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®

BATTLE LINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, SAR

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SUMMER 2008

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome the following new members into our chapter.

Lain F. Coryell – Raymond, NH
Peter B. Desrochers – Ballston Lake, NY
Wesley I. Hale III – Schenectady, NY
Peter W. Johnson – Frankford, Ontario, Canada
Douglass T. Mabee – Saratoga Springs, NY
Dr. Donald F. McFarland, Jr. – Burdett, NY
Charles V. Wait, Jr. – Saratoga Springs, NY
Christopher D. Wait – Saratoga Springs, NY
Newman E. Wait III – Saratoga Springs, NY

GET WELL SOON

We extend our wishes for a speedy recovery to two compatriots: Pres. George Ballard and Henry Goebel. Please keep these men in your thoughts and prayers.

5th ANNUAL CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

Submitted by Duane Booth

The Chapter, in joint sponsorship with the Saratoga Chapter, DAR, the Saratoga National Historical Park, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service and the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield held the 5th Annual Citizenship Ceremony at scenic Saratoga National Historical Park in Stillwater on the Fourth of July.

About 200 people gathered under bright sunny skies on America's 232nd Birthday to watch 20 candidates take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America. The program began with opening remarks by the master of ceremonies, Park Superintendent Joe Finan; the firing of a cannon; a musical selection by the Sons & Daughters Five and Drums ensemble. Glens Falls Troop 6 of the Boy Scouts of America presented the colors, followed by Danielle McMullen singing the National Anthem. Then came the recitation of the oath of allegiance by the candidates, and George Ballard led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to America.

Assemblyman Roy J. McDonald from the 112th assembly district was the keynote speaker. A representative from Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand's 20th Congressional District Office was on hand to welcome the new citizens. Marion Walter, Regent of the Saratoga Chapter, DAR and Doris Olszewski of the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield spoke briefly as well.

Candidates received their naturalization certificates and gifts from the participating organizations. Park Ranger

Joe Craig gave 13 toasts to America with, lemonade as the beverage of choice, and those present responded with a hearty "Huzzah" to each toast. Thanks to the Bemis Heights and Schuyler C.A.R. societies for passing the lemonade and to Chapter President George Ballard and Doris Olszewski for providing the delicious cookies.

The ceremony ended with Danielle leading us in singing "God Bless America," the retiring of the colors and a final firing of the cannon.

TURNING POINT PARADE A SUCCESS

Submitted by Duane Booth

Saratoga Battle President George Ballard and Walloomsac Battle, led by President John Sheaff, again had their chapters join forces for this year's Turning Point parade in Schuylerville on August 3rd. A total of 10 members were present, some participating with other groups. Walloomsac members John Sheaff, Duane Booth and Paul Virtue represented the SAR while Paul Loding was with the British re-enactors. Representing our chapter were Charles Walter & Rick Saunders. Others present were Bret Trufant & Mike Companion with the American re-enactors; Lewis Slocum with the Shriners and Rich Fullam with the Schuyler Society, C.A.R. driving his newly purchased vintage Jaguar. Carol Slocum again graciously came with her red Mustang convertible – thanks Carol, you are always there for us! Mike Companion again offered his cannon to us, which John Sheaff graciously towed on his nicely decorated trailer. Despite a little rain (it seems that it rains every day this summer) during the lineup, it was a great day for a parade and it was enjoyed by participants and viewers alike; our contingent is always well-received and appreciated by the crowd. Next year's parade will be on, Sunday August 2nd - come & join us!

CHAPTER MEMBERS ELECTED TO NATIONAL OFFICE

We are proud to announce that two chapter dual members have been elected to National office. Charles F. Bragg of Indiana has been elected to the office of Treasurer General and Joseph W. Dooley of Virginia has been elected to the position of Genealogist General.

Both of these compatriots have provided long and dedicated service to our society at every level and these latest positions demonstrate their continuing commitment to the goals and ideals of the NSSAR. National office is a tremendous responsibility as well as a high honor. We offer our hearty congratulations to both compatriots.

ANCESTOR CORNER

By
Daniel J. Mead

One of my Revolutionary War ancestors was James Storer, born 14 of April, 1742 at Middletown. Conn.; he moved with his parents to New Haven while still a child. He married, probably 1772-73 and was the father of nine children in the years between 1774-1794.

In August 1776, British forces occupied Long Island and many of the inhabitants had fled to Conn. James and his family may have been among those refugees, as on the 10th of December 1776 James purchased a home in New London described as "about one quarter of an acre together with the dwelling house thereon." While living there, James, a carpenter and shipwright, worked on building of the frigate, "Confederacy."

The Confederacy, a continental ship variously described as having 32, 36, and 40 guns, was one of the frigates ordered by Congress to be built in Connecticut, under the direction of the Governor and Council of Safety. It was constructed on the Thames River below Norwich at a site known as Brewster's Neck, and was built chiefly of "Tory lumber," the oak of her keel having been brought from the confiscated land of a Tory in Salem, Conn. Locust trees for her trunnels were felled from a lot in New London owned by a Boston royalist; and planks from the confiscated groves of other royalists were used for fashioning her hull and laying of her deck. She was launched Nov. 8, 1778, and towed downriver on the 30th to be rigged and recruited at New London.

James father, John Storer, was one of the builders of the Confederacy, along with his sons, James (my ancestor), and Ebenezer. When the ship sailed in 1778 James, then age 36, was aboard as a member of the crew, and his younger brother Ebenezer as ship's carpenter. Captain Seth Harding was the first and only American commander of the Confederacy. She was first ordered to cruise up "the sound" to annoy the enemy, to attack their ships "as shall appear prudent." On 20th of Oct. 1779 she sailed from Philadelphia for France, having on board the French minister deGerard and the newly appointed American minister to Spain, the Hon. John Jay, as passengers. On the 7th of November the vessel encountered a storm and lost all her masts and sails, and was obliged to make her way to the island of Martinique in the West Indies, coming to anchor at St. Pierre on 18 of Dec. after 53 days at sea. Here she was fitted out with makeshift masts, and 30th of March 1780 loaded with sugar. Accompanied by 5 merchantmen, she sailed for Philadelphia, where she lay from the end of April until the end of November, being repaired and refitted. In Feb. 1781 she was sent to Cape Francois in the W. Indies, for clothing and other supplies for the army, and on the homeward voyage was captured off the Delaware Capes by two British vessels, to which she surrendered on the 14th of April 1781. (This was James' 39th birthday). The British frigates then triumphantly carried the captured American ship into New York where she was later taken into Royal Navy under the slightly

altered name, "Cofederate." The crew, including James and his brother, were confined in the prison ship Jersey until exchanged or released after the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown on 19th of Oct. 1781.

Little is known of James after that time, or, when he actually died. He was still living in 1790, as children were born in 1791 and 1794, but I have been unable to find him in any index to the 1790, or later, censuses. His name could have easily have been miswritten or misread as Stoner, Stover, Stower, Storey, etc.. His daughter, Catherine, (my 3rd great grandmother), married Jacob Hubbard in 1798 at the age of 17. Catherine and her husband Jacob migrated to Fulton County, (then Montgomery), and were listed as members of our Northville Baptist Church in 1802.

CHAPTER MEMBERS APPOINTED TO NATIONAL COMMITTEES

The following compatriots have received national committee assignments as of 25 July 2008.

The following serve in leadership positions on these committees:

Joseph W. Dooley
Color Guard – Vice Chairman
Council of State Presidents – Vice Chairman
Henry N. McCarl, PG
Ethics - Chairman
Jonathan E. Goebel
Youth Oration Contest - Chairman
Charles R. Lampman
Patriotic Education – Vice Chairman
Real Story of the Revolution - Chairman
Peter K. Goebel
Young Members – Vice Chairman

Serving as committee members are:

Charles F. Bragg
Charles R. Lampman
Ronald E. Newton
Henry N. McCarl, PG
William B. Neal
Joseph W. Dooley
Jonathan E. Goebel
Dennis F. Marr
Peter K. Goebel

Many of the above compatriots are serving on multiple committees. We can be proud of the service being rendered to the National Society by these hard-working compatriots.

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a reservation form for this year's wreath-laying ceremony at the Saratoga battlefield on September 21st. This is one of our major annual events and we hope to see you there.