



# **BATTLE LINES**

Dennis F.M. Marr, Editor 3 Ravens Ct., Troy, NY 12180 Dfmarr@aol.com  
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## **NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

### **CHAPTER NEWS**

#### **IN OUR MEMORY**

By now many of you will have heard of the untimely death of PG Bruce Baird Butler, a dual member of our chapter. Col. Butler passed away on Monday, July 2 from complications following surgery in New Orleans. We were honored to have PG Butler, his wife Ann and his mother Dorothy with us at our Annual Memorial Service at Saratoga Battlefield last year. PG Butler remarked not too long ago that he had a special fondness for Saratoga Battle as his late father Stannard Butler had been a member back in the 1980's. We have lost a true patriot, a Renaissance man in an age when they are few and far between, and we shall miss him.

#### **CHAPTER MEMBERS ELECTED TO NATIONAL OFFICE**

We are proud to announce that two members of our chapter were elected to national office at the recent NSSAR Annual Congress held in Louisville. Chapter Secretary Jonathan E. Goebel was elected to Vice President General-North Atlantic, in which capacity he will represent the PG at SAR functions in New York and New Jersey. Lt. Col. Peter K. Goebel was elected National Trustee and will represent ESSAR on the Board of Trustees at National. Congratulations to two of the hardest-working brothers in SAR!

#### **CHAPTER BANNER UNFURLED AT SCHUYLERVILLE PARADE**

The chapter has purchased a new banner to be used when we march in parades. The banner made its debut at the Turning Point Parade held in Schuylerville on August 5. Local news reports state that some 3,000 spectators were drawn to this colorful event. A small but dedicated band of compatriots participated in this parade, the first for our chapter in many years. Let's hope for even better turnouts in the future.

#### **ANNUAL WREATH-LAYING AT SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD**

Our joint ceremony with the Saratoga Chapter-DAR will be held at the DAR monument, Stop 2 on the Tour Road, at Saratoga National Historical Park on Sunday,

September 23 at 2 p.m. On hand again this year will be Peter Dubacher of the Berkshire Bird Paradise in Rensselaer County, who will have an American Bald Eagle for us to see. Also joining as this year will be the youth group from the Patriots American Heritage Program. Led by Compatriot Greg Bonarh of IL, this group will be doing an encampment in full Revolutionary War regalia, along with other reenactment groups. This will be the most colorful and inspiring event and one you will not want to miss. A chapter meeting will be held at the park Visitors' Center and we will again have a buffet supper at the Quaker Springs Methodist Church up the road from the park. Mark your calendars now for what promises to be a wonderful occasion. Full details will be sent out once things are lined up.

#### **PETER GOEBEL RECEIVES PATRIOT MEDAL**

Immediate Past President Lt. Col. Peter K. Goebel was presented with the Patriot Medal at the ESSAR Annual Meeting held at West Point in May. This is the highest award that may be presented by a state society, and it is given for long and outstanding service at the chapter and/or state level. Peter has been a tireless worker for SAR at all levels and this award was richly deserved. Congratulations, Peter!

#### **ROTC AWARDS PRESENTED**

Once again this year, the chapter presented SAR ROTC awards at the following institutions:

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy - 3 Silver ROTC medals to cadets from RPI and Siena College in the Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC Programs.

LaSalle Institute, Troy - Bronze medal to cadet in the Army JROTC program.

Christian Brothers Academy, Albany - Bronze medal to cadet in the Army JROTC Program.

#### **DENNIS MARR ELECTED TO FOSE BOARD**

Registrar-Genesologist Dennis F.M. Marr has been elected to a three-year term on the Board of Trustees of the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield. This group raises funds to assist with the carrying out of programs at the Saratoga Battlefield that might not be possible without private funding.

## ANCESTOR CORNER

By Compatriot Dennis F.M. Marr

For several years I had researched my Zeilman family of Albany, NY, finally getting them back to a Johann Ludwig Zeilmann who appears in the records of the First Lutheran Church of Albany in 1786. I was able to determine that Johann had married Dorothea Roller, daughter of my Rev. War ancestor Andreas Roller, a German immigrant who settled in Stone Arabia and served in the French & Indian War and the Revolution with the Tryon County Militia. Johann and Dorothea's son John Anthony Zeilman married Eliza Luther of Albany, daughter of my Rev. War ancestor John Luther and his wife Elisabetha Roller, also a daughter of Andreas Roller.

While performing searches on a Family Tree Maker CD (#132 – Military Records: Selected NY Revolutionary War Records 1775-1840) I got a hit on Johann Ludwig Zeilmann. Previous research had failed to locate him in any colonial Rev. War records. On this CD, I found him in the index to the HETRINA, the massive compilation of 10,000 Hessian Troops who served from Germany on the side of England. This index gave his age as 28 in 1779 (thus born ca. 1751), born Erlangen (a town in Bavaria).

A query to the *Rootweb* Hessian site elicited the information that Johann had served with the Hesse-Hanau Chasseur Corps, an elite unit of hunters and sharpshooters from Bavaria. He was discharged at Quebec City in 1783 and disappeared from Canadian records. In 1788, as John Zeilman, he leased land in Albany: on the lease his occupation was "Hatter."

A researcher in Munich pulled his 3 military files for me from the archives at the University of Marburg, confirming his enlistment in 1779. He had previously served 4 years in the Imperial army. On his enlistment record his occupation is given as "Hutmacher," that is, hat maker. I also received his christening record (born 28 May 1751) from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Erlangen-Neustadt, parents Gabriel Lorenz and Maximiliana Zeilmann.

Apparently the common bonds of ethnicity, language and religion were enough to overcome the fact that Johann had served on the other side in the Revolution.

## CHAMBLY MEMORIAL SERVICE

Past President Bill Glidden once again represented SAR at the annual Memorial Service for the 200 American patriots who lost their life at Chambly, Quebec in 1776, most of whom died of smallpox. This year's event marked the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the placing of a monument honoring these soldiers, members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Dutchess County Militia. Past Pres. Glidden led the assembly in the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

## CENOTAPH STONES MAY BE PLACED AT SARATOGA NATIONAL CEMETERY

Compatriot Carlton E. Covell, Past President and Past Chaplain, informs us that we may place grave markers in the Saratoga National Cemetery for our patriot ancestors. This is permissible when the soldier's burial place is unknown. Compatriot Covell will be dedicating a marker for his ancestor Ezra Covell at the cemetery on September 29. This will be done in conjunction with a similar dedication by our DAR friend Eleanor Kenyon of Schenectady, who is unveiling a memorial to her ancestor Jesse Barker, Sr., who died at Valley Forge and whose final resting place is unknown. The ceremony will take place at 10 a.m., and compatriots are invited and encouraged to attend. [Editor's note: "cenotaph" comes from the Greek meaning "empty tomb," and refers to a memorial marker placed at a site other than that in which the person is interred].

## NEWS FROM CONGRESS

By YPG Jonathan E. Gorbol

All candidates for National office were elected at the recent Congress held in Louisville. ESSSAR was awarded an Officer Streamer for its flag, recognizing the active participation of state officers. Color Guard member Jonathan E. Gorbol was an hand at the annual Memorial Service in revolutionary war garb.

Congratulations to our dual member from Delaware, William Neal, who was elected to the office of Genealogist General. Congratulations are also in order for Bill's winning the Florence Kendall medal for the second year in a row. This award goes to the 3 compatriots sponsoring the most new members during the previous year. This is an amazing feat, and a reflection of Bill's tireless efforts in recruiting new members for SAR.