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®

BATTLE LINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, SAR

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

My apologies for the long delay in getting this issue out: the demands on my time (tax business, Rhodes Foundation, etc.) during the first half of the year put me behind the eight ball.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

George J. Carmichael – Vero Beach, FL
George J. Carmichael, Jr. – Vero Beach, FL
George J. Carmichael III – Vero Beach, FL
Kevin A. Lusted – Schenectady, NY
David M. Mysliwiec, Jr. – Mechanicville, NY
Dillon J. Mysliwiec – Mechanicville, NY
Hugh D. Wallace – Watervliet, NY

WWII VETS HONORED AT NYS MILITARY MUSEUM

By Chaplain Karl L. Danneil

Late last Fall, The Friends of the New York State Military Museum honored the service of three World War II veterans this year. To commemorate Veterans Day this year, the Friends decided to celebrate the exceptional service to America of three veterans. These gentlemen are good friends who get together every week for lunch, are 91 years old, have been married for many years, and are still active in their communities. The veterans were presented plaques by Lance Ingmire, President of the Friends, Certificates of Appreciation were presented by BG Barry Hartman of AUSA (Association of the US Army), flags that flew over the U.S. Capital were presented by Congressman Chris Gibson, and C.A.R. pins were presented by Kate Szewczyk of the Children of the American Revolution.

SGM Dante James Orsini a Marine - guarded President Franklin Roosevelt, was at the invasion of Guam and Okinawa, worked for Congressman Gerry Soloman, and volunteers for State Senator Betty Little. SGT Floyd J. Dumas U.S. Army - was a POW in Italy when Allied bombing damaged the prison allowing him to escape. He wrote a story about his POW experience and it was made into a movie. SGT David W. Sexton U.S. Army was wounded at Utah Beach on D-Day, was a member of the National Guard Company K NYNG, and Sergeant at Arms of the New York State Assembly.

The veterans told us about some of their war time experiences both good and bad, then honored their wives. The room was standing-room-only there were so many people and news media present. The crowd gave the veterans rousing applause in appreciation of their service to America.

I was in attendance representing several organizations - Chaplain of the Saratoga Battle Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, a Trustee on the board of the Friends of the NYS Military Museum, Army Heritage Center Foundation Representative on the board of the Capital District Chapter of the AUSA, and member of the Consulting Alliance. Also in attendance were Eleanor Morris and Andrea Hyde both members of Daughters of the American Revolution. Karl is also webmaster for the NY Albany Colony Society of Mayflower Descendants, and the Southern New England Chapter of the Society for Industrial Archeology.

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We thank Karl for taking the time to represent our chapter at this wonderful event.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY DINNER AND ANNUAL MEETING

This year's event took place on February 18 at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs.

Fellowship was followed by a brief business meeting. Tom Dunne and Duane Booth reported that chapter membership stood at 162. Diligent work prevented the number of dropped members in these trying economic times being kept to a minimum, and we remain the largest chapter in the Empire State Society.

Treasurer Companion reported a healthy treasury of \$27,944.37. Donations made by the chapter since the September meeting included \$100 to the Fisher House, \$150 to the NYS Military Museum (we are Charter Members) and \$150 to the Wreaths Across America project.

Compatriot Capt. Frederick J. Kass, USN RET, was awarded the 20-Year Service Award.

After dinner we were treated to a most interesting talk from Ranger Larry Arnold, Park Ranger at Saratoga National Historical Park. His topic was "*Beyond the Battles of Saratoga: The Fate of General Burgoyne's Army.*"

GENEALOGY RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Dennis F.M. Marr

I have a number of resources in my personal library that are always available for member lookups.

Perhaps the most valuable is the 4-volume "*Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files.*" I purchased this set shortly after becoming Registrar in early 1993 and they were very helpful in assisting potential members with their research. All Revolutionary War pension files in the National Archives were examined and anything of genealogical value was extracted. I also own the companion 4-volume set "*Index To Revolutionary War Service Records.*" Again, these are records in the National Archives.

I also have the 2-volume "*Revised Master Index to the New York State DAR Genealogical Records Volumes.*" Compiled by the Gen. Peter Gansevoort Chapter, NSDAR, these index the DAR records at the New York State Library, primarily bible records and burial records.

BERKSHIRE ATHENEUM ACQUIRES PITTSFIELD NARA RESOURCES

The National Archives in Pittsfield has closed its genealogy research section and transferred all of its genealogy-related records to the Berkshire Athenaeum (Pittsfield Public Library). The Athenaeum was already a first-rate genealogy repository and has now taken a quantum leap forward.

Non-residents can obtain a library card for free by applying in person; you will need a driver license as identification. Or, you can join online for a fee of \$25.

<http://www.pittsfieldlibrary.org>

A GREAT WEBSITE

The somewhat misleadingly-named website, <http://fultonhistory.com>, is a wonderful resource for upstate New York newspaper research. I say misleading because the welcome page states "Fulton New York Post Cards."

This site contains just under 20 million pages of New York historical newspapers, searchable.

I used this site heavily when working on my granddaughter's NYS African-American ancestry and it was a treasure trove of great information: obituaries, social notices, etc.

The site can take some time to get used to. To see a list of all newspapers included, click on the FAQ/Help tab on the upper right, then on "Help" and a list of the papers will open up. The site does include documents besides newspapers, but only the papers will be listed here.

Dennis F.M. Marr, Editor