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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

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NEW MEMBER WELCOME

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Bertrand J. Jost – Scarsdale, NY
Charles H. Shields – Plattsburgh, NY
Greg M. Woyshner – New York, NY

Compatriots Jost and Woyshner will be joining the new Valcour Battle Chapter in northern New York.

IN OUR MEMORY

We were saddened to learn of the deaths of two compatriots since the last newsletter.

Past President Robert P. Crocetta, Sr. of Palm Coast, FL, died on 9 December 2006 at the age of 84. Bob was a dynamic individual who was instrumental in moving the ESSSAR headquarters from New York City to Schenectady. Bob was the brother-in-law of Past President Clyde Childs. We extend our condolences to the family.

Edward M. Scribner of Schoharie died on 28 October 2006 at the age of 98. Ed joined SAR in 2001 and was very proud of his membership. He was an early inventor of movie sound equipment and had an amazing collection of vintage items related to that enterprise.

RECOMMENDED READING

by

Compatriot William G. Glidden
Historian, Valcour Battle Chapter
Past Pres., Saratoga Battle Chapter

A Guide To the Battles of the American Revolution, Theodore P. Savas & J. David Dameron, Savas Beatie LLC, 2006 (\$20.67 on Amazon.com).

This book covers nearly every engagement and skirmish from April 19, 1775 to April of 1783. Listed is every unit involved, the terrain covered, weather and sequence of action.

The body of each entry offers both a Colonial and British perspective of the military situation, a detailed discussion of casualties and the consequences of the engagements. Also discussed is what remains today of the areas where the fighting occurred.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jonathan E. Goebel

As my presidential term comes to an end and we move forward in the 230th year of the founding of our country, I thank my fellow officers, the committee chairmen, and our chapter members, along with their families, for their support and dedication to the Sons of the American Revolution.

Welcome to each new chapter member who has joined our ranks, and thanks to each chapter member for continuing his membership. As our membership increases, I am pleased to tell you that the Saratoga Battle chapter continues to be the largest chapter in the Empire State Society.

We had good participation at the 2006 Annual Meeting, the March for Parks, the Citizenship Ceremony on July 4th, the Turning Point Parade, and the Annual Wreath-Laying Ceremony, as well as other chapter events. We anticipate seeing you at future chapter endeavors.

The generous financial support received from the membership and from the Rhodes Memorial Fund is greatly appreciated and assists in promoting youth contests, awards, and chapter functions.

Our Website is beneficial in keeping members informed of events and in helping recruit new members. If you haven't already done so, please bookmark the address www.saratogabattle-sar.org for your future reference.

SCHUYLER SOCIETY, CAR MARKS CONSTITUTION DAY

Your editor represented our chapter at a most impressive ceremony conducted by the Schuyler Society, C.A.R., of which Saratoga Battle is a sponsor. The event was held at the Van Schaick Mansion in Cohoes on September 17. Dignitaries on hand included Cohoes Mayor McDonald and NYS Assemblyman Ronald Canestrari, whose aunt and uncle owned the mansion for many years.

After readings by several of the youngsters, a dedication ceremony of the Mansion Brick Project took place. The "Walk of the Past" is comprised of memorial bricks purchased by contributors, many in honor of Revolutionary War ancestors. Kudos to the children for a most impressive ceremony!

***COMPATRIOT HONORS ANCESTOR
ON VETERANS' DAY***

by
Compatriot George H. Ballard, 2nd VP

Compatriot Michael Companion's Revolutionary War ancestor, Moses Hall, Jr., was honored with a new gravestone on Veterans Day 2006 at the Barkersville Cemetery in the Town of Providence, Saratoga County. About 90 descendants and friends gathered in the small cemetery for a memorial to Moses Hall, Jr. who served from 1778 to 1783. His pension record shows that he was awarded the Regimental Badge of Merit; the award consists of a purple heart about three inches in height, edged in gold and the word "Merit" embroidered in the middle. Only a handful of men were known to have been awarded the "Badge of Merit;" this award today would be comparable to the Medal of Honor, however, its design would be the forerunner to the Purple Heart. The gravestone was obtained and installed with the help of Chapter members Chuck Greenfield and Ray LeMay, and the memorial ceremony was due to the efforts of Michael Companion, member of Saratoga Battle Chapter SAR, and a member of the 2nd Continental Artillery re-enactors, a descendant of Moses Hall.

The ceremony opened with a musical selection by musicians from the 13th Albany County Militia, followed by the firing of the cannon by the 2nd Continental Artillery Regiment. The pledge of Allegiance was lead by Companion's children, Andrew and Cassandra, dressed in their Colonial attire. Town of Providence Supervisor Richard Hunter, also a descendant of Moses Hall, unveiled the new headstone. Wreaths were placed by Marion Walter, Regent, Saratoga Chapter DAR and Richard Fullam, 1st VP and Treasurer of our Chapter. Mike Companion told of the life and service of Moses. George Ballard, 2nd VP Saratoga Battle SAR, read a dedication in honor of Moses Hall Jr.; this was followed by three volleys of musket fire by riflemen from the 2nd Continental Artillery, McCracken's 1st NY Continental Infantry and the 13th Albany County Militia. Duane Booth, ESSAR VP Capital Region, lead in the reading of the Pledge to the SAR. The ceremony concluded with the firing of the cannon and a rendition of "Taps" by Steven Jenkins, also a descendant of Moses Hall.

Other chapter members in attendance were Charlie King, Charles Walter and Bret Trufant, who is also a member of the 2nd Continental Artillery Regiment.

Congratulations Mike for "a job well done"!

The dedication included: "Heavenly Father, we honor today Moses Hall for his service in the American Revolution. Without his contribution to the cause of freedom, we would not enjoy the blessings of liberty that you have bestowed upon us."

Please check our web site for photos of this event.

***MOSES HALL, JR.:
A SOLDIER OF THE REVOLUTION***

by
Compatriot Michael Companion

(Abstracted from program for Memorial Ceremony, Town of Providence, Saratoga Co., NY, 11 November 2006).

Moses was born in Wallingford, CT on 26 December 1754. When war came with Great Britain, Moses, like his father, chose to serve the cause of liberty. He enlisted as a private in Capt. Leavenworth's Co. of the 4th CT Continental Regiment commanded by Col. Return Meigs. Moses' pension record indicates that he took part in the Battle of White Plains in October of 1776; his regiment at that time was attached to Washington's Main Army. A history of Wallingford, CT states that Moses was at the Battle of Saratoga and witnessed the surrender of Burgoyne.

According to his pension record, Moses then enlisted on 1 March 1778 in Capt. David Starr's company in Meigs' 4th Continental Regiment. This regiment was reassigned to Washington's Main Army for much of the remainder of the war. On 1 January 1781 the 4th Regiment was disbanded and Moses was transferred to Col. Zebulon Butler's 1st Regiment. As part of these units, Moses may very well have seen action around Philadelphia and Monmouth in 1778 and Yorktown in 1781.

Moses was discharged from Col. Butler's 1st CT Regiment on 7 June 1783. His pension record states that he was awarded the "badge of merit" for six years of faithful service, from 1778-1783. On 7 August 1782, General Washington had ordered that those soldiers who have demonstrated "instances of unusual gallantry, but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way shall meet with due reward...."

Those who received the badge of merit were to wear it on the left breast of their coats. Only a handful of men were known to have earned such recognition in the war.

Following his discharge, Moses returned to Wallingford where he married Lucy Hart on 25 December 1783. Several years later, Moses, Lucy and their two children left Wallingford for "the west," in the company of Moses' younger brother Reuben. They made their way down the Mohawk Trail to Saratoga County and established themselves in the Town of Providence (a part of Ballston at that time). Here Moses established a farm where he and Lucy raised their six children.

For his service, Moses was granted a pension dated 6 April 1818. He died in Providence on 11 May 1827.

The program for this wonderful ceremony will find a home in the archives of the Saratoga Battle Chapter.

It is to be hoped that this event might spur other members on to share with us some of the details of their ancestors' lives and service.