



EMPIRE PATRIOT

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

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THE PHILADELPHIA CAMPAIGN 1777

QUICK REVOLUTIONARY WAR TOUR 1765-1777

The British defeated the French and their Indian allies in the French and Indian War (1754-1763). The result was British control over much of North America. But the war had cost England a great deal of money and Parliament decided it was time for the Colonies to pay a share for their own defense. To raise money, Parliament passed the Stamp Act in 1765. This law required the purchase of tax stamps to buy paper. The Colonists were outraged. After years of "Salutary Neglect" wherein Colonial taxes were not collected by the British, the new policy was unwelcome.

The Colonists had always considered themselves Englishmen. Among the rights granted to all Englishmen was a voice in Parliament — something they didn't have. With the Stamp Act, "Taxation without representation is tyranny," became a battle cry. Rioting, rhetoric, and the calling of the Stamp Act Congress quickly led England to repeal the Stamp Act.

But many new taxation measures, such as the Sugar Act and Townsend Acts followed. The Americans reacted by forming organized political groups such as Committees of Correspondence and the Sons of Liberty.

The people of Boston were most outspoken and violent in their reaction to taxes. They threatened and harmed British customs officials trying to collect taxes. So, the British quartered troops in Boston to protect their officials. In 1770, the Boston Massacre occurred as British troops fired into a group of protesters, killing five of them. This was the first blood.

In 1773 the East India Company was granted a virtual monopoly on the importation of tea. In protest, a group of Boston citizens disguised as Mohawk Indians boarded a ship and dumped 342 chests of tea into Boston harbor.

- Parliament responded with the "Intolerable Acts."
- Accused Colonists could be tried in England
- American homes were forced to host British troops
- Boston Harbor was closed

And more

This resulted in the First Continental Congress, in 1774, which met at Philadelphia's Carpenters' Hall. Twelve colonies sent delegates to discuss how to return to a state of harmonious relations with the Mother Country — not revolution! But radical thinking won out. Parliamentary acts were declared "unconstitutional." Taxes were not paid, an import-export ban was established, and

Colonists were urged to arm themselves.

The "shot heard 'round the world" was fired at Lexington where armed colonists tried to resist British seizure of an arsenal. 8 Americans died in the skirmish. By the time the British returned to their lines, 273 British were killed, three times more than the number of colonists killed. The Revolution began.

The Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia on **May 10, 1775** and they declared themselves the government. They also named George Washington Commander in Chief of the newly organized army.

In **June 1775**, the Battle of Bunker Hill resulted in about 400 American and 1,054 British casualties. The first major battle of the War gave the Americans great confidence.

Skirmishes in **late 1775** led to the capture of Ft. Ticonderoga in New York and a win at the Battle of Crown Point, under the command of Ethan Allen. However, Benedict Arnold's attempt to capture Canada for the Americans failed.

On **July 4th, 1776**, Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence. The United States is born.

30,000 British troops arrived in New York Harbor in **August** and joined those already under the command of General William Howe. American defeats followed at Long Island, Harlem Heights, and White Plains.

The Americans salvaged a dismal year with Washington's Christmas night crossing of the Delaware to capture Trenton. This was followed up shortly after by a victory at the Battle of Princeton. The Americans chased Howe back to New York. Washington went into winter quarters in Morristown, New Jersey. In the Spring of 1777, The Philadelphia Campaign was about to unfold.

BACKGROUND TO THE CAMPAIGN: THE BRITISH

Part of the overall British design to win the war was to isolate regions of the country and invoke the support of silent Loyalists. General Howe, Commander of British troops in the Colonies, had a two-pronged plan for 1777. While the British army of the North under General Burgoyne would march down from Canada to capture Albany, isolating New England, the Southern army under Howe would capture Philadelphia.

➤ *Continued page 4 column 1*

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Date: 3 February 2006

To: All Compatriots

Fr: James N. Randall, Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer
NSSAR

Compatriots and Colleagues: Recently, Harris Publishing Company distributed letters of inquiry, using both electronic mail and US Mail. The NSSAR did execute an agreement with the firm to prepare and publish the 2006 SAR Membership Directory. This will be the first directory in 5 years, and we are excited about its upcoming distribution. More information on availability and how to purchase the directory will be forthcoming over the next few months.

The process of information gathering will require several weeks. Harris Publishing was provided contact information from the NSSAR database. Also, the questionnaire contains genealogical information which is based on the NSSAR national offices records. Compatriots who purchased the directory in 2001 also had an established file with Harris, as this firm prepared the last publication. Once Harris receives the data from individual members, a telephone review process will begin. In order to maximize the value of the directory, we would like to suggest these things.

First, this is a legitimate project of the NSSAR. All information that is submitted will be kept confidentially with the Harris firm. Lists and database information is prohibited from being sold to other sources by either the SAR or Harris. The information will be used expressly to produce the directory.

Second, this is an excellent opportunity to provide contact information for the Society at large. The member database is protected information. Though we utilize the Internet extensively in our works, a member who lives in Florida is presently prevented from viewing a member who lives in Iowa. The directory will provide compatriots who purchase the book a method of contact. Compatriots are encouraged to provide all methods of contact, including US Mail, telephone numbers and electronic (email) mail.

Third, new "do-not-call" legislation in many states prohibit firms from contacting persons where consent has yet to be obtained. This provision requires that compatriots first submit the material to Harris before any representative of Harris will call and review the submitted data. In this way, the compatriot retains total control on further contact with Harris. We encourage participation so the directory is as complete as possible.

Finally, the directory offers the compatriot and his family an excellent heirloom. It provides relevant information for potential new members who are related to existing members. The directory will contain the splendid history of the SAR, and how the future SAR will continue to develop and leave its legacy to the United States. There will be highlights of our successes, and visions of our dreams.

In summary, The 2006 SAR Directory will be a valuable resource for all who purchase this informative book. The project is legitimate and the information is well secured. Compatriots may utilize the questionnaire that has been mailed and return the docu-

ment through the US Mail. For others who are comfortable with the use of the Internet, there is a secure location that may be accessed through Harris Publishing. The letter describes how this process may be used.

We encourage each compatriot to participate. The Society will benefit, as will individual compatriots. Thank you for your service, commitment and dedication to the SAR. James N. (Jim) Randall. O

A NATIONAL COLOR GUARD COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

by Donald N. Moran, Editor - The SAR Guardsman

Lt. Colonel Peter K. Goebel, USA, our National Color Guard Commander is pleased to announce that the Committee is reinstating "**The SAR Guardsman**".

This newsletter was first established in 1992 to assist the State Societies and Chapters in creating color guards. It was basically a "How-to-do-it" newsletter. After two years it was discontinued as no longer being necessary.

Today, with literally hundreds of Color Guards across the Country, the National Color Guard Committee has reestablished this newsletter as a mode of communications between all our color guards.

At the Annual Congress, this past July, the Executive Committee approved the effort with the caveat that it is entirely a Committee activity.

The most important regular feature to *The SAR Guardsman* will be a calendar of coming multi-color guard events. This will provide the Chapters a means of publicizing forthcoming events. It will also provide a media outlet for information important to Color Guards and their operations throughout the Society. That would include sources of uniforms and equipment. Naturally, there will be important information on National Color Guard activities and coming events.

As stated this is wholly a Committee function and is not being financed by the National Society. The costs of preparing, printing and mailing will be borne by subscription. We believe that a subscription will be a must for every State and Chapter Color Guard Commander, and of great interest to all our Guardsman.

The Committee plans on publishing four editions annually, each being 12 to 16 pages. The cost of the subscription will be \$10.00 per annum.

The first issue is being prepared thanks to the generosity of the Massachusetts Color Guard, which donated the seed money for said edition. It is hoped we will have the first issue available at the forthcoming Semi-Annual meeting (National Trustee's meeting).

If you wish to subscribe, send your name and address, with a check made payable to: **NSSAR** or **National Society SAR** with "*The SAR Guardsman*" on the memo line.

Sent to
Editor, The SAR Guardsman
1000 South Fourth Street
Louisville, KY 40203 ■

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



ESSAR President Peter K. Goebel

Compatriots,

Greetings. At every turn, it appears that our nation and the foundations of our country are under attack. These attacks occur both from within and outside of the United States. It would be far easier to give up and admit defeat. Most certainly it would cost us far less in both time and treasure. Looking down the road at end of the battle, then we would never know how close we would have come to victory, if we gave up.

However, our country is not something which any of us take lightly. All of us would sacrifice everything we possess to fight for and to protect our nation. None of us would surrender because we all possess the means to fight back against our attackers. And fight back we shall. Currently we do not yet have our backs against the wall. That time may soon come; but right now each of us needs to do everything within our means to work for our country and to do all within our power to insure that the United States never falls from the high position we are in throughout the world. The Sons of the American Revolution will fight for our country and each of us must resolve to do as much as we possibly can.

Each SAR member must become and remain as involved as one possibly can in the struggle for our nation.

There are many ways to do this with which we are all very familiar. The Center for Advancing America's Heritage is one of

those ways we should all support, as soon as we can. It is something each of us can and must do as soon as possible.

It is also very important that we obtain your expression of support for our SAR programs. We are asking every member to, please, as a minimum, respond in writing supporting our existing programs by filling out, signing, and returning the card which will be sent to you with this years ballot materials. We need your support to attract grants.

Either with this issue of the Empire Patriot or with the annual balloting materials you will also receive an ESSAR Questionnaire, to be filled out and returned to me as soon as possible. Supporting our youth contests and programs is another way. Public appearances of the ESSAR also remind our fellow

citizens of the heroics and sacrifices that our patriot ancestors made to establish the United States of America and that we, the SAR, remind everyone, including the entire world, that we still honor those values and are very much willing to emulate them.

The ESSAR will continue to strive and to help lead the way in these endeavors, as well as in all patriotic endeavors. The Empire Patriot should and will showcase our efforts and continue to show others what we do and that we are working to rise above it all. It's time for everyone to get to work for our nation.

See you all at our next meeting.

*In the words of President
George W. Bush,*

*"We will not tire, we will not falter, and
we will not fail."*

We dedicate ourselves to victory.
Peter K. Goebel, President ■

SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER

*Lineage Society Welcomes New
Member and Presents Awards*

Members of the Saratoga Battle Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, held their Annual Meeting and Washington's Birthday Celebration at the Century House in Latham on 18 February. A regular business meeting was interrupted by a wonder-

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ful dinner, but resumed after dessert.

The members and guests were welcomed by President Jonathan Goebel of Nassau, NY, and President Goebel also welcomed the newest member, Primitivo Africa of Saratoga Springs, and presented him with his membership Certificate. Mr. Africa joined under his ancestor, Pvt. Albert Vedder who served in New York during the Revolutionary War.

President Goebel also presented Service Award pins to members for their long and faithful membership and service to the Society. Charles F. Walter IV, of Ballston Spa, NY, 25 years; Ronald E. Newton, Kennebunk, ME, 25 years; David O. Newton, Kennebunk, ME, 20 years, and Charles W. King, Burnt Hills, NY, 20 Years.

Members that were unable to attend, but who were recognized and will later be presented with their service Award Pins are as follows: William G. Loveday, Jr., Gloversville, NY, 35 Years; Henry N. McCarl, (Past President General of the National Society) 30 years; Kurt Kilmer, Hudson Falls, NY, 25 Years; Francis E. Moy, Schaghticoke, NY, 25 Years; Robert P. Crocetta, Sr., (Past Chapter President) Palm Coast, FL, 25 Years; Clyde W. Childs, Jr., (Past Chapter President) Schenectady, NY, 25 Years; William B. Neal, Claymont, DE, (Past Genealogist General of National Society) 25 Years; Ernest L. Kendall,

► *Continued page 10 column 2*



General William Howe

With the capital under occupation, and radical New England isolated, Howe hoped to force a surrender.

Winter, according to the military custom of the 18th century, was not a season to pursue battle. After a string of successful battles in 1776, General Howe spent the winter in New York City.

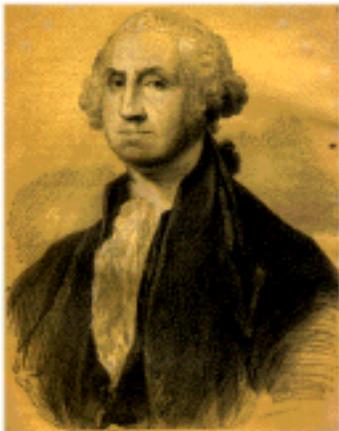
Dallying overlong there, it was not until June 1777 that Howe made a non-productive feint

into New Jersey. But due to a fear of losing his supply line, the vacillating general performed an about-face and returned to New York.

Back in London, Parliament, fed up with this Colonial rebellion and tired of bearing the burden of a costly war, wanted results. Howe, recently named Knight Companion of the Bath by King George III, needed to score a victory quickly — the new “Sir William” had a title to live up to.

Yet, the fighting season was nearing an end without a single major engagement having taken place. Howe was finally ready to engage the enemy, capture Philadelphia, and show the King and Parliament that he was bringing the war to a close.

BACKGROUND TO THE CAMPAIGN: THE AMERICANS



General George Washington

George Washington had spent the winter of 1776 in Morristown, New Jersey, keeping an eye on Howe in New York.

In Upstate New York, General Gates and the Northern Army prepared for an invasion by General Burgoyne, who was coming from Canada.

Washington didn't know if Howe was planning to move north into New York State to support Burgoyne or south to invade Philadelphia.

In June 1777, Washington learned about a massive flotilla that was boarding in Sandy Hook, New Jersey, across from Staten Island, destination unknown. By late in July, Washington knew it was heading down the Atlantic coast.

Washington moved his army of approximately 11,000 troops by land to Wilmington, Delaware, about 20 miles north of where Howe would ultimately land and 20 miles south of Philadelphia. General Washington, well placed for Howe's arrival, but wary nonetheless, needed an estimation of Howe's troop strength for this campaign and what to expect in planning this new phase of engagement.

Washington's previous appearances on the battlefield resulted

in morale-boosting victories at Princeton and Trenton, but that was eight months past.

Whispers within Congress and even among some serving with him questioned the Commander's capabilities.

Both armies were in place prepared to play out the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777.

HEAD OF ELK, MARYLAND

In late July 1777, a 265-ship armada under General Howe's command finally arrived at the Head of Maryland's Elk River. 17,000 soldiers aboard the ships had endured a debilitating six week journey originating at Sandy Hook, New Jersey, across from Staten Island, New York. Howe had hoped to complete the trip much faster than he did. He didn't. In Maryland, he hoped to find a legion of Loyalists ready to fight with the British. He didn't.

What he did have to do was to get all his ships unloaded of men, horses, weapons and supplies. Then he had to begin his march on Philadelphia to the north.

In between, stood George Washington and the Continental Army ready to stop him.

HEAD OF ELK PART 1 - - HOWE'S VOYAGE

The largest armada ever assembled in America set sail off of Sandy Hook, New Jersey. It was carrying 17,000 British soldiers and sailors in over 260 ships. The armada was headed for an attack on the capital city of Philadelphia. They underwent a distressful 34-day sea-trek. The voyage took its toll in lost time, seasick soldiers, and scores of dead horses.

Washington's troops started in northern New Jersey and shadowed the movement of the British fleet.

Washington lost sight of the fleet for an agonizing three-week period, starting when the armada moved further offshore as it passed the Delaware Capes. He feared that the fleet may have doubled back to New York to help General Burgoyne in his attempt to capture upstate New York against the Americans headed by General Gates.

Until he could determine the destination of the fleet, Washington needed to maintain a position where he could move north or south. When their destination was clear, Washington moved south to a position between Head of Elk and Philadelphia.

HEAD OF ELK PART 2 - - THE LANDING

3:00 am in the moonlight, the *Eagle* has landed. Aboard the *Eagle*, a 64-cannon ship-of-the-line, was General William Howe, British Commander-in-Chief. As the dawn approached, soldiers on the ships began making their way above decks, some seeing daylight for the first time in weeks. They were tight-legged, filthy, and battle rusty.

The problem at hand for Howe was that of landing 265 ships laden with soldiers and ordnance into a narrow river neck.

Contributing to the logistical logjam was the Elk River's shallow and muddy character, which left the heavier frigates and ships-of-the-line farther up river for fear of being stuck in the mud. In fact, many ships had already become mud-bound during the journey up the Elk, despite the best efforts of mercenary American river pilots who helped the British navigate the unfamiliar waterway. No ships were stuck for long, but it was another complication and delay.

► Continued page 5 column 1

On board the *Eagle* were Howe's brother, Admiral Richard Howe, and Captain Baurmeister, the officer who orchestrated the movement of the armada's six divisions of ships.

The British spent the day debarking.

HEAD OF ELK PART 3

WASHINGTON WATCHES HOWE

On Tuesday morning, a party of American horsemen, including Washington, left their camp in Wilmington. They reconnoitered the British from Iron Hill, a rise nine miles northwest of the British position.

Flanking Washington were Major General Nathanael Greene of Rhode Island — Washington's most trusted general — and the Marquis de Lafayette.

As was often the case, Washington would rely on the skills learned as a young man in Virginia to personally reconnoiter the enemy.

The British Don't Unpack

Because Howe had lost so much time getting here, he was in a rush to complete the debarkation and begin his march on Philadelphia. The troops had been ordered not to unpack their "baggage or camp equipage." Repacking would take too long, and Howe wanted to move out immediately.

Washington Learns Little

Because the usual camp formations weren't established, this complicated Washington's ability to correctly gauge troop strength. This resulted in Washington seeing few tents from his position on Iron Hill and later from Gray's Hill, nearer to the British, but on flatter ground. In general, surveying from a higher elevation, even if farther, gave a better idea of topography and troop strength.

Later, Washington wrote to Congress:

"They remain where they debarked at first. I could not find out from inquiry what number is landed nor form an estimate of it from the distant view I had of their encampment."

PART 4 - - A STORM INTERVENES

On Tuesday night, a terrible storm kicked up, soaking the rail and cornstalk huts of the already water-weary British. Rain rutted and flooded the dirt roads. And the storm disturbed plans and destroyed ammunition of both armies.

Washington, Greene, and Lafayette dined and stayed overnight through the storm at a farmhouse near Cooch's Bridge. Had history played out a little differently, Washington might have been captured.

Howe had ordered Cornwallis's men to march north at 3:00 a.m., Wednesday morning, but countermanded the marching orders:

"Since the heavy rain continues, and the roads are bottomless, and since the horses are sick and stiff, we had to countermand the order to march."

Surveying the Storm's Damage

Both armies spent Wednesday surveying the damage.

When wet, black powder and paper cartridges were useless, and therefore, muskets, cannon, mortars, and howitzers would be useless. Both sides lost critical supplies of ammunition.

British Captain John Montresor wrote, "...the order for marching was countermanded ... The roads heavy and the horses mere Carrion the soldiery not sufficiently refreshed and great part of

their ammunition damaged, made it upon the whole no delay...The guards [alone] had sixteen thousand cartridges damaged by the storm."

In the morning, Washington returned to his Wilmington headquarters. He, like Howe, was forced to curtail troop movements. Washington had hoped to send part of the Continental army to confront the enemy. Instead, the task at hand was to replace ruined ammunition.

HEAD OF ELK PART 5

BUT WHERE WERE THE LOYALISTS?

Howe had been swayed by such prominent Tories as Philadelphian Joseph Galloway that were he to come to Maryland, that Loyalists would eagerly support him. They would seize control of local politics, rally local support, and assist him in finding supplies, and some would take up arms in support of England. Those promised Loyalists were nowhere to be seen. Instead, the countryside was hauntingly unpeopled. The officers found deserted fields and farms where cattle and horses had obviously pastured recently. So Howe contrived a new tact to gain local support. Using a printing press carried aboard one of the ships, he ran off a proclamation which offered protection and amnesty to colonists willing to return to the mother country's bosom. The broadside proclamation would, by and large, be disregarded by the three groups it was aimed at — soldiers, residents and patriots. Desertions from the Continental Army continued at their normal rate. Many residents of the area were more concerned about safeguarding their own interests than concerning themselves with politics. These were farming families who had already spent several generations in the area and just wanted to be left alone. Also turning a deaf ear to Howe's exhortation were the local patriots and militiamen who remained true to the cause of independence.

After the Deluge

On the soggy Wednesday morning of August 26th, General Cornwallis was assigned the task of scouting ahead.

He and two officers assigned to him, Brigadier General William Erskine and Lieutenant-General Charles Grey reconnoitered a few miles north toward the town today called Elkton.

Of immediate concern to Cornwallis was the condition of the roads, which were "very rugged and broken ground."

And, of greater concern was the absence of the expected outpouring of Loyalist support.

Young Militiamen Taunt the British

A spirit of optimism and defiance prevailed among the Delaware militia on the 27th. At least, it was probably a detail from the Delaware militia on a break from commissary duty. They decided to tease the British Royal Navy.

When a boat of British midshipmen crossed the Elk River to search for milk, "the rebels" captured the boat and its crew.

The boat — which had all of four oars — was immediately entered for the Patriot Cause.

Its captors rowed it out to a British galley, which they fired on. The galley fired back. The Americans rowed away unscathed.

ON THE MARCH TO BRANDYWINE

British landed at the Head of Elk and were ready to march north. Their likely goal was the capture of Philadelphia. Mean-

cont'd. from page 5

while, George Washington rapidly moved his troops between Howe's army and Philadelphia. A jittery Continental Congress was watching. Howe was counting on a legion of Loyalists to join him. That didn't happen. Further, the British commander confronted a logistical nightmare: he had to find food for a massive army in unfamiliar territory. Both commanders stood two weeks away from one of the largest and bloodiest battles in the war. In between were bad roads, sick horses, rampant plundering, and a failed peace overture.

TO BRANDYWINE: PART 1 - - MOVING ON UP

Thursday 4 a.m. Cold plumes of smoke billowed from the chilled nostrils of the freshly awakened, gaunt British horses. They were being saddled by a group of Jagers who, under the command of Lord Cornwallis, would be in the vanguard of a column setting out from Head of Elk and marching toward Elkton. British Captain Montresor reported that as the vanguard moved out they left behind two burning houses. It "appeared to have been done on purpose," he wrote. The troops marched in formations wider than the road. The vanguard troops tore down fences and obstructions for those behind. The army on the march was impressive. A contemporary diarist noted that it was: *a beautiful sight to see ... as they came in sight on the river slope west of the town, with their scarlet coats, their bright guns and bayonets gleaming in the rays of an early August sun.*

The day grew warm and clear as the column advanced. They progressed at the somewhat slow rate of about a mile and a half an hour, due in part to a massive cannon being hauled over rain-rutted roads. After the five-hour journey, covering eight miles, the head of the column entered Elkton, by now a virtual ghost town, deserted in anticipation of the British arrival. In fact, the crafty Delaware militia had taken supplies just minutes earlier and then scattered at the sight of the invaders, burning a bridge on the east end of town as they went. This inconvenienced the British slightly, forcing the invading column to ford a shallow creek before entering town. The Delaware militia retreated toward the elevations of Grey's Hill and Iron Hill, slightly to the northeast. Howe arrived in Elkton by day's end and set up his headquarters at the Elk Tavern. British and Hessian officers were quartered in houses deserted by residents. The 71st Regiment maintained the line of communication between Cornwallis's Division at Elkton and Knyphausen's predominantly Hessian Division which was still unloading from the ships.

TO BRANDYWINE: PART 2 SCAVENGING AND RANSACKING

While at Elkton, scavenging parties went in search of provisions. Although the punishment in the British army for theft of property was hanging or whipping, this didn't seem to deter this untoward behavior.

A Mystery

On Saturday, August 30, Captain Montresor who was with the advance group at Iron Works penned a provocative entry in his journal: "The Jagers who are forward fired two cannon shot at some officers with their escort, reconnoitering." Two mysteries endure from the journal entry. The first mystery is why were the Jagers firing at officers since the British considered shooting at officers a breach of war etiquette? The second unanswered ques-

tion is, could the Jagers have been firing on Washington himself? While it's not likely that Washington would have ventured as far south as the area near Iron Works, the American commander was recorded to be out reconnoitering that Saturday.

Lodging and Dislodging

British and Hessian officers were quartered in town, while soldiers built a camp northeast of town, dislodging the overmatched Delaware militia. Small boats carrying camping equipment, baggage, and food were sent up the Little Elk Creek. Some exchanges with the militia were recorded, but overall the British were uninterrupted in their camp-raising and provision-stealing.

Divide and Forage

By Saturday, August 29, Howe came to the decision to temporarily divide his command into two divisions in order to facilitate foraging. There was now very little food remaining in the ships' stores. Of particular concern was a lack of fodder for the horses who had already suffered greatly during the journey. With Howe at Elkton was General Cornwallis. Still at the landing site was General Knyphausen with the 3rd British Brigade and the dragoons under the command of Major General Grey. Instead of bringing them up to Elkton, he ordered them to go east.

Cornwallis Takes Iron Works

Meanwhile back at Elkton, Cornwallis responded to a skirmish with the Delaware militia. He ordered an advance corps of 400 infantrymen to secure a position on Iron Hill, thus keeping the ever-pestering militia at a safe distance from his main division. Shortly after that skirmish, Cornwallis himself led a raid which captured Iron Works, a village located four miles north of Iron Hill. A British soldier noted that the militia impressively defended with "smart fire." Upon hearing the American shooting, "the whole (British) party marched immediately towards it, but the rebels kept firing and retreated, and at last dispersed in the woods." Casualties on both sides were light.

Back at Head of Elk

General Howe arranged with his brother, Admiral Howe, to start preparations for removing the fleet from the Chesapeake Bay. It was decided that the admiral would sail down the Chesapeake and then sail north toward the Delaware River. The army would carry all their own supplies. General Grant remained stationed at Head of Elk with the fleet to unload the remaining supplies and to preserve communication until the ships departed.

EDITOR'S NOTE - *At this point in the timeline of the progression of the Philadelphia Campaign, the prelude to "The Battle of Brandywine" would come in to play. However, yours truly got a little bit ahead of the timeline of History by publishing the aforementioned Battle in the February 2006 issue. So bear with me and I will try to get you back on track. The entire journey of this campaign takes us right up to Valley Forge and is quite long so the finale will follow in subsequent issues.* Hank Croteau

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The George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest

1st Prize Co-sponsored by *CACI International, Inc.*, Arlington, VA and *Rhodes Memorial Fund*, Albany, NY

The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on the NASSP National Advisory List of Contests and Activities for 2005-2006.

1. This contest is open to all students who are United States citizens or legal aliens. Contestants shall be attending public, parochial, or private high schools (including accredited home schools). Contestants shall be in the sophomore, junior or senior grade of study during the contest year. The contest is conducted in three [two] phases: local (Chapter) [Not used in all locations.], state (State Society) and National. The contest must be entered through a Chapter [or the State Society where stated] of the Sons of the American Revolution near the student's residence. In some locations the contest is to be entered at the State level. Only one entry per student is permitted each year. Entries must be submitted to your Chapter or State Society by the due date shown for your location's deadline. The date varies by location, so please check the deadline dates listed on the State Society Contacts page. Click here on [State Society Contacts](#) to locate your local contact and to find your deadline information.

2. The contest is for an original researched and proven topic written in English. The topic of the essay shall deal with: an event, person, philosophy, or ideal associated with the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution. Students must source **at least five (5) references** with the **minimum of 3 being book sources**. References from **Encyclopedias or Internet sites will be accepted, but are not considered as part of the three source references**. The use of all electronic sources will cause the **essay to be disqualified**.

The essay must have a minimum of 800 words and not exceed 1,000 words excluding title page, footnotes, bibliography, and biography. One or two letter words such as I, to, and we are not counted. When counting words in a date, a numerical date (1776) or a date spelled out (seventeen seventy-six) shall be counted as one word. Names of places such as New York City shall be counted as one word.

3. The essay shall have four parts: a) title page, b) essay, c) bibliography (works cited), and d) contestant's biography. The bibliography and contestant's biography shall be listed on separate pages.

Information on the title page shall include the title of the essay, contestant's name, address, and telephone number. In addition, the title page shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the high school in which the contestant is enrolled, and the contestant's grade level.

The contestant's biography is limited to one page. Topics to be included in the biography are academic awards and achievements, school activities, community activities, and plans for college.

4. The essay shall be typed double-spaced on white bond paper using a computer, word processor, or typewriter and stapled. No bindings or special covers are needed. Graphics are not

permitted. The original copy of the essay must be submitted. Poor quality copies will not be accepted.

5. The essay shall be documented in accordance with the Modern Language Association publication, MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers or Turabain's, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations.

6. Entries must be postmarked relevant to instructions for the applicable year [except where otherwise shown for your Chapter/State].

7. The essay will be judged on the following criteria:

- A. Historical accuracy
- B. Clarity of thought
- C. Organization and proven topic
- D. Grammar and spelling
- E. Documentation

8. **AWARDS:** State and Chapter prizes vary. Please contact specific chairmen for more information.

National Society:

- **First place:** \$3,000 a winning recognition certificate; airfare and one night hotel for two at the SAR 116th Annual Congress in Dallas, Texas.
- **Second Place:** \$2,000
- **Third Place:** \$1,000

9. The winning essay of the national contest will be submitted for publication in **The SAR Magazine**. Participants in this contest agree that their essays may be published in **The SAR Magazine** and on the **Knight Essay Contest Web Page**.

10. Participants in this contest agree that the interpretation of rules and the decisions of the NSSAR and its judges shall govern without reservation.

11. **Please follow the rules exactly. Essays that do not conform to the rules will be disqualified.**

12. Winning essay participants, on all levels, must supply a social security number or alien identification/green card number in order to receive the award. ■

Editor's Note: *The preceding is informational only and is provided as future info for Empire State Society SAR members, family and friends for their use and/or for distribution to Schools and educational facilities for the purpose of recruiting students expressing an interest in competing in this contest beginning on the local chapter level to the State level and finally to the National level of competition.*

Hank Croteau

**NEWTOWN BATTLE CHAPTER
ANNUAL BOARD OF
MANAGERS MEETING & ELECTION
OF OFFICERS 2006**

**A BIT OF HISTORY . . .
. . . A BIT OF NOSTALGIA**

Dear Compatriots,

Newtown Battle Chapter will be hosting the May 2006 ESSAR Annual Board of Managers Meeting which will be held at the Beeches in Rome, NY on May 13, 2006 at 10:30 AM with the business meeting beginning at 11:00 AM. Detailed directions can be found at the Saratoga Battle Chapter website -

www.saratogabattle-sar.org.

The Luncheon menu will consist of your CHOICE of the following items;

Chicken Cordon Bleu - 6oz. boneless breast, stuffed with ham, Swiss cheese & topped with momay sauce.

Baked Haddock - 6oz. topped with lemon butter.

Petite Cut Prime Rib - 8 oz. slow roasted prime rib au jus.

All meals include: Choice of Soup du jour or Tossed salad; Hot Assorted Rolls; Potato or Rice; Hot Vegetable; Dessert; Coffee, Tea, or Milk

Cost will be \$17.00 per person gratuity and tax incl.

Reservations are needed by: May: 4, 2006.

NOTE: Along with your check, please indicate your name with choice of meal and the name/s of any guest/s with their choice/s. Due to the restaurant final count policy “walk-in” reservations may not be able to get your exact choice of meal.

MENU CHOICES: CHICKEN - - FISH - - STEAK

We need the total attending at \$17.00 per person

Please make checks payable to:

“NEWTOWN BATTLE CHAPTER, SAR”

Mail to: Samuel R. Pulford, Treasurer

Newtown Battle Chapter, SAR 289 Front Street

Owego, New York 13827-1603

Thank You

William J Woodworth, Chapter President ■

For those who never saw any of the Burma Shave signs, here is a quick lesson in our history of the 1930’s and ‘40’s. Before there were interstates, when everyone drove the old 2 lane roads, Burma Shave signs would be posted all over the countryside in farmers’ fields. They were small red signs with white letters. Five signs, about 100 feet apart, each containing 1 line of a 4 line couplet.....and the obligatory 5th sign advertising Burma Shave, a popular shaving cream.

TRAINS DON’T WANDER
ALL OVER THE MAP
‘CAUSE NOBODY SITS
IN THE ENGINEER’S LAP
Burma Shave

NO MATTER THE PRICE
NO MATTER HOW NEW
THE BEST SAFETY DEVICE
IN THE CAR IS YOU
Burma Shave

SHE KISSED THE HAIRBRUSH
BY MISTAKE
SHE THOUGHT IT WAS
HER HUSBAND JAKE
Burma Shave

A GUY WHO DRIVES
A CAR WIDE OPEN
IS NOT THINKIN’
HE’S JUST HOPIN’
Burma Shave

DON’T LOSE YOUR HEAD
TO GAIN A MINUTE
YOU NEED YOUR HEAD
YOUR BRAINS ARE IN IT
Burma Shave

AT INTERSECTIONS
LOOK EACH WAY
A HARP SOUNDS NICE
BUT IT’S HARD TO PLAY
Burma Shave

DROVE TOO LONG
DRIVER SNOOZING
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT
IS NOT AMUSING
Burma Shave

BOTH HANDS ON THE WHEEL
EYES ON THE ROAD
THAT’S THE SKILLFUL
DRIVER’S CODE
Burma Shave

BROTHER SPEEDER
LET’S REHEARSE
ALL TOGETHER
GOOD MORNING, NURSE
Burma Shave

THE ONE WHO DRIVES
WHEN HE’S BEEN DRINKING
DEPENDS ON YOU
TO DO HIS THINKING
Burma Shave

CAUTIOUS RIDER
TO HER RECKLESS DEAR
LET’S HAVE LESS BULL
AND MORE STEER
Burma Shave

CAR IN DITCH
DRIVER IN TREE
THE MOON WAS FULL
AND SO WAS HE.
Burma Shave

SPEED WAS HIGH
WEATHER WAS NOT
TIRES WERE THIN
X MARKS THE SPOT
Burma Shave

PASSING SCHOOL ZONE
TAKE IT SLOW
LET OUR LITTLE
SHAVERS GROW
Burma Shave

THE MIDNIGHT RIDE
OF PAUL FOR BEER
LED TO A WARMER
HEMISPHERE
Burma Shave

DON’T STICK YOUR ELBOW
OUT SO FAR
IT MAY GO HOME
IN ANOTHER CAR.
Burma Shave

AROUND THE CURVE
LICKETY-SPLIT
BEAUTIFUL CAR
WASN’T IT?
Burma Shave

Note: I know I may be dating myself and the majority of our readers but it was still exciting to reminisce. Ed ■

ROCHESTER CHAPTER EXPRESSES APPRECIATION

At its monthly luncheon meeting of 15 February, the Rochester Chapter, SAR, was honored to present a Certificate of Appreciation to representatives of the Number Nine Cemetery Association of the Town of Seneca in Ontario County. Robert Robson and Martha Jane Lightfoot led the delegation from the Cemetery Association to receive the certificate. The Association has been working for over 50 years to develop and maintain a complete set of records for the cemetery and the Number Nine Church that established the cemetery in 1802. The first church was a log structure. Church membership and cemetery burial records are now complete and a great deal of birth and marriage data has been compiled as well. Of special significance are the cast bronze markers purchased and installed by the Association to replace weathered and damaged stones. The church and cemetery are located on Number Nine Road, just west of Seneca Lake. Cornell University also houses copies of all the records gathered by the Association. The Rochester Chapter was pleased to be able to recognize such an outstanding service not only to our Patriot Ancestors but to genealogical and historical research as well.



Rochester Chapter President, Steve Clarke, presents the SAR Certificate of Appreciation to Number Nine Cemetery Association representative, Robert Robson. ■

WESTCHESTER - PUTNAM CHAPTER

The Westchester-Putnam chapter was delighted to recognize two members who have been in the Society for over half a century. Stewart Manville, who joined the SAR from the CAR in the early 1950s, and Albert S. Macdowell, who joined the SAR in 1954, were awarded 50 year membership pins and our hearty congratulations.

We are proud that Gregory A. Zimei, an Eagle Scout from Croton-on-Hudson, took first place honors in the state

Society's 2005-2006 Eagle Scout Recognition Program from among over 2900 eligible Eagle Scouts. Peter J. Persampieri, from Brewster, came in ninth in the state competition. We will recognize Gregory's and Peter's achievements at our Spring meeting which will be held Saturday, April 22 at the Brasserie Swiss restaurant in Ossining.

I attended the memorial service for Janice Lee, widow of past ESSAR President Charles Todd Lee, in January. I also represented the chapter at the 87th New York State Society Children of the American Revolution State Conference in Poughkeepsie on March 11.

We are pleased to welcome Robert Miller as a new member of our chapter. He was recruited by Gordon Miller, his brother, our chapter treasurer.

1ST NEW YORK CONTINENTAL CHAPTER

Several dozen compatriots of the 1st New York Continental Chapter had an interesting session over mid-day on March 30, 2006. At 12 noon, we met in the lobby of the old Bank of New York building at 48 Wall Street, where we were treated to a special tour of the old bank platform, which as some of you know is encircled by a series of tall, majestic murals which depict scenes of the early history of New York and of the Bank of New York. One of the murals is dedicated to Alexander McDougall, who was not only the first President of the Bank of New York, but was also an early Revolutionary agitator in New York, a Son of Liberty here, the first commanding general of our namesake, the 1st New York Continental Regiment, and a key leader in the miraculous escape of the American forces after their defeat at the Battle of Brooklyn.

Aside from the little street in Greenwich Village named after him, there is no other memorial to Alexander McDougall left in New York, except for this once fine-looking mural at 48 Wall Street. For some years now, the future of the old bank platform and its murals has been in doubt, since the Bank of New York moved its headquarters down the street to 1 Wall Street. Fortunately, however, we now have the news that the Museum of American Finance, which is now a part of the Smithsonian Institute and is now located at 26 Broadway, will be moving into the grand old space at 48 Wall Street. The space will be renovated and the murals refurbished, so they will become a part of the new Museum.

Our plan is to help raise some money toward the refurbishment of the Alexander McDougall mural, and to place a plaque on the Museum wall highlighting McDougall's role in the Revolutionary era in New York, and not just his involvement after the War with commercial development in the City. On March 30, we had the chance to visit the old Bank platform and look at the murals, and heard something about the Museum's plans from one of the managers of the project. The Museum hopes to move into its new space by the end of the year.

➤ *Continued page 10 column 1*

After the visit to 48 Wall Street, we went down the Street to the New York Stock Exchange and had lunch in the Stock Exchange Lunch Club, after which our members had the chance to view the action on the Floor of the NYSE from the Members' Gallery.

Wesley Oler, Chapter President ■

COLUMBIA - MID HUDSON VALLEY CHAPTER

The Columbia Chapter S.A.R. Name has been changed to the Columbia-mid Hudson Valley Chapter S.A.R. The name change was approved at the Nov. 5 th. 2005 Empire State Board of Managers Meeting

Our chapter's bylaws have also been amended to reflect the name change along with several other changes. We have received our new charter with the name change. The proposed amended bylaws have been distributed to all members, and will be presented at our April 1st. 2005 luncheon meeting. The amended bylaws will be voted on for approval at our second meeting which will be held later this year.

Our spring luncheon meeting will be held in Kingston at the Sky-top Steak House at which time we will have the election of officers. We will also have our award ceremony for our local Knights Essay Winner and presenting of bronze metals, Certificates and Patches to our three Eagle Scout winners.

Note: more information will be forth coming in the next issue of the patriot pertaining to these awards etc.

I was invited to attend the New York State Society Children of the American Revolution, eighty seventh annual state conference at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel on March 10th & 11th 2006. I also attended the dedication of the flag and flag pole at the mid Hudson Children's Museum in Poughkeepsie, NY. This was a project sponsored by and paid for by their society.

John M. Helmeyer, Chapter President ■

NEWTOWN BATTLE CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Compatriots Samuel Pulford, Sheldon Robinson, several others, and myself have Ixen working on acquiring grave-stones and a small monument for those Patriots who were the first to die at the Battle of Newtown. Through the efforts of many we have located the gravesites of four of those who were buried at the battlefield Lt Nathaniel McCauley, Cpl. Adam Hunter, and two unnamed Patriots. Hunter and the two unnamed were killed during the first day of the battle and Lt McCauley died the next day after having his leg amputated due to his knee being shattered by a rifle ball on the first day. We are in hopes of having everything in place for a ceremony at the Knoll Cemetery (formerly known as the Baldwin Cemetery) during the Revolutionary War Weekend at the Battle-

field State Park the last weekend in August. We are also ordering a gravestone for Stephen Savy/Savey who was a Fifer during the war and is buried a short distance from the Knoll Cemetery in another cemetery known as Riverside, along with 8 other Patriots. I came across Savy's small marker with just his name written on a piece of flagstone, but what caught my attention was another small ceramic stone next to it which said "Thanks Grandpa". Through much research I finally found the person who placed that stone there beside the original flagstone and it turns out to be a direct descendant who has given me quite a bit of information about this young man from Vermont We will keep you all updated as these plans come together and hope that you'll be able to attend the ceremony. You are also invited to attend our picnic, but a word of warning - Newtown Battle Chapter is not responsible for anyone being taken "hostage" by the Redcoats, Native Americans, or Tories who will also be in the area during this time. For a more detailed (and first hand experienced explanation) please talk to Western Region VP, Rex Fuller.

Newtown Battle will be honoring our Chapter Knight Essay Winner as well as two Eagle Scouts during our next meeting to be held April 15, 2006. Upcoming events include a Bell Ringing Ceremony on 4 July, our Annual Chapter Family picnic on Saturday August 26, 2006 at the Newtown Battlefield State Park which is also during the Revolutionary War Reenactment Weekend, and plans are in the making for our Annual Chapter Family Christmas Party where the gifts are donated to the veterans at the Bath VA Medical Center.

Our Chapter holds meetings on the 3rd Saturday on January, April, July, and (October at the Central Restaurant in Painted Post, NY. If you're in the area during these times and would like to attend, we would be honored to have you. The meetings begin at 1:30 AM (Social gathering) and the Business meeting begins at 12 Noon - Wives are welcome, too.

William J Woodworth, Chapter President ■

SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER *Continued from Page 3*

Corinth, NY (Past Chapter President), 25 Years; Lewis O. Slocum, Mechanicville, NY, (Past Chapter President), 20 Years; G. William Glidden, Plattsburgh, NY (Past Chapter President), 20 Years; William H. Markham, Albany, NY, 20 Years; Ronald E. Avery, Rutland, VT, 20 years.

Member, Past Chapter President and current President of the Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution, Lt. Col. Peter K. Goebel, US Army, spoke to the group assembled regarding his tour of duty in Iraq and answered many interesting questions about the Iraqi people and conditions.

Jonathan Goebel, Chapter President ■

SYRACUSE CHAPTER'S 102ND ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY LUNCHEON

In commemoration of the 274th birthday of General George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army and the first President of the United States of America, Syracuse Chapter along with several dozen organizations participating sponsored this auspicious celebration on February 25, 2006 at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool, New York.



The Master of Ceremonies was Nancy S Edwards, Pompey Historical Society with the welcome offered by Dr. William Billingham, President of Syracuse Chapter and the Invocation By Robert S Pickett, Ph.D. also from the Syracuse Chapter.

This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and the singing of "God Bless America."

The Speaker for this occasion was Benjamin Franklin introduced by Robert S Pickett. This year's

Luncheon celebrated the 300th Anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's birth. In a brief article published in a recent issue of Parade Magazine, the article's author commented that, "The times are ripe for someone to come along again and play the role of Franklin."

Paul Stillman has been performing his first-person, historical programs for over twenty years. His unique style has brought "History to Life" for thousands of students and adults alike. Complete with visual aids and many "props", he enhances historical facts and makes "History come Alive."

The program concluded with Kenneth J Warner, Jr., Society of mayflower Descendants leading the national Anthem with the Benediction provided by Jerome L Orton, Syracuse Chapter. ■

Editor's Comment: Just to give you an idea of the magnitude of the production of this program, I have listed the names,, supplied to me, of organizations that participated in one form or another. To save you the trouble of counting, there are a total of 50! Hank

Associated Daughters of Early American Witches - - Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - - Auxiliary to United Spanish War Veterans Daughters of '98 - - Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic - - Onondaga Society, Nat. Soc. Children of the American Revolution - - Mohawk Valley Chapter Nat Soc. Colonial Daughters 17 Century - - National Society Dames of the Court of Honor - - Moses DeWitt Chapter Nat Soc. Daughters of American Colonist - - Gov, John Cranston, Nat Soc, Daughters of American Colonist - - Onodaga Chapter, Daughters of 1812 - - Nat Soc, Daughters of the Founders and Patriots of America - - Colonial Society Daughters of Indian Wars - - National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Betsy Baldwin Chapter, Colonel Bigelow Lawrence Chapter, Comfort Tyler Chapter, Fayetteville- Owaghena Chapter, Fort Stanwix Chapter, General Asa Danforth Chapter, Iroquois Chapter, Seneca Chapter, Skenandoah Chapter - - Society Daughters of Holland Dames - - Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865 - - Order of Descendants of Colonial Physicians and Chirugiens - - Society of Descendants of the Founders of Hartford CT - - Dutch Settlers Society of Albany - - First Families of Massachusetts - - Order of the First Families Rhode Island & Providence Plantation - - Order of the Founders and Patriots of Amencia - - Flagon and Trencher - - Central N. Y. Chapter Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge - - Hereditary Order of the Descendants of Colonial Governors - - New York Chapter, National Huguenot Society - - Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic - - General Society of Mayflower Descendants (MA & VT) - - Syracuse Colony, National Society of New England Women - - Patriotic Order, Sons of America - - Pompey Historical Society - - Saint Andrew's Society of Central New York - - National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims - - Syracuse Chapter, National Society Sons of the American Revolution - - Sons of Spanish American War Veterans - - Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War - - United Daughters of the Confederacy - - United Empire Loyalists Association - - General Society of War of 1812 - - National Society Women Descendents Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company - - Women's Relief Corps, Aux, To the Grand Army of the Republic - - Half-Shire Historical Society of Northern Oswego County ■



ORISKANY BATTLE CHAPTER

A NEW PAINTING OF THE BATTLE OF ORISKANY

New York State was the site of many battles during the Revolutionary War. One famous battle was fought near present day Oriskany when about 60 Oneida warriors joined with about 700 militia were caught in an ambush. Many Indian warriors from other tribes joined American Loyalists and Hessian soldiers in a battle that has been called the bloodiest battle in the War for Independence. It should be noted that the Oneidas were our first allies during this war.

To commemorate the bicentennial a painting by Frederick C. Yohn was commissioned in 1977. Many of us are familiar with this painting which shown General Nicholas Herkimer rest-

ing against a tree with his wounded leg stuck out before him as he directs the battle.

Recently, the Oneida Nation commissioned a new painting of this battle. Don Troiani, who has been called America's most respected military artist, has completed a seven-foot by four-foot painting which shows the familiar scene but from the Oneidas perspective. In the foreground is Han Yerry, an Oneida warrior taking a musket from his wife Two Kettles. Their son is pictured in the background behind his parents fighting off the enemy loyalists.

Han Yerry fought heroically even after being injured and was assisted by his wife who continued to reload his gun during the battle. Two Kettles, a son and a half brother also fought with valor.



In the distant left background can be seen General Herkimer leaning against the tree with his wounded leg (the correct one this time) stuck out before him as he gives orders to his officers. The relief column never reached Fort Schuyler (as it was known after it was repaired during the revolution) but it did discourage the allies of the British from continuing their mission and wreck General Burgoyne's plan for dividing the colonies.

This painting can be seen at The Turning Stone Resort in Verona or by logging on to www.oneidanews.net/viewcontent.

*Terry Sheldon, President
Oriskany Battle Chapter* ■



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