



# Empire Patriot

Empire State Society

Sons of The American Revolution

Descendants of America's First Soldiers

Volume 5 Issue 3

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Printed Four Times Yearly

## David Bushnell

### "Father of the Combat Submarine"

#### David Bushnell and America's First Submarine - Turtle

*A Speech delivered by WO1 Mark J. Denger to the Sons of the Revolution in the State of California in 2000 and is being reprinted with the expressed permission of the author and with credits to the California Center for Military History.*

As we begin the third millennium, this year we will mark a key centennial in the history of naval warfare the Submarine Centennial. It was in the autumn of 1900 that the U.S. Navy commissioned its first "modern" submarine, USS Holland (SS-1), a marvel of 19th century technology which was destined to transform military strategy throughout the 20th century.

But the story actually begins 125 years earlier during the age of wooden ships and iron men. It's development continues through the age of sail to the steam age to the age of nuclear power and to the space age. It is about one small colonial submarine that, over the course of two centuries, would evolve into a powerful submarine force that today dominates the seas as no other naval force ever before.

These events are all related, just as the people involved are all part of a seamless story, not yet ended that started more than 225 years ago and will continue into the foreseeable future.

Thus the history of submarine warfare rightly begins with David Bushnell (1742-1842), "a man of great mechanical powers," as George Washington himself attested, who designed and built the first combat submarine in 1775.

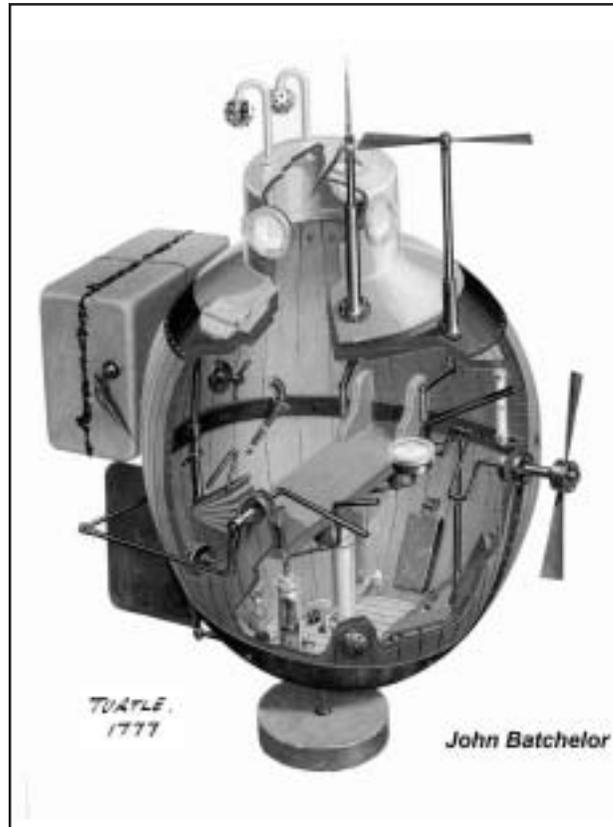
David Bushnell was born in 1742 in Westbrook, Connecticut, and like all good Americans in those early colonial days, when Bushnell heard that the great seaport of Boston had been blockaded by a strong British fleet, he realized that something had to be done to render impotent England's sea power on this side of the Atlantic.

At the time, Bushnell was majoring in mathematics at Yale University when he set his mind working to evolve some scheme to defeat England. Having first demonstrated to the skeptics that gunpowder could explode under water with devastating effect, David Bushnell, using his own funds and with his brother Ezra's help, he set to work to build the first combat submarine, which according to him, could be used in attacking British men-of-war and merchantmen anchored in American harbors. He was encouraged and assisted in his ambitious program by none other than George Washington himself who had heard of Bushnell's discoveries and enterprising accomplishments.

Upon completing the submarine, the brothers set out to test their invention. At its first test, Benjamin Franklin joined Mrs. Bushnell along the shore to see the little submarine. And, according to reports, old Mrs. Bushnell fainted dead away when Ezra sank from sight.

Bushnell's submarine was called the Turtle, because, as he said, it was shaped like one. Here, however, the resemblance ended.

The Turtle was about 7 feet long, 4 feet wide, and 8 feet from its



*Continued Page 4 Column 1*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2003 ANNUAL MEETING



Pictured at the left are the recipients of various awards at the Annual Meeting and election of officers held at the Beeches in Rome, NY on May 17th. They are from left to right, Compatriot Robert L. French, Vice President of the Capital Region as he received the Patriot Award and certificate; Miss Kelly Burnham, Empire State Society winner of the George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest (*story page 6 Binghamtom Chapter*); Eagle Scout John Shekitka Empire State Scholarship winner who was presented with a Bronze Eagle (*story page 11 Columbia Chapter*), Compatriot Duane P. Booth, current Assistant Secretary ESSAR and President of Saratoga Battle Chapter. Both, Compatriots French and Booth have served the Empire State Society over an extended period of time with Duane handing over the reins as

State Treasurer to Logan Cheek and Robert recently handing over the duties as State Chaplain to Peter Goebel. As anyone serving on the State Board of Managers can testify, they are both truly assets to their current and former positions.

Picture immediate left is Compatriot Richard Sage (Metropolitan Region Vice President) receiving the Addams Cup along with a \$500.00 check from State President William Woodworth on behalf of the 1st Continental NY Chapter, as winners of the annual ESSAR Membership Contest. Compatriot Sage also plays a very active roll in the State Board of Managers having served over a period of years in varying levels and titles.

**Editor's Note:** I personally attended the Annual Meeting in May and was privileged to hear the oratories of Kelly Burnham's Knight Essay contest submission and John Shekitka's Scholarship Application. I think everyone in attendance was equally impressed as they delivered a broad

spectrum of their impressions, feelings and emotions of what was important to them as they see it. Both of the submissions are printed in their entirety within this publication. Kelly Burnham, page 10 and John Shetitka, page 8, column 2. O



### FLAG DAY PARADE AND FESTIVITIES HUDSON, NY - JUNE 14, 2003

A monumental program to "Remember those who served" sponsored by the Hudson Elk's Lodge, Columbia County and the City of Hudson took on the likeness of Patriotism that could not be replicated. A portion of this celebration included transporting from Federal Hall in Manhattan, the Bible on which George Washington received his presidential oath of office. It was included in the days activities for public viewing at the Hendrick Hudson Chapter NSDAR. A very impressive photo (right) shows two Honor Guards from Shedon's Horse 2nd Continental Light Dragoons as they stood vigilant over this priceless historic artifact. To make it more interesting, the ancestry of this Dragoon unit dates back to when they were the personal body guards of General Washington at Valley Forge.

A shining moment in the parade was a re-enactment of the inauguration (picture page 12) as the unit stopped at the reviewing stand to duplicate this memorable moment. Members of the Columbia Chapter ESSAR, the DAR and the Hudson Masonic Lodge were the responsible parties of this portion of the celebration. O



## EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY, SAR PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Congratulations to all the Empire State Society Officers and Board of Managers, both new members as well as those who have chosen to "re-up" again for another year.

A special thanks to Oriskany Battle Chapter President Burke Muller, his wife Dottie, and chapter members for hosting the Annual ESSSAR Board of Managers Meeting at the Beeches, 17 May 2003. For those who could not attend, we had a good luncheon and meeting. We even had a live DJ and music, compliments of the party going on in the banquet room next door. President Burke said there would be no extra charge for the music. My thanks to all those who attended.

Our next ESSSAR Board of Managers Meeting will be hosted by the Binghamton Chapter on 6 September 2003. Chapter President Robert Haff has told me that he will be sending a notice to "The Empire Patriot", with all the details, to be printed with this issue.

Congratulations are also in store for several other award recipients. Saratoga Battle Chapter President Duane Booth and ESSSAR Capital Region Vice President Robert French in receiving the SAR Patriot Medal. Past ESSSAR President Dennis Marr did the honors in presenting these awards. 1st Continental NY Chapter won the ESSSAR Membership Contest and Richard Sage (Metropolitan Region Vice President) received the Addams Cup as well as the \$500 check as representative for the chapter.

Work, although slow at times, is progressing towards the addition of not only one, but the possibility of two (2) new chapters into the Empire State Society. Registrar Roy Goold has kept me updated on the progress of a new chapter being formed in the Northern part of our State. Past State President Dennis Marr has been working with several prospective members that will be part of this chapter when formed. The former Tompkins County Chapter is very close to being rechartered. There are several prospective members whose paperwork has been submitted or are in various stages of completion which could make this chapter a reality very soon. If you should know of any family members or friends who live in these areas and may be interested in becoming a member of the SAR, talk to them

and tell them of the possibility of a chapter being close to their area - it may be the incentive needed for them to join.

Some time ago, Hank Croteau (Empire Patriot Editor) approached me with an idea for an ESSSAR Medal set (Large and Miniature Combination), Lapel Pin. etc. with our State Society Logo engraved on them. We have received some very reasonable quotes and will be discussing this matter further at our next Board of Managers Meeting.

One last note of importance, Newtown Battlefield Reservation just East of Elmira, NY may be in serious trouble of being shut down. New York State and Chemung County are cutting costs in their budgets which could result in less appropriations for this site. Although it is not the actual site of the Battle of Newtown, it has historical significance to the American Revolution and overlooks the actual battle site. I have asked for permission to reprint the newspaper articles and will have more details regarding the fate of this park later. We need to continue to keep our History alive for our future generations.

Let our object be - our Country...  
And by the Blessing of God,  
May that Country itself become a vast  
and splendid monument -  
Not of Oppression and Terror,  
But of Wisdom, of Peace, and of Liberty.

*Daniel Webster*



## COOKBOOK REPORT

GRAPE BREAD ... LEMON SPONGE PIE ...  
SPICED TEA ... GRITS AU GRATIN ...  
BROCCOLI RAISIN SALAD ...  
BLU'BANA BREAD ... TATER-TOPPED  
CASSEROLE ... BILL'S DYNAMITE  
SALSA ... AROSTOOK POTATO SALAD ...  
SHOO-FLY CAKE... etc.

The new SAR cookbook, entitled **FROM PATRIOTIC KITCHENS** contains over 700 recipes divided into 8 categories such as Appetizers through Desserts. The cookbook contains recipes from every state in the union from people who enjoy the melting pot of flavors from throughout the world

Approximately 2 years ago, the SAR broke ground for a new genealogical research facility and museum. To assist in financing this project, a committee was formed called the Ladies for the Library.

## EMPIRE PATRIOT

The Empire State Society  
Sons of the American Revolution  
Editor: Henry W. Croteau, Jr.  
441 Route 23  
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E-Mail hcrot@mhonline.net

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Submissions must be received 30 days prior to mailing (15 days before publish date) and are printed at the discretion of the Editor. They may be edited for length, content and accuracy. All submissions must include the name, address and telephone number of the sender. The Editor.

### Send changes of address to:

Jonathan E. Goebel, Secretary ESSSAR  
96 Old Mill Pond Road  
Nassau, NY 12123-2633  
Telephone 518-766-2142

With your help, we have collected recipes from many SAR members, including 4 Presidents of the U.S. who are also SAR members. Our goal is significant — \$25,000.00. This goal can be met if each SAR member buys at least 1 book.

If you have already purchased 1 or more books, please accept my appreciation. If you haven't, or if you want to order more books, a cookbook order form is provided for your use - please return it with payment - the check should be made payable to Susan Woodworth, in the amount of \$17.00. The order form and check should be mailed to:

**Susan Woodworth**  
**447 Brainard Place**

**Painted Post, N.Y. 14870-1101**

When these items are received, I will gladly send your book(s).

## COOKBOOK ORDER FORM

**Price Per Book - \$15.00**  
**Shipping per book - \$2.00**

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City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Enc: \_\_\_\_\_

keel to the top of its conning tower. Made of oak, its clam shaped hull was coated with tar. When in surface trim, its metal conning tower protruded about 8 inches out of the water. As it had no periscope, the conning tower contained six glass ports in the circular casting. The interior of the vessel included equipment which was the forerunner of equipment to be used in later-day submarines. There was a depth gauge for indicating depth below the surface; a compass for steering. These were marked with a phosphorescent "foxfire" so their dials could be read in the dark. Other innovations included a crank for hand operation of the propeller; a tiller for operating the rudder; 700 pounds of lead ballast, 200 pounds of which could be quickly lowered about 50 feet in case of emergency; an immersion chamber for flooding when additional ballast was desired; two brass forcing pumps for forcing water out of the immersion chamber; and two tubes which passed through the conning tower hatch for use in obtaining fresh air when near the surface which was frequently done, for the air soon became foul when the submarine was in the submerged condition.

The attack would consist of approaching an intended victim unseen and attaching a torpedo, by means of a screw, to the hull of the enemy's ship. The torpedo contained 150 pounds of gunpowder which was set off by a timing device called a clock-work fuse. This timing device permitted the submarine to get away before the explosion occurred.

Because David lacked the stamina to operate the Turtle, he spent months in training his younger brother Ezra Bushnell. The British had not yet seized Manhattan when Bushnell arrived in camp with his submarine invention. However, when it came time for the submarine's first mission, Ezra fell ill. A volunteer was sought out and found in one Continental Sergeant by the name of Ezra Lee.

On a cold September night in 1776, with General Putnam's staff watching, the Turtle set out in an attempt to attack Howe's flagship HMS Eagle anchored in New York Harbor off Governor's Island. At 11:00 p.m., the one-man submarine's operator, Continental Sergeant Ezra Lee, dove the little submarine and began his trek across the harbor by vigorously cranking the submarine below the HMS Eagle. After several attempts to attach the explosive torpedo to the Eagle's hull, Sergeant Lee was now running out of breathable air and was forced to discontinue the attack and set a return course to Manhattan Island. The attack proved unsuccessful due to the screw striking an iron bar. On the return trek, the

Turtle was sighted by the British occupying Governor's island, who set out after the little submarine, whereupon Lee released the torpedo which drifted into the East River and, in Lee's words, "went off with a tremendous explosion, throwing up large bodies of water to an immense height." Before preparations for another attempt could be made against the enemy, the British withdrew their fleet to a safer anchorage near Staten Island.

Despite its first failure, word of David Bushnell's little submarine began to spread following her epic attack on HMS Eagle. "The famous Water Machine from Connecticut is every Day expected in Camp," wrote Samuel Osgood to John Adams. "I wish it might succeed and [enemy] ships be blown up." The Turtle was to make two other tries.

When the British landed on Manhattan Island, Washington's forces withdrew to the northern part of the island, taking the Turtle with them in the general retreat. With the departure of the British fleet from New York Harbor, Bushnell put the Turtle on a sloop and took her up the Hudson River to Fort Lee where Washington's army was quartered. Here, the Turtle attacked another British frigate. In this attempt, the operator again succeeded in getting the Turtle under the frigate's stern, but before he could secure the torpedo to the hull, she was discovered and driven off. After her third attempt, the career of the Turtle was cut short when an enemy shore emplacement demolished the tender carrying her back up the Hudson River.

General Washington was favorably impressed in spite of these failures. He said: "I thought, and still think, that it was an effort of genius, but that too many things were necessary

to be combined, to expect much from the issue against an enemy, who are always on guard."

One should reflect carefully on that first effort made during the night of 6 September 1776. Simply because Sergeant Lee and Bushnell's Turtle did not actually sink a British vessel, the attempt has been described, incorrectly, as a failure. One submarine crewed by one soldier actually forced a fleet of more than 200 ships to retreat several miles to a safer anchorage. That certainly was not a failure, but in fact a feat unparalleled in naval history.

David Bushnell was not to be discouraged easily, carried on his work of attacking ships with his "water bomb" or torpedo. One dark August night, 1777, off New London, Connecticut, he procured a small whale boat and endeavored to tow his torpedo into the side of the British frigate Cerberus. Just like the time be-



Photo by Paul Abitabile

*This model is on display at the CT River Museum in Essex, CT, designed by Joseph Leary and built by Fred Frese in 1976 as a U.S. Bicentennial project*

*The Turtle: Continued from page 4*

fore, just as Bushnell's plot looked like it would succeed, the tow-line was discovered by the ship's watch. Members of the frigate's crew, unaware that it contained an explosive, hauled the torpedo up on deck, and set to work to examine it. Suddenly, the torpedo exploded, killing three men and blowing another overboard. While the venture proved to be fruitless in as much as little damage was sustained by the *Cerberus*, the real objective, Bushnell demonstrated for a second time that a torpedo would work. Once again, the British were sent running seaward in a panic.

Bushnell next experimented with floating mines. These mines were powder kegs fitted with flintlocks which were set off by jarring them. Late in December of 1777, Bushnell again set out to disrupt British shipping in an American port. This time it was at Philadelphia. Bushnell set forty of his mines adrift above the city so that the mines would float down with the current. Because of winter ice, the first of the mines arrived on January 5, 1778. One of these struck and blew up a small boat, killing two boys. The result, however, was that Bushnell again caused the British fleet to be panic stricken. Redcoats were ordered to form on the banks and fire at anything seen floating in the water. This was kept up for a whole day and night, much to the amusement of the Colonials.

Although Bushnell's inventions accomplished little in the way of material destruction, he had the satisfaction of keeping the entire British fleet jittery. Many eminent Americans of that time believed that his inventions had real merit, and that it would be only a matter of further development and experimentation before success was attained. Governor Trumbull of Connecticut was especially interested, and highly commended Bushnell to George Washington on several occasions.

Bushnell's chief contributions were: (1) He invented the first practical submarine for war purposes; (2) He proved that gunpowder could be exploded under water; (3) He advanced the development of torpedoes and mines; and, (4) He invented the screw propeller, and all vessels which use this type of propulsion are indebted to him for this essential and useful apparatus.

David Bushnell was never compensated for his expenditures on the *Turtle*. His brother, Ezra Bushnell, died from his illness.

Bushnell never quite ever abandoned the idea of using the submarine. In the War of 1812, it is believed that David Bushnell built another submarine which attacked the British ship *HMS Ramillies* at anchor off New London, Connecticut. This time the craft's operator succeeded in boring a hole into the ship's copper sheathing, but the screw broke loose as the explosive was being attached to the ship's hull. While the attempt failed, an excerpt from a Connecticut newspaper (summer of 1813) reads that "A gentleman of Norwich has invented a diving boat, which by means of paddles he can propel underwater. . . . He has been three times under the bottom of *Ramillies* off New London. . . . So great is the alarm and fear aboard the *Ramillies* that Commodore Hardy keeps his ships under way at all times."

In 1977, a full-scale replica of the *Turtle*, which is now on display at the Connecticut River Museum, was launched into the Connecticut River and undertook a successful mock attack on a ship anchored offshore, performing as promised in every way,

thereby confirming Bushnell's genius and Sgt. Lee's bravery.

Of some historic significance, Sergeant Ezra Lee received a Continental Commission as a First Lieutenant for an exploit that the Navy would ignore for almost a hundred years. He retired from service in June, 1782, later becoming an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati. David Bushnell, served to June 3, 1783, as a Captain in the Continental Sappers and Miners. He too was an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati.

In celebrating the Submarine Centennial, the Center for Military History joins with the U.S. Navy in recognizing the enormous contributions of both American submariners and those involved with building and supporting our innovative submarines since the dawn of this century. However, as we reflect back, we recognize the efforts of such men as David Bushnell and Ezra Lee.

The product of American ingenuity and technological prowess, our Navy's submarines comprise one of the most cost-efficient elements of U.S. armed forces. Their contribution to conflict prevention, deterrence, crisis resolution, and war termination are at the heart of America's security. If deterrence fails, U.S. submarines are already on station prepare the battlespace while other submarines quickly move to the battle, strike key targets ashore, and open the seas for follow-on forces. Stealth . . . endurance . . . agility . . . firepower. These attributes provide multi-mission capability and the full spectrum of conflict utility. The nuclear submarine is a true sunrise system of U.S. naval operational primacy in the 21st century.

Today, in the five domains where our military forces operate on land, in the air, in space, on the oceans, and beneath the sea submarine operations are the least visible. For this reason, they offer the ultimate in stealth and surprise while influencing events in all five domains with minimal risk. Unfortunately, because submarine operations remain highly secretive, they are least understood and most frequently under-valued by the American public. Yet, they comprise 30 percent of all naval combatants, use only 7 percent of the Navy's people and less than 12 percent of its budget to carry out numerous tasks in support of national needs. Likewise, our nuclear ballistic missile submarines carry 54 percent of U.S. strategic warheads at only 35 percent of the strategic force's people and 19 percent of total strategic costs. Because of their survivability, multi-mission capability, and lethality, nuclear submarines offer American taxpayers a tremendous return of their investment.

From its humble beginnings in the American Revolution, submarine designers have sought to build the ultimate undersea warfare platform capable of exploiting the ocean depths for its self-protection and significant tactical advantage.

As you can see, these events are all related, just as the people involved are all part of a seamless story, not yet ended a story that started more than 225 years ago and will continue into the foreseeable future.

In recognition of the *Turtle*'s enormous contribution to the Submarine Force, submarines and submarine tenders have been authorized to fly a special Submarine Centennial Jack throughout calendar year 2000. This is the first time since 1776 that any class of ship has been so honored. O

## BINGHAMTON CHAPTER TO HOST SEPTEMBER ESSAR MEETING

The Binghamton Chapter will host the September 6, 2003 meeting of the Board of Managers, ESSAR. The meeting will be at the Best Western Regency, Binghamton, NY starting promptly at 11:00 AM. The Regency is located at One Sarbro Square in downtown Binghamton. The address is P.O. Box 2337 Binghamton NY 13902 and the phone number is (607) 722-7575.

The luncheon buffet will consist of the following:

Soup du Jour  
Tri-Colored Pasta Salad  
Old Fashioned Potato Salad  
Assorted Baked Breads  
Sliced Ham  
Turkey  
Salami  
Roast Beef  
Sliced Cheeses  
Assorted Relishes and Condiments  
Dessert Tray  
Coffee, Decaf and Hot Tea.

There will be assorted breakfast bakeries and beverages available at 10:30.

This announcement is for those who are not on regular Board of Managers mailing list. The ESSAR Secretary will be sending out a reservation form to all managers for completion and return to the host chapter. Compatriots who are not on the mailing list and wish to attend the meeting can send in a check to the address below. The total cost of the meeting is \$19.50 per person. Those not having the buffet the cost is \$5.00 to defray the cost of the meeting room. Please make the check payable to the Binghamton Chapter, ESSAR and mail it to: Roger Cargill 516 Dickson St., Endicott NY 13760 no later than Aug. 27, 2003.

For those wishing to stay overnight, the Regency will hold rooms for a special price of \$66.00 single/double until Aug. 15, 2003. Please mention SAR when making reservations. If members who live down state wish to travel by bus, the Binghamton terminal is only three blocks from the Regency. The service is provided by Coach USA/Short Line. If anyone is flying in, the Greater Binghamton Airport has taxi service to the hotel. ○

## BINGHAMTON CHAPTER CONCLUDES ACTIVE YEAR

The Binghamton Chapter concluded an active year with its June 21st luncheon. At that meeting, the speakers were Alice Ruby, Curator of the Chenango Schoolhouse Museum and Town of Chenango Historian and Bradford Burgher of Binghamton. Ms. Ruby was attired in a dress that would be worn by a woman of ordinary means during the Revolutionary War and she described what her activities would be during a typical day. Mr. Burgher wore a blue and red uniform of the 1st New York Regiment. He played his regimental field drum which is a tall and loud instrument. Mr. Burgher explained that the drum had to be loud as it was used to communicate between units. He then beat out several commands on his drum.

In addition, two new members were introduced and presented with their Certificates of Membership in the ESSAR. It was a special event for Chapter president, Robert M. Haff, as the new members were his sons, Peter and Douglas. His other two sons, Rodger and Bruce, will be given their certificates later in the year when he and his wife travel to Phoenix, AZ where their sons live.

The Chapter's April 19th luncheon could be called youth day. On that day, a Certificate of Participation was given to Miss Kelly Burnham, a student at Union- Endicott High School for her George S. and Stella M. Knight essay. To the surprise of all present, Compatriot Fred Morgan, Chairman of the ESSAR Knight Essay Committee, announced

that Kelly was the state winner and would be presented with a cash prize of \$350.00 at the State's May meeting. She is now eligible for the national contest which has a first prize of \$ 7500.00

Along with Miss Burnham's presentation, the main speaker was Miss Christine Lavelle, a Seton Catholic Central High School student, who came dressed in a period dress. Her presentation included help from her seven year old brother, Paul, also dressed in clothing of the Revolutionary War period. They showed some of the games the children would play and toys that were used at that time pe-



*Pictured left to right, Chapter President Robert Haff, Miss Kelly Burnham and Compatriot Fred Morgan, Essay Contest Chairman*

riod. Miss Lavelle also displayed several flags that were used by the Colonies and explained their history.

After being postponed last fall, the genealogical workshop sponsored by the Binghamton Chapter, ESSAR and the Tuscarora Chapter, NSDAR was held on May 10, 2003 at the Tuscarora Chapter House. Thirty-six persons including six men participated. Ten SAR membership packages were handed out. Mrs. Susan George made a presentation regarding how to properly fill out an application for membership of either society, and Compatriot Robert M. Haff gave an overview of how to research public records for information to be used in an application. Robert Morton Haft, President ○



*Miss Christine Lavelle describing one of the Flags used by the Colonies during the Revolutionary war*

## CAMP RAMPOUGH ENTRENCHMENTS

*... as reported by Compatriot Robert Requa, president, Stony Point Chapter*

On December 2, 2001, historians and public officials gathered with local residents to commemorate the 225th anniversary of Camp Ramapough Entrenchments in Hillburn. They met off Old Route 17 an area known as Fox Hollow where the Daughters of the American Revolution had marked one of two lines of the Revolutionary War entrenchments with a granite plaque on a large boulder. The site was deeded to the Historical Society of Rockland County in 1979.

Society trustees Joseph Holla and Steven Perell have been working with Nick Marangi, co-owner of the neighboring Crossroads Truck Wash to improve the entrenchment site. Nick has donated a piece of land to the Historical Society to square off our trapezoidally shaped property, which encompasses the last remaining remnant of the entrenchments. He also cleaned debris from the steps leading to the marked boulder, cleared brush from the area and laid a woodchip path from the truck wash parking lot. HSRC trustees want to add a flagpole light and historic marker at the site. The Historical Society is very thankful for Nick Marangi's dedication in Preserving this important historic site.

The main entrenchment line was built from the east side of the Rama Pass to Sidman's Bridge, which crossed the Ramapo River. Another line was built on the upland hollow west of Little Mountain, where the recent commemoration took place. At the ceremony, Kenneth Conklin showed a model of the two-story block house that had stood near Sidman's Bridge. The model was made by a friend of the late Brad Bobb, commander of the Shore Guard, a re-enactment Revolutionary War unit. HSRC Senior Historian and trustee Thomas F. X. Casey related the history of the entrenchments as follows:

*During the war for American Independence, the area where we gather was known as the Ramapo Clove. [Clove is a Dutch word for pass.] At that time at least part of this area was also known as Smith's Clove. Through the years it also became known as the Ramapo Pass, and in his book by the same name Richard Koke calls it the "Corridor through the Mountains."*



*This site is maintained by the Stony Point Battle Chapter which recently donated the Flag and Flagpole pictured above. It was installed by Compatriot Kenneth Conklin who also oversees maintenance of the Site*

Whatever the name, this pass through the Highlands was used first by the Native Americans followed by the early settlers. Remember that the original Orange County included both present day Rockland and Orange counties. The county seat was located at Tappan and the pass was one of the few ways settlers from "north of the mountains" could travel to conduct their legal business. In the 19th century the Erie Railroad came through, followed by route 17 and the New York State Thruway.

The road through the Clove entered the mountains at Suffern where the pass is a width of about a 1 quarter of a mile. It then passed a hill known as Little Mountain. On its westerly side, the hill is separated from the main mass of the Ramapo Mountains by a shallow valley through which Old Route 17 now passes. The village of Hillburn is nestled to the south. To the east the Clove Road ran parallel to the Ramapo River and crossed the river by a bridge, which became known as Sidman's Bridge. The bridge got its name from a nearby tavern.

During the French and Indian War, which lasted from 1755 to 1763, a fort was built just north of Sidman's Bridge. According to Robert Erskine's survey, which was made for the Continental Army, the purpose of the fort was to prevent Native Americans, who were allied with the French, from attacking the colonial settlements along the Hudson River. The fort was erected in anticipation of an attack from the west, but with the outbreak of the Revolution and the occupation of New York City by the British in 1776, an invasion either by way of the Hudson River, or over land through the Ramapo Pass was the danger most feared by the American.

Forts Clinton and Montgomery were built in the Highlands beyond Bear Mountain and were designed to stave off an attack from the Hudson. If an attack was to come by land, the pass was regarded as the most likely route. Under direct orders from General Washington, Major General William Heath, the commander in charge of the Hudson Highlands, ordered approximately 400 men to occupy the Ramapo

*Concluded on Page 8 Col. 1*

## JOHN SHEKITKA 'S EAGLE SCOUT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Clove. The order was issued on November 13, 1776, which is just over 225 years ago. The forces sent were the 10th Continental Infantry under the command of Colonel John Tyler and the 17th Continental Infantry under the command of Colonel Jedediah Huntington. Huntington, as senior in rank, was given command. Washington called the valley, because of its narrowness, "a defile very easily defended."

Huntington set up a line of musketry that ran across the valley below the bridge and a "little redoubt" north of the river that covered the bridge crossing and an earthwork beyond the stream.

On November 23 Huntington wrote to Heath that he would not be able to do more than complete a "musketry line" that season, considering that the construction of the barracks would take the rest of the time. He also stated that three or four cannons could be used advantageously to command the pass.

After the British captured Forts Clinton and Montgomery in October of 1777, General Clinton withdrew the permanent garrison from the fort here. He needed the troops elsewhere. Until the end of the war the post was occupied by Continental soldiers when circumstances demanded it.

A descendant of John Suffern, James Bogert Suffern, gifted this quarter-acre plot to the Ramapo Valley Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. The presentation of the deed and the dedication of the marker took place on June 28, 1904.

As quoted by Stony Point Chapter President Robert Requa "This is the last remaining entrenchment of the American Revolution in the Ramapo Valley and is located on old Route 17 in Hillburn, NY. This entrenchment served to help protect the Blockhouse which was 1/4 mile to the east. It is owned by the Historical Society of Rockland County." ○

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

The War for American Independence may have ended with the handing over of General Cornwallis' sword on October 19, 1781 after the siege of Yorktown, Virginia (Bailey). Yet the American Revolution, the change from the oppression under the reign of King George the Third and his Parliament was not yet completed. The shackles of tyranny had been lifted but what new government would replace him? It was some of the very same men who drafted the Declaration and sat in the Early Continental Congresses that were left to such a weighty task.

On September 17, 1787, after a series of blistering compromises, the Constitution of the United States was finally signed by a majority of the delegates who attended the Convention held over that summer (Bailey). The initial intent however was not to create a radically new government, but rather to revise the existing Articles of Confederation. What resulted however, was something marvelous; it was a document novel and new. Upon signing the Constitution, the venerable and ancient Statesman Benjamin Franklin uttered a few famous words. He had been admiring the figure of the sun that was carved upon the Chair of the President of the Convention and said, "I have always wondered if the sun were rising or setting, and I realize now it is a rising sign" (Bailey). He was correct in predicting that the great days of America were yet to come, however Franklin did not allude to the battle and the division that would ensue over the ratification of the Constitution.

In many ways, the ratification of the Constitution in New York State was the cornerstone of building the American nation. It was the crucial 11th state needed to allow the document to become a legitimate government force over the States. With New York's support, the Constitution would surely succeed, without it however, it risked destruction. The work of three famous founding fathers was essential to the ratification in New York - Madison, Hamilton, and Jay. Their task was formidable, as anti-Federalists in New York State were in a clear majority, with heavy backing from Governor George Clinton, Malancton Smith and others (Tripp). The three statesmen, Madison, Hamilton, and Jay composed the 84 essays known as the Federalist Papers, con-

sequently dispelling many of the rumors and myths associated with a centralized Republican government. In Federalist Number 10, Madison argues that Republican government can be implemented on a large scale and that the Constitution is not doomed to failure. A republican government was essential to halt the divisive quality associated with factions, which needed to remain if liberty was to be preserved.

More importantly however, the Bill of Rights comes about due mainly to the concerns of anti-Federalists in New York and Virginia. Many natural liberties that had been previously been granted were made no mention of in this new Constitution. They argued that if such liberties were not listed, then the Federal government could easily strip them away. Subsequently, Madison drafted 12 Amendments, 10 of which made it into the Constitution of the United States. They addressed concerns of free speech, due process, and trial by jury among other inalienable rights.

In conclusion, the statesmen of New York tested the strength of the new nation. The anti-Federalists questioned its integrity, and in doing so improved it, perhaps as much as Madison, Hamilton, and Jay did. They explained to a public an unknown and novel concept, the idea of republican democracy. Prior to that time it was scarcely used, but through the tireless endeavors of these men, constitutional government has taken the world by storm.

### Bibliography

Bailey, Thomas A. The American Pageant. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1998.

Tripp, Wendel. New York History. Volume 72, Number 4. Cooperstown: New York State Historical Association, 1991.

Approx 525 words - Submitted by John Shekitka ○

### QUOTES BY BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch.

Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote!

To succeed, jump as quickly at opportunities as you do at conclusions.

## COMPATRIOT HONORED AT SAR WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY DINNER

*Compatriot Carlton Covell was presented with an enrollment in the National Society's Life Membership Program.*

**Latham, February 15, 2003.**

The Saratoga Battle Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution honored Compatriot Carlton (Carl) E. Covell of Halfmoon at its Annual Meeting and Washington's Birthday Dinner held at the Century House Restaurant. Compatriot Covell, a former Navy veteran, will turn 90 on February 26th, is still very active in the chapter, at the Gerald B. H. Solomon National Cemetery and the Albany VA Hospital. Carl joined the chapter on June 23, 1975, shortly after the chapter was organized. Compatriot Covell was instrumental in reorganizing the chapter in 1997 and served as Chapter President from 1977 to 1980. Carl has also served the chapter as Vice President, Registrar and Chaplain.

Outgoing President Richard C. Saunders Jr., of Glens Falls presented several awards and gifts to fellow members and officers. Members and guests were treated

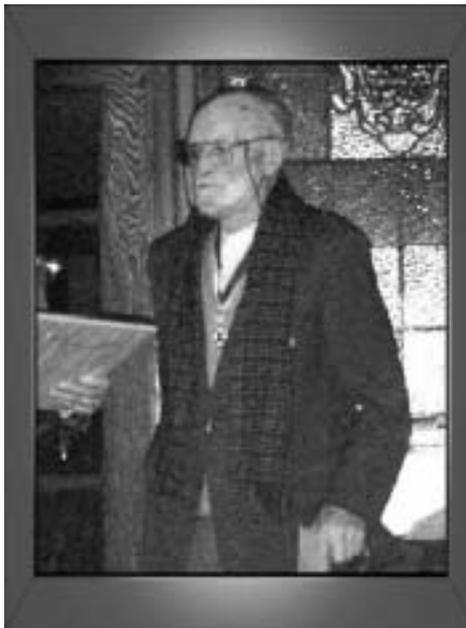
to an interesting presentation by Karl Crannell, Special Events/Friends Program Coordinator of Fort Ticonderoga, about the Battles of Saratoga and their impact on remainder of the Revolutionary War. He was later presented with a framed print of a map of the battlefields of Saratoga.

The incoming chapter officers for the 2003-2005 term are Duane Booth, President; Jonathan E. Goebel; Vice President & Secretary, Richard Fullam, Treasurer, and Dennis F. Marr, Registrar. Information about the chapter and the SAR may be found at [saratogabattle-sar.org](http://saratogabattle-sar.org).

Since neither Jonathan Goebel or Richard Fullam were able to attend the meeting, their mothers were issued proxies to stand in for them during the swearing in ceremony. Past President Carl Covell officiated to swear in the new officers assisted by Past president Lew Slocum as escort.



*Karl Crannell*



*Carlton Covell*

## NEWTOWN BATTLE CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S REPORT

During the regular April Chapter Meeting, Newtown Battle presented our Knight Essay Contest Winner, Miss Sarah Stauffer, with a certificate and \$100 Savings Bond. Miss Stauffer was also presented with the SAR Bronze Citizenship Medal and certificate for her work in school activities as well as many various Community projects. Compatriot Donald P. Ryan was presented with the SAR War Service Medal and Viet Nam Bar. We thank him as well as all our servicemen for the sacrifices they gave to give us the freedom we so gratefully enjoy.

Compatriots Sam Pulford, Sheldon Robinson and I reset some grave markers for several of Compo Pulford's

Revolutionary War Patriot Ancestors buried in the Knoll Cemetery (formally the Baldwin Family Cemetery), not far from the original battle site of the Battle of Newtown. On 26 Apr 2003, I was honored to attend the ROTC Awards Ceremony being held at Cornell University and presented 3 SAR ROTC Medals to cadets representing the Army, Navy, and Air Force branches of the service.

I was honored to represent the ESSSAR and Newtown Battle Chapter as the guest speaker during Memorial Day festivities (26 May 2003) at the Fitzsimmons Cemetery in Elmira, NY. This cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in Chemung County and contains the remains of 18 Revolutionary War Patriots some of who fought in the Battle of Newtown almost 225 years ago. During the ceremony, there were representatives from a Viet Nam Veteran's Group and a Marine Honor Guard Detachment which gave a 21 gun salute.

Work continues to progress for the re-chartering of the former Tompkins County Chapter. Two more applications were submitted recently for a father and son who live in Ithaca, NY. We have several prospective members in this area who are at various levels of completion on their paperwork.

During our July meeting, we planned to honor our Chapter Eagle Scout Contest Winner, Christopher Wirtz who lives in Painted Post, NY

Future events for the chapter include our Annual Family Chapter Picnic (Held during the Revolutionary War Re-enactment Weekend) - 23 Aug 2003 to be held at the Newtown Battlefield Reservation - just East of Elmira, NY off from Route 17 ( 1-86 ) We will also have our "SAR Information Booth" at the re-enactment weekend; Chapter Christmas Party where all attendees bring gifts that will be presented to the veterans at the Bath VA Medical Center in Bath, NY; Through the efforts of Compatriot John Bogart (Chapter Secretary), we have been given another opportunity to set-up a SAR - Revolutionary War display at the Bath, NY American Legion Post.

If you haven't gotten a copy of the SAR Cookbook or have bought one and would like another copy for a friend, family member, etc., we still have some left. Contact Susan or me and we will get them into your hands.

Respectfully & Patriotically O

*William J. Anderson*

## KELLY BURNHAM'S WINNING ESSAY FOR THE ESSSAR KNIGHT ESSAY CONTEST

On September 11, 2001, the lives of all Americans were changed forever. A diabolical act by the forces of terrorism in the world took the lives of more than 5,000 unarmed innocent civilians. As a result of this act, the United States of America, along with many allies has declared war on terrorism. This is a new war unlike any other ever fought. The enemy is not another country, but a group of aligned terrorists who exist all over the world and are committed to disrupting governments, killing innocent civilians and creating havoc for their own goal of world domination. The war on terrorism will come at a great cost to the United States.

Besides the cost of lives that are evident at "Ground Zero" in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., the cost that the terrorists have brought to the people of the United States of America is also financial. The stock market was closed for several days. Banks, law firms, insurance companies, stock brokerage firms and the Securities and Exchange Commission lost valuable books and records, some of which can never be recovered or replaced. When the buildings came down, all of these records were located in vaults in the various buildings. After the attacks, the stock market faltered, the airlines and travel related businesses were crippled due to people deciding not to travel. This economic crisis continues even today.

But most important of all, Americans lost certain freedoms that we all enjoyed and took for granted. Because of this cowardly act by the terrorists, the United States adopted the USA-Patriot Act of 2001, which was signed into law by President Bush on October 26, 2001. This Act gives the federal government far reaching powers in its fight against terrorism. On the one hand, the powers given under this Act are good and will allow the government to be more effective in finding and prosecuting terrorists. On the other hand, the Act provides for more latitude in obtaining and using wire taps, Internet communications, expands the scope of subpoenas for records and surveillance orders, authority to conduct secret searches, and the ability to freeze the assets of suspected terrorists and terrorist groups.

Unfortunately, the powers granted to the government under this Act are in the long run a significant loss to the average American's freedoms. Even though the Act targets terrorists, the government merely has

to suspect someone or some group of being a terrorist to invoke the privileges given under the Act. Once the terrorists are caught and brought to justice, the Act will continue giving the government free use of these new powers to invade the privacy of common citizens who may be suspected of terrorism.

The Bill of Rights, specifically the first ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America, clearly defines certain rights for common citizens.

Specifically, the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution guarantees "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized." It would appear that the USA Patriot Act is at odds with the Bill of Rights.

In addition to the specific rights granted under the Fourth Amendment, the Fifth Amendment guarantees that "No person shall... be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." The United States has frozen the assets of numerous persons that are suspected of being terrorists or in some way connected with Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaeda terror network. Now certainly Osama bin Laden is not a citizen of the United States, so the Fifth Amendment would never apply to him. However, over time US citizens may come under the USA Patriot Act and have their assets frozen without due process. It is unfortunate that in order to make us safe from terrorism, we must give up some of our personal freedoms. The government should make it clear that the laws being passed for a specific group or reason should not then be used against ordinary citizens at some later date when the reasons for enacting the law are long forgotten or no longer important.

Finally, the Second Amendment to the Constitution guarantees, "... the right of the people to keep and bear Arms..." With the new airport security measures in effect as a result of the attacks of September 11, no one is allowed to carry a knife of any kind onto an airplane. Previous laws have made it a crime to carry a gun onto an airplane. Although this makes air travel much safer, it takes

away the freedoms granted to us by the Bill of Rights.

I think that what is being done to locate and bring the terrorists to justice is necessary. I am concerned, however, that we as citizens continue to lose freedoms and rights guaranteed to us by the Bill of Rights. As society progresses, this may be necessary to protect everyone from those few who will use our free and open society against us. I only hope that we do not have to give up all of our freedoms in order to be safe, because if we do, what have we gained? Haven't we then given in to the terrorists? We will then have to live in fear of our own government! O

## ROCHESTER CHAPTER PRESENTATION

On 11 January 2003, the Rochester Chapter, ESSSAR, was pleased to honor Rochester Chapter member Captain Todd Fleming with the SAR's War Service Medal with SW Asia bar following his tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2002. Prior to awarding the Medal and Certificate, Capt. Fleming gave a fascinating and extensive presentation on his time in Afghanistan that was illustrated with many of the souvenir items he purchased while there. After the Captain's talk, members of the Rochester Chapter showed their interest by asking more questions about his time overseas and about the United States' role in the rebuilding of the country. The Rochester Chapter is very appreciative not only of Captain Fleming's service to his country, but also for giving such a well-informed, interesting and educational talk.

Present to help recognize Captain Fleming's service was Empire State Society President, Bill Woodworth, who joined Rochester Chapter President Steve Clarke for the presentation of the Medal and Certificate. O

*Note: Received too late for May Issue - sorry!*





*Tyron County Militia and Scouts at Fort Herkimer Church, German Flatts, NY*

## **ORISKANY BATTLE CHAPTER CELEBRATES COLONIAL HERITAGE WEEKEND**

Colonial Heritage Weekend occurred in June in the Town Of German Flatts, NY. The ceremonies took place at the Fort Herkimer Church, which celebrates its 250th anniversary this year. Unfortunately, just a week before the event, the church was the victim of vandals, who broke 15 panes of original glass. Thanks to a donor, replacement original glass was obtained and installed in time for the celebration.

This was a 3 day event, marred by drizzle, rain and heavy wind, but it did not stop the celebration which entailed almost 100 tents filled with Loyalists, Patriots, Musket Bearers and Sutlers.

The Oriskany Battle Chapter together with a local D AR Chapter manned an information booth and our Chapter was represented in the Opposed Tactical Demonstration (battle) - a generic Loyalist raid on a Tryon County Militia post established at Fort Herkimer. Fortunately, the sun came out briefly during this impressive demonstration.

Roland Miner, organizer, said this year marks the 225th anniversary of the "Destructives" a three-year long attempt by the British to push the Mohawk Valley settlers east toward Schenectady and to destroy the wheat crop that fed George Washington's army. "They were almost successful" Miner said. "But they were stopped by the tenacity of the Palatine farmers. The Palatines already had been driven from Germany, then from the Hudson Valley. They'd just had enough". *Burke Muller, President* O

## **COLUMBIA CHAPTER EAGLE SCOUT ESSAR WINNER**

The winner is John Patrick Shekitka of 28 Elizabeth Drive, Hopewell Junction, NY. He is a member of Troop 41, of the Hudson Valley Council in Salisbury Mills, NY. He has 12-years in scouting, including 7 in Boy Scouts, and earned 62 merit badges, including all three "extra pointers": American Heritage, Genealogy, and Law. He attends John Jay High School, where he is active in the National Honor Society, the Science Olympiad, the Debating Club, and the Math Team. He is also a four year member of the US Chess Federation, the Wappingers District Marching



*Eagle Scout John P. Shekitka accepting Bronze Eagle, Chapter Medal & patch and check from State Chairman Logan M. Cheek, III*

Band, and a member of St. Columba Church, where he earned Scouting's Parvuli Dei award. He was a National Merit Semi-Finalist, an AP scholar of distinction, and placed first in his science fair every year from fifth through tenth grade. He has also received numerous commendations and awards of the Math Teachers' Council, the Society of Quality Engineers, the American Chemical Society, Scientific American Magazine, the NY Society of Professional Engineers, and the American Heart Association.

He is listed in the 2001 Who's Who of American High School students, is a published poet, was the senior division winner of the Dutchess County Bar Association, and received the state award for the Johns Hopkins program, the Columbia University Science Honors program, participated in the summer scholars program at Vassar, and has been accepted to the Brown University summer studies program.

This is only part of his five pages of achievements on his ESSAR application. In short the most qualified candidate ever submitted to the national competition from the Empire State Society. *Logan M. Cheek, III, Chairman* O

Photo by Robert Ragaini Hudson Register Star



**HUDSON, NY STORMED BY FLOODS OF ONLOOKERS AS . . .**

Patriots by the thousands, Connecticut State Society Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard, An Honor Guard from Sheldon's Horse 2nd. Continental Light Dragoons and even Martha herself, (with that First Lady smile), showed up in Hudson, NY as the Masonic Bible (pictured) on which George Washington took the presidential oath of office was on display at the Hendrick Hudson Chapter House, NSDAR on Flag Day June 14th. To commemorate this august occasion, re-enactors in the Flag Day Parade, recreated the Inauguration in the full glory of that moment of yesteryear. The program was coordinated by Henry Croteau, Editor, Empire Patriot and Dorothy Avery, Regent Hendrick Hudson Chapter NSDAR.



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