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®

BATTLE LINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, SAR

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NEW MEMBER WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members of our esteemed chapter:

Barclay P. Butler – Silver Spring, MD
Benjamin P. Butler – Odenton, MD
Brian R. Butler – Strongsville, OH
Nathaniel S. Butler – Abilene, TX
Samuel G. Butler – Silver Spring, MD
Thomas F. Butler – Silver Spring, MD

All of these compatriots join under Capt. Thomas Johnson of Virginia.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

George Ballard

Hope everyone had a happy and healthy Holiday. First, I would like to thank all of the Compatriots who added a chapter donation along with their annual dues payments: these are greatly appreciated, and help to support our programs. I would also like to thank Mike Companion and Charlie King for attending the Surrender Day program at Fort Hardy Park, and Dennis Marr for attending the 110th Anniversary of the Gansevoort Chapter, which illness prevented me from attending. Dennis was happy to accept on behalf of the Chapter the Outstanding C.A.R./SAR Sponsor Award from the Schuyler Society NSCAR. Dennis was also presented the same award on behalf of the Rhodes Memorial Fund. Great job Dennis.

Check out our web site for upcoming programs; one that you should not miss is the Citizenship Program on the Fourth of July. It is a moving experience to watch 20 people from all over the world become U.S. citizens. All of our programs are important and need your support – try to attend as many as you can.

Our web site is:

www.saratogabattle-sar.org

A special thank you to our member Dennis Booth of North Carolina for his sterling work as our Webmaster. Great work, Dennis!

CLASSIFICATIONS OF REVOLUTIONARY FORCES IN NEW YORK

George Ballard

The New York military forces of the Revolution were divided into three classes. The first was the Line, in which the regiments were in patriot service under General Washington - there were also regiments of artillery and an organization of "Green Mountain Boys" in the Line.

The Levies were draftees from the different militia regiments, and from the population at large as well, and could be called upon to serve outside the state during their term of service.

The third class of military service was the Militia, which then, as now, could only be called out of the state for three months at a time.

There were 9 organizations of the Line, 7 of the Levies and 68 of the Militia. There were also Privateers in the service and pay of the state: the schooner "General Putnam," the sloops "Montgomery" and "Schuyler" and the frigate "Congress."

Associated Exempts were a unique class authorized on 3 April 1778. They were comprised of "all persons under the age of sixty who have held civil or military commissions and are not or shall not be reappointed to their respective proper ranks of office, and all persons between the ages of fifty and sixty." They could only be called out "in time of invasion or incursion of the enemy."

Source: New York in the Revolution As Colony and State, Second Edition. James A. Roberts.

[Editor's note: an interesting footnote to this involves the service of slaves in the Revolution. Any slave killed in action was to be paid for. In time of invasion, any slave found one mile or more from his master's abode without a proper certificate could be shot. In 1781, it was declared that any slave who should enlist and serve "for three years, or until discharged," should be declared a freeman of the State.]

**COMPATRIOT MICHAEL COMPANION
RECEIVES VFW TEACHER AWARD**

We are proud to congratulate chapter Treasurer Michael Companion on his recent recognition from the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Mike has been notified by VFW Post No. 1498 in Clifton Park that he is the recipient of their *National Citizenship Education Teacher's Recognition Award*. In addition, he was told that he is also the New York State finalist and that his achievements have been forwarded to the national VFW for consideration at that level.

The VFW's National Citizenship Education Teachers' Award recognizes the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history and traditions. Nearly 1,000 teachers from every state, the District of Columbia and overseas compete annually.

Mike is a 9th grade teacher of World History at Shenendahowa High School in Clifton Park; he also teaches American History in summer school to 7th and 8th graders, and wears his Revolutionary War garb at that time.

Mike said in an interview on January 12 that he received the award mostly for his numerous outside activities; the parades and ceremonies in which he participates have a strong educational element to them. Since joining our chapter, Mike has become both an invaluable member and an outstanding representative of SAR.

On a more somber note, we must report that Mike was scheduled for heart valve surgery on Wednesday, January 14. We ask that you keep him in your thoughts and pray for a successful outcome.

Be well, Mike - we hope that you are back on your feet soon.

BATTLE LINES MILESTONE

With this issue we complete eleven years of *Battle Lines*. Your editor wants to remind all members that this is *your* newsletter. Your contributions are actively sought; we would especially like to keep the popular *Ancestor Corner* as a regular feature, but we need your input. Send in your story about one or more of your Revolutionary War ancestors – about 500 words is typical. Don't be concerned with trying to polish your work – just tell the story and your editor will help with grammar, clarifications, etc. Thanks to all who have contributed in the past.

ANCESTOR CORNER

by
Compatriot Ronald E. Newton

My ancestor Stephen Gibbs was born at Sandwich, MA on 15 February 1755. In June of 1782 he married at Wareham, MA Mehitable Bourne, born 4 March 1762, daughter of Deacon Ebenezer and Anna (Bumpas) Bourne.

Stephen purchased 170 acres in Wareham with money from the estate of his father-in-law Deacon Ebenezer; several additional land purchases were made, later followed by dispositions, after which Stephen and Mehitable moved to Windsor, VT.

Stephen, in his pension application, cited his service of seven months as a Private in Capt. Partridge's Company, Col. Goodwin's Regiment of Mass. Troops. In a petition to the Hartford District Probate Court in Windsor, VT in 1832, Stephen cited additional service of three months in Capt. Curtis' company of state troops for three months; one month in Capt. Stephen Churchill's company, Col. Goodwin's Regiment.

Stephen was awarded pension No. 18628 in August of 1833 in the amount of \$23.33 per annum, effective 4 March 1831, with arrears to 4 March 1833, resulting in the collection of arrearages.

Stephen died on 19 August 1835; his widow was awarded pension No. 23108 in March of 1843, in the same amount as Stephen's, \$23.33 per annum. As we see in many pension files, Mehitable needed to provide supporting affidavits from friends and relatives attesting to her marriage to Stephen in June of 1782, as she had no documentary proof of the event.

Affidavits were provided by Josiah Gibbs of Bridgewater, VT, a brother of Stephen's, and by Polly Thomas, Stephen's daughter. They attested that they had known the couple for many years and always knew them to live together as man and wife.

Mehitable died at Pomfret, VT on 1 April 1847 leaving two children, daughters Annett Woolcutt and Polly Thomas and son Stephen Gibbs of Michigan.

*Excerpted from Newton/Dimick Families –
Allied Families
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