online genealogy sites have uploaded the images of the entire US census and are in the process of indexing it (the upload took Ancestry.com 4 days!). The country comprised over 132 million individuals, so the indexing project is massive.

This census asked extensive questions, including highest grade attended in school, residence on April 1, 1935, employment status for persons over age 14, earnings, birthplace and language of parents, Social Security participation, and number of weeks worked in 1939. For women, it also asked for age at first marriage, whether married more than once and total number of children.

Children born before April 1, 1940 are included in this census. An interesting question asks for the language spoken by each individual in earliest childhood.

Another series of questions pertains to veteran status. Specifically, it asks whether the individual is a veteran of the US military, or the wife, widow or under-18 child of a veteran.

I looked up my father, who was still single in 1940, and found him living with his father in the old Marr homestead in South Troy. I was interested to see that my grandfather's education ended at sixth grade.

To see and print out a PDF of the 1940 census blank form, go to:

<http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/1940.pdf>

Ancestry.com completed the indexing of the census for New York State on June 5. Other states completed as of June 28 include Vermont, Maine, Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Your Editor will need to make it to age 80 to be able to find himself in the 1950 census, having been born in 1942.