



Empire Patriot

Empire State Society

Sons of The American Revolution

Descendants of America's First Soldiers

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A FORGOTTEN AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR HERO

“ALEXANDER SCAMMELL”

By Compatriot W. Alex Williams

The following article has been researched and written by Compatriot W. Alex Williams, a member of Buffalo Chapter ESSAR, and is being reprinted in this issue with the expressed permission of the author.

Near the entrance to Burial Hill Cemetery in Plymouth, Massachusetts, just over the low stone wall, is a large granite boulder with a metal plaque fastened to it. On this plaque is a brief description under a likeness of a Revolutionary War soldier. The wording is somewhat obscured by the aging of the bronze, but upon approaching the plaque, his name can be seen — ALEXANDER SCAMMELL — followed by TEACHER - SOLDIER - PATRIOT. Also it notes that he was a COLONEL AND ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY.

Since his story has been routinely omitted from textbooks and TV documentaries, extensive research has been necessary and, surprisingly, there have been literally dozens of accounts of his life and activities, some written at the time or shortly after the Revolution, but many in the 1800's. Some versions are misleading while others are downright inaccurate. However, as you read this, compare his accomplishments with those which have been more generally publicized and wonder why textbook writers and some historians have overlooked this great man.

“Scammell” is not a common name in this country but is quite

prevalent in England. In fact, Alexander's parents emigrated from England in 1738 to Magomiscock Hill in Mendon (Milford), Massachusetts. Alex was born March 27, 1747. His father was a successful doctor and his mother was refined and educated. Before he was six years old, Alex's father, realizing he was terminally ill, asked that the local minister take the responsibility of giving his sons a Christian upbringing and prepare them for college. Losing his father at an early age left Alexander with a great respect for life.

Having a thirst for knowledge, he set his sights on attending Harvard, the oldest college in the country. His higher education was expensive and he had to earn his own way. One of his attributes was his sense of humor, which he used to his advantage. While working as a waiter, he entertained the patrons with nonsense ballads of his own composition. Humor was a plus in his first job as a teacher in Plymouth following graduation from Harvard. He developed a natural ease and his students seemed to enjoy being in his care. Early on, Scammell foresaw the possibility of armed conflict with England and tutored his students in military procedures. During recess, he sometimes taught them the manual of arms with toy weapons and would march them along trails and through swamps. A few years later, they would be asked to take

up arms in defense of their country.

The following letter, which he wrote from Plymouth, furnishes an insight into this young man's mind:

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TURNING POINT PARADE

Schuylerville, NY 03 August 2003

The Saratoga Battle Chapter, as one of their annual outings, again marched in the TURNING POINT PARADE in Schuylerville, NY on August 03, 2003.

Participants from left to right are:

George Ballard, Past President Lew Slocum, Burton (Bill) Mosher, Youth Registrant Jacob Tobias Saunders, Past President Rick Saunders, Treasurer Rich Fullam, President Duane Booth, and Charlie King.



SYRACUSE CHAPTER PUTS THEIR BEST FOOT FORWARD!

The Syracuse Chapter, in addition to the usual suspects, John Downing, Bill Billingham, Robert Pickett and Ken Warner, was joined by Jim Ferguson (Redcoat), his wife, Damon and daughter, Heather, who laid a wreath in memory of the Revolutionary War soldiers who are buried in the Tully Cemetery. Bob Pickett is shown offering a prayer and reading their names before Heather lays the wreath.

The occasion was the Tully, NY Bicentennial celebration yesterday. A two hour parade included about every politician, fire engine and tractor in Central NY. The Syracuse Chapter led off the "Third Division" of the parade, followed immediately by a fife and drum corps and a Civil War Reenactment team.

I have just learned that we won a trophy for the Most Patriotic unit in the parade!

Submitted by Compatriot Frank Decker O



COLUMBIA CHAPTER ELECTS

At a recent meeting held August 23rd, 2003, Columbia Chapter proposed and elected the following slate of officers: John M. Helmeyer, President, Henry W. Croteau, Jr., Vice President, and Alan D. Coon, Secretary/Treasurer. Appointed officers were Lloyd M. Loop, Jr., Registrar and Robert L. French Chaplain.

An Eagle Scout Certificate was also presented to: Jonathan Fillipini from Carmel, NY. Active in CAR and will be attending to John's Hopkin's University.

L - R Herman Witthoft, John Helmeyer, President, Bernard Weaver, Alan Coon, Eagle Scout Jonathan Fillipini, Robert French, Lloyd Loop & Henry Croteau. O



**FROM THE DESK OF
PRESIDENT WILLIAM J.
WOODWORTH**



ESSAR PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. WOODWORTH

As your President and SAR Representative, it has been my honor to represent you and I have been traveling as well as speaking to other organizations regarding our Society, its purposes, history, and membership.

One organization, in particular, is the Chemung Valley Living History Center located in the Elmira, New York area and is responsible for sponsoring the events at Newtown Battlefield Park, each year. Next year will be a big challenge for their membership and you can also be a part of this upcoming event. Re-enactors will take to the fields surrounding Newtown Battlefield to recreate the original battle that took place there 225 years ago.

“Colonists Troops”, “British Troops” and “Native American Forces” will invade the land sometime around the end of August 2004. The Revolutionary War 225th Anniversary Event will be held August 27-29, 2004 with the Battle of Newtown being fought on Sunday, August 29, 2004. Ironically, this is the same day and same date as the original battle. There will be “skirmishes” fought throughout the days of the 27th and 28th at the Newtown Battlefield Park as well as tours to visit the Colonial,

British, and Native American Campsites. You will also have the opportunity to talk with the re-enactors, visit the many vendors,

and learn of the history from this area. One word of advice - it is known that there have been “hostages” taken by the “enemy forces” during the tours. Western Region Vice President Rex Fuller can attest to this fact and I was threatened to be “taken out in the woods and “shot” for asking some “British Regulars” if they had seen the movie, The Patriot. For more information regarding this 225th Anniversary Event, contact Pam Newton (Event Chairperson) at Newtons@infoblv.net

or you may contact me.

Susan and I attended the Atlantic Middle States Conference held at Harrisburg, PA in July and will be attending the Fall Trustees Meeting in Louisville, KY at the end of September among other meetings that have every weekend in September all accounted for.

Our last Board of Managers Meeting was hosted by Binghamton Chapter and had 25-30 members attending.

The upcoming November 15, 2003 meeting will be hosted by Newtown Battle Chapter, followed by the March 27, 2004 meeting hosted by Saratoga Battle Chapter, and the Annual Meeting will be held May 15, 2004. Plans are now being made for a scheduled place and details will be forthcoming.

One of the items discussed during the September BOM meeting was the need for donations to help keep the cost of the Empire Patriot reasonable. A letter or notice giving more information will be mailed with the 2004 dues statements. A motion was also passed to reward those chapters who have their dues membership paid 100% by December 31, 2003. All you have to do is make sure your members have all their dues paid

EMPIRE PATRIOT

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ADDRESS CHANGES

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**THE EMPIRE PATRIOT
IS NOW ON LINE**

Your State Newsletter is now on line and can be viewed and shared with your friends and family on the State ESSAR site and at the Saratoga Battle Chapter site. Many thanks to Dennis and Duane Booth for taking the initiative to do this and to Joe Betz and Dave Williams for coordinating it on a link at the National site under ESSAR. The URL for Saratoga Battle Chapter is listed below.

<http://www.saratogabattle-sar.org/>

Hank Croteau, Editor O

in full and the Chapter Treasurer submits it to the ESSAR Treasurer before December 31, 2003 to receive some “easy money” for your chapter.

In closing, I want to thank all those members for their prayers, care, and concern in regards to my son’s motorcycle accident in which he was very seriously injured. He is doing much better after spending almost a month in ICU, and is able to hobble around on crutches. He is slowly improving, but has a strong determination in being completely well again. I’m beginning to find out that those gray hairs are caused by your children. O

Scammell - Continued from Page 1

Most Honored Mother:

Your advice and ardent prayers for my welfare in your last letter excited the warmest gratitude to you and brought to my mind the vast obligations I am under to you for the almost infinite pains you have taken to have me educated; the more I think of it, so much the greater I perceive the obligations are. Your kind wishes for my discharging my duty in my present employment, I hope (by God's assistance and blessing upon my endeavors) will be fulfilled if an honest and upright intention for the good and welfare of those under my care and instruction is sufficient. I am sure (as far as I know my own heart) that I have discharged my duty. But I am more and more sensible of the importance of my business. To think that the teaching of youth to write, read and cipher comprehends the whole duty of a school-master is to have a very wrong notion of school-keeping. His duty in my opinion extends much farther to the cultivation of their minds, and to instill into them good sentiments. To rear the tender minds of youth to virtue, to teach them proper respect to superiors, and reverence to their divine creator is the indispensable duty of one that has the care and education of youth intrusted to him. To regulate such a number of pleasant youth as I have under my care, is an agreeable and very difficult task. And that I may go through with it with fidelity and honor I hope you will still continue your prayers for me to the throne of Grace. I hope this letter will find you in perfect health as I am at present.

Your dutiful son, Alexdr Scammell

His interest in patriotic history first manifested itself when he joined the Old Colony Club, which was the group that made Plymouth Rock a national treasure. At one of their first meetings, he "sang" a poem he had composed which became known as the first poetic tribute to our forefathers. One historian humorously added "In spite of this, they made him a member." The library at Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth revealed that the monument mentioned above is on the site of the early school house where Scammell taught. Other information indicated that, even though the marker was in a cemetery, it was not his gravestone.

Following his teaching experience in Plymouth, he learned to survey in New Hampshire and in what is now Maine. His

name is clearly affixed to the early Holland land grant maps. He detested the surveying experience as witness his comments, "But a pox on it all, in one Fort-Nights Time I must dive into the Blackness of Darkness amidst the inhospitable Wilds of the eastern Woods, where the melodious Musick of Nats, Musketoos, Wolves, Bears and Wild Cats will continually sound a dreadful Peal in my Ears."

However, later, his mapping experience became important to George Washington when he developed maps of military installations in and around New York City.

When he was in his mid-twenties, he joined the Durham, New Hampshire law firm of John Sullivan, who later became one of Washington's top generals, as well as a spirited delegate from New Hampshire to the Continental Congress. Sullivan, thus, became a true mentor to the young Alexander Scammell.

In December 1774, together with a group of volunteers from Durham, New Hampshire, Scammell and Sullivan traveled to Portsmouth harbor for an attack on Fort William and Mary, which was held by the British. On the evening of the fifteenth, they executed the "second raid" on the fort by driving off the soldiers who were protecting the King's property. Before relieving the fort of gun powder and other armaments, Scammell may have been one of two men who lowered the British Jack, thereby committing an act of treason, according to the Royal Governor. The plaque on the wall near the entrance to the fort (now named Fort Constitution) states that this was the scene of the first victory of the Revolution.

The following year, "the shot heard 'round the world" was fired and the Colonists were in a real war. Sullivan was commissioned a General in the Continental Army and Scammell a Brigade Major. In that capacity, Scammell served at the Battle of Bunker Hill, where the powder and lead, captured from Fort William and Mary, was instrumental in repelling the British.

While working for Sullivan, Alexander fell in love with Abigail Bishop of Mystic (Medford), Massachusetts and dreamed of a life of blissful happiness. However, this was not to happen, as events soon forced him to take another direction. "Nabby," as he called her, could not accept his total devotion to country and refused his ardent pleas to marry him. He later wrote this very revealing statement about his position: "My

fixed determination has been, ever since hostilities commenced, to continue in the army so long as my bleeding country demanded my services, and to prefer my country's good to every self-interested consideration." It was a bitter pill for Alex as there is no doubt that he was deeply in love with her. Nabby finally married another man but, interestingly, she kept Alex's love letters. One letter to her, written from Ticonderoga, June 8, 1777, is quoted in part: "We at present have a very agreeable and healthy situation - in good spirits, and have good provisions — and hope next Fall or Winter to do myself the pleasure of waiting upon you at Mystic unless you should forbid it. The tender moments which we have spent together still, and forever will, remain fresh in my memory — You are ever present in my enraptured heart — and a mutual return of affection from you I find more and more necessary to my Happiness — cherish the love my dearest Nabby, which you have so generously professed for me — Altho I am far distant from you, still remember that I am your constant, and most affectionate admirer"

In the summer of 1776, Sullivan and Scammell were involved in the battle for New York City. The battle had not gone well, casualties had mounted, General Sullivan had been captured by the British and the situation became desperate. At the time, Scammell was Aide to the Commander in Chief. Washington decided on an elaborate withdrawal action of the Army from Long Island during the night and, in his anxiety to expedite the withdrawal, ordered Scammell to notify the respective commanding officers to speed up their action. Scammell passed on the order to all of the officers but, in so doing, gave the same order to General Mifflin, whose Division was in charge of the rear guard action. Fortunately, Washington discovered the error before the premature withdrawal could have been discovered by the British and jeopardize the rest of the Army. Some historians referred to this mis-communication as "Scammell's blunder ." However, others called it correctly as one of those misunderstandings that can occur in battle situations if orders are not specific enough. Without doubt, Washington himself may have accepted his part of the blame as there was no recrimination between the two officers.

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Scammell - Continued from Page 4

A well known painting, done decades later, should have shown the courageous Scammell in the same boat with Washington on the famous Christmas Eve crossing of the Delaware river, December 24, 1776. Scammell participated in the succeeding battles of Trenton, Princeton and Morristown, New Jersey.

In 1777, as Colonel in command of New Hampshire's 3rd Regiment, Scammell led his troops at Stillwater, Bemis Heights and Saratoga in New York State. He again distinguished himself. General Enoch Poor recorded this in his personal account: "Scammell fought like a hero, leading his regiment where the action was hottest, and did not leave his post until he was wounded and taken off the field." An amusing incident occurred during the battle. A shot fired by the enemy, struck his cue (pigtail worn by men at that time) and nearly severed it completely. Unfazed by the fact that the shot might have killed him, he grabbed the cue and threw it in the direction of the enemy with words to the effect, "Here it is, if you want it so bad."

In his biography of Colonel Scammell, William Clough summed up Scammell's participation in the battle of Saratoga:

"He (had) hurried forward to Ticonderoga and took command of the nucleus of his regiment in the New Hampshire line, then attached to Arnold's division. The first action against (Gentleman Jonny) Burgoyne was fought by detached regiments, and Scammell's command was hotly engaged. He was wounded, and, in the retreat to Saratoga, suffered untold hardships in bodily pain, deprivations and mortifications. But, notwithstanding all this, he was in place and resolutely facing the enemy at Freeman's Farm (Bemis Heights), where, in the thickest of the fight, his companion and friend from Durham, Lieut.-Col. Winborn Adams, fell at his side. Of Scammell's position in this battle, Sergeant Lamb says, in his journal, — 'Here the conflict was dreadful; for four hours a constant blaze of fire was kept up and both armies seemed to be determined on victory or death.' Scammell's wound was now very painful, and yet he would not be persuaded to give up the fight. He clung to his command, and ten days later we find him present at the surrender of Burgoyne, and one of

the heroes of the hour."

Even the British had respect for Scammell's ability, as seen in this same summation which appears in a book printed in England:

"At Saratoga Sept 19, 1777 - Col. Scammell of the First N. H. regiment is particularly active, enterprising and brave, and leads his men close to the enemy with great undauntedness before he suffers them to fire."

By a unanimous vote of the Continental Congress, Scammell was named Adjutant General of the Continental Army. While at Valley Forge in January, 1778, he entered his new duties, succeeding Colonel Timothy Pickering. There had been six men in that staff position but Scammell gave a new definition to the position. It is interesting to note that, during his tenure, Congress passed a resolution that the Adjutant General of the Army be allowed the same rations as a brigadier general and that he be permitted to engage two assistants and one clerk. An additional resolution was passed a little later that the adjutant general for the time being be also Inspector General. For this he was paid an additional \$35 a month. He served longer than all of the previous men, combined, by holding the position for almost three years. In that capacity, he worked directly with Washington on a day to day basis, often as his chief of staff and personal assistant. Here again, as mentioned previously, his sense of humor paid dividends. He became known as the only man who could make Washington laugh. These were difficult times and Washington was under unbelievable pressure. He needed Scammell to keep things in balance. As an example of Washington's increasing dependence on Scammell's abilities, in June of 1778 at the battle of Monmouth, N.J., when General Charles Lee had defied direct orders from the Commander in Chief, he ordered Scammell to arrest his old friend and previous commanding officer and follow up at the Court Martial.

Lee's failure meant that Washington and Scammell had to step in and take command of the battle. When the Continental Forces were driven back, Scammell once again demonstrated his bravery. He moved from one unit to another rallying the troops. When Washington rode up and, to inspire the men by his presence, stood with Scammell facing the foe while exposed to the fire on both sides. They were hidden by

the smoke and it was expected that both had fallen, but fortunately for the cause, they escaped unhurt. Afterwards, Washington is quoted as saying, "The man who inspired us all to do our full duty was Alexander Scammell."

In 1780, Scammell played a major part in what, arguably, was our country's most famous spy case, the Benedict Arnold/Major John Andre's affair. Much has been written about the treason of Arnold, but there is little mention that Washington had a great deal of difficulty in accepting the facts. He had arrived at Arnold's home to have breakfast with Arnold and his charming young wife, the former Peggy Shippen. He had been told of Arnold's disappearance and of Major Andre's capture. He was informed of the incriminating evidence found on Andre. However, he heard Peggy's distressful tale and he believed her even though it was just an act. He could not accept the fact that Peggy, herself, had masterminded most of the selling of the plans and defense strategy of Fort Mifflin (West Point) to her former "escort," John Andre who was, by then, the Adjutant General of the British Forces.

Washington allowed Peggy to be escorted out of the State to be in the care of her family. He put his own adjutant general in charge of the charismatic Andre's imprisonment and ensuing execution. Washington was so distraught by the turn of events that he could not bring himself to attend the ceremony which ended Andre's life. He secluded himself in the Dewindt house nearby (Tappan, N.Y.), shutters drawn, preferring to have Scammell supervise the event in his place. The execution of Andre, by hanging, enraged the British people.

However, as Scammell, himself, wrote at the time so eloquently, (in part) "Treason! treason! treason! black as h-ll! That a man so high on the list of fame should be guilty as Arnold, must be attributed not only to original sin but actual transgressions. His treason has unmasked him the veriest villain of centuries past, and set him in true colours. His conduct, void of every principle of honor, honesty, generosity of gratitude induced the caitiff to make the first overtures to the enemy — as Andre, the British adjutant general, declared upon his honor, when on trial before the general officers. This brave, accomplished officer

Continued Page 6 Column 1

Scammell - Continued from Page 5

was yesterday hanged; not a single spectator but what pitied his untimely fate; although filled with gratitude for the providential discovery; convinced that the sentence was just, and that the law of nations and custom of war justified and made it necessary. “

Late in 1780, Alexander Scammell, desirous to resume command of his regiment, submitted an application to Washington to resign his position as Adjutant General. In his letter to the President of the Congress, forwarding the application, Washington said, “I shall very reluctantly part with Colonel Scammell, as he has constantly performed his duty to my entire approbation and to the satisfaction of the Army.”

Scammell resumed his command of the First New Hampshire Regiment in early January, 1781. However, in March, he was given command of a light infantry battalion of 400 men to act in special situations at the orders of the Commander in Chief. Several months later, he marched with the Army to Virginia where the combined American and French forces confronted Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. Early on the foggy morning of September 30, 1781, Scammell made a costly mistake. There are a number of versions of what happened, some of them protective of the British soldiers; others called it an act of murder.

One account: “As field officer of the day, (Col. Scammell) advanced on horse back to reconnoiter changes in the British outer position made during the night. As he approached the vicinity of the Fusiliers’ Redoubt and lower Yorktown Creek, the New Hampshire officer became separated from the picket guard accompanying him. Looking about, Scammell somehow mistook a party of Tarleton’s dragoons for his guard and fell in with them, whereupon they captured him. Whether or not Scammell tried to resist is unknown. In any event, a treacherous episode followed. One of the legionnaires advanced behind Scammell as he was being led towards Yorktown. According to one account the British soldier then ‘put his pistol near his back and shot him. The ball entered between his hip bone and his ribs and lodg’d in him.’”

The British soldiers hurried Scammell into Yorktown, where Cornwallis’ surgeons treated and dressed his wound. That afternoon a redcoated soldier with a white flag crossed into the Allied lines with a letter from Scammell saying he was being paroled (by Cornwallis at Washington’s request) and requesting that his servant and clothing be forwarded to the hospital in Williamsburg. There Scammell rested and hopes grew for his survival. On October 6, however, his condition worsened rapidly and at five O’clock that afternoon he died at the age of



The fatal shot that fell Alexander Scammell

34. Scammell’s death was the first major setback for the Allies in their investment of Yorktown. A courageous, well-liked officer, his death cast a pall on American morale that lasted several days. “No officer of Colo. Scammell’s rank,” grieved his successor in the First New Hampshire, “that has been killed or died in the Army has been more, if so much, lamented by all ranks as he is.”

As to the authenticity of what happened, we have the following, according to a letter from J. Wadsworth to General Nathanael Greene, dated October 7, 1781, the day after the Colonel died, “Poor Scammell . . . died by a pistol ball fired into the small of his back after he was a prisoner. I had this account from his own mouth two days before he died.”

Within hours of Scammell’s death, the siege of Yorktown escalated very rapidly and, eleven days later, the shooting part of the war was over.

Despite extensive research, Scammell’s grave has not been found. A monument in

his honor was paid for by the members of Washington’s staff, but this has mysteriously disappeared. We do know that the Governor’s Palace in Colonial Williamsburg was used as a hospital at the time of the Yorktown campaign. This, in all probability, is where Scammell died. During the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg in the early 1930’s, a cemetery was discovered in the gardens of the Governor’s Palace and 158 skeletons were uncovered. There were no markers to indicate that the cemetery existed and, to this day, not one of the skeletons has been identified. The Palace burned to the ground two months after the Battle of Yorktown concluded and it is reasonable to assume that any records relating to that cemetery were destroyed in the fire. It will probably remain a mystery as to why the markers that were, doubtless, there, including the one paid for by Washington’s staff, were removed. However, another monument, an obelisk about twelve feet tall, which was probably erected in the mid-1800’s is still in a small cemetery in Bellingham, Massachusetts,

not many miles from the original Scammell homestead. One side is dedicated to Alexander Scammell and includes Colonel Humphrey’s epitaph that was written for the original monument:

Though no kind angel glanced aside
the ball,
Nor Fed’ral Arms pour’d vengeance
for his fall,
Brave Scammell’s fame, to distant
regions known,
Shall last beyond this monumental
stone,
Which conquering armies (from their
toils returned)
Reared to his glory, while his fate they
mourned.

He showed great concern for the officers and men under his command by writing urgent letters to both the State of New Hampshire and the Continental Congress, pleading for supplies, clothing and better pay.

Concluded Page 7 Column 1

There is much more to this great man's story than is written here. He has been honored in a number of ways, including having a fort named after him on House Island in Casco Bay, Maine. There is a bridge named after him across the Bellamy River, near Dover, New Hampshire. He is mentioned on monuments in New York State and Virginia, as well as Massachusetts, and there is a huge portrait of him that hangs in the Capitol building, located in Concord New Hampshire. The former Grange Hall in Durham, New Hampshire still displays his name on its front. He is depicted in the 12 foot by 18 foot mural by John Trumbull, showing the Surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga, located in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D.C. The original settlers of Marietta, Ohio, some of whom served with him in the war, named one of their principal streets in his honor. And one of the most important honors occurred in 1791 with the naming of the U. S. Revenue Cutter, the SCAMMEL.

The skipper of this Cutter was Capt. Hopley Yeaton, considered to be the "Father of the Coast Guard." His commission was the first in the Revenue Cutter Service and was signed by both Washington and Jefferson. Yeaton and Scammell were friends and members of St. John's Lodge in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The SCAMMEL (the second L was omitted in error at the time the ship was officially named), was based in Portsmouth and patrolled the coast from Massachusetts to Maine to intercept smugglers. Yeaton's remains are now located in an above ground vault beside the chapel at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. An etching of the SCAMMEL is shown on one side of the vault.

TEACHER, SOLDIER, PATRIOT
Alexander Scammell was all of these in the best possible terms. His courage in battle was unsurpassed by any of his peers. Our country owes him an eternal debt of gratitude. John Greenleaf Whittier wrote a lengthy poem in his honor, the final lines of which were:

*This hero brave did die. Whom none
could scorn. O may we all lament his fall,
in weeds of sorrow mourn.*

*And now for to conclude, These lines which
I have wrote, May Scammel he remember'd
be, His fame ne'er be forgot. O*

BATTLE OF BROOKLYN EVENTS DRAW ENTHUSIASTIC CROWDS

The 227th anniversary of the Battle of Brooklyn was celebrated through a series of commemorations at historic sites in Brooklyn that were organized over an 11 day period from August 16 to August 27, 2003. The series of events, entitled "Battle Days 2003," was for the fifth year coordinated by the Old Stone House museum in Brooklyn, and this year's calendar was sponsored by the First New York Continental Chapter, ESSAR. The Chapter also organized two events for its members that encompassed celebrations hosted by other historic organizations that participated in the Battle Days events.

"We were really thrilled by the participation at this year's events," said Peter Joseph, vice-chairman of the Board of the Old Stone House. There were nine separate events during the 11 days of the celebration, and Joseph said there was increased attendance at all of them. "Part of that may be the result of the great weather we had during the period, but we also did more marketing of the events within the community," said Joseph. As the Old Stone House gets more experience organizing Battle Days, Joseph expects that future years will draw increasing numbers of attendees. The Battle of Brooklyn was the largest campaign of the American Revolution in terms of numbers of soldiers on both sides, and it was the first battle the young American republic fought as an independent nation. The purpose of Battle Days each year is to remind people of the importance of the battle and to commemorate the few memorials, markers, and structures that still exist in Brooklyn that played a part in the battle.

The Old Stone House itself is one of those structures. It is the recreation of a colonial house that stood at the place in the battle where the Maryland 400 attacked the British positions in a pitched battle that lasted long enough to allow most of General Washington's overrun troops to escape to the safety of fortified American positions on Brooklyn Heights. Most of the Marylanders were killed or captured, but their heroism saved the bulk of the army from certain doom. The Old Stone House is now a museum that features exhibits and artifacts of the Battle of Brooklyn.

Battle Days opened this year on August 16 with a memorial ceremony at the Michael A. Rawley American Legion Post No. 1636 in Brooklyn, near the spot at a busy intersection and under an automotive repair shop where most of the fallen Marylanders were supposedly buried by the British in a mass grave. A high point of the celebration came on August 24, when several hundred onlookers attended the main Battle of Brooklyn ceremony on Battle Hill in the Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn. Battle Hill is the elevated plot of land where American General Lord Stirling and his troops confronted a far larger army of British troops under General Grant. In danger of being surrounded by British, the American troops eventually had to retreat back towards Brooklyn Heights, but General Lord Stirling was captured in the fighting around the Old Stone House. In between these two main events of Battle Days 2003, there were walking tours of other battle sites, a bus tour of the whole neighborhood, a memorial ceremony at the Prison Ships Martyrs Monument at Fort Greene Park, and various other events for families and children.

*Contributed by Wesley M. Oler, President
of the First New York Continental Chapter,
ESSAR O*

THE HAMILTONIANS

*Honoring the Empire State's Founding
Father and first U. S. Treasury Secretary*

Our deepest thanks to the following compatriots for additional contributions to the ESSAR during the 2003 dues canvass. Our apologies to the many we probably have missed who contributed directly to their chapters.

Ralph H. Atkinson - New York
Thomas E. Bird - First New York Continental
Logan McK. Cheek, III - Rochester
Kenneth Conklin - Stony Point
Eugene S. Dewey - At Large
John B. Franklin, Sr. - Stony Point
Barton Heminover - Stony Point
Jerome L. Orton - Syracuse
Robert G. Requa - Stony Point
Curtis W. Shuart - Stony Point
Robert E. Phillips - Stony Point
George R. Vosburgh - Stone Arabia
John J. Zoller - At Large O

LOUISIANA PURCHASE TREATY, 1803

“Let the Land rejoice, for you have bought Louisiana for a Song.”

Gen. Horatio Gates to President Thomas Jefferson, July 18, 1803

Robert Livingston and James Monroe closed on the sweetest real estate deal of the millennium when they signed the Louisiana Purchase Treaty in Paris on April 30, 1803. They were authorized to pay France up to \$10 million for the port of New Orleans and the Floridas. When offered the entire territory of Louisiana—an area larger than Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Portugal combined—the American negotiators swiftly agreed to a price of \$15 million.

Although President Thomas Jefferson was a strict interpreter of the Constitution who wondered if the U.S. Government was authorized to acquire new territory, he was also a visionary who dreamed of an “empire for liberty” that would stretch across the entire continent. As Napoleon threatened to take back the offer, Jefferson squelched whatever doubts he had, submitted the treaty to Congress, and prepared to occupy a land of unimaginable riches.

The Louisiana Purchase added 828,000 square miles of land west of the Mississippi River to the United States. For roughly 4 cents an acre, the United States had purchased a territory whose natural resources amounted to a richness beyond anyone’s wildest calculations.

Louisiana Purchase, vast region in North America purchased by the United States from France in 1803.

Some 2,100,000 sq km (more than 800,000 sq mi) in area, the territory comprised present-day Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota west of the Mississippi River, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, nearly all of Kansas, the portions of Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado east of the Rocky Mountains, and Louisiana west of the Mississippi River but including the city of New Orleans.

The huge province of Louisiana was originally settled by the French in the early 18th century, but in 1762 it was ceded to Spain by a secret treaty. In 1763, at the end of the Seven Years' War, the area east of the

Mississippi, with the exception of New Orleans, was lost to Britain. In 1800, by another secret treaty (forced by French Emperor Napoleon I), Spain returned Louisiana to France. In 1802 two acts were committed that President Thomas Jefferson regarded as hostile to the interests of the U.S. French forces were sent to New Orleans and to Santo Domingo, Hispaniola (now the Dominican Republic), to quell a rebellion there, and the right of deposit, the privilege previously accorded U.S. merchants of depositing goods duty-free at New Orleans pending transshipment, was withdrawn. Jefferson thereupon sent the American statesman James Monroe to Paris to aid the American minister to France, Robert R. Livingston, in an attempt to effect one of four possible plans advantageous to the U.S.: (1) the purchase of eastern and western Florida and New Orleans; (2) the purchase of New Orleans alone; (3) the purchase of land on the eastern bank of the Mississippi River to build an American port; or (4) the acquisition of perpetual rights of navigation and deposit.

The previous negotiations between Livingston and Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord, the French minister of foreign affairs, had been unsuccessful. Subsequently the international situation worsened for France. The French army in Santo Domingo was destroyed by yellow fever and the revolutionists, and a war with England appeared inevitable, threatening occupation of Louisiana by the British. Napoleon, deciding to make the best of an awkward position, gave Talleyrand new instructions, and on April 11, 1803, the foreign minister astonished Monroe and Livingston by offering to sell them all Louisiana or nothing at all. Although operating beyond their authorized power, the American envoys agreed to buy the territory, and early in May the three documents (antedated to April 30) ceding Louisiana to the United States were signed. The price agreed on was \$15 million, of which \$11,250,000 was to be paid outright by the U.S. to France. The balance of \$3,750,000 was to be paid by the U.S. to its citizens to satisfy their claims against France.

At the time of purchase, Jefferson was concerned about the constitutionality of making a land acquisition without adding a covering amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The law of the land, however, did give the president treaty-making power, and the

Louisiana Purchase was ratified into law as a treaty by the U.S. Senate. The Louisiana Purchase stands as the largest area of territory ever added to the U.S. at one time. ○

WALLOOMSAC BATTLE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Activities of the Walloomsac Battle Chapter (Battle of Bennington) have been as follows:

Note: The “Battle of Bennington” was fought on 16 August 1777. The “Battle Day” period of Aug. 15-16-17, 03 was a major event in the Bennington. VT area.

Friday evening, 15 Aug. 03. The chapter sponsored a program at the Bennington Museum - entitled “They Were There”. The lives of three area persons connected to the battle were described. Chapter member Paul Loding told of his ancestor Timothy Clark, a museum staff member related the role played by women of the area in support of American forces and Brig. Gen. Richard J. Valente (Ret.) of Warren, RI spoke on the Burgoyne Campaign with emphasis on the life of American Patriot Simeon Hix. Simeon Hix (1755-1855) took part in many battles of the War for Independence and is believed to have been the last survivor of the Battle of Bennington. Gen. Valente owns the musket carried by Hix and presents a very interesting program related to Hix.

Saturday, 16 Aug. 03. Working with the staff of the New York State Bennington Battlefield Historic Site the chapter sponsored guided tours of the battlefield open to the public. The chapter also held a picnic at the Historic Site for chapter members, their families and site staff members.

Sunday morning, 17 Aug. 03. Working with the Living History Ass’n the chapter arranged for a memorial service and flag raising ceremony commemorating the Battle of Bennington.

Respectfully submitted,
John H. Sheaff, President
ljsheaff@myexcel.com ○

USA Today has come out with a new survey: “Apparently three out of four people make up 75 percent of the population.”

—David Letterman ○

NEWTOWN BATTLE CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We filled the room at the Central Restaurant during our July Regular Chapter Meeting and the guest speaker was Mr. Tom Cornwell, President of the Chemung Valley Living History Center Organization, who presented a very interesting "talk" about the role the CVLHC plays in producing the events at Newtown Battlefield Park. He also spoke about the upcoming plans for the 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Newtown that will be held August 2004. Incidentally, the recreated "battle" is planned to take place on the very location of the original battle and on the exact date as well as day of the event that happened in 1779. We will keep you updated as the plans for this event unfold.

Also during the chapter meeting, Christopher Witrz was presented with the Eagle Scout SAR Medal, Patch, and Certificate for his participation in this program. Chris was one of the few participants to win a scholarship monetary award from the New York State Lottery Program for Outstanding Students.

Our vacant 2nd Vice President's position was filled by Compatriot James G. Riles and we now have a complete slate of Chapter Officers. The Nominating Committee will be choosing the slate of officers for the coming year and reporting their recommendations at our upcoming October meeting. The weather was great for our annual picnic and despite the "hungry" mosquito population, I think everyone enjoyed themselves and had plenty to eat. To my knowledge, no one was taken hostage by the enemy forces that inhabited the area. There were guests attending from the Binghamton and Rochester Chapters as well as some members of the New Hampshire State Society, SAR who happened to be visiting in the area. We had several members at the Information Booth handing out SAR literature and talking with prospective members. All in all, the weather cooperated and it was a very good weekend.

Compatriots Samuel Pulford, Sheldon Robinson, and myself replaced some Revolutionary War Patriot Grave Markers at the Baldwin Family Cemetery. During a severe storm it looked as though the cemetery had been destroyed, but one of those "above and beyond the call" friends stepped up and cleaned the fallen trees, brush, and whatever else from the cemetery. With only mi-

nor damage to the fence and gate, nothing else seemed to be harmed, including the stones and markers. Those patriots interred there are ancestors of Comp. Pulford and possibly Comp. Robinson. Fred N. Roberts was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and our thanks go out to him again for cleaning up the fallen trees and brush. If any of you have ever visited this cemetery, you know well the amount of work that has to be done to get any equipment into it.

After our October regular meeting the next scheduled big event will be our regular Christmas Party in which all the gifts are given to the veterans at the VA Medical Center in Bath, New York. This is a very rewarding program and a way to say "thanks" to those who continue to fight for our freedom.

Susan sends her thanks to all those who have purchased the SAR Cookbook and wants you to know that she has some still available. At last count, she was told there were less than 400 left Nationwide. If you haven't purchased one or if you would like to have another as a gift (Christmas is coming!!!) for that special person, just contact her at 447 Brainard Place - Painted Post, NY 14870-1101. ○

FIRST NEW YORK CONTINENTAL CHAPTER PLANS GALA BALL

The First New York Continental Chapter, SAR, is pleased to announce the following details regarding the upcoming Son and Daughters Gala Ball, scheduled for Saturday evening on January 24, 2004. The Ball will again be held at the Yale Club of New York City, and the festivities begin with cocktails and receiving line in the Library at 7:00 PM, followed by dinner and dancing in the Grand Ballroom from 8:00 PM until midnight. Guests of Honor will include President General Raymond Musgrave of the NSSAR and President General Linda Watkins of the NSDAR, both of whom expect to attend. There will also be a silent auction with some wonderful prizes and a military color guard presentation of the Flag. Information and invitations are available from the Chapter office at 82 Wall Street, Suite 1105, New York, N.Y. 10005,

fax number 212-968-7962, or from Wesley Oler, Chapter president, at e-mail address wesley.oler@bbh.com. Space is limited, so we suggest that you make your enquiries early. For those wishing to stay overnight in New York, a block of rooms has been reserved at the Yale Club for the discounted rate of \$145 per night plus tax, and discounted rooms will also be available next door at the Roosevelt Hotel. Please ask for details from the Chapter president at the above e-mail address.

Wesley M. Oler, President ○

FROM THE DESK OF THE ESS REGISTRAR

Compatriots:

For your info we now have 85 new applications on the books for the current year. Your good efforts are most evident for the fourth year a row. NICE GOING!!! You will be advised of the new fees when they are implemented, generally they will increase by \$25 across the board.

Roy Goold, Registrar ESS ○

What was the difference between the Minutemen and the British Soldiers?

Minutemen were American colonists who prepared themselves through training to grab their gun and assemble on a minute's notice to defend their towns against the British. They were not soldiers. They had no uniforms, and they used whatever weapon they had available, often the gun they used for hunting. They were farmers and shopkeepers, and the like. These groups began training shortly before the outbreak of the American Revolution, and were one more sign that settling our differences with England peacefully was becoming highly unlikely.

British soldiers, on the other hand, were professional military men. Many of them had seen prior battles in other sites in the world. They were trained in battle techniques and following orders. They wore uniforms and had standard issue weapons and ammunition. Head to head, the minutemen did not stand a chance. In the battles that followed, the minutemen evened the odds by not fighting by the rules. Whereas the British marched in an orderly fashion and stood their ground, the minutemen scurried all over the place, shooting from behind trees and rocks. These differences proved disastrous for the British in the Battle of Lexington and Concord, which kicked off the War for Independence. ○

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL COMPATRIOTS OF THE ESSAR

Dear Compatriots,

Your continuing membership over the years in the Empire State Society has meant so much to our efforts. We would like to express our special thanks to you as it is because of your continuing membership, we enjoy a sound financial position today.

We are addressing this letter to brief you to the many fine efforts undertaken by our society. One of our prime concerns is to provide you with our quarterly journal, *The Empire Patriot*. The cost to publish, print, sort and mail accounts for slightly less than one half of the operating funds generated by your State dues of \$7.00 per member which adds up to about \$7,000.00 annually. In addition, many of our chapters are actively involved in graves registration, assisting in battle site restoration, and publishing tour brochures. The state society offers generous youth scholarship programs through the Knight Essay Contest, the Eagle Scout Recognition Program, ROTC and the Oratory Competition. Both New York and Rochester recognize distinguished public service with their Theodore Roosevelt and Frank Gannett awards, and other local chapters recognize public service with SAR Gold, Silver, and Bronze Citizenship medals, as well as the Public Safety and Fire Fighters medals. And this year, in partnership with the Society of the Cincinnati and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, we will be offering to the school districts of New York the opportunity to purchase at 75% below cost a new seventh grade history text book, *Why America is Free: A History of the Founding of the American Republic*. It was written by a distinguished panel of historians. Our Treasurer, Logan Cheek is personally spearheading this initiative.

These efforts are underwritten by voluntary contributions of many of our compatriot members, which are made in addition to their annual dues payments. All such contributions are tax deductible. We hope you will be able to make an additional generous contribution to help sustain these efforts during the coming year.

May the upcoming Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year holidays bring you, your family, and loved ones happiness, good health, and many blessings. Again, thank you for your membership and support of our "one society of compatriots". God be with you and season's blessings to all Sons of the American Revolution, past and present. ○

THE BATTLE OF NEWTOWN - 225TH ANNIVERSARY

Each August, near the end of the month, the hills just East of Elmira, New York come alive with the sound of cannon fire, muskets, yells, battle cries, and screams from the "British, Native American, and Colonist Troops" who invade beautiful Newtown Battlefield Park for another re-creation of the Battle of Newtown. The original battle site is East of the park and can be seen from the constructed wood deck which overlooks the scene where these brave patriots, from all sides, fought for what they believed in.

Next August 29, 2004 is the 225th Anniversary of this historic Battle of Newtown. Plans are underway to have a reenacted

"battle" on the original site. Ironically, this recreation will take place on the same day and date of that 1779 Battle.

There is a huge push right now to host the 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Newtown at the Newtown Battlefield Reservation August 27-29, 2004. As stated earlier, the battle is planned to take place on the original site of the battle that took place August 29, 1779 - 225 years ago to the day!! The word has spread in the reenactor community and it is understood that the Commanders of both the American and British Troops have been turning down other requests to participate in order to re-create this historic battle. We have been told that the only other Northern Anniversary event planned for next year, which is Quebec, has canceled due to a loss in funding leaving Newtown as the only Revolutionary War Anniversary Event North of Virginia in 2004.

This will be a huge undertaking for the Chemung Valley Living History Center and we need volunteers to help pull this event off in style!! Anyone knowing that they can commit to helping in the project right now may contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Ruth Walters, at darwalters@juno.com. Volunteers forms will appear on the web site in the coming weeks as well. The web site address is: www.mizar5.com/cvvh/home.htm

Media contacts have been established in the area and word has gone out to the local Chambers of Commerce. Meetings have been set and the event is beginning to roll. We need business and corporate sponsorships for this event. If you know of any avenues we should be pursuing, please contact Pam Newton - Event Chairperson at Newtons@infoblvd.net

You are also invited to join the Chemung Valley Living History Center and become a part of the fun, excitement, and (of course) work in bringing back a part of valuable history to remind all of us of the precious freedom we have today and the men who fought, many at the cost of their lives, to give it to us. You can learn more of this organization by going to the above web site. Besides the many benefits of belonging to this great organization, your membership will allow you into the park during all the events at no charge. Be sure to check out the web site and learn more about us as well as becoming a member. Take a trip back in time and visit us during one of the many events sponsored throughout the Summer, each year. ○

GOEBEL FAMILY HONORS THEIR PATRIOTIC HERITAGE

by Alice Goebel

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Killian Goebel, United States Military Academy '81, has been serving in a Civil Affairs Unit in Iraq since April, 2003. Peter, past president of Saratoga Battle Chapter, ESSAR, is Chaplain of the Empire State Society Sons of the American Revolution and National Trustee. Peter, son of Henry and Alice Goebel who are members of SAR and DAR respectively, is the brother of Paul H. Goebel, SAR member; Elizabeth Mosher, DAR member; and Jonathan E. Goebel, secretary of the ESSAR and Vice President General of the North Atlantic District. Peter is the father of Joshua P. and Katharine D. Goebel, members of the Children of the American Revolution, and prospective C.A.R. member David B. Goebel. ○

SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER HOLDS JULY 4th PROGRAM

As part of a program entitled "Celebrate Your American Heritage" held in cooperation with the Saratoga National Historical Park, members of the Saratoga Battle Chapter, SAR, Saratoga Chapter, DAR, Bemis Heights Society, C.A.R. demonstrated how to retire an American flag. Boy Scouts from Schuylerville (Troop 13), Glens Falls (Troop 6) and South Glens Falls (Troop 9), assisted in the demonstration.

Whenever an American Flag is soiled, faded or frayed it should be properly retired and not tossed in the garbage. The flag should be burned and any ashes and grommets collected should be unceremoniously buried. The demonstration *showed* how to cut the flag along the horizontal and vertical borders of the field of stars

right to the edges of the flag so that three pieces of stripes and one of the field of stars remain. The cut flag will burn better than an uncut flag and the field of stars remains intact to represent the union of States.

If you are unable to burn your flag, several businesses and organizations periodically collect worn flags and see that they are properly disposed of. Robert Romberg of the G. B. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery Honor Guard was on hand to receive the worn flags that were collected. The flags will be burned at a later date.

Members and guests were treated to an explanation of events leading up to the Declaration of Independence and a rousing reading of the document

ROCHESTER CHAPTER ENJOYS A BUSY SUMMER

August was busy for the Rochester Chapter members. On the 16th, a sunny Saturday, we enjoyed our annual picnic with 30 members, prospective members and DAR guests in attendance. The highlight of the event was a display-artifacts and documents - from the Chapter's collection of Saratoga Battlefield memorabilia. The following Saturday a group traveled south to join our Compatriots from the Newtown Battle Chapter at their annual picnic and the observance of the 224th anniversary of the Newtown Battle. On Labor Day Weekend, Rochester Chapter members Dick Bean, Steve Clarke, Lee Harris and Gary Welch traveled to Syracuse and the New York State Fair to help our Syracuse Compatriots by manning the SAR-DAR booth for a twelve-hour shift. The Syracuse area DAR and SAR Chapters have had an information and membership recruitment booth at the State Fair for several years, and it seemed appropriate to assist their endeavors as the Syracuse Chapter sends any recruitment prospects to all relevant SAR groups in the State. The Rochester contingent had a good day with recruitment, but being located near most of the food vendors proved to be something of a distraction! *Steve Clarke, President* O



Duane Booth, President, Saratoga Battle Chapter Presenting Medal and Certificate to Dennis Booth

by Park Ranger Joe Craig. Ranger Craig read 13 eighteenth century toasts to celebrate America's 227th birthday, with the crowd, lemonade in hand shouting "Hurrah" in response.

Chapter member and site Webmaster Dennis Gill Booth and his wife Colleen Austin Booth each received awards. Dennis was presented with a chapter level Meritorious Service Medal and certificate for developing and maintaining the chapter's website and his wife Colleen was presented with the Martha Washington Medal and certificate for her work on the site's graphics. O

Visit our site at <http://www.saratogabattle-sar.org/> and see the great work that they've done. O



Past President Rick Saunders instructing Boy Scouts proper method of Flag disposal



President Steve Clarke and Compatriot Lee Harris

ORISKANY BATTLE CHAPTER DEDICATES NEW SAR GRAVE MARKER

On July 4th, at the Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site the Oriskany Battle Chapter participated in a ceremony dedicating a new SAR marker inside the sacred enclosure surrounding the Oriskany Monument. We were honored to be INSIDE the encl-

sure - this area is generally limited to descendants only. This was a case of mutually honoring the charter members of the Chapter, the current members of the Chapter and what will be their own children's and grand-children's heritage. The only other marker allowed inside the enclosure is the original and historic Oriskany DAR marker from the 1920's.

In August, we participated in a solemn Commemoration Ceremony honoring the 226th anniversary of the Battle of Oriskany. Present were combined color guards from Ft. Stanwix, Oneida Indian Nation, Tryon County Militia, and Descendants of Battle participants. The Oneida Indian Nation Artillery Unit gave an Artillery Salute. This was the first time ever that the CAR, DAR and SAR participated as a "family" at Oriskany.

The Oriskany Battlefield SHS Descendants Registry Annual Dinner was to be held August 9th in a tent on an open field next to the Monument. This was a big success last year with 85 in attendance. But, with thunderstorms predicted, it was felt it would be wise to postpone the event. It will be rescheduled in the Fall.

THE FOLLOWING CHAPTER OFFICERS WERE ELECTED AT OUR LAST CHAPTER MEETING TO BECOME EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 13, 2003.

President, Norbert R. Bankert

6636 Fox Road

Marcy, NY 13403-3217

phone: 315 865 8617 email: norb@bankert.org

Secretary Treasurer, Thomas L. Foley

7060 Fox Road

Marcy, NY 13403-3217

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Pictured left to right Nancy Demyttenaere, Regional Historical Preservation Supervisor, Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site and Burke Muller, Past President, Oriskany Battle Chapter



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