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®

BATTLE LINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, SAR

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SUMMER 2013

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A hearty welcome to the following new members:

John H. Bergener, Jr. – Latham, NY
Allen C. Everett – Amsterdam, NY
Frank T. Gray – Mechanicville, NY
Brian A. Gulotta – Troy, NY
Peter E. Hormell – Cambridge, NY
Christopher A. Lavigne – Silver Spring, MD
Larry D. Preston – Johnstown, NY
Patrick Reilly – Mechanicville, NY
Steven N. Rider – Albany, NY
Robert C. Singleton – Schenectady, NY
Vernon W. Wagner – Palatine Bridge, NY
David F. Wilber III – Springfield Center, NY
David F. Wilber IV – Oneonta, NY
George I. Wilber II – Delhi, NY
Tyler F. Wilber – Glenmont, NY
Carl J. Wirth – Delmar, NY

A warm welcome also to the following compatriot transferring from Stone Arabia Chapter:

Arthur David Manclow – Fort Plain, NY

IN OUR MEMORY

Our condolences to compatriot Russell Stocker, Jr. on the recent loss of his wife Eileen (Piper). Eileen passed away on May 10th at the age of 89; she and Russell had been married for 66 years. Our condolences also to Eileen's family.

RHODES FUND GRANTS

Dennis F. Marr, Executive Director of the Rhodes Memorial Fund, is pleased to announce that the Fund awarded the following grants for 2013:

Saratoga Battle Chapter - \$1,000
Schuyler Society, C.A.R. - \$750
Bemis Heights Society, C.A.R. - \$750
Gansevoort Chapter, NSDAR - \$6,000*

*For preservation/improvement of Van Schaick Mansion in Cohoes, NY.

RONALD NEWTON MEMORIAL

On June 22, a number of chapter members participated in an SAR Graveside Memorial Service for our late compatriot Ronald Erwin Newton. Ron was a Past President of our chapter as well as of the Empire State Society. After moving to Maine, he and his wife Helen continued to remain very active in SAR, DAR and C.A.R. activities.

Lending color and import to the service was the presence of the 2nd Continental Artillery re-enactors group; they provided both a Musket Salute and a Cannon Salute to open and close the ceremony.



Easton Rural Cemetery, Easton, NY

(left to right) Tim Mabee, Mike Companion, Tom Dunne (front), Doug Reynolds (rear), Duane Booth, Steve Coye, Pat Festa, Joel Coye, George Malinoski, Dennis Marr, Dave Newton, and Dave Marsh. Missing from photo is Bill Nottingham.

ROTC/JROTC AWARDS

The chapter made the following awards this year.

18 April – Christian Brothers Academy JROTC
Army
4 May – Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute ROTC
Army, Navy, Air Force
14 May – LaSalle Institute JROTC
Army
15 May – Amsterdam High School JROTC
Navy/Marine Corps.

ANCESTOR CORNER

by
Compatriot Bruce Coyne

My ancestor, Joseph Calkins, was born In Hebron, Hartford, CT on June 2, 1737, the son of Stephen Calkins and Mary Curtis. His father, Stephen, was too old for front line duty in the Revolution but he served in the Sharon, CT militia and took part in alarms and training. He had nine sons, all of whom supposedly took part in the war to some degree.

Joseph served under Captain Downs in Col. Burrell's Connecticut regiment. This unit was under the command of General Arnold during the fighting around Montreal. In May of 1776 several skirmishes occurred about 30 miles west of Montreal at a place called the Cedars. The garrison surrendered to a combined force of British and Indians, mostly Iroquois, led by Captain George Foster on May 19. Units sent to their aid were also captured the next day. Captain Foster and General Arnold negotiated a trade of equal numbers of prisoners and all the Americans were freed. Congress rejected the settlement and no British were ever freed.

Joseph Calkins survived the war, returning to his wife, Deborah Crippen, and family. They moved to Tinmouth, Rutland, VT where Joseph died on October 3, 1806. He is buried in an unknown location in that town.

For Coyne, Cohen, Zick, Calkins, Kipers, Twitchell, Overend, Barron, Zick, Friberg and Engle in central New York, contact me for online links to much family information: covnege@aol.com.

ANCESTOR CORNER

by
Compatriot David A. Marsh

The following is a description of the Revolutionary War service of John Marsh b. 25 Nov 1758. It is an abbreviated abstract of his handwritten deposition to the Litchfield Co., CT Probate Court in application for a federal pension. Question marks indicate text which is not clearly readable.

That in the latter part of June 1776 he enlisted into the service of the United States as a Private soldier for the six months in Capt. Stephen Goodwin's company & Coll. Fisher Gay's Regt. of the Connecticut line, as he supposes; was marched to New York & afterward on to Long Island, where he remained until the 15th of

September, when they were driven off the island by the British & retreated to New York. He recollects seeing the British flag waving in the City of New York the same day. That he was one of about 3000 men as should think, under the command of Gen. Wadsworth who were placed in a trench on the East River a little above the City while Gen. Washington drew off the main body of the Army to Kingsbridge, & on the next day (Sunday PM) they left the trenches under the fire of the enemy & retreated to the main body. He recollects that when they left the trenches a soldier was shot through the knee or leg and fell. That Gen. Wadsworth told some of the men to put the wounded soldier on his horse behind him, which they did, & the horse leaped over a stone wall with them and were carried safely off. That in leaping the stone wall he heard the balls of the enemy strike against it. That he threw his pack & gun over the wall and pitched over on to them & then raised his gun & ran with all his might, but left his pack behind. That though they were exposed to the incessant fire of the enemy, not many were killed. He knows of no person living whose testimony he can obtain to prove this service. That he served out the term of his enlistment and was discharged the 25th day of December. That in the spring of 1780 he enlisted for nine months in the 1st Company, commanded by Capt. (? Miles or Miller), in Coll. (?Herman) Swift's Regt. of the Connecticut line. That he served out the term and was discharged in December at the highlands. Was with the main body of the Army along the North River & in New Jersey during the whole term. Of this service he has the testimony of Elijah Gaylord & Roswell Marsh. That in September 1781 he again entered the service as a substitute or for a (?class) who were to furnish a man, he was hired by Elihu Barber of Torrington, he thinks company was commanded by Capt. Buckley, one (???) was orderly (???) the Regt. commanded by Coll. Samuel B. Webb & called the 9th Connecticut Regt. & served three months. Joined the army at Peekskill on the North River. Gen. Washington was there & remained with them until he left with a part of the army for York Town. From Peekskill removed to (???) Town New Jersey where he was when the news arrived of the capture of Cornwallis.

**CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY AT
SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

by
Compatriot Duane Booth

*Citizenship Ceremony
Still Going Strong
10th Annual
July 4th Citizenship Ceremony*

On Thursday, July 4th, we marked our 10th consecutive year (the program incorrectly shows 9 years) as a joint sponsor of the Citizenship Ceremony held at the Saratoga National Historical Park, which is also known as the Saratoga Battlefield. The event, which is held in partnership with the Battlefield, the NSDAR and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, was first held July 4th 2004 but had been originally scheduled for July 4, 2003. Our partnership is aided by the dedication of the Friends of the Saratoga Battlefield, the Battlefield Volunteers and Staff, Boy Scout Troop 6 from Glens Falls, and the Schuyler Society, C.A.R., who all contributed much help in making the event a success.

Congressman Bill Owens of the 21st Congressional District welcomed the new citizens and their families. Kathy Marchione, NY state Senator from the 43rd Senate District addressed the new citizens.

This year's master of ceremonies and keynote speaker was Dr. Ray Raymond MBE, DSM, FRSA, Professor of Government and History, SUNY; Adjunct Professor of Comparative Politics, USMA. Dr. Raymond was both knowledgeable and entertaining. Danielle McMullen led the group in singing the National Anthem.



(L-r) Tim Mabee, Duane Booth, Danielle McMullen, Tim Condon, Bill Nottingham, Tom Dunne & John Sheaff pose with our chapter monument rededicated in 2002.

SWORD SURRENDER SITE CEREMONY

by
Compatriot Duane Booth

On Saturday June 03, 2013 the newest addition to the Saratoga National Historical Park lands was celebrated. The 22 acre parcel just south of the Village of Schuylerville and in the Town of Saratoga includes, according to soldier diaries, the spot where General John Burgoyne surrendered his sword to General Horatio Gates.

The site, scheduled for completion in 2015, will include a marker depicting the surrender, a pavilion type structure; interpretive signage and walkways.



(Left to Right) Steven Perkins, Secretary MASSAR and Commander of the Col. Henry Knox Regimental Artillery Color Guard of the State of MA; Lawrence McKinley, Past-VPG Mid-Atlantic District VASSAR; Robert Walsh, President NHSSAR; Thomas Dunne, President & Registrar, Saratoga Battle Chapter, ESSAR; Douglass "Tim" Mabee, President, VTSSAR and a dual ESS member in the Saratoga Battle Chapter; Gregory Thorne, Honorary National President 2012-2013, N.S.C.A.R. and Hans Jackson, Senior National President N.S.C.A.R. & NHSSAR member. (Tim Mabee photo)

**SARATOGA BATTLE-WALLOOMSAC
ALLIANCE CONTINUES**

by
Compatriot Duane Booth

Back in 2007 Saratoga Battle President George H. Ballard and Walloomsac Battle President John H. Sheaff began discussion with the goal of helping each other with SAR events to increase our numbers and lighten our workload. The discussion was positive and the first joint event was the Turning Point Parade in 2007. The most recent event was the August 16th commemoration ceremony of the Battle of Bennington. While several SARs attended in more than one capacity, and given the fact that Mike Bates

is from the Jockey Hollow Chapter in the NJ Society, the spirit of cooperation is alive and well between the chapters. Presently four Walloomsac Battle members are dual chapter members of Saratoga Battle and five Saratoga Battle members are dual chapter members of Walloomsac Battle.



(L-r) Tim Mabee, Mike Companion, Pete Hormell, Paul Loding, Mike Bates, John Sheaff & Duane Booth

19th ANNUAL TURNING POINT PARADE

by
Compatriot Dennis Gill Booth
Chapter Webmaster

The *Turning Point Parade 2013* was the nineteenth annual presentation in the Village of Schuylerville, NY. The original idea of the parade was to serve as a public reminder of the importance of this area in the history of our country; in particular, the defeat of the British armies in 1777 and their subsequent surrender by General Burgoyne. These events have of course been deemed the "turning point" of the American Revolution, vital to winning independence from Great Britain.

What better an opportunity for participation by the Saratoga Battle and Walloomsac Battle Chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution?

This year's Turning Point Parade was "old hat" for most of our membership. But this year, the chapter's Webmaster happened to be in the area with his family visiting relatives, and was therefore able to participate in the parade, for the second time. The last time the stars and planets aligned in such a way was in 2006. What a wonderful opportunity!

Our chapter has participated in this parade every year since 2000.

C.A.R. NEWS

Saratoga Battle is a co-sponsor of both the Schuyler and Bemis Heights Societies, N.S.C.A.R. and both societies have been busy.

Susan Szewczyk, Senior Vice President of Bemis Heights reports that the society was recently recognized with a number of national awards:

Honorable Mention for National Merit Award entry;
1st Place, Best Prayer, National Chaplain's Contest;
3rd Place, Local Society with the Best Program on the Importance of Artwork Housed by the Federal Government.

The N.S.C.A.R. National Project & Theme is "*The Pursuit of Happiness*." The plan is to raise \$50,000. The mission of this group is to provide military veterans with the resources, support and advocacy needed to succeed in higher education and following graduation.

The Schuyler Society participated in the Sword Surrender Site Ceremony on June 3. During the ceremony, National President Greg Thorne presented a check for \$29,000 to the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield. This money was raised as part of a project to raise funds for a bronze *bas relief* monument at the site. The unveiling of this monument during the ceremony was an exciting culmination to the year-long project. Congressman Paul Tonko was on hand for the ceremonies. (Reporting by Society member Nicholas Oxaal in the Summer 2013 issue of *The Schuyler Chronicles*.)

The Society participated in a Flag Day event with the Gansevoort Chapter, DAR at the Van Schaick Mansion. A flag retirement ceremony was part of the day's events. And on July 4 they took part in the Citizenship Ceremony at the Saratoga Battlefield.

CHAPTER HISTORY UPDATE

Our thanks go to Karl Danneil for taking over the duties of Chapter Historian. Karl and Dennis Marr met in late August, at which time chapter history materials were transferred. As time permits, Karl will be doing annual updates to the previously-published chapter history. If any officers or members should obtain material during the year that might be helpful in updating the history (programs, publicity, etc.) please see that Karl gets examples or copies.