



Empire Patriot

Empire State Society

Sons of The American Revolution

Descendents of America's First Soldiers

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SPAIN AND CUBA IN THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

During the Revolutionary War of the United States the Spanish help to the colonists was considerable, and in many cases decisive. However, American historians, with notable exceptions, have ignored this fact, referring only to the French contributions. There is always the doubt about whether the reason for this omission could be the ignorance by American historians of foreign languages or the traditional Anglo-Saxon hostility against Spain. Whatever the reason the fact is that most Americans do not know about that fundamental aspect of their history. It is also fair to add that there is a similar ignorance in Spanish America and the Spanish speaking population of the United States, in spite of a growing bibliography on the subject.

The historical and political antecedents of the French and Spanish help can be found in the Seven Years War (1756-1763). In that war France and Spain were defeated by England and lost among other possessions Canada and Florida. However, as a compensation to her ally, France ceded Louisiana to Spain. When the colonists revolted against England, France and Spain saw the possibility of revenge, of recovering their possessions and of neutralizing the English power. Both France and Spain were ruled by the house of Bourbon and were united by a family pact which was, in fact, a military alliance. Consequently the Revolu-



His Majesty Juan Carlos, King of Spain

*Photo contributed by Asuncion Valdes Nicolau
Palacio de La Zarzuela, Madrid, Spain*

tionary War turned out to be a desired opportunity.

Although France and Spain began their economic aid the year of the Declaration of Independence, there were some differences in the foreign policy of the two Bourbon families. In France, the ideological influence of the encyclopedists and the attractive personality of Benjamin Franklin, representative of the Continental Congress of Philadelphia, made the American Revolution very popular. In Spain, on the contrary, there was a more conservative and cautious political philosophy because of the possible damage the English naval power could inflict on the Spanish American colonies and the Spanish maritime commerce.

The main difference in the political courses followed by the two allies were as follows: in regard to France, the recognition of American independence in December of 1777 and, scarcely more than two years later, the arrival of the first French expeditionary force under the command of the Count Rochambeau; with respect to Spain, a constant economic and military aid kept secret for a long time and delivered through France, but a refusal to recognize the independence of the thirteen colonies. It should be added that the Spanish government gave all its help aware of the possible liberal influence of an independent and republican state near its American colonies.

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SYRACUSE CHAPTER DEDICATES NEW GRAVESTONE

27 May, 2002

The Syracuse Chapter participated in a program, spearheaded by Ken Warner along with members of the Daughters and Children of the American Revolution, Sons of the Union Veterans and the Women's Auxiliary Relief Corp. to dedicate a new Gravestone. The patriot being honored, Captain William Stevens, was the founder of the Town of Eldridge, NY., a member of the Boston Tea Party, First Supervisor of the Town of Marcellus in 1794, which at that time included Eldridge. He was also first Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Onondaga County and first Superintendent of the Salt Springs. He died in 1801; his wife predeceasing him in 1795. They are both buried, as are some of their descendants, in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Rte.



5, Eldridge, NY.” The ceremonies began at the town square where the local high school band played the National Anthem. This ceremony was indeed one of the most important events the village had in some time because the main street was lined with people seated in folding chairs for the gala parade which proceeded down the main street of the town to the cemetery. Everyone then climbed up the hill to the grave site and speeches were made about the importance of the deceased to the history of the community. Bob Pickett, the Syracuse Chapter Chaplain, offered an opening prayer and concluded the event with a benediction. Our Chapter decorated the grave with a wreath. *Compatriot Frank Decker* O

ORISKANY BATTLE CHAPTER

The following article and photos were submitted by Chapter President, Burke Muller but just a tad late to make the last issue. Ed



Frances R. Roecker, Oneida Chapter DAR and Oriskany Battle Chapter President, Burke F. Muller

At the Empire State Board of Managers meeting in September, the Oriskany Battle chapter was delighted to present the Martha Washington Medal and Certificate to Frances R. Roecker, Registrar of the Oneida Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

This award was presented to Frances in recognition of her outstanding service to the SAR. Thanks to her husband Col. Dana Roecker, Registrar, and Charles C. Pace Jr. the Oriskany Battle Chapter has experienced an unbelievable surge of membership applications. In Just the first week of October 16 .prospective members submitted applications. Now the real work starts. This was in addition to 11 other applications being processed! Most of this interest is a result of the 225th Anniversary celebrations in the Mohawk Valley.



Chapter President Burke Muller presenting membership Certificates to new member Joseph Dunckel for Father and Son, Brad Dunckel, who both joined on the same surname "Dunckel."

"Susan and I hope your Christmas was a very joyful one and the coming year will be a great one for each of you as well as your families.

I want to congratulate each of our newest members and am looking forward to receiving word about our pending applications being approved. Roy Goold, our State Registrar, has informed me that we had a "banner year" in 2002 with 126 New Member Applications being filed (40 of which were held over from last year) and 16 Supplementals. He also states "...this is the highest total the Empire State Society has had in the past 15 years. Of particular note is Oriskany Battle Chapter who has obtained 21 new applications, which nearly doubles it's membership". On a very interesting note, Oriskany Battle Chapter recently had several members transfer to their Chapter, one of which will be 100 years young in February. His name is Maurice Stephens Smith.

My thanks go out to Roy for all his hard work in making sure these applications made their way to National, offering his advice on how to add other information to prove a link, and to those involved in recruiting new members for the SAR.

I received a Letter from President General B. Rice Aston, the day before Christmas, that I want to share with each of you because YOU made this happen.

*"Dear President Woodworth:
Our Registrar, Joyce Adams has given me statistics showing that our membership now stands at an all time high of 27,700. This achievement was made possible by the Empire State Society which has added 62 new members and 121 reinstatements. Thanks for a job well done.
B. Rice Aston
President General, NSSAR"*

I feel very honored to receive this information from the President General and the State Registrar regarding our membership progress. We may not be the largest State Society, but I feel that we are the best and with reports like these it shows it. Thanks again to everyone.

At our November ESSAR Board of Managers Meeting we had about 34 in attendance and our State Treasurer gave a short presentation on a VERY good History

Book regarding the Revolutionary War. The book contains over 200 pages of pictures and information. The goal is to place these books in schools, libraries, etc. and they can be purchased from Logan Cheek III, our ESSAR Treasurer. SAR Members can obtain copies of this book for a cost of \$10 plus S&H. Contact him for more information.

In traveling news, Susan and I were invited to Buffalo Chapter in early December for a Member Certificate Presentation which consisted of 15 new members - 11 from one family. We had a great time and thank Buffalo Chapter for their hospitality. Binghamton Chapter was next on our list before Christmas, but an intestinal "bug" curtailed that visit. I hope to be visiting Binghamton Chapter, other Chapters in our Society, and have plans for attending the National Trustee's Meeting in Louisville in March 2003. Our next ESSAR Board of Managers meeting will be hosted by Saratoga Battle Chapter on March 22, 2003. I hope to see you there.

FREEDOM'S PRICE

"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it"
- Thomas Paine

"They that can give up essential Liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither Liberty nor Safety"
- Benjamin Franklin

William J. Woodworth, President ○

EXCERPTS OF A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Attn.: Editor; Henry W. Croteau, Jr.

Having had several ancestors who fought in the American Revolution, I have in the last ten years written three historical novels which take place during the time of the American Revolution. Just a few weeks ago I gave a talk to the Binghamton Lyceum group and also last summer I gave one to the Binghamton Chapter SAR. It has occurred to me that you might wish to mention in the Empire Patriot that I'm available as a speaker at Chapter meetings at no charge. I would like to bring copies of my books to the meetings for anyone to purchase if they chose to. Reviews of these books may be found at "Amazon.Com."

Best Regards, Clarence Hotchkiss

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BIO OF CLARENCE HOTCHKISS

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After graduating from Yale with a degree in mechanical engineering, Mr. Hotchkiss entered the Army for two years. He was stationed at Aberdeen Proving grounds in Maryland, where he was assigned to the section which tested prototype trucks and tanks.

Completing his service, Mr. Hotchkiss entered Stow Mfg. Co., which made flexible shafting and construction equipment, and worked his way up in the company. He often wrote technical articles for trade publications as a way to publicize the company's products. After attending a 13-week course at the Harvard Business School, he became president of Stow.

He began training for and competing in running races, even entering 15 full 26-mile marathons, including Boston three times. His running experience brings a rich depth of feeling to his writing when telling of the pain and joy in running. Later he became a triathlete, competing in many triathlons, including some in the National Senior Games, and then writing up the details of each event.

When Mr. Hotchkiss discovered copies of the Revolutionary War pension requests of several ancestors in the National Archives, giving details about their war service, it inspired him to write historical novels about them. He has appeared on several TV and radio shows to discuss how to get a copy of your ancestor's pension request from the National Archives.

Mr. Hotchkiss lives with his wife in Binghamton, N.Y. He has four children and eleven grandchildren. ○

Spain & Cuba in the Independence of the United States
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The Spanish contribution to the independence of the United States had three main aspects: asylum given to American ships in peninsular and colonial ports, as well as payments made for needed repairs of the ships; the use of armed forces in attacking the English possessions in the Gulf of Mexico; and finally, throughout the whole duration of the Revolutionary War, numerous financial donations and loans for payments and supplies to the Continental Army.

Very soon after the beginning of hostilities in North America the Spanish peninsular ports of Bilbao, el Ferrol and Cadiz, among others, became safe havens for the patriots' ships, while in the Americas Havana, which had a magnificent navy yard, and New Orleans were the main ports of refuge.

It is necessary to stress that the participation of Cuba was very important in all the different aspects mentioned above. Because of its geographic situation and its safe harbors, even before 1776, the island had legal and illegal commercial relations with the thirteen colonies. But from that year on it became the Spanish strategic center for operations on the continent against England. For that reason the Cuban merchant from Havana, Juan de Miralles, was the first Spanish representative to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Appointed by the governor of Cuba, don Diego José Navarro, Miralles developed very close relationships with some of the members of the Congress and with George Washington. As the Cuban historian Herminio Portell Viláa says, the Cuban envoy became very enthusiastic about the colonists' cause and with the possibility of a free republic without commercial restrictions. He also was an ardent supporter of the war against England. When Miralles became sick in Washington's camp, he was attended by the general's physician, but died a few days later. He was buried with military honors, and Washington wrote moving letters of sympathy to his relatives and the governor of Cuba.

Miralles had been in favor of an immediate declaration of war against England, but it finally took place in June of 1779. At that time Louisiana was under the jurisdiction of Cuba's Captaincy General. That historical circumstance was another of the causes that linked the island to the in-

dependence of the United States.

Once hostilities against England broke out, Bernardo de Gáálvez, the governor of Louisiana, created an army with natives of the Canary islands, residents of the colony, troops from Mexico & local militia of whites and blacks. With this small force in less than a month, from September 7 to October 5 of 1779, he captured Fort Manchac, to the west of Lake Pontchartrain, and the city of Baton Rouge, forcing also the surrender of Fort Panmure in Natchez. These victories not only displaced the English from the lower Mississippi but also broke their communications with their armies in the north and with their Indian allies along the river. But since his main objectives were the cities of Mobile and Pensacola, he began in haste the preparations for their conquest. With his army of little more than 700 men, which then included troops from Havana and some American volunteers. Gáálvez took Mobile March 14, 1780, just before the arrival of an English army coming from Pensacola to help the city. On this occasion he would complain that the hesitation of the captain general of Cuba in sending more reinforcements had stopped him from defeating that army and capturing Pensacola.

During the years of these campaigns, Gáálvez' tenacity surpassed many other obstacles, including the damages suffered by his forces of land and sea by various storms. However, by February 24 of 1781, the Spanish troops from Mobile, New Orleans and Havana had established their camp in the vicinity of Pensacola, and the next day they began the initial maneuvers for the siege of the city. The Spanish fleet from Havana, together with a few French ships, had brought more than 1,600 men under the command of Field Marshal Manuel de Cagigal. One of his aids was Francisco de Miranda who years later would be the "precursor" of Spanish American independence. Cagigal had been born in Santiago de Cuba and according to Francisco Calcagno in his *Diccionario biográfico cubano* "was the first one to break through the fortifications of the city," but we have not been able to find any other reference to confirm it. Among the expeditionary forces from Cuba were a light infantry brigade, companies of dragoons, fusiliers, sappers and volunteer militia, which included a Battalion of Free Mulattos and Blacks. The opportune arrival of the

fleet and troops from Cuba was an important factor in the capture of Pensacola, on May 9, 1781, as Gáálvez himself recognized on two occasions at least.

A particularly interesting aspect related to Gáálvez' troops, usually unknown, is that their descendants are eligible for membership in the Sons of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the American Revolution, "even though neither Gáálvez nor any of his men ever wore an American uniform."

With the victory of Pensacola, and the previous victory at Mobile, England was completely expelled from its bases in the Gulf of Mexico, and Spain was in control of the land from the Apalachicola River in western Florida to the Mississippi. If Gáálvez' campaigns increased the prestige and possessions of the Spanish monarchy, they were also of considerable benefit to the American colonists. As the American historian Caughey observed, Gáálvez "victories inclined England toward greater generosity to the United States with respect to the Trans-Alleghany West". From an ampler perspective N. Orwin Rush noted:

Since our American history books barely, if at all, mention it, most Americans know very little about the battle which may have been the most important one of the American revolution.

As we look at the wider and most comprehensive picture today, we begin to see more clearly the significance of the battle of Pensacola as a decisive factor in the outcome of the Revolution, even though none of the thirteen colonies in the rebellion was involved. In spite of Great Britain's military defeat by the American colonists, it takes very little imagination to see the possibilities of a decisive military squeeze that the mother country could have executed against the rebellious colonies by attacking simultaneously with recuperated and strengthened troops from Canada and Florida. One could easily go a step further and speculate on what might have been a very different outcome of the War of 1812, had Pensacola remained in British hands at that time.

Rush indicates that the poet William Cullen Bryant and the editor Sidney Howard Gay were exceptions among American writers in giving great importance upon the outcome of the battle in their book *A Popular History of the United States*

(1881). The words of those two writers, reduced to their main idea, would be as follows: "Had England been in possession of the Mississippi as well as of the St. Lawrence, at the negotiation of peace . . . it is not difficult to see that the United States would have had, in all human probability, quite another destiny.

In 1946 the Sociedad Colombista Panamericana placed a plaque on the wall of the old navy yard of Havana which mentions two of the previous methods of help to the rebellious colonists: the asylum given to their ships and the expeditionary troops in Gáálvez' campaigns. As an exponent of the times the inscription is worth remembering. It says:

This was the arsenal of democracy during the Revolutionary War of the United States —1778-1781—. The "Medley", the "Carolina" and other ships of commodore Alexander Gillon's squadron were repaired, armed and supplied in this arsenal, and from this place departed the expeditions commanded by Juan Manuel de Cagigal, in which took part the Cuban militia who fought for the independence of the United States in Louisiana and Florida.

A third way of help, not as obvious as the previous ones, in a number of occasions meant the difference between the impossibility of continuing military operations, because of scarcity of resources, and victory, after receiving supplies.

Donations and loans made by the Spanish government, coming from peninsular Spain, Havana, New Orleans, and Mexico, as well as all kinds of military supplies, began to support the colonists' cause before the beginning of their struggle against England. However it is difficult to estimate the total value in currency and various types of articles. Constant deliveries of money were made through France or representatives of the thirteen colonies. And sometimes it happened that those representatives incurred debts not previously approved by the Spanish officials, although they were finally accepted.

In June of 1776, Charles III approved a credit of 1,000,000 "livres tournois" to buy armaments and clothes which were sent the colonists from French ports. According to the list of contributions compiled by Juan F. Yela-Utrilla, from 1776 to 1779, the main sums sent to the thirteen colonies from Spain were 203,000 pesos

and 1,210,000 "livre tournois," which included the credit approved by Charles III. To these amounts should be added, in November of 1778, a request for 30,000 blankets made by the revolutionary general Charles Lee. Besides all this help Morales Padrón mentions other considerable sums in 1781 and later.

The aid to the colonists, which began in Louisiana at the end of Luis de Unzaga's government (1770-1776), continued and increased with his successor Bernardo de Gáálvez (1776-1785). Besides the asylum given to revolutionary ships and his military campaigns, his monetary help amounted to 73,905 pesos between 1778 and 1781. But if his victories against England in the south were of capital importance to the independence of the United States, significant also was the direct assistant to the colonists in their difficult moments. In 1777, when General Charles Lee was in great need of military supplies in Fort Pitt (today Pittsburgh), Gáálvez sent him 10,000 pounds of powder in a ship that eluded English fortifications and, sailing up the Ohio river, arrived safely at the fort. That powder "will make possible the defeat of the English forces in the campaigns of the region".

Next year, in Illinois, the situation of General George Roger Clark was also very critical when he failed to obtain supplies requested from the state of Virginia. And again, although Spain was still officially neutral in the conflict, Gáálvez sent money and enough aid for the revolutionary army to gain control of the region north of the Ohio river. It must be added that a good part of Gáálvez' help came from Cuba and it reached the colonists through Oliver Pollock, the representative of the Congress of Philadelphia.

In the majority of sources examined, the financial contributions of Cuba do not seem to be important. There is the usual mention of a Royal Order of March 27, 1778, giving the governor of the island the authority to lend the Congress of Philadelphia up to 50,000 pesos with the assurance of other later sums. But there is also evidence that in Havana, the commander of the South Carolina naval squadron, Alexander Gillon, received somewhat more than 14,424 pesos for expenditures incurred in two emergency arrival at the port. It should not be forgotten, however, that the amount was reimbursed later by the Continental

Congress to Juan de Miralles. What is not generally considered is Cuban assistance through a third party and, especially, the help given by private funds. Portell Viláá mentions "great amounts of money advanced by the Cuban government," as well as military supplies, sent to Oliver Pollock and Bernardo de Gáálvez in Louisiana. He also refers to some cases like that of Juan de Miralles, who assumed responsibility for letters of credit "with his own funds, or in cooperation with merchants and shipowners from Havana, when it was very difficult for the Continental Congress to obtain money.

The economic condition of the Continental Army was usually very precarious during the war against England, in spite of the frequent financial and military assistant of France and Spain. During the years 1780 and 1781 conditions became worse, to the point of being desperate on some occasions not only for Washington's forces but also for the French expeditionary army of Marshal Rochambeau. This is well attested to by the many letters written to Washington by Jefferson, Lafayette, and a great number of generals, governors, and members of the government. A good example is the letter of General Nathanael Greene, dated December 7, 1780:

Nothing can be more wretched and distressing than the condition of the troops, starving with cold and hunger, without tents and camp equipage. Those of the Virginia line are, literally, naked; and a great part totally unfit for any kind of duty.

In August of 1781 the French officer Ludwig von Closen described in a similar manner the miserable conditions of Washington's army while crossing the Hudson River at the beginning of its march to Virginia and Yorktown. In what can be considered an abbreviated version of his sentiment von Closen's words were as follows "These brave fellows made one's heart ache"

In a letter to George Washington dated in Trenton, October 23, 1780, Governor William Livingston expressed his fear that the war with England would "become the measuring of the length of our respective purses, instead of that of our swords." For that reason he was convinced that success depended on forcing the enemy "to a speedy peace". From a military point of view many of the colonists considered that three elements were necessary for victory:

Spain & Cuba in the Independence of the United States
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naval superiority in the coast of the thirteen colonies, enough supplies of arms, clothes and ammunition and the acquisition of money. The conjunction of these factors became very possible, in 1781, with the impending arrival in the Antilles of a French fleet under the command of Count De Grasse. Considering the critical conditions of the Continental Army and his own expeditionary forces, Marshall Rochambeau decided to write to Cap Haitien, the expected destination of the fleet in Haiti. Between May 28 and July 11 he sent three letters describing the situation and urgently requesting help from de Grasse's fleet to establish naval superiority in the American seas, troop reinforcements from the French colony and the considerable sum of 1,200,000 pounds. Although the letters indicated that De Grasse could decide his destination in the North American coast, Chesapeake Bay, in Virginia, was suggested as the place of disembarkation.

At the beginning of August, 1781, after a few months of campaigning in Virginia, the English general Charles Cornwallis established his camp in the town of Yorktown. As an outlet to the Atlantic Chesapeake Bay would allow him to maintain communications with the army of New York and later obtain the necessary forces for the occupation of Virginia. His plans were based, of course, on England's dominion of the sea. This assumption and the arrival of the French fleet at Cap-Haitien, with its various consequences, were to alter the strategic situation of the moment in favor of the thirteen colonies. The new possibility of a naval blockage of Cornwallis, combined with a siege by land, made Washington and Rochambeau desist from attacking the strong defenses of New York to bring enough of the revolutionary army against the English general. At the same time Lafayette with his Virginia regiments and some other units began the necessary maneuvers for the encirclement of the enemy.

Meanwhile Count De Grasse, having found Rochambeau's letters upon his arrival in Cap-Haitien, set out immediately to obtain what was so urgently requested of him. Although his main mission in America was to conduct joint naval operations with the Spaniards in the Antilles, the significance of the attack against Cornwallis persuaded him to use the power of his fleet for

a short period, as well as to obtain the required military and economic help from the colonial authorities. It was fairly easy to secure an army of 3,000 men with artillery under the command of the Count of Saint-Simon, later to be a famous philosopher and social reformer. But what turned out to be an insurmountable difficulty was the acquisition in Haiti of the 1,200,000 pounds to bear the expenses of the expedition and the armies in the field.

At this point it is of particular interest to refer to the commentaries made in two contemporary documents. In spite of the fact that De Grasse offered as guaranty his properties in the colony and in France, he encountered unacceptable conditions, among them the use of part of his fleet to protect merchandise on its way to France. In contrast to the refusal of the colonists from Haiti to lend their wealth to De Grasse, some observations of the first document deserve to be remembered. In it the author calls Cap-Haitien "the handsomest, and next to Havana the richest" city in the West Indies, while he goes on to mention the luxurious and licentious life of "more than fifty planters who spend six or seven thousand francs on mulatto girls.

Once convinced of the futility of his efforts in Haiti, De Grasse turned to the Spanish marquis Juan de Salavedra, director general of the Customs of Santo Domingo, residing then in Cap-Haitien, Responding to the urgent request of De Grasse he, according to the second document, agreed to take the Admiral's letter to the governor of Cuba (Juan Manuel de Cagical) and "to do his best to assist the public treasury by the purses of individuals". In this manner and with the enthusiastic cooperation of a number of Cubans and Francisco de Miranda, the governor's aide-camp, the requested funds were collected without delay. Referring to this prompt help given by the residents of Havana the same "Journal" adds: "It must be said, to the honor of the colonists, that all were eager to do so; ladies, even, offering their diamonds".

The historian Charles Lee Lewis also made reference to that crucial and nearly forgotten episode of Cuban help to the American independence. After mentioning the De Grasse and Salavedra relationship he adds:

The public treasury was assisted by individuals, ladies even offering their

diamonds. Five hours after the arrival of the frigate Aigrette, sent by De Grasse, the sum of 1,200,000 livres was delivered on board.

Confident that he would receive assistance from Cuba, De Grasse wrote to Rochambeau informing him of the success of his undertaking and announcing his arrival in Chesapeake Bay by the end of August. He sailed from Cap-Haitien August 5, 1781, and, with the help of a Spanish pilot from the city of Baracoa, avoided the most traveled routes to evade English detection. About three miles off the coast of the city of Matanzas the frigate Aigrette joined the fleet "with its precious cargo of 1,200,000 livres". De Grasse reached his destination in Chesapeake Bay on August 30, landing Saint-Simon's troops without incident.

If De Grasse had failed to obtain the reinforcements from Haiti and the financial assistance from Cuba, the history of the United States would have been different. But once the blockade of the British positions had been established, the reinforcements landed, and the money distributed, the most ardent desires of the colonists were fulfilled. The siege of Yorktown and Cornwallis' surrender some twenty one days later destroyed England's will to continue the war. In the words of Stephen Bonsal the sparse funds left to Rochambeau "and the million that was supplied Saint-Simon to pay his troops by the 'ladies of Havana' (the Spanish treasure at that place being empty) may, with truth, be regarded as the "bottom dollars" upon which the edifice of American independence was erected.

However, it should be said that, with rare exceptions such as those of Lewis and Bonsal, the swift, generous, and crucial contribution of the people of Havana is ignored in the records of American history. O

In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.

Some people would never go for a walk if it wasn't for their dog.

A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

An optimist is a person who sees a green light everywhere, while the pessimist sees only the red stoplight. The truly wise person is colorblind. O

THE LAST SURVIVING SOLDIER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION MY FOURTH GREAT GRANDFATHER

Donald H. Piron, Jr., Ph.D., ESSAR Vice President, Western Region

The following article appeared in "The Correspondent Autumn 1970" at the New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, Albany, NY and was submitted to the Empire Patriot for publication by Vice President Don Piron. Please note the end of the article refers to a funeral 101 years ago, when in reality it was 134 years. Hank

ON THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE this honor goes to a durable son of the New York frontier named Daniel Frederick Bakeman, who died April 5, 1869 at the remarkable age of one hundred and nine years, five months, and twenty-six days. According to U.S. pension records, Bakeman was the last of the pensioned soldiers of the Revolution, making him the final surviving Revolutionary War soldier of whom there is official record. Appropriately, this veteran of the War for Independence spent his final years and is buried in a town named Freedom, in Cattaraugus County, New York.

Bakeman was probably of Dutch ancestry. (His surname appears in records and local histories as Bakeman or Beekman, with at least five additional variant spellings recorded.) According to family tradition, he was born near the Delaware River in New Jersey, but his parents emigrated to the Mohawk Valley when he was still a child.

And it was in The Mohawk Valley that Bakeman apparently enlisted and saw military service from 1779 to 1783. Throughout the war, Tories and Indians continued to harass the thinly populated, poorly defended outreaches or settlements on the frontier. In 1781, Col. Marinus Willet, seasoned officer of the Continental Army, assumed command of the New York frontier militia and levies. Bakeman stated that he entered the Revolutionary Army in the militia in Captain William Van Arnum's company in Colonel Willet's regiment. It is possible, as alleged, that Bakeman participated in the skirmish at Fort Plain in which a company of this regiment is known to have been ambushed on September 7, 1781. He apparently also served as a teamster, possibly hauling farm produce from the Mohawk Valley to supply Washington's army on the lower Hudson.

In 1782 Daniel Bakeman married Susan Brewer, who almost equaled her husband in longevity. She died in 1863, after eighty-one years of marriage at the age of 105. The parents of eight children, Daniel and Susan Bakeman lived for over forty years in Herkimer County, moving about 1825 to Arcade in Wyoming County. About twenty years later they became residents of Freedom.

Surviving the loss of three homes by fire, the vigorous couple became a local legend. Known for his wit, the elderly Bakeman is said to have confounded would be pranksters who left him stranded sixteen feet down in a partially dug well. When the dinner bell rang, Bakeman appeared shortly thereafter but refused to tell how he had climbed out of the well.

Independence Day provided Bakeman with his real moment of glory. According to local accounts, he arose early, shouldered his "howling piece," fired it at arm's length, and roused his neighbors with a loud salute and a "Hurrah for George Washington, Gates, Putnam, Lee und all der brave men who fought

for liberty." A newspaper account of the July 4, 1859 celebration at Arcade reported that Daniel and Susan Bakeman, then 100 and 102 years old respectively, were honored guests and that Susan displayed needle work that she had recently made without the aid of glasses. Devoted to the country for which he fought, Bakeman was said to have cast his first vote for Washington and his last for Ulysses S. Grant.

On February 22, 1867, Congress passed special legislation granting a pension of \$500 a year to Bakeman, to be retroactive to July 1, 1866. (A similar act of the same date granted an identical pension to John Gray, a Revolutionary War veteran who lived in Noble County, Ohio, Gray Died March 19, 1868 at the age of 104.)

His pension enabled Bakeman to purchase his own carriage and to ride in the fourth of July parades in neighboring towns. When death finally claimed this last warrior in 1869, five generations of his descendants were present at his funeral. In 1915 the Olean Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution marked the graves of Daniel and Susan Bakeman with appropriate ceremonies.

Why was Daniel Bakeman not pensioned until 1867 when he had reached the age of 107? Congress had been granting pensions to veterans of the American Revolution for years. In the midst of fighting a war to preserve the union, Northerners began to look back nostalgically to the origin of the republic, and the lawmakers in Washington decided to increase the pensions of all surviving veterans of the nation's first war. In February, 1864, at the request of the House of Representatives, the Pension Office submitted a list of Revolutionary War pensioners believed to still alive. There were just twelve.

The publication of this list inspired two men to compile accounts of the surviving soldiers of the Revolution. Realizing that time was running out, the Reverend Elias Brewster Hillard set out in the spring of 1864 to interview and photograph the surviving veterans. He published the story of seven of these soldiers in *The Last Men of the Revolution* (1864).

Working independently in the same year, and unknown to Hillard, G. W. Tomlinson compiled and published a pamphlet, *The Patriots of the Revolution of '76*. In this he gave biographical sketches of some twenty surviving pensioners, including those who lived in southern states who had been omitted by Hillard and by Congress.

Of the men listed in these publication six lived in New York state during the early 1860's. They were: Samuel Downing, Edinburgh (Saratoga County); Rev. Daniel Waldo, Syracuse; Lemuel Cook, Clarendon, (Orleans County); Alexander Milliner (or Maroney); Adams Basin (Monroe County); Benjamin Miller, Laurcns, (Otsego County); and John Pettingill, Henderson, (Jefferson County.)

It is probable that as a result of the publication of the pensioners' list, Daniel Bakeman in Cattaraugus County was brought to the attention of his congressman. Though his Revolutionary discharge and other papers had been lost by five years before, there was no question as to his eligibility for a pension had he applied.

Concluded page 9 Column 2

COLUMBIA CHAPTER

In the last issue of the Empire Patriot, it was reported that members of the Columbia Chapter, while witnessing the burning of Kingston, were privileged to meet up with Revolutionary Patriots of **Sheldon's Horse, Second Continental Light Dragoons**. We met them at the Hoffman House in Historic Kingston while at Lunch. We were in an inside Dining Room while our friends were forced to remain outside with their mounts! To cut to the quick we struck up a conversation, took some photos and we would like to share their story with you.

Sheldon's Horse Second Continental Light Dragoons

Yesterday's Dragoons

Sheldon's Horse, The Second Continental Light Dragoons was formed under the command of Colonel Elisha Sheldon in December of 1776 at the direct recommendation of General George Washington. Sheldon first came to the attention of the Commander in Chief earlier that year when Sheldon lead a group of mounted Connecticut militia to Washington's New York headquarters to volunteer for army service. The offer was refused due to lack of sufficient forage for men and horses. However, after

of the regiment under Lt. Seymour not only fought as the sole Continental cavalry, but was assigned to escort Burgoyne to Boston after the British surrender - SCHOHARIE, at The Battle of The Flockey where **Sheldon's Horse** performed the first cavalry charge on American soil- PAOLI - WHITEMARSH, where two troopers are buried. The barn which was utilized as the field hospital still stands. MORRISANIA - YORKTOWN - twenty **Sheldon's Horse** were detailed to accompany Washington and Rochambeau to the York peninsula. A **Sheldon's** trooper is depicted in the painting of Cornwallis' surrender.

From formation through its reversion to State troop status, **Sheldon's** patrolled and skirmished its way through Connecticut, Westchester and Rockland Counties as well as northern New Jersey. The dangers inherent to these seemingly mundane duties is reflected in many of the Pension claims of **Sheldon's** veterans: Pvt. Allen Gilbert; Wounded at Pound Ridge on July 2, 1779" - "Trooper Henry Crawford; Wounded by a musket ball in the thigh at Mile Square, December, 1777" - "Lt. James Dole; Wounded in hip by gunshot at King Street, August 17, 1780".

Numerous whaleboat raids against British and Loyalist installations on Long Island were conducted by **Sheldon's** troopers. It was acts of bravery on one such raid that earned Sgt. Elijah Churchill the **Badge of Military Merit** (the Purple Heart), precursor to the Congressional Medal of Honor and one of only three awarded for Revolutionary War service.

The regiment performed as the first "pony express" relaying messages along a string of express stations between Washington's headquarters and the northern colonies.

Sheldon's served as advance scouts for the American army and earned the sobriquet "Washington's Eyes". Under Major Benjamin Talmadge, **Sheldon's** also became Washington's ears as Talmadge operated his "Culper" spy ring on Long Island and in New York City.

Elements of the unit comprised Washington's personal bodyguard and men of the **Second Light Dragoons** guarded John Andre during his incarceration, trial and subsequent execution in Nyack, New York.

In 1781, **Sheldon's Horse** became the first American unit to conduct a combined combat operation with our French Allies in Tarrytown, New York. Rochambeau's staff considered **Sheldon's Horse, Second Continental Light Dragoons** as "... **incontestably the best on the continent.** . . ."

Sheldon's Horse was never officially disbanded, making this regiment unique among all Continental cavalry units. The majority of its numbers were furloughed after the cessation of hostilities; the regiment released from federal service and returned to the authority of the state.

After the conclusion of the War for Independence, some



Pictured left to right standing, Patriots of Sheldon's Horse, Second Continental Light Dragoons are Ralph Whitney, Paul McLaughlin, Dave Thorn, Peter Travers & Capt. Sal Taranino. Seated left to Right are, Sally Whitney, Becky McLaughlin and Liz Henderson

the October 1776 defeat at White Plains, NY, Washington came to recognize the value of a regular mounted establishment and the **Second Continental Light Dragoons** was born with Elisha Sheldon commissioned as Colonel Commandant.

Consisting of four troops from Connecticut, one troop each largely from Massachusetts and New Jersey plus two companies of Light Infantry, the unit never served as a whole. First action occurred when Capt. Epaphras Bull and Lt. Thomas Young Seymour led a portion of the Second at the battles at Trenton and Princeton, NJ. Elements of the regiment later saw combat at: WOODBRIDGE - BRANDYWINE - GERMANTOWN - KINGSTON - THE BATTLES OF SARATOGA, where a portion

NEWTOWN BATTLE CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S REPORT

William J. Woodworth, Chapter President

Newtown Battle Chapter Members came through, once again at their Annual Chapter Christmas Party with a total of \$190 in donations and 8 bags of gifts for the veterans at Bath VA Medical Center. I also delivered several gifts from the Baron Steuben Chapter DAR members who were originators of this program when our chapter decided that it was more than a worthwhile cause that we should be part of. Two of the monetary donations came from men whose applications are in the process of being approved. My heartfelt thanks to all for making Christmas a little better for those who gave so much for us. The members of this chapter have always made me feel honored to be a part of it.

In our "Membership News", Newtown has its first "International Member". John Craig Jelliff, Sr. had his application approved in December 2002, originally lived in Caton, NY, and now resides in the Netherlands with his family. John has two sons that are eligible for SAR Membership - one son lives with his father in the Netherlands and the other son lives here in Corning, NY. John's mother, Anita Krivanick, is a DAR Member as well as a member of several other lineage societies. Congratulations John and welcome to Newtown Battle!!!

Our Annual Meeting will be held in January with the election of new officers. Plans for future events include the Chapter Knight Essay Contest, Chapter Annual Picnic, SAR Information Booth at several Community events throughout the year. Chapter Board of Manager Chairman, Sheldon Robinson has been working with several people regarding an old cemetery in the Town of Ashland. It contains the remains of several Revolutionary War Patriots, some of who fought at the Battle of Newtown. It also contains the remains of Indian Chief Corn Planter's daughter, Fallen Feather. Waterman Baldwin, Revolutionary War Patriot was "adopted" by Chief Corn Planter to save his life from execution. Fallen Feather took care of Waterman in his later years and she is buried in the Knoll Cemetery with other members of the Baldwin Family. The Knoll Cemetery is thought to be the original Baldwin Family Cemetery before the name was changed. Compo Robinson and others are researching to find where the grave of Corn Planter might be. Another Revolutionary War Patriot, who was wounded at the Battle of Newtown and died the next day after having his leg amputated, is buried near this cemetery. Plans are in the making to have a new grave marker placed there to honor him.

As of this writing there are only about 725 SAR Cookbooks left at the SAR Ladies For The Library Headquarters. If you haven't purchased one, and want one, you had better not wait to long. Susan has a few here and Newtown Battle Chapter is also selling them as a fund raising project. Contact us if you decide to purchase one.

My best to each of the members and their families for the coming year with one last reminder — if you haven't paid your dues yet, get them into Treasurer Samuel Pulford right away. They were due December 31, 2002 and, if not paid, you will be placed on an inactive list which will curtail your membership benefits. O

ORISKANY BATTLE CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Burchard F. Muller, Chapter President

Friends and Compatriots,

There is a DAR historical marker at the foot of the Oriskany Monument at the Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site that was placed many years ago by the Oriskany Chapter of the DAR (now defunct)

We have been asked by the Regional Historic Preservation Supervisor if the Oriskany Battle Chapter ESSSAR would like to present a similar marker to be placed also at the base of the monument. We think this is a great idea but are having a problem trying to obtain such a marker. We found a DAR marker in the Oriskany Cemetery that would be suitable, but it dates back to 1885.

I have tried Merchandise Direct but they have nothing that can be personalized with our Chapter name. If you or any Compatriots could offer any suggestions we would be very grateful. (Merchandise Direct referred me to a manufacturer but they want a minimum of 250 pieces)

Thank You, Burke Muller

Other news: Our Chapter is a member of the Northern Frontier Project, a coalition of the 3 Valleys to Freedom which is already planning an exciting 2003 marketing campaign to promote heritage tourism and education in 20 counties in upstate NY from Oswego to Lake Champlain. This coalition was instrumental in the tremendous success of the 225th anniversary events that attracted 104,000 spectators across New York State in 2002.

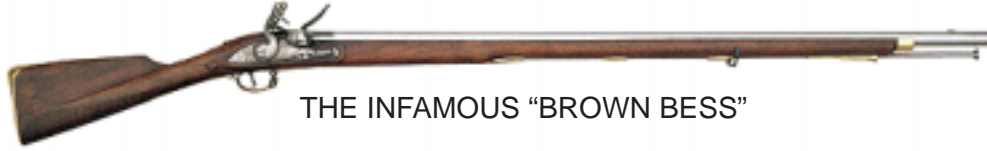
The Oriskany Battle Chapter is also a member of a new project called "American Cemetery Restoration Work Group". The Chairman is our Compatriot Martin Dunckel. This is a Cemetery Adoption Program honoring and paying tribute to our veterans, living and deceased by restoring and maintaining our cemeteries. It is similar to the "Adopt A Highway Program" and hopefully will become a statewide program.

PS: One of our newest members is Maurice Stephans Smith who will be 100 years old on February 10, 2003. Maurice joined the ESSSAR April 22, 2002 at the age of 99! O

Last Soldier of the Revolution. Continued from Page 7

Daniel Bakcman's death 101 years ago foreshortens history and brings the American Revolution a century closer to 1970. Undoubtedly there are residents of Cattaraugus County whose parents actually knew and talked with this last living link with the nation's birth. Scattered throughout New York state were other old Revolutionary war veterans who enlivened local patriotic gatherings with anecdotes about '76. Many of these old soldiers lived to become folk heroes whose exploits did not die but simply faded into the saga of local folklore. Perhaps your town had such an ancient soldier who could be remembered in a bicentennial celebration. O

SMOOTH BORE MUZZLE LOADERS OF YESTERYEAR



THE INFAMOUS "BROWN BESS"

Practical
shoulder-fired
small arms started

with the perfection of the flintlock ignition system in the mid-17th century. Earlier gunpowder small arms, based on the matchlock or wheel lock mechanisms, were generally too heavy, too unreliable, or too expensive to allow for general issue to infantry forces. Indeed, the first matchlock muskets ("muskets") fielded by Spanish infantry weighed as much as 25 pounds (10 kilograms) and usually required a forked staff as a rest to enable a man of normal strength to fire them accurately from the shoulder. Nevertheless, they were capable of sending bullets through the best armour that could be worn by a mobile soldier. Almost overnight, firepower from muskets became the dominant force in war, and fully armoured soldiers almost disappeared from European battlefields toward the end of the 16th century. With armour-piercing power no longer necessary, muskets could be made smaller, and shoulder weapons without rests became the norm.

Flintlock small arms emerged at the start of industrialization, with weapons production becoming one of the first industrial sectors to exploit the transition from craft production to the large-scale production of the Industrial Revolution. On the military side, these weapons entered service at a time when the scale of ground forces employed in battle was increasing. The ability to manufacture large numbers of muskets enabled military leaders to equip these mass armies.

By the 1600s European military authorities had begun moving toward greater uniformity in order to eliminate mixed inventories of nonstandard weapons. England took the first steps toward creating a national system of small-arms manufacture. For years, completed muskets had been purchased from a variety of English, Irish, and Dutch gunmakers, who subcontracted for components and arranged for final assembly. Beginning in the early 1700s, ordnance officials, from their headquarters at the Tower of London, divided the manufacture of firearms into locks, stocks, barrels, ramrods, and furniture—all of which they sought to purchase directly from subcontractors. Since different components for the same weapon were made in different locations, Tower officials oversaw the establishment of "Sealed Patterns" (sample firearms) to serve as exact models for gunmakers.

An Ordnance Office decree of 1722 led to a standard army musket, called the "Long Land," which had a 46-inch (1,168-millimetre) barrel and a calibre, or bore diameter, of .75 inch (19 millimetres). The Long Land became popularly known in America as the first model Brown Bess musket. Fighting experience in the wilderness of North America during the Seven Years' War, or French and Indian War (1756–63), suggested the utility of lighter and shorter muskets, and in 1768 the Short Land musket, with a 42-inch barrel, became standard. Known as the second model Brown Bess, the Short Land became one of the basic weapons used in the American Revolution (1775–83). It was succeeded in 1797 by the "India Pattern," with a 39-inch barrel. During the wars with Napoleon from 1804 to 1815, more than 1.6 million of these muskets were assembled in Birmingham, and nearly 2.7 million

muskets of all
types were "fitted
up" in London and

at the Lewisham Royal Armoury Mills. In 1816 assembly work was divided between London and a new Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield Lock, Middlesex. O

WALLOOMSAC BATTLE CHAPTER BATTLE OF BENNINGTON MAP PROJECT

The Walloomsac Battle Chapter, working in conjunction with retired history Professor Dr. Thomas Barker, has produced a collection of German historical documents related to the Battle of Bennington which was fought in Walloomsac, New York, on August 16, 1777.

As part of the Chapter's preparations for the August 2002 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Bennington, Dr. Barker brought to the Chapter's attention that he had done extensive research in German archives regarding the German involvement in the fighting. This research discovered a number of period maps which have not been previously published.

It was felt that making these materials available to the public would help to improve the understanding of what took place at the Battle and contribute to the overall knowledge of the events of the American War of Independence. This material was sold at various locations related to the events of the 225th anniversary of the Burgoyne Campaign held in New York State and Vermont this past year. There are still some available at a cost of \$18.85 per set which includes shipping within the U.S.A. Checks should be made out to The Walloomsac Battle Chapter.

This collection consists of nine items:

A. Three battlefield area maps drawn by German officers involved in the engagement and brought back to Germany after 1777.

B. An early map of the "inhabited part of the province of New York." (Now primarily Vermont since 1777 from an unknown loyalist source.)

Note: The above maps are 11"x 17" in size; three are in color and encapsulated in plastic.

C. Four images in color (8.5"x 11"): The Braunschweig Flintlock Jaeger Rifle, Baron and Baroness Von Riedesel, Prince Wilhelm of Hessen-Hanau and Duke Ferdinand of Braunschweig.

D. A commentary on the maps and images including translations of the German and French map legends.

For further information, please contact:

John H. Sheaff, 2132 State Route 22, Cambridge, New York 12816
jlsheaff@rnyexcel.com (518) 677-5562 O

Sheldon's veterans participated in the westward expansion. Many went on to achieve positions of prominence in diplomacy and politics, civil service and commerce. Thomas Young Seymour led the Governor's Horse Guard and was the subject of a portrait by John Trumbull, while Joshua King sat for Gilbert Stuart.

The final muster was taken in May 1866 with the death of the last surviving trooper, Lemuel Cook, at the age of 102.

Today's Dragoons



Captain Sal Tarantino, Commander of Sheldon's Horse, Second Continental Light Dragoons

Recreated in 1978 as a nonprofit educational organization, the present day *Sheldon's Horse* is dedicated to giving the public a glimpse of cavalry life during the American Revolution. In portraying this facet of the 18th Century, the unit sets a high standard of authenticity in uniforms and equipment, drill and maneuvers.

Whether it's bringing "first person" personae to the public schools, supporting civic events or participating in battle reenactments, *Sheldon's* strives to impart to the public an understanding of the

sacrifices made by past Americans and the conditions under which they lived. We hope to give a sense of history and pride of country to children and adults alike.

Sheldon's Horse, Second Continental Light Dragoons is a member or affiliated regiment of the following living history umbrella organizations: Continental Line (CL) - Living History Association (LHA) - Burning of the Valleys Military Association (BVMA) - North West Territory Alliance (NWT) - Connecticut Colony Military Association (CCMA) - Brigade of the American Revolution (BAR)

The present *Dragoons*, led by Sal Tarantino, is a family organization. We are always on the lookout for new recruits to serve as either mounted or dismounted troopers. Family members are encouraged to take an active part in camp life. If you would rather participate than observe, have a sense of history and a sense of humor, then *Sheldon's Horse, Second Continental Light Dragoons* could be the Rev War unit for you.

Thank You Captain Tarantino for a very enlightening story. Ed O

WHY IS AMERICA FREE?

At our last BOM meeting, it was brought to the attention of those present by our Treasurer, Logan Cheek, of a book entitled "**Why is America Free: A History of the Founding of the American Republic 1750 -1800**" that was available for purchase at a very reduced price.

The project was started about five years ago by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, the owners of Mount Vernon. The financial costs were underwritten by them and the Society of the Cincinnati, such that over 2/3 of the cost of producing the book has been paid for by these fine organizations. Thus, this book, which would normally cost over \$30, can be made available to schools, libraries and compatriots for \$10 plus shipping. Compatriot Cheek is also arranging to have the ESSAR's copies plated in the front with our logo and a label saying "This book has been provided in part through the efforts of the _____ Chapter, Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution."

It was written by a distinguished panel of college professors and historians, including Lieutenant General Bruce Palmer, the former Superintendent of West Point, as well as Kenneth E. Hamburger, Ph. D., Joseph R. Fischer, Ph. D., and LTC Steven C. Gravlin, USA. The book is about 195 pages long, and all illustrations are in color.

It is both a history book (with the historical / factual narrative printed in regular typeface) as well as a piece of fictional literature (with the fiction interlaced with the historical narrative in italicized type). The fictional part relates the story of a young boy, Jedidiah Warwick, starting at the age of nine when his father leaves their farm near Williamsburg to fight with Col. Washington and General Braddock in the French and Indian War. When the Revolution starts, Jedidiah joins the Continentals, and fights right up to Yorktown. By 1788, he is elected a member of the Virginia House of Delegates to ratify the U.S. Constitution. Thus, the reader gets a dose of history, literature and civics all in one text.

It has been adopted as the standard text in many school districts in the eastern and southern states (not including New York) as well as the state of Texas. Its primary target is the middle school American history student, although it has been used as early as the fourth grade and as late as the twelfth. Several hundred thousand copies have already been placed in public and private schools throughout the country.

The effort was undertaken when the Mount Vernon staff discovered that over 80 percent of their visitors under age 18 could not place Washington in the right century, or correctly identify his role in the founding of the country.

Having kicked off the effort at the last BOM meeting, as of year end, approximately 75 copies have been sold to compatriots, or placed by them into their local schools and libraries. Because many of our downstate chapters were not in attendance at Corning, they are as yet unaware of this undertaking. All chapters who were represented there have received a complimentary review copy to pass around among their compatriots, as well as their local school and library officials. Review copies are available for those chapters who have not yet received theirs. O

SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER PARTICIPATES IN THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SURRENDER OF BURGOPYNE ACTIVITIES



Fellowship Church School, in Waukegan, Ill.

Chapter members joined the torchlight parade, which kicked off from the newly renovated Saratoga Battle Monument and ended at Fort Hardy Park where British General Burgoyne surrendered to Horatio Gates. The program at Fort Hardy was emceed by Ed Dague of Channel 13 News and included a wreath laying ceremony which the Chapter took part in. Other events included the Laying Down of Arms by British Army Re-enactors and included Paul Loding of the Walloomsac Battle Chapter. Several local and State officials spoke and Governor George E. Pataki gave the keynote address. The re-enactors and

On October 19th a small contingent of Saratoga Battle Chapter members braved inclement weather to participate in the remembrance of the 225th anniversary of Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga (now Schuylerville). Chapter officers, Duane Booth, Vice President & Treasurer and Jonathan E. Goebel, Chapter Secretary, ESSAR Secretary & VP General, North Atlantic District were joined by Chapter members Charles Walter and Harry Taylor. Also participating with the Chapter were Alice Goebel, Fort Crailo Chapter, DAR and Marion Walter, Saratoga Chapter, DAR and members of the Patriots American Heritage Program at the Christian

town residents presented a tableau of the Surrender of the Battle of Saratoga painting by John Turnbull. The program ended with a colorful fireworks display by Alonzo Fireworks.

A resolution to restore Fort Hardy to its historic past and protect it from inappropriate development has been passed and supported by various local governmental units and patriotic organizations, including the Saratoga Battle Chapter. This "Field of Grounded Arms" is too important to be lost to future generations as the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga was the "Turning Point of the American Revolution". ○



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