



Empire Patriot

Empire State Society
Sons of The American Revolution
Descendants of America's First Soldiers

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THE BATTLE OF BRANDYWINE

The Battle of Brandywine

Several empty supply wagons rolled into Lord Cornwallis's camp at Kennett Square on the 10th of September. Veteran British soldiers certainly knew what these wagons would be used for — to carry wounded and dying soldiers from the battlefield. After an uneventful spring, several weeks at sea, and 16 days of uncomfortable marching, the first battle of the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777 was at hand.

The British...

Many of the 15,000 British troops spent the night in Kennett Square — population 2,000 — unwinding and carousing, while a battle loomed. General Howe's flanking strategy was devised two days earlier: While General Knyphausen attacked at Chadd's Ford, as Washington expected, Cornwallis would stealthily move north, cross the Brandywine, and flank Washington's right.

The Americans...

By the night of September 10th, the American troops were extended along a six-mile line covering the east side of the Brandywine Creek. Washington knew that the British army would have to ford the Brandywine if they were to get to their target — Philadelphia. He discounted the possibility of being flanked, assuming that Howe would rely upon his greater troop strength and superior artillery to press a direct attack.

Washington believed that the British would have to ford the Brandywine at one of eight fords. Washington chose Chadd's Ford as his defensive stronghold, as this was along the road where the British were camped. Washington positioned his troops along the

creek. Congress even sent four deputies to inspect and they approved of where Washington had placed his men and urged a staunch defense. They knew that if the Americans failed here, it was likely Philadelphia would fall. Washington felt a battle of major consequence was coming. A newspaper of the day quoted the general as saying:

The Morning of the Battle

At 4 A.M. on the morning of September 11, 1777, a long line of redcoats quietly flowed out from Kennett Square. They were led by General Howe who personally took command of Cornwallis's column. At the van of the column were "pioneers," soldiers employed to clear the road of any obstructions the Americans might have thrown in their way.

If all went well, in six miles they would reach their destination, Jeffries'

Ford, without being detected by American scouts. Once across this deep ford located on a branch of the Brandywine Creek, Howe and his troops would have a good chance of flanking and trapping General Washington's army.

At 5:45 A.M., after Howe's division had cleared out, General Knyphausen's division began moving along the Great Nottingham Road directly toward Chadd's Ford seven miles away — exactly where Washington expected the entire British Army to attack. The first to leave was a 496-member vanguard which consisted of Queen's Rangers, Ferguson's riflemen, and a squad from the 16th Light Dragoons. Behind them were the 1st and 2nd Brit-

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On October 15th, 192 years after his death, members of the Oriskany Battlefield Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and a number of chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution gathered to dedicate monuments to Colonel Peter Bellinger and his wife Delia. The ceremony was held at the Fort Herkimer Church in the town of German Flats, New York. Colonel Bellinger was in command of a regiment of militia led by General Nicholas Herkimer at the battle of Oriskany, one of the bloodiest battles of the Revolutionary War. Colonel Bellinger survived the battle and was an important leader in the defense of the area surrounding German Flats.

The invocation and prayer of dedication was given by the Rev. Terry L. Sheldon, president the Oriskany Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Donald Fenner, chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the historic church, spoke on its history. Geoffrey Storm, a prospective member of the Sons of the American Revolution and Vice President of the Northern Frontier Project, spoke about Colonel Bellinger. Roger Garrison, Sergeant Major of the 4th Tryon Company militia, told us what it was like to be a soldier at the battle of Oriskany. Other speakers were also present at the ceremony.



Chapter President Terry Sheldon & State President Peter Goebel

Peter K. Goebel, president of the Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was also present. Several ancestors of the Colonel were present along with some forty visitors. Three members of the Tryon County militia led the procession to the grave site.

On December 5th the History Channel showed an hour long segment on the battle of Oriskany. It was shown as part of its series on Battlefield Detectives. The producers of the program hired Battle of Oriskany local author Allen Foote, Stephen Webb, a history professor from Syracuse University and SUNY Fredonia anthropology professor Joy Bilharz as advisers of the program. The battle lasted six hours and resulted in the deaths of between 400 and 500 militiamen out of the relief force of 750 Tryon County Militia. General Nicholas Herkimer was the commanding officer and was wounded in the leg during the battle. He died a few days later at his home in German Flatts. The scenes were not actually filmed at the battlefield but at a location north of Oneida County

that had a similar appearance to the original site as it may have looked at the time of the battle in 1777. The Indians involved in the battle were not all Iroquois as commonly believed. Also involved were Hurons, Potawatamis and Mississaugas from as far away as Canada. The Battle of Oriskany has been known as the bloodiest battle of the American Revolution.

Terry Sheldon, President ■

**NEWTOWN BATTLE CHAPTER
PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Newtown Battle held their Annual Chapter Christmas Party on 19 Nov 2005 and the SAR as well as DAR members attending represented several different Chapters. This is our annual party where everyone attending bring gifts which are then given to the veterans at Bath VA Medical Center. We collected 7 bags, one large box which ESSAR Chaplain George Hauck received from his church congregation, and a total of \$200 in monetary donations from several of our members. This has been a very worthy program and good cause, and I am honored to be associated with the members of Newtown Battle Chapter. They are a great group of men. This program is just a small way of our saying "thanks" to the veterans who gave so much for us. My special thanks to all the

members of Newtown Battle and their wives for making this program such a success.



We were honored to have ESSAR Western Region Vice President Rex Fuller attend and participated in presenting several SAR Service Awards. Among the recipients present were, Sereno "Sy" Tanner - 50 years; Richard Cowles - 35 years; Whiting Lightfoot - 30

years; John Bogart - 20 years; Frederick Morgan - 10 years; Bill Woodworth - 10 years. The enclosed photo has ESSAR Western Region Vice President Rex Fuller (LEFT) presenting "Sy" Tanner (CENTER) his 50 year service pin and Newtown Battle Chapter President Bill Woodworth (RIGHT) with the certificate. We have 15 more awards ranging from 15 years service to 45 years for those members who were unable to attend and they will be presented at a later date to the following well deserved members;

- Robert Canfield, Robert Butler, Ronald Butler,
- Maj. John Calkins, Douglas Cotton, Benjamin Dean,
- Esq. George Halm, Stanley Hagermann,
- Harry Hillman, II, Robert Plass, Coleman Ryther,
- Francis Schosger, Thomas Spencer,
- Thomas Taylor, Glenn Triches

Congratulations to everyone of these men and their dedicated service to the SAR. We have several other members who were not recognized at this presentation, but whose years of service will warrant their receiving service awards this coming year. These recognition awards will re presented during one of our special upcoming meetings or events.

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



ESSAR President Peter K. Goebel

Compatriots,

I recently heard a song which I had not heard in quite a long time. It is called "The Mummer's Dance" by Loreena McKennitt. The tune brought me back to an earlier time in my life. The music had been used as the theme song for a television series which had originally aired in the late 1990's on the WB Channel. The name of that series was "Legacy". While the dictionary has two definitions for legacy- the first being money or property left to someone by a will or bequest, it also means anything handed down from, or as from, an ancestor.

The series concerned a widower, Ned Logan, raising his family in 1880's Lexington, Kentucky, living up to his father's legacy. They were taught to stand up for what they believed in, and fight for what was worth fighting for. Raising a family was in some ways easier and in some ways more difficult than it is today. Our families are one legacy which we will pass on to the future. We must stand up for what is right.

The way in which we ourselves act will also pass into the future. At one time Ned Logan tells his five children, "You let other people's bad behavior stop you from doing things, pretty soon you won't be able to leave your own house". We must always be aware of how we act and how we affect others. Likewise, we must not allow the misbehavior of others to prevent each of us from acting well to advance the noble ideas and ways of our forefathers. Our goal is to act correctly and properly in all circumstances.

We must certainly endeavor to act properly towards all those who, like us, are descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution. Captain Joseph H. Nicholson, of Baltimore, reminded us of this when he so eloquently stated, "Let us act with one heart, and one hand; let us show to an admiring world, that however we may differ among ourselves about some of our internal concerns, yet in the great cause of our country, the American people are animated by one soul and one spirit". We must show one soul and spirit to our fellow compatriots and display that soul and spirit to our fellow countrymen. We owe nothing less to those who gave us a heritage of which we can be justifiably proud, yet also adequately humble and amazingly thankful. The founders of our nation expect that of us.

Ultimately, we must ask ourselves what our legacy will be, both individually as well as collectively. We are gentlemen. We must always act as gentlemen. We are patriots. We must always act as patriots. We must defend our precious heritage. We must continue to serve and to defend the United States of America. We must never stop working. We are the Sons of the American Revolution. We will each determine our own legacy and the legacy of our organization. What will your legacy be?

Peter K. Goebel, President
Empire State Society
Sons of the American Revolution ■

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During our next Chapter meeting (January 2006), which will be held before this newsletter goes to press, Newtown Battle will be electing their Slate of Officers for 2006. We hold our meetings on the third Saturday in the months of January, April, July, and October. Our Annual Chapter Picnic is the last Saturday in August during the Revolutionary War Reenactment Weekend at Newtown Battlefield State Park just 5 miles East of Elmira, NY. If you are in the area during those dates, feel free to pay us a visit. Spouses are welcome to attend our Chapter meetings and families are invited to the picnic. If you would like more details, directions, etc. please contact me at my e-mail address

billsue3@juno.com

Susan wanted to send a little reminder that she has only four (4) SAR Cookbooks available. According to reports, there will be no more published, so if you don't have one and would like to purchase one they are available at a cost of \$18.95. You can contact her at the following; Susan Woodworth - 447 Brainard Place - Painted Post, NY 14870-1101. It will be a first come - first served basis.

It's a little belated, but Susan and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy, and Prosperous New Year.

William J Woodworth, Chapter President ■

The Battle of Brandywine - cont'd. from page 1

ish Brigades, followed by the artillery, supply wagons, and a herd of rustled livestock. Serving as the rear guard were the 71st regiment. It was a formidable force.

A Round of Shots ... A Round of Shots ... and the Battle Begins

American General Maxwell, too, had been up early on the foggy morning of the 11th. Maxwell had been ordered to scout the vicinity in the area of Kennett Square. At Kennett Meeting, a Quaker house of worship located about a mile east of Kennett Square, Maxwell sent out a mounted scouting party. After heading up the road about a half a mile, the scouts paused to refresh themselves at Welch's Tavern. The group tethered their horses out front and belied up to the bar.

At about 9 o'clock, one of the scouts saw a vision which might have been chalked up to excessive drinking. Headed straight for the tavern, and less than 100 yards away, were Ferguson's Riflemen and Queen's Rangers — the vanguard of Knyphausen's Division. The Americans fired off a round of shots from the bar and bolted out the back door leaving their horses behind.

Thus began the Battle of Brandywine.

Knyphausen vs. Maxwell

[Note: when viewed in color the British are in red and the Americans in blue]

After bolting from the bar, the battle was underway. The tasks were clear: Knyphausen was under orders "to amuse the Americans," convincing them that "all the other world" was with him. Maxwell's orders were to delay the advance.

Maxwell would fire from cover and fall back toward the river. The British advanced slowly amid a cloud of musketry and at great expense in lives.

A British soldier made the following diary entry:

The Queen's Rangers and Ferguson's riflemen fell in very early with large Bodies of the Enemy who form'd upon ev'ry advantageous Post & behind Fences fired on the Troops as they advanc'd - This galling fire was sustain'd the whole way by the Queen's Rangers commanded by Capt. Weyms of the 40th & Rifle Men by Capt. Ferguson of the 70th - who encouraged by the Example of their Leaders behav'd with a degree of perseverance & Bravery which would have done Honor to the best Established Corps.

After a series of heavy skirmishes, in which dense smoke often choked off the morning sunlight, the British forced Maxwell back to the east bank. At about 10:30 the firing died down, save for an occasional artillery exchange across the creek.

The Americans and British now were face-to-face on opposite sides of the Creek. But the British kept busy. Knyphausen was under orders not to let on his true troop strength, but rather make it appear as if the entire British army were with him. To achieve this sham effect, the Hessian general ordered marches and counter-marches up and down and in and out of the hills. He also positioned great numbers of soldiers from his columns in the fields that opened from the Nottingham Road onto the creek. He also left the British baggage train in plain sight.

So overwhelming was this display of manpower and equipment that a New Jersey soldier called it "a sight beyond description grand..."

Knyphausen had successfully made his way to the west bank

of the Brandywine and had bought time for Howe and Cornwallis. Maxwell delayed the British advance, thus fulfilling his orders. British casualties numbered about 300 — a lot for an "amusement," while American casualties were few. But among the American wounded was a young officer from Virginia who would go to become Chief Justice of the United States, John Marshall.

Washington Receives Conflicting Reports

Washington directed the Americans from the Ring House, a residence about three quarters of a mile east of Chadd's Ford. Viewing the battle through a telescope, he must have been a little suspicious that something was afoot. He knew that Howe had all morning to bring his army in position to attack and yet he still hadn't. Washington had also seen the busy movements of the British troops in the hills and their impressive baggage train. Something was in the air. But what exactly?

One of the most fascinating aspects of the Battle of Brandywine is the great number of conflicting reports Washington received throughout the morning and early afternoon regarding whether Howe was moving troops north — towards the supply depots up at Reading? To ford the Brandywine elsewhere? To conduct a major flanking movement?

Washington heard a preliminary report at around 7 A.M. and a 10 A.M. report saying that Howe's troops were moving north. He heard a report at 9:30 A.M. and one from Major Spear at 1 P.M. that made him feel confident that it was just a *feint* and not a major troop movement. But the subsequent reports from Major Eustace, Colonel Bland, and a patriotic local squire named Thomas Cheyney finally convinced Washington that the reports of significant northern troop movement were real.

Surgeon Ebenezer Elmer traveling with the American army, put it most succinctly: "the reports were so Contradictory that it was difficult to make a proper disposition."

Washington Chooses a Course of Action

About noon, having received the reports from Ross and Bland that a large British column was moving north, Washington deduced that Howe had split his army. Washington felt he could deal a decisive blow to the divided British. He launched an assault aimed at Knyphausen's troops across the Brandywine.

Washington ordered part of Greene's troops and Maxwell's light infantry across the Brandywine at Chadd's Ford. The vanguard of this charge attacked an entrenching party from the British 49th regiment. They drove the British from their ground and in the process inflicted 30 casualties and killed a captain. Maxwell's infantrymen took possession of "a number of Entrenching Tools with which they [the British] were just throwing up a Battery."

Library of Congress *Major General John Sullivan*

Upstream, a regiment from Sullivan's command crossed the creek and started skirmishing with a British foot regiment. Downstream a group of Pennsylvania militia stationed at Pyle's Ford crossed the river and joined the fray.

At this time, Washington had dispatched Lord Stirling's and Stephen's brigades farther north on the east side of the creek toward Birmingham Meeting House in case Howe was indeed planning an attack from the north and not heading up to Reading. Just before Washington was going to send the remainder of the

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army across the creek, he received a “definitive” message from Major Spear that there was no northern British troop movement. **Washington** decided “**that the movement of the enemy was just a feint**” and that they were returning to reinforce **Knyphausen** at Chadd’s Ford.

Assuming that this was the case, he knew it would be folly to abandon his defensive position on the east side of the Creek to launch a full assault. **Washington** recalled his attacking troops back to the east side of the Creek. He also removed his defense against the flanking movement by recalling both **Lord Stirling**’s and **Stephen**’s brigades. This faulty report was very damaging, as it gave **Howe** the extra time he needed to march south into the flank of American forces.

Howe Crosses 8 Miles North

By around 1:15 P.M., **Howe**’s 8,000 troops had crossed the two fords along the upper Brandywine and were now on the east side, about 8 miles north of **Washington**’s troops.

Howe had fooled **Washington** again. The methodical British general had pulled off a 14-mile march while successfully hiding an 8,000 man column. After **Howe** crossed the west branch of the Brandywine at Trimble’s Ford, he moved north on the road toward Martin’s Tavern. From there, he took a road to Jeffries’ Ford and there crossed the east branch of the Brandywine. Jeffries’ Ford was two miles north of Buffington’s Ford, the furthest point north the Americans had posted soldiers.

Howe sent **Jaegers** from the British 42nd out to scout, under the leadership of Captain Johann **Ewald**. They recognized that they’d have to pass through a narrow gorge “where a hundred men could have held up either army the whole day.” **Ewald**, wary of a trap, asked **Cornwallis** for permission to proceed, which was granted. It was fortunate for **Ewald** that they were able to proceed without opposition.

Once through the ford, **Cornwallis** ordered the remainder of the army to move as quickly as possible. The column took a wide right turn and headed through the village of Scanneltown where **Howe** halted so his tired, hungry and thirsty men could rest.

At Scanneltown, British foragers made a fortuitous discovery. Some Wilmington merchants had recently placed a large cache of liquor in a barn here thinking it would be safer than in the city. The merchants were wrong.

It was at this point that Squire **Cheyney**, who had taken it upon himself to reconnoiter the British, discovered **Howe**’s column. He frantically rode seven miles to the Ring House to deliver a manic message of warning to **Washington** which was greeted with skepticism. **Cheyney**’s message, along with several other reports, finally convinced **Washington** — **Howe** was now to the rear of the American right.

By about 2:00 P.M., after receiving these new reports of **Howe**’s movements that **Washington** recognized the dreadful truth: **Howe** had successfully moved around him and was positioned to attack from the north.

Washington Adjusts His Strategy

Responding to the threat from **Howe**’s forces to his north, **Washington** once again ordered the divisions of **Lord Stirling** and Major General **Stephen** to move back north toward the Birmingham Meeting House. These brigades covered about three miles in

a half hour, and started forming their lines along Birmingham Road. After ascertaining for certain that **Howe**’s column was substantial in size, **Washington** ordered General **Sullivan** who was in charge of the entire right, to move north and meet the threat. Generals **Wayne** and **Maxwell**, with the support of **Proctor**’s artillery, would have to face **Knyphausen** alone.

General **Greene**’s troops remained in reserve — positioned to fight either **Knyphausen** or **Cornwallis**.

Tea Time for Howe

As **Stirling** and **Stephen** formed their troops, they could see the British advancing over Osborne Hill less than a mile to their north. The Redcoats progressed slowly as “it was extremely difficult to move the artillery over the heights.” Once the artillery had crested the hill, **Howe** ordered a break of a half-hour for lunch and tea. After marching for nearly eleven hours and 17 miles, **Howe**’s troops were safe for the moment and took time to rest and refresh. **Howe**, as was his pattern, did not follow up on what might have turned into a rout; Instead the picnicking general permitted the panicking Americans to form lines about a mile to his south.

Birmingham Meeting House

Meanwhile Brandywine Valley locals came to gawk at the British war machine. These included a group of Quakers who were holding their prayer meeting at a wheelwright’s shop in Scanneltown. Two days earlier they had been evicted from their normal place of prayer, the Birmingham Meeting House, because **Washington** had taken over the building for use as an American hospital. Some meeting members went back home to protect their families and farms; others watched in awe. Captivated by the sight of the British army, was a Quaker teenager named **Joseph Townsend** who would march among the British soldiers in the afternoon, watch the battle into dusk, and be pressed into triage service carrying wounded from the battlefield that night. **Townsend** observed that **Cornwallis** made “a brilliant and martial appearance,” and **Howe** “was a large and portly man, of coarse features. He appeared to have lost his teeth, as his mouth had fallen in.

After their teabreak, the British broke their column into an eight-pronged attack in which they hoped to either outflank or overrun the American line. Meanwhile the Americans had tried to form a solid defensive line with the center at the heights around Birmingham Meeting House. They were thwarted in this attempt, in part because General **Sullivan** had marched his troops too far north and left a gap in the American line. Further complicating matters, was the behavior of a proud French Brigadier General named **Prudhomme DeBorre** who insisted that he be given the position of honor of commanding the right of General **Sullivan**’s Division. Parts of the American line were in disarray. The British launched a furious attack. The British scooped up several artillery pieces along the way.

While the Continental Army fought valiantly, the British attack was too overwhelming, and the Americans had to fall back to new defensive line 400 yards to the southwest.

The Second American Defense

The Americans rallied the scattered regiments into a second defensive line about 800 yards southwest of the initial encounter. Fierce fighting resumed.

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The Battle of Brandywine - cont'd. from page 5

What excessive fatigue. A rapid march from four o'clock in the morning till four in the eve, when we were engaged. Till dark we fought. Describe that battle. 'Twas not like those at Covent Garden or Drury Lane...There was the most infernal Fire of cannon and musquetry. Most incessant shouting, 'Incline to the right! Incline to the left! Halt! Charge!' etc. The balls ploughing up the ground. The trees cracking over one's head. The branches riven by the artillery. The leaves falling as in autumn by the grapeshot...A ball glanced about my ankle and contused it. For some days I was lifted on horseback in men's arms. -British captain

General Howe rode to Birmingham Hill from Osborne Hill, and directed the battle from the newly-taken eminence. The British launched a new line of attack.

The fighting here was the fiercest of the entire battle. The American line gave way five times, ever re-forming pushed farther back. The officers "exerted themselves beyond description to keep up" the troops morale," recalled Sullivan. "Five times did the enemy drive our troops from the hill, and as often was it regained, the summit often disputed muzzle to muzzle."

Where's Washington?

Washington had been receiving frantic messages from Sullivan concerning this new attack. Yet, Washington was skeptical — he still believed that only a fragment of the overall British force was attacking to the north. In the second of his required daily dispatches to Congress Washington explained that a "severe cannonade" was taking place to his north. "I suppose we shall have a very hot evening," he continued. But he was curiously absent. He still believed the main British force was with Knyphausen.

"Push Along, Old Man, Push On!"

At about 5 P.M., the noise of the cannon from the north combined with Knyphausen's relative inactivity on the west side of the creek, finally convinced Washington that the main British force was indeed at Birmingham. He pressed a reluctant elderly farmer by the name of Joseph Brown into leading him over the shortest route to the battle. The elderly farmer demurred until an American officer dismounted from his horse and pointedly pointed the tip of his sword at Brown.

Brown led the way.

Brown raced Washington and his officers and at a breakneck pace for four miles. Washington urged them on jumping fences, hurtling ditches and urging the farmer "Push along, old man, push on!"

Following them were two divisions of Nathanael Greene which had been held in reserve. Greene's column moved at remarkable speed covering four miles in 45 minutes.

What Washington saw as he rode up was the Americans in retreat from Battle Hill. A soldier from New Jersey recalled, "We broke and Rallied and Rallied & broke from height to height till we fell on our main Army who reinforced us & about sunset we made a stand." This was Greene's Division.

Lafayette Is "Honoured"

At this point Lafayette rode up and did all he could to make the men charge at the point of a bayonet but the Americans, little used to this sort of fighting did not care to do so, and this brigade

fled like the rest of the army." Then, Amidst the confusion, Lafayette was wounded, as he would recount later in a letter to his wife: "the English honoured me with a musket ball, which slightly wounded me in the leg."

Greene opened his ranks to let the retreating Americans pass through and then re-formed his lines. Fierce fighting now took place in the area known as Sandy Hill. Charges and countercharges followed.

Back at Chadd's Ford Knyphausen Launches His Attack

While the Americans were fighting the British near Dilworth, they could hear cannon fire from the vicinity of Chadd's Ford. Knyphausen was attacking Wayne. If Wayne gave way, the British under Knyphausen would have a clear path to Greene's troops fighting the northern attackers.

Knyphausen had begun bombarding the Americans across the creek with heavy artillery. The Prussian general was supposed to hold his attack until he heard the sound of Howe firing two cannon shots which was the signal that the northern troops had forded the river successfully. Regardless, at 4:00 P.M., Knyphausen began a frontal attack without the signal.

Fortunately for Knyphausen, American brigades under Generals Green and Nash had just been sent north to reinforce the American lines at Birmingham. Knyphausen sent his men across the Brandywine at several different fording spots, with four regiments alone crossing at Brinton's Ford. Knyphausen's main column pushed through at Chadd's Ford in the face of heavy American resistance. A smaller British force moved south, and crossed the creek probably at Gibson's Ford, which threatened the American militia posted farther south at Pyle's Ford.

The Americans fought with verve — despite being outnumbered. They might have been able to endure the attack had not another British regiment — who had gotten lost earlier in the day at Birmingham Hill — entered the fray. These British Guards and Grenadier Brigades were supposed to have part of the British force that attacked Sullivan's second line of defense at Battle Hill. Instead, they became tangled and lost in the thickets of Wistar's Woods, which allowed Sullivan's men to hold their ground longer than they might have.

After a couple hours, these lost troops emerged serendipitously to the rear of Wayne's artillery position. Now, Wayne had to shift some of his men to defend against this new menace.

The British pushed the outflanked Americans back to the Chad House where the Widow Chads remained — and staunchly defended her property.

Ultimately, the British got the best of Wayne's men in a spirited duel. Besieged by the bayonets of the British 71st Battalion and the Queens Rangers, the Americans turned tail toward Chester, leaving their artillery behind. Eleven guns were abandoned by the Americans including two cannon which had been captured from the Hessians during Washington's surprise attack of Trenton after crossing of the Delaware on Christmas Day 1776.

Among those besieging the British was Patrick Ferguson of Ferguson's Rifleman. It was near the Chadd House that the inventor of the breech-loading rifle was wounded, which may have an effect on the war.

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Lest We Forget

Almighty Father, we ask thy Blessing on the Souls of our departed Compatriots, we thank thee for their membership in our Society these many years. And now that they have passed on to that greater light, that light which we cannot receive while here in the body, we ask thee to receive them more and more into thy faithful service and keep them under thy protected care to the Honor and Glory of thy Holy Name. Amen

May thier Souls rest in Everlasting Peace

<u>Nat'l No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Additional Remarks</u>	<u>Date Of Death</u>
146051	Bowne, George Wayne	NORTH BABYLON, NY	First NY Continental	02/21/2002
123388	Bretz, Charles Ross	JAMESTOWN, NY	Chautauqua	04/05/2005
118761	Briggs, George M.	MAPLE VALLEY, WA	Walloomsac Battle and Saratoga Battle	06/27/2005
77286	Camp, John Robert	HOLYOKE, MA	Binghamton	07/05/2005
132043	Castler, Lawrence Willoughby	JOHNSTOWN, NY	Stone Arabia Battle	03/01/2005
109811	Cole, P.E., Roger H.	STILLWATER, NY	Westchester-Putnam	11/03/2005
107027	Ellsworth, Arthur Tucker	NYACK, NY	Stony Point	01/25/2005
125456	Gibbs, Ralph Kenneth	LANSING, MI	Saratoga Battle	03/30/2005
118298	Graham, Sr., Joseph L.	NYACK, NY	Stony Point	07/11/2004
138503	Latz, Sr., Edward William	CANANDAIGUA, NY	Rochester	01/25/2005
139663	Leavy, Thomas Joseph	HUNTINGTON, NY	Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley	05/28/2004
123092	Lippincott, Winfred Howard	HUNTINGTON, NY	Long Island	02/22/2005
111108	Lombart, Ph.D, George Past State President	PITTSFORD, NY	Rochester	07/06/2005
126236	Nixon, Roderick Ard	WESTFIELD, NY	Chautauqua	02/16/2005
131562	Overton, David Arthur	LAKE GROVE, NY	Long Island	10/11/2005
157988	Smith, Maurice Stephens National Life Member	MALONE, NY	Oriskany Battle	03/28/2005
162790	Smith, Paul Edward	GLOVERSVILLE, NY	Stone Arabia Battle	11/2004
141681	Williams, Jr., William	HENRIETTA, NY	Rochester	11/13/2005
155752	Wood, Leo Moore	HARTSDALE, NY	Westchester-Putnam	11/08/2005

EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY, SAR REPORT OF NEW MEMBERS CALENDAR YEAR 2005

The State President, his officers along with the entire Board of Managers and the members of the Empire State Society extend a "Hearty Welcome" to our entire slate of new members, transfers and dual members. We are very proud to have you as Compatriots in the Empire State Society Sons of the American Revolution and we welcome you to join us at all our State and Local Functions.

Chapter Membership Codes

- BING = BINGHAMTON
- BUFF = BUFFALO
- CHAU = CHAUTAUQUA
- COLU = COLUMBIA
- FIRS = FIRST NY CONTINENTEL
- FING = FINGER LAKES
- HUNT = HUNTINGTON
- MEMB = MEMBER AT LARGE
- NEWT = NEWTOWN BATTLE
- NEWY = NEW YORK
- ORIS = ORISKANY BATTLE
- ROCH = ROCHESTER
- SARA = SARATOGA BATTLE
- STOA = STONE ARABIA BATTLE
- STON = STONY POINT BATTLE
- SYRA = SYRACUSE
- WALL = WALLOOMSAC BATTLE
- WEST = WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
Bowen, II, Arthur John	Sgt Samuel Bodle	NY	COLU
Crape, Jr., Gordon Wesley	Pvt Amos Standish	NY	NEWT
Empsall, Robert Hunt	Lt Christopher Marsh	NJ	SARA
Empsall, William Arthur	Lt Christopher Marsh	NJ	SARA
Africa, Primitivo	Pvt Albert J. Vedder	NY	SARA
Baker, Milton Jesse	Joseph Reynolds	MA	SARA
Bone, Eric Sydney	Pvt James Cooper	NY	SARA
Bramley, John Roland	Lt William Bramlee	NY	BING
Briggs, Jr., Vernon Mason	LtCol Jeremiah Gilman	NH	FING
Buddle, Allan Frank	Lt. Thomas VanHorne	NY	FING
Butcher, Richard Ross	Pvt John Purvines	NC	SARA
Butcher, Robert Witty	Pvt John Purvines	NC	SARA
Davis, Kyle Alan Evan	Pvt Caleb Hazen	NY	NEWT
DeWitt, Floyd James	Lt Gerald G. Bekman	NY	SARA
Dotterer, Robert Guina	Pvt Mathias Dotterer	PA	COLU
Downing, Thomas Earl	Pvt Samuel Downing	NH	SYRA
Dugger, Austin Wayne	Pvt Baston Whitehurst	NC	COLU
Dunckle, John Brant	Pvt Johan Nicholas Dunckle	NY	BING
Engelhardt, Richard Harvey	Pvt George Dominick	NY	BING
Erickson, Eugene William	Pvt Nicholas Burgher	NY	STON
Fuchs, Kevin Richard	MatAid Ishmael Hawell	VA	MEMB
Goetschius, Jr., Charles	Pvt Issac Babcock	NY	STON
Kayser, Jeffrey Benedict	Pvt Henry Rewalt	PA	NEWY
Kilbourn, Joseph Birney	Philip Sellow	MA	NEWY
LeMay, III, Raymond William	Lt Josiah Buell	CT	SARA
Longnecker, Robert David	Pvt Peter Longnecker	PA	CHAU
Longnecker, Stephen Michael	Pvt Peter Longnecker	PA	CHAU
Maggs, Justin Christopher	2nd Lt Peter Abraham Yates	NY	SARA
Maggs, Thomas O'Rourke	2nd Lt Peter Abraham Yates	NY	SARA
Marquis, Garret Christian	Ens Joseph Denison	CT	SARA
Morrison, William Howard	Lt Robert Reid Burnet	NY	WEST
Paolillo, Richard	Ens John Peter Ziegler	PA	SYRA
Perine, Paul Stuart	Pvt Henry Perine	NJ	NEWT
Perine, Raymond Anstett	Pvt Henry Perine	NJ	NEWT
Petsche, Steven Joseph	Pvt David Bostwick	NY	COLU
Rhude, John Paul	Pvt Zelah Rude	VA	ORIS
Rose, Randolph James	Adjt Nicholas Mosher	VT	WALL
Schmitt, Ronald Denning	Pvt David Hawkins	NY	FING
Sedore, Jr., James LeRoy	Pvt Frederick Sedore	NY	NEWT
Singer, Michael Warren	Pvt Johannes Boyer	NY	ORIS
Sondergaard, Philmore Miller	Pvt Abner Gilbert	CT	NEWT
Stocker, Jr., Russell	Pvt Peter Deshler	PA	SARA
Swartwood, Dean Frederick	PS Andrew Fleming	VA	FING
Swartwood, Gary Steven	PS Andrew Fleming	VA	FING
Tompkins, Timothy Lyle	Pvt James King Jr.	RI	NEWT
Van Campen, Anthony Lynn	Pvt Hugh Larimore	NC	FING
Van Campen, Darrell Robert	Pvt Hugh Larimore	NC	FING
Vanburen, Bradley Michael	Pvt Jerome VanVoorhees	NY	NEWT
Vanburen, Jason Richard	Pvt Jerome VanVoorhees	NY	NEWT
Winslow, Larry Edward	Sgt Moses Harris Jr.	NY	SARA

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Report Of Transfer In Members

Lincoln, Jr., LeRoy Ralph	Pvt Thomas Stilwell	MA	SARA
Robertson, Esq., John	Capt Christian Getman	NY	SYRA
Rudesill, Robert Charles	Lt Edward Bussey	MD	NEWY
Thurman, F. Anthony	Guard Elijah Warden	VA	NEWY

Report Of New Dual State Members

Bragg, Charles Frederick	Pvt Martin Wenger	PA	SARA IN
Dooley, III, Joseph William	Pvt Morris Earle	NJ	SARA VA
Igoe, Michael William	Capt. Issac Van Wart	NY	WEST CO
Monroe, Elijah-Brent Alan	Pvt Daniel Colby	MA	ROCH HI
Stanley, Richard Roy	Pvt Reuben Hill	NY	FIRS MA



A Great Save

Edward Hector, a negro private in the 3rd Pennsylvania Artillery, valiantly saved a few wagon loads of ammunition and arms in the tumult. But most of the equipment was left behind. Fortunately, Washington had ordered the baggage removed to Chester the day before, so at least that was safe.

Wayne posted a small brigade armed with four cannon, at Painter's Crossroads to cover the troops retreating toward Chester. They kept the main road to Chester open not only for Wayne's retreating men, but Nash's North Carolinians, and the rear guard of Sullivan's troops who were falling back from Dilworth.

Greene's Men Dig In

Greene's men held the Sandy Hollow area. Fighting under Greene was brigadier General, Peter Muhlenberg, a Lutheran minister who had once served in the Prussian army. As he rode along the defensive line rallying the Virginia troops, he was recognized by some Hessians who called him by his nickname, "Devil Pete." Though the Americans fought well they were forced back. An aide-de-camp to General Howe wrote, "By six o'clock our left wing still had not been able to advance. Here the rebels fought very bravely and did not retreat until they heard in their rear General Knyphausen's fire coming nearer....The Rebels found themselves between two fires. This probably caused them to leave their strong post and retreat from their right wing on the Road to Chester. After warring for nearly two hours the outnumbered Americans began to give way.

Surprise Party

At about 7:30, some of General Weedon's men and North Carolina troops under Brigadier General Nash surprised Howe's troops and put a damper on the British victory party. They had come on in the rear and drew up in a semicircle just north and west of the Dilworth Crossroads. Here they surprised Howe's victorious troops who had just taken the field from Greene.

"The heat of the Action fell chiefly on the 64th Regt who suffered considerably, enduring with the utmost steadiness a very heavy fire, which lasted till Dark, when the Rebels retreated in great Panick taking the road to Chester."

The American's last stand was supported by Casimir Pulaski who led a stunning cavalry charge. Pulaski had been present at Brandywine as an observer but received Washington's permission to organize a group of horseman into an ad hoc unit. It was not enough and the Americans retreated toward Chester.

This last American foray probably convinced Howe that it would be too dangerous to try and follow the Americans for a nighttime knockout. Besides which, the day had been exhausting. Howe's troops marched 17 miles in 11 hours, and had fought three pitched battle in the space of six hours. A British lieutenant pointedly summed up the rigors the British had been recently exposed to:

We had the Honour & with our Fire closed the Day. The Fatigue of the Day were excessive; some of our best Men were obliged to yield, one of the 33 dropped dead [of heat stroke] nor had we even Daylight, we could not make any thing of a pursuit. If you knew the weight a poor Soldier carries, the length of time he is obliged to be on foot for a train of Artillery to move 17 miles, the Duties he

goes thro' when near an Enemy, that the whole night of the 9th we were marching, you would say we had done our Duty on the 11 to beat an Army strongly posted, numerous & unfatigued.

Major John Andre, in a businesslike manner, summed up the battle from the British point of view: "General Knyphausen, as was preconcerted, passed the ford upon hearing the column engaged, and the troops under him pushed the enemy with equal success. Night and the fatigue the soldiers had undergone prevented any pursuit. It is remarkable that after reconnoitering after the action, the right of General Howe's camp was found close on General Knyphausen's left, and nearly in a line, and in forming the general camp next day scarce any alteration was made."

British Casualties

Casualties at Brandywine were strewn across a 10-square mile area of the battlefield, making final determinations particularly difficult. General Howe in his official report to Parliament counted: 90 killed, 488 wounded and 6 missing in action. Howe, once again clearly underestimated casualty figures. Before the Battle of Germantown, an adjutant in the British army, reckoned British killed and wounded at 1,976. This is the exact same number arrived at by Jacob Hitzheimer, a civilian at Brandywine who recorded the number of British wounded in a diary entry. Some reports have the Queens Rangers losing 290 out of 480 men, while Ferguson's Riflemen suffered 46 casualties out of 80.

The 2nd Light Infantry and 2nd British Guards who were involved in some of the fiercest fighting at Brandywine (including hand-to-hand combat) are listed as having lost 612 of 1,740 troops.

American Casualties

Major General Greene estimated American losses at 1,200 men. He also reported the loss of 10 irreplaceable cannon and a Howitzer. A Hessian officer listed the American casualty and captured rate at 1,300. An American officer under Brigadier General Nash reported British losses at 1,960 and the Americans at 700.

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From the Editor

At the last Board of Managers meeting, November 5, 2005, I was awarded the Patriot Medal with an accompanying Certificate. I feel very Humble, Proud and Honored. Humble that I was chosen for something I enjoy doing, Proud that I can wear it as a member of the Empire State Society and Honored that the Empire State Society graciously awarded me this prestigious medal. Thank you very much and I will wear it with pride. Hank Croteau ■



ADAM HELMER, THE “PAUL REVERE” OF THE MOHAWK VALLEY

We've all heard the tale of Paul Revere and his famous ride from Boston to alert Lexington and Concord of the approaching British in 1775, but how many have heard of Adam Helmer, the “Paul Revere” of the Mohawk Valley? One major factor differentiates Helmer's 24 mile alert mission from that of Paul Revere, and that is that while Revere rode a horse under cover of darkness, Adam Helmer ran the distance on foot in broad daylight with Joseph Brant's whole army of Indians and Tories howling at his heels, eager to take his famous long, blond scalp.

Adam was born Johann Adam Frederick Helmer in the Town of Herkimer in 1754, the son of Frederick Adam and Barbara Kast Helmer. As was true of most early German Palatine families, many of their sons were given the first name of Johann at birth, but this ceremonial name was discarded in favor of their second name as they grew to manhood.

In 1778, Adam was a Lieutenant in the 4th Tryon County Militia under Col. Peter Bellinger, serving as a scout because of his intimate knowledge of the trails of the region and the habits of the hostiles. He had survived the bloody ambush and Battle of Oriskany in 1777 when he was assigned to Col. Jacob Klock's 2nd Tryon County Militia and also saw action at Fort Stanwix (called Fort Schuyler during the Revolution). He had married Col. Bellinger's daughter, Anna Piet Bellinger, in February 1776 and would receive a pension after the War for his military service with several units on the frontier.

In September 1778, Adam had been assigned to watch the Indian trails south of Fort Herkimer for signs of hostile movements when he discovered Joseph Brant and a force of several hundred mostly Mohawk warriors and some Tories en route north from Unadilla, burning and butchering everything and everyone in their path. Col. Bellinger had just been ordered by Col. Klock to return his Militia Regiment back to Fort Herkimer and this left the rural countryside wide open for Brant and his force to murder and burn at will. Only Adam and a very few other scouts were left to watch over the whole open frontier south of Fort Herkimer.

On September 16, 1778, Adam was watching Brant's movements alone near Edmeston when he met Brant's advance scouts on the Unadilla Trail and was soon being chased by several of Brant's best Indian runners on the trail, part of which led from Edmeston to German Flats in the Mohawk Valley. He immediately realized three things - he had been detected and all attempts would be made to capture or kill him; that Brant was heading otherwise undetected towards unsuspecting German Flats; and that he alone bore the responsibility for warning the scattered farm families living at German Flats of Brant's impending attack so that they could seek refuge in Fort Herkimer and have a chance to escape what would otherwise be certain death.

With this in mind, and well aware of the Indian strategy used in running down and exhausting their kill, he started off on his presently not too well known run from Edmeston to Fort Herkimer.

Adam was a big man of 200 pounds, stood six foot five inches tall in his moccasins, and was accustomed to traveling long distances at a long, easy stride. He soon settled into the same stride as his pursuers, but knew well what was coming. A string of the best Indian runners would run down their prey by using what was known as the “Mohawk dodge” on the frontier, where one brave would

break away from the string of runners and sprint towards their target, forcing him to accelerate. When the lead Indian tired, he fell back and another would accelerate, forcing the pursued to run at an accelerated speed almost continually. Adam knew that once he ran out of gas, the Indians would fall upon him and dispatch him at will.

At one bend of the trail where he was out of the Indian's view, Helmer stripped off his hunting shirt, tossed his gun into a small pond, and his pack of powder and shot behind some brush, retaining only his tomahawk tucked into his belt at the rear of his deer-skin trousers. Thus, relatively unencumbered, he felt more comfortable for running and more optimistic of survival, so he increased his gait, encumbered only by his trousers and moccasins.

Finally, after about 15 miles of running, the last and best of the Indian runners made his accelerated move, but Adam met the test and was still able to outrun him and increased his distance while the Indian slowed down and quit the chase. This was near Andrustown, and he now knew he was out of danger of being overtaken if he could only maintain the now steady but still fast pace which both he and the following Indians were using. As he passed through Andrustown about 6 miles south of the fort, he saw the results of the massacre which had taken place there very recently by another advance party of Brant's force. The small hamlet of seven houses and five log barns lay in ashes and the bodies of most of the inhabitants except the few who had escaped into the woods still lay as they fell to the tomahawk. One man named Crim had been burned to death in his cabin when he refused to come out to be tortured and tomahawked. Adam did not stop here because he still had Indians following him at a set pace. He continued on with his long loping stride, knowing that now he would survive and could save many lives by giving the alarm to the people of German Flats and Fort Herkimer before Brant and his blood-thirsty savages could overtake him with their scalping knives at the ready.

Just about sunset, sentries at the fort saw him flying out of the forest and down an open hill with many outlying alerted families moving rapidly behind him towards the fort. Col. Bellinger, his father-in-law, anticipated Adam's message and ordered one cannon to be fired as a warning for all to drop everything and congregate in the safety of the fort.

Fort Dayton, located just two miles north and across the Mohawk river where Herkimer is today, heard the shot and repeated it to alert their own nearby families.

As Adam Helmer entered Fort Herkimer bursting with pride at his accomplishment, he was glistening wet from sweat and had just about expended all of his energy, but still mustered a smile as the cheers of the garrison and assembled farmers rang in his ears.

One hundred forty families spread throughout German Flats owed their lives to him and he realized then that he had done his assigned job as a scout and done it well.

Fort Herkimer had available 87 armed men, while Fort Dayton had another 60+ armed defenders. The small Stone Arabia stockade had only 20 men, but was not considered to be a target of Joseph Brant. Fort Herkimer had powder, shot and food available for at least a weeks siege, if necessary, so once within the confines of the palisades of the fort, the farmers and their families felt quite

► *Continued page 9 column 1*

Cont'd from page 8 - The "Paul Revere" of the Mohawk Valley

confident that they would survive, even though Brant's force greatly outnumbered the garrisons. After dark that night, the farmers became visibly shaken as they watched their homes, barns, and wheat fields burned as they looked on without recourse.

Fort Herkimer, named after Brigadier-General Nicholas Herkimer, Commander of the Tryon County Militia who lost his life the year before as the result of wounds suffered at the bloody Oriskany ambush, was a primary fort in the Mohawk Valley during the War.

It had size and, with the 12 foot sharpened palisades, block-houses, and the old stone Fort Herkimer Church within it's confines, provided the much needed protection for area families. If you read about the savage assaults on the Valley during the War, you will note that German Flats was the most frequently devastated area in the Mohawk Valley because of it's proximity to Woods Creek and the connecting water and portage route between Canada and the Mohawk River.

Today, only the Fort Herkimer Church still stands as a reminder of the sturdy fort complex. That church has certainly seen it's share of history in it's day and is an interesting and historical place to visit.

As a note of interest, the annual memorial service for those men, women and children killed in the Andrustown Massacre in 1778 is held every year in the Hoyer Farm cemetery near present-day Jordanville in July. This is an event which Joan and I have enjoyed attending for several years as it is organized and conducted by the Hendersonville DAR with participation by the 3rd Tryon County Militia reenactors led by Col. James F. Morrison, a fellow SAR member, and an authority on the Revolutionary War in New York State. Many descendants of the victims attend this reunion from near and far. The Hoyer Cemetery couldn't be in a more beautiful location than on the breezy hill overlooking the farm country that was once Andrustown.

Adam was too late to alert the victims of devastated Andrustown and Springfield, but there were many in German Flats who were certainly thankful to see his powerful, glistening body and flying blond hair as he alerted the countryside enoute to Fort Herkimer. Because of the fact that he put his own life on the line to save so many people and gladly endured the extreme physical exhaustion required to spread the alert, I feel he deserves at least as much if not more recognition in our country's history as Paul Revere and his associates have received over the years. After all, Revere's horse did all the work on a quiet, dark night in Massachusetts, during which time he and William Dawes were captured on the road to Concord after leaving Lexington and never did complete their alert action, while Lt. Adam Helmer, out of necessity and dedication, used his own physical attributes to outrun an army of pursuing savages eager to lift his hair and prevent his giving the alarm that was to save at least 140 lives.

William G. Loveday, Jr.

Saratoga and Stone Arabia Battle Chapters

SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER

British Surrender to American's at Old Saratoga

Commemorating the 225th Anniversary of the Victory at Saratoga, the British flag was lowered at Ft. Hardy Park at 12 Noon on October 17th and the American flag was raised. Second Vice President George H. Ballard represented the Chapter and along with Saratoga Town Supervisor Thomas Wood III and Village of



Left to right - George H Ballard, Thomas N Wood, III, John Sherman

Schuylerville Mayor John Sherman laid a wreath at the base of the flagpole honoring those who fought in the battles.

Sean Kelleher portraying American General Horatio Gates accepted the sword of British General John Burgoyne portrayed by Eric Schnitzer. The ceremony ended with those in attendance giving the 13 Toast of Victory. ■

ROCHESTER CHAPTER MOURNS THEIR LOSS

WILLIAM ALEXANDER WILLIAMS, JR.

Rochester Compatriot Alex Williams died on 13 November following a long period of illness during which he fought diabetes and kidney failure. Alex remained an active member of the Chapter even during the later stages of his difficulties when vision and mobility became issues. His dry humor and wise counsel will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Even though Alex had been a member for only 11 years, he made a profound mark on the Rochester Chapter. He completed his initial membership papers and added 15 supplemental Patriots, including one woman—a Chapter record. He supported all Chapter functions and created our program to search for Patriot ancestors who are buried in the six-county area we serve. His personal efforts made significant contributions to its initiation. In Alex's honor we are continuing his search and have created an on-line web site with a section devoted to the Patriot ancestors he sought. As we find more Patriots, the lists will be expanded and photographs of their grave-stones will be included.

Alex will be interred in the family plot in Milledgeville, GA, in late spring or early summer at the convenience of the family. Our Compatriots of the John Milledge Chapter, SAR, of Milledgeville will install the member's grave marker we sent them. They will also conduct appropriate services at the proper time with the Georgia State Color Guard present to render honors. The Rochester Chapter is deeply indebted to President Robert L. Bridges, Jr., and the members of the John Milledge Chapter for all their help and courtesy.

STONY POINT CHAPTER

Phillips-Knapp Cemetery

Saved-Restored-Rededicated

Dates back to 1795, with the last burial in 1905

In the late fall of 2004, some Knapp family descendants from our area discovered the deplorable conditions which existed at the Phillips-Knapp Cemetery on Birch Drive in Thiells, N.Y. I, being a family descendant, was contacted and helped, with others; spearhead an emergency meeting of all Phillips and Knapp descendants in the immediate area, as we are all related to those buried at this historic cemetery.



*L to R front row - Howard Phillips, Vicki Cronin Miller, Barry Brooks
L to R Back - Paul Piperato, Thomas Larkin, Stuart Chaney, Charlotte Phillips, Phyllis Murphy*

Howard Phillips, Supervisor of the Town of Haverstraw (not yet connected to our Phillips" line) was contacted, noted our distress over the cemetery, and agreed to attend the first meeting of this group. At the meeting, Mr. Phillips was visibly moved over what he heard, and with our input and help and that of the newly formed Phillips Knapp Family Association, the Stony Point Chapter of the SAR/DAR (Sons of the American Revolution & Daughters of the American Revolution), we were able to proceed in a state of emergency with the cemetery restoration.

The cemetery was very inaccessible due to brush, briars and tall weeds. Many headstones that previously were upright in years prior to the Mc Mansion invasion were now either down or missing. With new home building in the immediate surrounding location, it was feared a neighboring 5' high professionally built wall, a large outbuilding, and other accoutrements encroached the cemetery property. Another problem existed on the opposite side of the cemetery boundaries—another neighbor bulldozed an area within one foot of the headstones unearthing the dirt 3 feet in depth by several headstones and much more!!!—Literally a potential disaster for this Historic Revolutionary War Cemetery.

A plan of action was initiated that night in late November 2004. With follow up from the town, Supervisor Phillips placed

the Highway Superintendent in charge of the town's efforts, and worked very closely with the three groups. Within weeks, the cemetery was resurveyed by the town with the results that confirmed our fears—the 5' high wall was erected over six feet inside the cemetery property and over about 30 unmarked graves, part of a neighbor's driveway, some of their outdoor lighting and some landscaping as well as part of the large outbuilding were located on cemetery property as well.

Working closely with each of the three groups over the winter of 2004, The Town initially cut and removed the brush and brought in by wheelbarrow top soil to stabilize the affected graves from bulldozing and erosion over the impending colder months. The town, with our input, forced the removal of this expensive wall, upscale pool area fencing assembled on cemetery property, movement of the large outbuilding off the cemetery property, all accomplished in the Winter months of 2005.

Early spring brought several of us into action, including some Phillips-Knapp descendants, in ripping out thick underground vines, getting rid of poison ivy, and tons of weeds that quickly sprung up in the spring rains. We continued to cut down the quickly reappearing growth until early summer, when the Town of Haverstraw took over this task.

In July, the town periodically sent several trucks and 5-6 men to the cemetery to correct all the deficiencies that we collectively felt were necessary to restore the cemetery. A new headstone was ordered for one Revolutionary War Soldier, and bronze plaques for the Colonel Robert Knapp, (a soldier in the War of 1812), and for Revolutionary War Soldier Lebbeus Knapp. A Civil War soldier's headstone still has to be replaced. With the help of Travis Monuments of Nyack, N.Y., these monuments were in placing for the planned

September 2005 Phillips-Knapp Rededication.

By the late Summer 2005, truckloads of topsoil were spread, low areas filled, a stone wall erected on the low boundary and the cemetery made more or less flat, new upscale fencing was ordered by the town to encase the whole cemetery, and about one dozen trees, some several feet diameter, were removed and the stumps ground away, and some professional planted shrubbery (also on the cemetery property) was removed, along with part of an encroaching driveway. A curved gravel walkway was installed by the town, and the cemetery was readied for the cemetery rededication. On that day (September 18, 2005) with over seventy-five people in attendance, a commemorative plaque was presented to the cemetery representatives by Supervisor Phillips and an American Flag from the American Legion Post #130 of West Haverstraw, N.Y.

The SAR along with the DAR and the Stony Point Battlefield held a "Flag Retirement Ceremony" in June 2005 and retired more than 150 U.S.A. flags. The ashes were interred in four of the veteran's graves within the Phillips-Knapp Cemetery during the rededication ceremonies on September 18th 2005.

The cemetery rededication ceremony was also attended by

► *Continued page 11 column 1*

Continued from page 10 Stony Point

Paul Piperato-Councilman and now current Rockland County Clerk, members of the American Legion Post #130 (who presented



Bugler Luther Blodgett

acting president Barry Brooks of the Stony Point Chapter of SAR on behalf of all the organizations involved) with an American Flag to fly over the cemetery on special holidays. Thomas F. X. Casey, Rockland County/Haverstraw Historian and President of the Historic Preservation Board, Barry Brooks-Acting President of the Sons of the American Revolution, Martha Erickson-Regent of the Shatemuc Chapter NSDAR, Marilyn Pyan-Registrar Stony Point Shatemuc Chapter NSDAR, Marianne Leese-Historical Society of Rockland County, Marie Koestler-Genealogical Society of Rockland County, Roland Mills, Registrar of Stony Point Chapter of SAR, Phyllis Murphy-Past Regent of the Shatemuc Chapter NSDAR, Bart Brooks, Gene Erickson, Robert Phillips-SAR, and Tim Phillips (acting Secretary of the Stony Point Chapter of SAR). A "special thank you" also was extended to: Luther Blodgett of Garnerville for playing TAPS, Margaret Peterson for two excellent vocal solos to enhance the ceremony, and to Stuart Chaney, a Phillips-Knapp descendant, for his services as Master of Ceremonies for the rededication ceremonies.

The cemetery's permanent bronze plaque, a reflective bench, cemetery sign, and a few other amenities still are awaiting installation, but the Town of Haverstraw will complete this process hopefully in the spring of 2006.

The September weekend also encompassed a Phillips-Knapp Reunion, with members coming as far as Florida and Illinois to reconnect. Of course the majority of the family members hailed from the immediate tri-state area.

Haverstraw Town Supervisor, Howard Phillips, was a true leader in this effort, for without his help, and that of the town's physical and financial resources, this project never could have been accomplished. This is a true fact, for many lone members of the family had tried to reestablish the cemetery on their own, but to no avail in the past. Mr. Phillips is to be commended for his fine efforts and will hopefully be viewed by other towns as one who fulfills their town's responsibility to abandoned cemeteries, helping recreate an aesthetic final resting place for our early ancestors and soldiers located among today's ever crowded landscape.

Through this group effort, the Historic Phillips-Knapp Cemetery is sacred ground, a beacon showplace depicting respect for those whose bodies remain there in eternity.

Phillips-Knapp Cemetery Restoration Committee

Barry Brooks, Stuart Chaney, Tom Larkin, Vicki Miller, Phyllis Murphy, M/M Robert Phillips

Members of the Phillips-Knapp Family Association

Barry Brooks, Bart Brooks, Frank Brooks, Howard Brooks, Robert R. Brooks II, Stu Chaney, Barbara de Mare, Charlie Goetschius Robert Knapp, Brad Knapp, Casey Knapp, Charles Knapp

Larry Knapp, Thomas Larkin, Carolee Liberatore, Phyllis Lynes Vicki Miller, Patricia Mullaney, Katherine Murphy, Phyllis Murphy Anastasia Phillips, Charles Phillips, Charlotte Phillips, Robert Phillips, Jerry Knapp, Daniel Phillips, John Phillips, Marvin Phillips, Morag Phillips, Nick Phillips, Timothy Phillips, Elizabeth Piucci, Debbie Schauer, Doris Smith, Patricia Walsh, Nancy Yaruzinsky

Respectfully Submitted, Barry Brooks-Acting President ■

WESTCHESTER- PUTNAM CHAPTER

Westchester-Putnam Chapter held our Fall Meeting on October 15 at the Brasserie Swiss Restaurant in Ossining. We were delighted to have members of the Hudson River Patriots and Anne Hutchinson DAR chapters with us as well as a son of one of our members who would like to join the chapter.

Our Hudson River cleanup program completed another successful year with six cleanup days conducted under the leadership of our chapter Vice President Walt Thompson.

Ceremonies were held the last weekend of September to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the capture of Major John Andre. Compatriot Michael Igoe of the Colorado Society, a descendant of Isaac Van Wort, one of the three men who captured Andre, was present at the reenactment of the capture and indicated he would like to join our chapter and state societies as a dual member and has since done so. Welcome Michael! Earlier in the day, at ceremonies at John Paulding's gravesite several of his descendants also indicated interest in the society and have been sent applications.

St. Paul's Church in Mount Vernon was the setting on October 22 for marking the 229th anniversary of the Battle of Pell's Point. Both SAR and DAR members attended the event which included a presentation by a West Point professor on George Washington's leadership.

The Harvey Birch DAR chapter graciously invited our membership to join them for their annual holiday meeting at the Scarsdale Golf Club on December 17. Ken Stevens, Westchester-Putnam President, was one of the guest speakers and spoke about the activities of the chapter as well as those of other chapters in the Metropolitan region.

Finally, we regret to announce the passings of compatriots Roger H. Cole and Leo M. Wood, both in the month of November. *Kenneth Stevens, Chapter President* ■

Candid photos of (left) State President Peter Goebel with CAR State President, Miss Megan Elizabeth Weigard at the November BOM meeting and (right) President General Henry N. McCarl flanked by Jonathan & Peter Goebel at the 115th Annual Congress.



Long Island Revolutionary War Soldier, Sailor and Patriot Grave Location Project

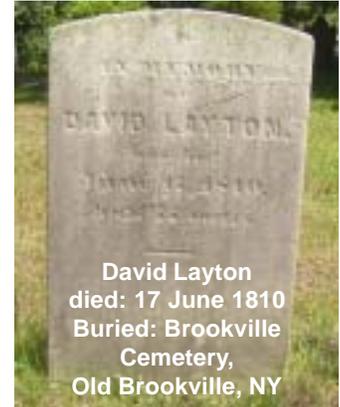
The Long Island Chapter has undertaken a project to locate, record and mark the graves of Revolutionary War Soldiers, Sailors and Patriots who are buried in Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island. The work so far has focused on known graves. These need to be located, identified, photographed and recorded. The National Society had put out a CD in 2000 that has listed many of these patriots. We have identified some of these but have found many errors which contribute some burials to Nassau County when they were really in Nassau, New York, which is in Rensselaer County, and in New Hempstead, New York, which is in Orange County. The Suffolk County list is also being combed through to see if there are errors there that can be corrected. However, Suffolk being some 5 times larger than Nassau, this will take some time.



Robert Townsend (Culper, Jr.)
died: 1838
buried: Fort Hill Cemetery,
Oyster Bay, NY



Colonel Benjamin Birdsall
died: 1798 buried:
West Neck (Jones) Cemetery,
Massapequa, NY



David Layton
died: 17 June 1810
Buried: Brookville
Cemetery,
Old Brookville, NY

The Nassau County list includes some 33 names, 2 of them being duplicates, and another 9 being buried in other counties. The Suffolk County list is a bit more complex. It lists some 238 names. A lot of these graves have been honored for years by the Chapter, but many need to be located, and all have to be identified, photographed and recorded. Long Island during the Revolutionary War was Loyalist territory. Many of the residents who sided with the Patriots were forced to relocate to places like Connecticut. Nassau County, especially the south shore, was predominantly Tory. There are very few graves here. The north shore has a slightly higher number of graves. Nassau County, formerly part of Queens County has fewer graves because of the loyalist leanings than Suffolk County, which is further out from New York City.

The other aspect of this project is to identify graves of Patriots that have not been previously recorded or otherwise identified. Your help would be appreciated. That is, as Empire State Patriots, if you have a listing for your area, please check to see if someone is listed that may, in reality, be buried here on Long Island. There are many place names that are common, some even identical. Hyde Park, New Hyde Park; Hempstead, New Hempstead; Nassau, Nassau County; you get the idea. One of these Patriots had previously been identified, his grave marked, but somehow escaped the S.A.R. records. Robert Townsend of Oyster Bay was in fact the spy only known as "Culper, Jr." He was working for Benjamin Talmadge (Culper, Sr.), and relaying information obtained from the British in New York City, through an underground network which eventually wound up in the hands of General George Washington. In fact, George Washington praised the work of Cupler, Jr. and never really knew his true identity. *Submitted by David Shields* ■



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