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BATTLE LINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, SAR
Dennis F.M. Marr, Editor 3 Ravens Court, Troy, NY 12180
Dfmarr@aol.com 518-283-2908

SUMMER 2017

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to the following new chapter members.

Andrew P. Bigness – Schenectady, NY
Wayne H. Butler – Brant Lake, NY
Andrew M. Companion – Ballston Spa, NY
Timothy J. Gaffney, Sr. – Schenectady, NY
Gardner S. Gurney – Altamont, NY
Brian R. Haak – Latham, NY
James E. Richmond, Jr. – Ballston Spa, NY
Bradley C. Smith – Lorton, VA
Dane A. Smith – Laurel, MD
David A. Smith – Clifton Park, NY
Lemuel A. Treadway – Moriah, NY

IN OUR MEMORY

We were saddened to learn of the passing of compatriot William G. "Bill" Loveday, Jr. on June 29, 2017. Bill was an SAR member since 1969 and was a dual member with the Stone Arabia Chapter. Bill was 85 years old and had retired from the US Navy in 1974 after 25 years service. Our condolences go out to his family.

HISTORIAN DANNEIL HONORED

Chapter Historian Karl L. Danneil was honored as June's Member of the Month by the Chandler-Young Veterans' Association. Karl was drafted into the US Army in 1965 and served at the White Sands Missile Range as a Specialist In Electrical Engineering and Research. Congratulations, Karl, and thank you for your service to our country.

RHODES FUND ANNOUNCES GRANTS

Rhodes Memorial Fund Executive Director Dennis F. Marr has announced this year's grants to organizations of interest: shown are this year's grant and the cumulative grants to date.

Gansevoort DAR: \$14,000/\$137,500
Schuyler Society C.A.R.: \$750/\$10,000
Bemis Heights Society, C.A.R.: \$750/\$10,000
Saratoga Battle SAR: \$1,000/\$19,000

FORT ANNE HISTORICAL MARKER

By
Pres. Douglas Gallant

On the cool afternoon of May 9th, a new historical marker sponsored by the SAR was dedicated in the town of Ft. Ann. The marker commemorates the battle that was fought at Battle Hill less than one mile from the marker site in July 1777.

The dedication was scheduled to coincide with SAR President General Tomme's tour "1777: The Road to Saratoga." The tour itinerary generally followed the 1777 route of British General John Burgoyne from Québec City to his defeat at Saratoga at the hands of Patriots under the command of General Horatio Gates. The Battle of Fort Ann was one of the engagements that occurred prior to the Battles of Saratoga.

The event was well attended with individuals from the tour group and local SAR members and guests. Color guard and cannon salute were provided by the 2nd Continental Artillery Regiment.



Standing L-R: National Trustee Peter Goebel, Registrar General Russell F. DeVenney, Immediate Past State President Duane Booth, President General J. Michael Tomme, Treasurer General Warren M. Alter, President General (2014-2015) Lindsey C. Brock, Chaplain General Louis V. Carlson, SAR Foundation Board President Sam Powell.

Members of the 2nd Continental Artillery kneeling L-R: Michael Skelly, Mary Skelly, Michael Companion, Douglas Gallant, Brian Companion, Bradley Allen

ANCESTOR CORNER

Harold Rogers

Abraham Lewis Jr was born 10 August 1752 at Westerly, R. I. He enlisted in the Revolution as a private in Stonington, Ct. and first entered service in April, 1775 for 7 months while he was living in Stonington. He marched to New London, then Roxbury, Ma. soon after the Battle of Bunker Hill. He remained there with the regular army, and in the command of General Washington, and remained an additional two months after the expiration of his term.

About March 1776, while residing in Stonington, he enlisted in the Connecticut State Troops and marched to Stonington Point and New Lebanon, and was employed part of the time in building forts at Stonington and Fort Trumbull at New London. He was discharged in December of 1776 and reenlisted in the later part of that same month. He marched to Providence and had command of a boat to pick up men who had been employed to set fire to some of the British ships lying in the river.

In August 1777, he was drafted into the Connecticut State Troops for 3 months. He marched from Preston, CT to Albany, NY and then on to Saratoga to oppose the British under General Burgoyne. He was at the Battle of Bemis Heights and remained with troops under command of General Benedict Arnold until the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga.

Abraham then marched to Albany and went home on furlough; his term ended while he was at home. In April of 1778 he moved to the Town of Petersburg, Rensselaer County, NY. In 1780 he was called out on a militia alarm for 3 months, serving as a Lieutenant. He died on December 14, 1838 in Petersburg and is buried there in the Lewis Family Cemetery.

(Note: an “h” was added to Petersburg long after the Revolution and is now spelled that way, although the USPS prefers the original spelling. Abraham Lewis is also an ancestor of chapter member Mike Skelly).

14th ANNUAL JULY 4th CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

Pres. Douglas Gallant

On an absolutely gorgeous July 4th at the Saratoga Battlefield, 19 individuals from 14 different countries became citizens of the United States. The Saratoga Battle Chapter was privileged to again be part of this

naturalization ceremony that has become a well-regarded tradition at this historic site.

Park Superintendent Amy Bracewell was the master of ceremonies again this year. She welcomed the new citizen candidates and guests to the event. This was punctuated by a musket salute from the Saratoga NHP Musket Corps followed by the Presentation of Colors by the Twin Rivers Council Boy Scouts. Danielle McMullen then led everyone in singing the *Star Spangled Banner*.

The Keynote Address this year was provided by Mr. Neil Edmunds. He detailed his path from being a firefighter in Manchester, England, to now being a Managing Director of a financial services firm and becoming a naturalized citizen along the way. He concluded his remarks by reminding the citizens-to-be that America is still a land of opportunity.

The most important part of the entire day was next as Gwynne Dinolfo of the US Customs and Immigration Services led the 19 immigrants in the Oath of Allegiance thereby making them all new citizens of the United States! An extended and well deserved round of applause followed to welcome these individuals as citizens.

Both before and after the ceremony I was invited to join some of the new citizens in some photos which I was more than happy to do for them. I think being in my Revolutionary War uniform had something to do with it!



President Gallant Addresses the Audience

REMINDER: The annual wreath-laying ceremony at Saratoga Battlefield will be held September 17 at 2 p.m. Meeting and dinner follow at the Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs. Details on chapter web site.