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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

We offer a hearty welcome to the following new members of our chapter.

Mark J. Donnelly – Cohoes, NY
Joseph K Laux - Albany, NY

ANNUAL MEETING AND WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY DINNER

The chapter held a fine meeting on 14 February at Manna's Restaurant in Ballston Spa. This meeting saw our biennial election of officers. Sworn in for two-year terms was the following slate:

President – Richard H. Fullam
1st Vice Pres. – Primitivo Africa
2nd Vice Pres. – Charles F. Walter IV
Treasurer – Michael S. Companion
Secretary – Raymond W. LeMay III
Registrar – Thomas L. Dunne
Chaplain – Peter K. Goebel
Genealogist – Dennis F.M. Marr
Historian – Dennis F.M. Marr

Assistant officer positions are appointed by the President in his discretion.

We were pleased to have with us at this meeting the winners of the chapter Knight Essay Contest (Patrick Dore) and Eagle Scout Essay Contest (Charles G. Rappazzo). Both young men read their essays to enthusiastic response and were presented with their prize checks.

Duane Booth was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and he also received the ESSAR Distinguished Service Award from Past State President Peter K. Goebel. As Peter is on active military service, he asked chapter president Richard H. Fullam to make the presentation. Duane received this outstanding award in recognition of his years of service as state database manager, for his tireless efforts in increasing state membership and for his work in the formation of two new state chapters.

The date for our Annual Wreath-Laying and Memorial Service at the Saratoga National Historical Park was set for September 20.

ELEAZER FRENCH'S ARM

By
Eleanor F.W. Bates

When dwelling on the heroes of field, redoubt and trench,
Shall we not tell the story of young Eleazer French?
With fowling piece and powder horn
Under the clear June starlight borne,
They labored till the early morn
On Bunker's honored height;

Long hours the pick and shovel plied,
And each who, weary, stepped aside,
Found eagerly his place supplied
Throughout the summer night.
No stouter hearts of stronger frame
Were there, with patroit fire aflame,
Than those from Dunstable that came
To battle for the right.

And when the invading force was met,
With powder grime and bloody sweat,
The farmers' flintlocks paid the debt
They owed to Howe's great guns.
Muskets of old-time minute men!
Ye told the story once again,
How tyrants doubt and falter when
Assemble Freedom's sons.

Full soon they heard the bugle call
And saw the young Eleazer fall,
Where sped the British cannon ball
Upon the path of harm.
"Fall back! keep safe from further ill!"
They shouted; he, unconquered still,
Quoth stoutly, and with steadfast will,
"No! not without my arm!"

The severed limb all bleeding lay,
But he who fought that glorious day,
Took it upon his anguished way
And left no trophy there;
Racked with fierce pains and bitter qualms,
Fainting, and stunned with war's alarms,
Bravely he bore off both his arms
To show what soldiers dare.

O ye who sing our heroes of parapet and trench,
Fail not to tell the story of brave Eleazer French!

*Submitted by Thomas Dunne, Descendant
of Eleazer's brother Samuel*

LINCOLN ARTIFACT
Donor's grandfather had ties to Halfmoon

By Dawn L. Roe

With the recent elections and the 200th anniversary of his birth, President Abraham Lincoln is back in the forefront of the American people. This increased awareness also brings exciting news for Cayuga and Saratoga Counties in Upstate, NY.

Hildene, the Lincoln Family Home in Manchester, VT was built as the summer home of Robert Todd Lincoln, the only child of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln to survive to adulthood. In 2004, Hildene began a permanent display of Lincoln artifacts entitled "The Personal Abraham Lincoln".

Brian Knight, Curator at Hildene, states that in their collection is a bible that was presented to Abraham Lincoln in 1861 by Amos S King (1822-1908) of Port Byron. Mr. Knight provides the following transcription:

"The donor of this humble gift having read the farewell remarks of the President elect on his departure from his home in the West, to take upon himself the high responsibility of the most important task of this great people in which speech he desired his friends to pray for him that he might have divine assistance in the execution of that trust therefore the donor begs leave to present to his Excellency, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America, this bible as a small token of the high esteem and kind regard in which the giver holds the honored recipient."

"To his Excellency, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States.
Amos S. King, Port Byron, Cayuga County, NY, March 4, 1861"

Amos's grandfather Philip King was born at West Greenwich, RI, enlisted in the Rev War at Lee, MA and served 1st NY Cont line under Capt Leonard Bleeker & Col Van Schaick. The King family has passed down a rather interesting account of Philip's service. Their oral history tells a tale that certainly generates many "oohs and aahh's", which goes like this:

William King, brother of Philip, had a large family and repeatedly tried to get furlough but failed. On a dark night he left the army to go home to see his wife and children. When he started back to his regiment, passing the picket, he was captured as a deserter. As he was being processed for execution, his mother having traveled many miles on foot, pleaded to spare the life of her son. In the end, Philip was offered as a replacement to spare poor William from being

shot! Philip, the younger brother enlisted and saved his brother's life.

To briefly recap the official records, William was hospitalized at Albany Hospital with a recurring illness and was on medical leave and sent to Ballston to recover at the home of his mother. In the spring of 1781, he returned to duty and was arrested as a deserter. At West Point he was tried before court marshal and found guilty. He was immediately pardoned by Major Graham and restored to his regiment under Col Van Schaick. He continued his duties until March 1782 when he procured his brother Philip as his substitute. He had received news that his father had passed, and he being the elder son, was believed better able to handle the affairs for the family. There is no mention of the mother being present. William was in major campaigns such as Monmouth and York Town. Both William and Philip received pensions for their service.

After the revolution Philip resided at Halfmoon. He would later move to Cayuga County, NY to the town of Jefferson, which has since been renamed Mentz. He was the first white settler and kept the first tavern in town. For a short time the community was called King's settlement after his namesake. The vicinity of his homestead would be named King Street in the honor of his sibling Daniel.

Amos, the donor of the bible, fittingly lived on King Street. Many generations in the King family contributed greatly to the development of Port Byron.

Dawn L. Roe is historian for the village of Port Byron. She can be reached at beatatune@tds.net

SEMINAR ON THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
AT FORT TICONDEROGA

Fort Ticonderoga hosts the Sixth Annual Seminar On the American Revolution on 25-27 September 2009 at the new Deborah Clarke Mars Education Center. Each Fall, Fort Ticonderoga brings together a distinguished group of speakers from around the country, including both established and new scholars studying the Revolution in North America.

Among the early confirmed speakers for this year's seminar are Douglas Egerton, author of the new book *Death or Liberty: African Americans and Revolutionary America*; James Kirby Martin, author of *Forgotten Allies: The Oneida Indians and the American Revolution*, and George C. Neumann, author of numerous books related to Revolutionary America.

A complete listing of speakers for the seminar will be available in mid-May. You can learn more at the Fort Ticonderoga website at www.fort-ticonderoga.org; look for the seminar under "What's Happening." Contact: Rich Strum (518)-585-6370; rstrum@fort-ticonderoga.org.