



Empire Patriot

Empire State Society

Sons of The American Revolution

Descendants of America's First Soldiers

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MAJOR GENERAL BARON de STEUBEN FROM PALACE COURT TO FREEDOM'S FIELD

Allan D. Foote

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is not intended to be a complete discourse on Major General Baron de Steuben's substantial contributions on behalf of the people of the United States during the American Revolution. Instead, it will hopefully illuminate some of the unique circumstances, which help explain how it came to pass that this eventual servant of democracy first came to the aid of the new republic.

IN MEMORIAM

Nestled in the foothills of the majestic Adirondack Mountains in Oneida County, on New York's historic Northern Frontier, is located an unassuming wooded plot of land know as "The Sacred Grove". As you stroll across the expansive picnic grounds and down a well-trodden dirt path, you will come upon a monument positioned in the center of this pastoral spot, framed by a protective wrought iron fence. Here lie the remains of a German-American hero entombed for eternity beneath an obligatory memorial of limestone.

A BORN SOLDIER

On the seventeenth of September 1730 in the fortress city of Magdeburg on the Elbe River, region of Saxony, a newborn infant boy loudly announced his arrival into a European world in the throes of nation building. The impressive formality of his given name, Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustin von Steuben, foreshadowed his later gargantuan importance to the cause of American independence.

The locale for the future General's birth was predetermined by the posting of Steuben's father, Wilhelm Augustin, at this for-

trass metropolis in military service to Friedrich Wilhelm, King of Prussia, as an officer of engineers. The King was selected as one of the baby's godparents and Steuben's name was in fact chosen to honor the Prussian King. It would be the first of many such martial associations the warrior heir apparent would experience from infancy on. A 19th century biographer would describe the impressionable boy's primary early influences as being "guns, drums, trumpets, fortifications, drills and parades..."

And so, it was not surprising to find the young lad serving as a volunteer under his own father's command during the campaign of 1744 at the tender age of fourteen. In this capacity, Steuben would share the same perils and hardships with the veteran soldiers throughout the long and gruesome siege of Prague.

Neither should it come as any shock to the reader that three years later, under the pronounced influence of his father, seventeen-year old Friedrich Wilhelm officially entered the Prussian army as a cadet. He apparently never doubted the surest road to military glory beckoned under the tutelage of Frederick the Great (son of Steuben's godparent). In two years, he became an ensign, four more passed and he had advanced to first lieutenant. The next year (1754), the Seven Years'

War in Europe broke out and young Steuben clearly itched for the opportunity to achieve battle honors. Sometime prior to the advent of conflict in a letter to a comrade, Friedrich wrote, "... if there is a war, I promise you at the end of a second campaign that your friend will be either in Hades or at the head of a regiment. "



► *Continued page 4 Column 1*

French visitors renew Revolutionary ties

By Judith Doolin Spikes

Four members of the Society in France, of the Sons of the American Revolution paid a visit last Wednesday to the Ardsley area. Direct descendants of French participants in the colonies' war of independence, they and their wives were on the last leg of a week long pilgrimage to sites associated with the march of the French Royal Army under General Count Rochambeau to rendezvous with General Washington's troops on the Greenburgh Hills on July 14, 1781.

For 40 days thereafter, the American troops encamped on what is now known as Washington Hill, in the vicinity of Ardsley High School, while the French encamped in the vicinity of the Sunningdale Country Club on Underhill Road in Greenburgh. The French Sons, hosted by Robert Stackpole and other members of the New York Chapter of the SAR, lunched at the club, looking out over the golf course where their countrymen had encamped 224 years earlier.

After lunch they paid a visit to the Odell House in Hartsdale - General Rochambeau's headquarters during the encampment - on a tour, conducted by Frank Jazzo, official historian of the Town of Greenburgh.

The delegation was led by Gerard Priet, accompanied by his wife, Catharine. Priet is a vice president for operations of Air Liquide, a global corporation said to be the world leader in industrial and medical gases, supplying the steel, oil refining, chemicals, glass, electronics, healthcare, food processing, metallurgy, paper and aerospace industries.

Another delegate was Thierry de Seguins-Cohorn, a lieutenant colonel in the French Army and senior intelligence officer involved, as he explained, "as a member of the French Liaison task force in the global war on terrorism." He spent four months in 2003 training at Mac Dill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., "to learn how to coordinate French and American forces" before being deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan, for six months - a little-known chapter in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Luc Bayard and wife, Christine, and Philippe Bobby de la Chapelle and wife Anne completed the group.

The French Sons organize a one week visit a year to the U.S. Last fall, Priet vis-

ited the Savannah (Ga.) History Museum to lay a wreath in honor of his ancestor Joseph Malin, who commanded the French frigate La Mirthe during the Battle of Savannah (1779). On that trip, he also lay a wreath on the tomb of George and Martha Washington at Mount Vernon, VA. Asked what his friends in Paris think of his devotion to the Sons of the American Revolution, Priet said, "We don't say to our friends that we are SAR, because no one would know what that means. We say that we are promoting Franco-American friendship!"

The "purposes and objects" of the French Society of the SAR are the same as those of the National (U.S.) Society- "To cherish and perpetuate the memory of those who by their services during the American Revolution established the independence of the American people" - and additionally, "To maintain the ties of friendship between the French and American peoples created at the birth of the American Nation."

"We want to show," Priet said, "that France and America have been allies since the beginning. France's support of the American colonies against Britain was not just a war for revenge against England. We couldn't stand the naval hegemony of the English." The Americans said, "We need help," and France said, "We'll do that as soon as we have a navy commensurate with the power of the British navy." Soon we had it. We fought the British in India, in the West Indies, etc. - It was a world war. The American Revolution was really a world war.

"Fifty thousand Frenchmen were drafted; five or six thousand died. The more the French attacked the British forces in the West Indies, the fewer British were left in the continental U.S. to fight."

Priet visits the U.S. regularly. Every other month he goes to Houston on business, and there have been various pleasure trips. "When my kids were very small," he recalled, "we went to Yorktown, Virginia,



Robert Stackpole (right) with members from France outside the Odell House

where the combined forces of Washington and Rochambeau achieved victory over England." My kids shouted, "Kill the Brits!"

Priet hopes to return to the U.S. next year for the two hundred twenty-fifth anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown.

He is eager to emphasize Franco-American friendship. "It is normal in this period, to show there is no anti-American feeling in France. We Share the same values, fighting terrorism. The British are no longer our enemies - even though they drive on the wrong side of the road. Our shared values are democracy, liberty. We don't accept that people try to destroy these values, full stop. This is one of the reasons we [the French Sons] are coming [to visit the U.S.] We are here as a testimony there was a sacrifice of the French for the American people. Five thousand of us died in the American Revolution. The Americans helped us in 1917 in World War I, in Normandy in 1944. "Americans are very welcome in France, Priet is told that Americans today believe that members of the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution are very conservative. Is it the same in France?"

"Yes, people who remember the past can be considered conservative," he says. "And no... you can't come from nowhere. And yes... in France, more of the members are decedents of officers than of simple

Continued page 3 Column 3

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



PETER K. GOEBEL, ESSAR PRESIDENT

Compatriots,

Summer is over and it is time to get busy. This is what I submitted for use at the NY State Fair. Use it when you are able.

WHO WE ARE

The Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is an organization of New Yorkers who are descendants of ancestors who were at all times unflinching in their loyalty to and rendered active service in the cause of American independence from the authority of Great Britain. We are one of fifty state societies who are part of the 27,000 man strong National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, founded on April 30, 1889 and incorporated by act of Congress June 9, 1906 as a non-profit, non-secret, non-political organization, which we still are. There are seventeen local chapters located throughout New York.

WHAT WE DO

The Empire State Society is dedicated to patriotic, historical, genealogical, and educational objectives. These are reflected in every S.A.R. activity-

all designed and conducted to help perpetuate understanding of, reverence for and preservation of those institutions of American Freedom delineated in the Preamble of our Constitution and in the injunctions of George Washington in his farewell address to the citizens of the Republic he led in war and peace. We sponsor youth contests throughout our state under the auspices of the National Society.

We support our historic celebrations in New York State. Notable among these are the Battle of Brooklyn, the Battle of Newtown, the Battle of Oriskany, the Battle of Saratoga, the Battle of Stone Arabia, the Battle of Stony Point, the Battle of Walloomsac (Bennington),

and the Groveland Ambuscade. We continue to work closely with the NYSDAR and the C.A.R. in our State. Our ESSAR Color Guard continues to appear in public. We are continually marking graves and awarding Society medals to those who are deserving of them, recognizing many different areas of endeavor.

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN US

You can become a member of an active group of patriotic men brought together by their heritage and welded into an organization dedicated to the preservation of the Constitutional freedoms established by the founders of our nation. You can take an active part in serving your community with those with whom you have many common interests. Our members will continue to work for the SAR and for our nation.

Let's keep SAR in the Public Eye. Thank you to all who work so hard for our Society.
Peter K. Goebel
President
ESSAR

EMPIRE PATRIOT

The Empire State Society
Sons of the American Revolution
Editor: Henry W. Croteau, Jr.
441 Route 23

Claverack, NY 12513-5145

Telephone 518-851-9040

E-Mail hcrot@mhonline.net

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ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send all changes of address to:

Jonathan E. Goebel, Secy. ESSAR

510 Hoags Corners Road

Nassau, NY 12123-2618

Telephone 518-766-2143

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

French visitors from page 2

soldiers, more are from the nobility. And no... we put a website to attract young people. If to be in favor of liberty and democracy is conservative, I don't know..."

The total number of French serving in the American Revolution, Priet says, was about 50,000, of which 6,000 are known to have been *foot* soldiers and 30,000 sailors. Membership in the French Society of the SAR today is 400, double what it was 20 years ago. The French Society was founded in 1897 by American residents in France. Around 1920-22, following World War I, the SAR became "more vigorous," Priet says, and descendants of French participants in the American Revolution began to join.

"The War of the Revolution is very interesting," Catharine Priet said of her husband's preoccupation. "For us, it is very interesting to have contacts with Americans. Friendship between the French and the American people is very important. The French went to the U.S. to help, Americans have come to France twice to help. My children have heard all about this. My daughter, Camille, is in the process of becoming a Daughter of the American Revolution."

This article "French visitors renew Revolutionary ties", written by Judith Doolin Spikes for the July 22, 2005 issue of the "Rivertown Enterprise" was submitted by Robert Stackpole, New York Chapter President and is being reproduced by the expressed permission of the author and the newspaper. ■

"MAJOR GENERAL BARON de STEUBEN" From Page 1

OFFICER OF THE KING

Though for the first campaign, he began as a lieutenant, the last campaign of the Seven Years' War would indeed find Friedrich advancing in rank and in command of stalwart Prussian soldiers. In the time between, Steuben was twice wounded and he also served as adjutant-general to the self-made soldier, General von Mayr, until death came to this grizzled bold adventurer in his tent. Later, the paths of father and son would converge once again, as the elder major of engineers built a bridge over the Waltha River, which the younger Steuben crossed; perhaps too swiftly to exchange more than a glance of recognition as Friedrich was swept along in the torrent of the offensive.

During the war, after the capitulation of a besieged town, young Steuben was taken prisoner by the Russians and by the terms of surrender was transported to St. Petersburg with his fellow officers. However, the terms of his imprisonment were not entirely unpleasant as the Russian Grand Duke Peter was a fond admirer of Frederick the Great and therefore showed favor to Friedrich and the other Prussians of rank. Upon his return to Prussia as part of an exchange, Steuben was promoted to captain, in part for the reciprocal courteous behavior he had extended to the Grand Duke. More importantly, Captain Steuben received orders assigning him to the staff of the esteemed commander himself, Frederick the Great.

It was under the watchful and patronizing eye of the King that Steuben's military education was polished to a high luster. Frederick proffered Steuben admittance into a small cadre of junior officers who benefitted from lessons in higher principles of the art of warfare from the old master. This was a great honor which the King tendered to a select few young men, not usually due to the fickle fate of princely birth or fortune, but because Frederick had recognized raw talent and zeal. The ambitious Friedrich Wilhelm had clearly qualified under the latter category.

As an aide to the King, Steuben took part in the siege of Schweidnitz, and here he witnessed the curtain falling on this final bloody act of the Seven Years' War. As a result Frederick the Great being quite pleased with the initiative and enthusiasm displayed by his youthful aide-de-camp, bestowed upon Friedrich "... a lay benefice with an income of four hundred thalers."

A RESTLESS PEACE

Peace had come, and with it the customary reduction of the army and its subsequent waning influence. Dissatisfied with his

relegated peacetime role, Steuben withdrew from military service and began a period of recreational travel. It was during this time of amusing diversion Friedrich Wilhelm would meet at Hamburg, an acquaintance who would exercise a decisive influence on his future career at a most opportune moment. For it was in Hamburg where he first struck up a friendship with the Frenchman, Count St. Germain.

Following his visit to Hamburg, Steuben journeyed to the soothing baths of Wildbad, where he was presented to the Prince of Hohenzollem-Hechingen. Through the patronizing influence of Prince Henry of Prussia and the Princess of Wurtemberg, Friedrich was able to secure appointment as grand marshal of the Prince of Hohenzollern's court. It was indeed an honorable position, but dull work for a flowering officer fresh from the rigors of campaigning. From the bustling action of the fortress and comfortable informality of the tented camp, Steuben now had to endure the detailed daily drudgery of the palace chamber, retiring to slumber under a billowing gilded canopy.

In his idle time, Friedrich had opportunity to ponder his limited prospects for professional advancement in time of peace. He had to look no further than his own father's military career to forecast his own potential future. Wilhelm Augustin had completed forty-seven years of dutiful service to his king without a single blot on his record, yet had ascended no higher than the rank of major of engineers. Now the son had perhaps dampened his own military potential further by replacing his broad and heavy soldier's sword with the flimsy ornamental blade of a courtier. Here, as a self-imposed prisoner chained by the trappings of this petty court, Steuben languished for ten years.

Fortunately for the frustrated Friedrich, the Prince of Hohenzollem delighted in travel, and Steuben would customarily accompany him on his excursions. Steuben would find the most-welcome duty of all to be the frequent visits to Paris, where his high rank of grand marshal opened for him the doors of the most celebrated salons of the day. Here he would procure the acquaintance of influential men.

Steuben at last resigned his official court post. He was temporarily a free man. In 1769, the Margrave of

Baden had conferred upon him the Order of "Fidelity". Friedrich first turned his focus toward Carlsruhe, the seat of the margrave's court, but he soon found life there even quieter than what he had tolerated at Hechingen.

➤ *Continued page 5 column 1*



The statue of Gen. Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben in Potsdam is an exact replica of one that stands in Washington D.C. It was erected in 1911 and in that same year a replica was presented by the Congress of the United States to Kaiser Wilhelm II and the German nation. The statue depicts von Steuben in his military dress uniform surveying the troops at Valley Forge and was given as a symbol of enduring German-American friendship. From 1911 it stood in an honored spot near the imperial Stadtschloss in Potsdam until it was knocked over by bombing near the end of World War II.

"MAJOR GENERAL BARON de STEUBEN" From Page 4

OPPORTUNITY COMES CALLING

In the winter of 1776, while George Washington and his rebel American army were suffering through a harsh sojourn at their winter quarters in Morristown, New Jersey, the restless Steuben was formulating plans to visit kindred spirits in England he had earlier met at Montpellier. Since Paris lay on his route of travel, Friedrich resolved to spend a few days with his old friend, Count St. Germain who only recently had been made Minister of War. Steuben wished to personally congratulate the French aristocrat on his advancement. It was early May 1777.

In Paris, the representatives of the American revolutionaries were a visible presence. Benjamin Franklin had taken up residence at Passy, and was attracting the attention of liberal-thinking Frenchmen of all ages. Silas Deane had been in France almost a year now. Metropolitan France was abuzz with the awareness of their collective presence. Regarding much of this intrigue Steuben was ignorant as he entered Paris on the 2nd of May.

It was Friedrich's intention to just briefly glance about to reminisce about the pleasant time he had spent in the salons and then head out to Versailles to visit his friend, the Count, Minister of War for all France. As soon as he made himself comfortable in his hotel that evening, he wrote to tell St. Germain of his arrival and impending jaunt. A mysterious reply came shortly from the Count. "Do not come to Versailles. In three days I will see you at the arsenal and will send an officer to conduct you thither. We have important questions to discuss together."

For three days, Steuben pondered this puzzling response and then the officer came as promised and he soon once again found himself in the presence of his trusted friend, Count St. Germain. Almost immediately, the Minister of War launched into a litany, which was all new to Friedrich, about the struggle of the thirteen American colonies in revolt, of their perils and the sympathy which France felt for them. And how in spite of their courage and resolution, the rebels still might fail for want of a man like Steuben, who could organize and discipline their citizen soldiers. St. Germain laid his hand on a map of North America as he concluded. There, in America, Friedrich would find glory and fortune such as no European war could afford. There, in America, he could apply the lessons of his lord and master, Frederick the Great, and demonstrate the superiority of the system of military order and tactics he so firmly believed in.

After the Count had finished his soaring sermon, Steuben stood there in stunned silence. He then began to internally formulate objections against this surprising proposal. In trying to postulate the hidden meaning of St. Germain's earlier terse message, the thought of aiding rebellious colonies an ocean away had never entered his mind. In fact, he was on his way to visit acquaintances in England, where he may give consideration to offering his services to the British Army! After a long pause, Friedrich point blank asked the Count, "What would you advise me, not as a minister but as a friend?" St. Germain craftily responded, "Sir, as a minister I have no advice to give you on these subjects; but as your friend I would never advise you to do anything which I would not do myself were I not employed in the King's service."

With this statement, the Count concluded their first interview by bidding his confidant "adieu", leaving him to contemplate the unexpected offer. Steuben went thoughtfully down the grand stair-

way, his imagination perhaps vivid with vistas of the wilderness of America accompanied by the familiar martial sound of the trumpet and drum echoing through his head. The "esprit de corps" of army comradeship, nurtured in Friedrich since infancy, stirred in him once more. It was that word *Liberty*, which slipped a bit awkwardly over his tongue and past his lips. Steuben had cherished since conscious childhood the regal bearing of his king. Winning glory on a field of battle did have an overwhelming appealing attraction to him. But, could he be sure of achieving honor and riches in the wilds of America?

With the warning of caution still clouding his thoughts, Friedrich gingerly accepted the next step. Count St. Germain arranged to have him meet Silas Deane, who promptly took Steuben to Benjamin Franklin. There they stood, face to face, the aging renowned philosopher turned diplomat in his drab Quaker style attire and the younger veteran soldier-courtier dressed in more refined clothing with "the glittering star of the Order of "Fidelity" on his breast." Franklin carefully appraised the countenance of the forty-six year-old Steuben, with his sun-browned skin, large forehead over bushy eyebrows and jutting jaw. Franklin may have thought, "He is no young Marquis de Lafayette, fresh from school, his head filled with romantic dreams of liberty and human rights. Standing before me is a more pragmatic man, a sword for hire. I wonder if he is willing to shed his blood for us?"

Not one to mince words, Benjamin Franklin came quickly to the point, disregarding the proper court protocol to which Friedrich had grown accustomed. The rebel Colonists would consider offering a land grant of several thousand acres as compensation for his expert services. Franklin curtly added that he had "no authority to voyage." Steuben was at first noncommittal. A man whom the great King Frederick himself had honored with his confidence would have to ponder the opportunity. Wise old Franklin advised him to return to his homeland to put his affairs in order. Then, as soon as financing for the enterprise could be arranged, Steuben should return to Paris prepared to embark on his voyage of honorable purpose.

Friedrich relayed via a correspondent to Count St. Germain that he would go immediately back to Germany and think about America. Though the Count may have felt hurt by Steuben's apparent delay in his decision, he convinced Friedrich to pass a few days at his personal residence. The next evening after dining, St. Germain chidingly remarked to the Spanish ambassador, as he presented Steuben to him, "Here is a man, who will risk nothing, consequently he will gain nothing." Steuben remained stubborn about his personal deliberations. "I can determine nothing," he declared, "until I return to Germany." Though both the honorable notion and potential bounty of the venture had appealed to his character, Friedrich turned homeward without making a final commitment.

It would be three months before Steuben would decidedly lean again toward the proposal. It was then a letter arrived from France. The note informed Friedrich that a ship and money awaited him. Count St. Germain urged him to hasten back to Versailles. In the same time frame, Prince Louis William of Baden arrived at Steuben's residence in Rastadt. Friedrich placed great stock in the Prince's judgment and shared with him the contents of the letter and nature of the offer. Prince Louis, himself holding the rank of lieutenant general in service to a foreign power (Holland), saw no reason for hesitation.

Continued page 6 Column 1

"MAJOR GENERAL BARON de STEUBEN" From Page 5

Thus, partly due to the manipulations of a Count of France and Prince of Germany, Steuben was finally convinced to accede to this opportunity for glory and the corresponding anticipated spoils of war in an admittedly worthy cause. The Colonists had gained another eminently qualified champion.

PREPARATIONS

Much detail still needed to be hashed out. There was still the question of position and rank. George Washington, the commander of the main patriot army, was already beginning to encounter a begrudging resentment from the people of the United States and Congress for the numerous requests of commissions for foreign-born officers. Recently, Washington had written Ben Franklin, "... that every new arrival was only a new source of embarrassment to himself, and of disappointment and chagrin to the gentlemen who came over." It was clear, however, that even the rank of colonel would be insufficient for Steuben to command the respect necessary to introduce the military reforms the French Minister of War desired. Without the infusion of discipline and order among the rabble led by Washington, St Germain feared the money and store promised by France would be in vain.

Therefore, it was decided that Steuben would assume the rank of lieutenant general. He would ask for letters of introduction from the leading members of Congress and announce his intention to the Americans of serving only one or two campaigns as a volunteer. Friedrich hoped that even if the new republic would prove ungrateful, the King of France would reward his commitment. His French contacts reassuringly advised, "Go, succeed, and you will never regret the step you have taken."

His preparations advanced at a rapid pace. From the French, Steuben received a loan of money to commission a splendid uniform and for passage. He then selected four officers as aides; De l'Enfant, De Romanai, Des Epinieres, and De Ponthiere. Barely knowing a word of English, Steuben obtained a secretary and interpreter in Peter Duponceau. Peter's passion for English had won him as a young student at the Benedictine monastery the nickname of "L' Anglais". Their arms and provisions provided by the firm of Hortalez & Co., Friedrich and his small party boarded the twenty-four-gun ship *Heureux* (disguised under the name of *Le Flamand*) for passage to America.

Traveling in disguise as a Frenchman, (it was now that Friedrich began to employ the French "de" before his surname, a habit which would remain for the rest of his life), Steuben and his military family embarked from Marseilles on the 26th of September 1777, just fifteen days after the Battle of Brandywine. The confident Friedrich had no doubt that in two or three years, he would return to his many acquaintances in the salons of Paris and beer gardens of Germany and regale them with exciting tales of his dashing exploits across the ocean.

A NEW WORLD

The *Flamand's* journey has been recorded as being "long, boisterous and perilous"; first making its way down the Mediterranean, along the mountainous coast of Spain, and with the continent of Africa gradually receding to the east, boldly bounding its way across the mighty Atlantic, on a path to the New World, and carrying with it the aspirations of Steuben's tiny band. At last land came in sight, and on a bright crystal clear 1st of December 1777,

The *Flamand* entered the harbor of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. For the first time, Lieutenant General Friedrich Wilhelm de Steuben witnessed the flag of the republic flying over an American fortress.

Assuming at once the dignity of his rank, General de Steuben sent Duponceau ashore to announce his arrival to the American commander. Tradition tells us that the dapper youthful Frenchman first made good on a wager he had made aboard ship during the ocean voyage. Duponceau had vowed to kiss the first girl he saw. Spying one comely young woman, he strode over and informed her that "he had come to fight the battles of her country, and he had solemnly pledged to ask, as a token of success, for a kiss from the first lady he met." The damsel listened attentively, and either moved by a sense of patriotism or intoxicated by Peter's elegant uniform and sincere eyes, blushing offered him her cheek, which Duponceau affectionately saluted with his lips.

As soon as the American general Langdon learned that the anchoring ship bore the personage of a Prussian lieutenant general, a veteran of the Seven Years' War, he hastened to go on board to personally welcome him, while the rumor of Steuben's presence quickly circulated among the town folk and they also began to flock to the harbor front to hopefully catch a glimpse of the stalwart warrior. The guns of the fortress fired a booming salute and the other ships floating in the harbor, unfurled their flags, joining in the welcome.

At a dinner given that day in his honor, General de Steuben first learned of the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga, and he hailed the tidings as a good omen. The following day he visited the fortifications and reviewed the troops. One of his next actions was to write to General Washington and Congress, expressing his "desire to deserve the title of a citizen of America by fighting for her liberty." Steuben was next entertained by John Hancock and introduced to Boston's provincial splendor. Hancock had just temporarily returned to private life after his dedicated tenure in Congress. For five weeks, Steuben anxiously awaited a reply from Washington. At last it came. His letter, though courteous, informed Steuben that Congress was the only body authorized to accept offers of service or make appointments. At the same time, however, Hancock made Steuben aware that he had been directed by Congress to make every preparation for securing him and his party a comfortable journey to York in Pennsylvania, where Congress was then sitting in session. On February 5, 1778, General de Steuben arrived in York.

SERVANT OF LIBERTY

In short order, de Steuben was summoned before Congress. This august body appeared dazzled by the information, which had preceded the General, telling of his professional knowledge and personal dignity, and had appointed a special committee to wait upon him and listen to his proposal. The committee was in for another mild surprise when Steuben related to them that, "he asked for neither rank nor pay, that he wished to enter the army as a volunteer and perform any duty which the commander-in-chief might assign him." Commissions for his aides and payment for his actual expenses were the only conditions he stipulated. Let the question of final compensation be decided by the ultimate success or failure of the struggle.

Continued page 7 Column 1

"MAJOR GENERAL BARON de STEUBEN" From Page 6

Congress lost no time in idle discussion. The next day, Steuben received a formal dinner from the group as a mark of special honor, and all its members gazed upon this Prussian general in his rich uniform and with the blazing star of the order never absent from his breast. Invited to speak, the General stood at the right hand of Congress president Laurens and spoke eloquently about the army, which would soon be trained by his keen eye and soldierly bearing. When the dinner had concluded, Laurens handed him the resolution of Congress, which read:

"Whereas, Baron Steuben, a lieutenant-general in foreign service, has in a most disinterested and heroic manner offered his services to these States as a volunteer,

Resolved, That the president present the thanks of Congress, in behalf of these United States, to Baron Steuben, for the zeal he has shown for the cause of America and the disinterested tender he has been pleased to make of his military talents, and inform him that Congress cheerfully accepts of his services as a volunteer in the army of these States, and wish him to repair to General Washington's quarters as soon as convenient."

General de Steuben immediately set out for Washington's camp at the first opportunity. Along the route, more ovations followed. At Lancaster, the many German immigrants swelled with the pride of their native land at the approach of this noble German military hero. The crowd hummed with the often-repeated phrase, "He knew the great King Frederick!" Steuben galloped into their midst, the pleasing sound of the mother tongue ringing in his ears, to bask in the accolades.

While he was yet some miles from camp, Washington came out to meet him and conduct the General to his quarters. There a guard of twenty-five men had been stationed with an officer at their head. Humbly, Steuben suggested this honor was too much for merely a volunteer. Washington replied, "The whole army would gladly stand sentinel for such volunteers."

The next day the troops were mustered and Washington accompanied Steuben to pass them in review. Perhaps Washington felt that to bring the General at once before the army was the surest way to prepare the men to look up to Steuben as one very capable of imparting to them the knowledge in which they were so universally deficient. Earlier, Washington had written Lafayette that, "as an unobserved spectator he would be glad to peep at the Prussian and Austrian troops at their maneuverings on a grand field day." Now this Prussian veteran had come to him and he felt that a bond could develop between them. As Washington later stated, it was a relief to count as a solid ally, "a gentleman- a man of military knowledge."

Steuben's subsequent success can be easily explained. Simply put, his heart was in his work, and he knew his job well. He was up before the dawn, smoked a single pipe and downed a single cup of coffee. He had his hair properly dressed, his uniform carefully put on; and then as the first streaks of sunlight peeked over the horizon; he was in the saddle and off to the parade ground. No part of his work was beneath him. He took the muskets of the raw recruits into his own hands, examined all the equipment with his experienced eye. No voice was to be heard on the training field except his own, and his officers as they repeated his orders. Not a mistake passed without admonishment. Even dressed in their tattered uniforms, the men began to feel a pride in being soldiers.

General de Steuben's energies and contributions would also

not be confined to camp alone. At the Battle of Monmouth, General Charles Lee's broken ranks were rallied by the sound of Steuben's booming voice. And they wheeled into line under heavy enemy fire with the precision the General had taught them, as if the battlefield had become a parade ground. A new spirit had entered the army. Steuben's first siege had been at Prague as a boy volunteer of fourteen in the Prussian army. His last siege would be in the trenches of Yorktown fighting for a cause he had made his own.

If we are to class men according to their service in the struggle for American independence, it can be said that no one after Washington stood higher than Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustin de Steuben. The impression he made on our military character remained long after his guiding hand was withdrawn. The system of drills and maneuvers, popularly known as the "Blue Book", which in 1779 he drew up in French then had translated into English, contains precepts and principles by which the regular army still subscribes. For his soldierly courage and unselfish devotion, he shall forever be "inscribed on fame's immortal scrolls."

Editor's Note: The preceding story is a chapter from the book "Valley of Liberty", written by Allan D. Foote and has been reproduced with the expressed permission of the author. ■

BOARD OF MANAGERS NOVEMBER 5, 2005

The next regular Board of Managers meeting of the Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution, hosted by the Columbia Chapter, will be held November 5, 2005 at Pegasus Restaurant, Route 9w, Coxsackie, NY. From the south it can be reached from the Catskill exit (# 21) of the NY Thruway. From this exit, take 23 east to Route 9w and then 8 miles north. From the north, it can be reached from the Coxsackie exit (# 21B), which is route 9w, and proceed south 5 miles. There is a Best Western (518-731-8100) & a Red Carpet Inn (518-731-2722) at the Coxsackie exit.

Coffee & Danish will be available at 10:00 AM with the meeting scheduled to be called to order at 11:00 AM. The president of the Columbia Chapter, John Helmeyer, has invited Miss Megan Elizabeth Wiegard, 16, of Hopewell Junction, NY who was recently elected as the President of the New York State Society of the Children of the American Revolution 2005-06. Miss Weigard will address the Board and those assembled during the course of the meeting.

The Dinner menu will be Tossed Green Salad, Assorted Dressings, Spinach Pie, Roast Beef with Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Chicken Marsala, Lasagna, Fried Scrod, and a Vegetable, Bread/Butter/Rolls, Apple Pie a la Mode, Coffee, Tea or Milk. Reservations are \$18.00 each, made payable to Columbia Chapter ESSAR and mailed to Alan D Coon, Secretary, 30 Mt Rutsen Road, Rhinebeck, NY, 12572-1133 by October 28, 2005. (845-876-5940). There will be a \$5.00 surcharge for those attending and not wishing to join us for Dinner. Chapter members & wives are invited to join us ■

Routines of a Revolutionary Soldier

The life of a soldier in a frontier camp or garrison often consisted of boring routine, and it could be lonely. Diversions consisted of simple games in the off-duty hours, like checkers and backgammon. Cards and dice were forbidden, but the men still used them on penalty of punishment if caught by the officers. The men also gambled. More strenuous activities like prisoner's base and dancing also took up some off-duty time. There was rarely any excitement at frontier fortifications, as there were few Indian conflicts during this period.

Little time was available for socializing and recreation, however. A soldier's day was rigidly structured and repetitive, much of it filled with parades, inspections, and drilling and marching with muskets.

When not busy marching and countermarching the men were kept busy with fatigue duties like policing the camp, cutting timber and splitting wood, building or repairing items, blacksmithing, maple sugaring, bringing water into camp, airing bedding, and digging new "sinks," or latrines. Another duty was sweeping the fort's chimneys, a task carried out by a non-commissioned officer and two privates on the mornings of the first and third Mondays of each month.

More responsible men were given more sensitive duties, like working in the hospital and caring for the sick. "A careful man will be appointed to take care of the Sick and an Orderly man will be allowed to do the Drudgery work of the Hospital," Col. John Francis Hamtramck of the 1st U.S. Infantry ordered in 1801. Other soldiers were detailed to act as servants, "waiters" or "batmen" to officers ("bat" being an archaic word for personal belongings and equipment).

Such responsible men were also assigned to instruct recruits. Col. Hamtramck directed that "the officer Commanding the Company" assign a recruit to...an old Soldier for a Comrade, who is qualified to instruct him in the duties of a Soldier; teach him to clean himself, arms & accoutrements...When he is Smartened up and completed as before directed he will be put on duty." A multitude of other duties awaited the hapless private, and idle hands and feet were never knowingly allowed in a military camp. Officers and sergeants were very creative in seeing that their men had little or no free time. Most fatigue duties rewarded the men with an extra gill (1/4 of a pint) of whiskey each day, one of the few

comforts these men could anticipate.

In a frontier fort, soldiers ordinarily lived in small, crowded barracks, or when on maneuvers slept five or six men in a tent we would call a pup tent today. In barracks many slept on bunks made of boards with straw on top as cushioning; others were lucky enough to have straw mattress ticks. Each soldier was issued one woolen blanket; most barracks bunks slept two soldiers on each level, so they could share their blankets.

The barracks were heated by open fireplaces, which were also where the men cooked their food. The fires further provided light on dark winter evenings. Most barracks and fort walls were built of logs chinked with mud, with stone fireplaces and log chimneys daubed with mud on the inside.

Cooking was allowed only in the kitchen areas of tent encampments or the fireplaces of rooms in a fort. The cook prepared the food to be consumed by his messmates at specific times of the day. Only two meals, breakfast and dinner (at that time the midday or noontime meal), were cooked. The evening meal consisted of leftovers and was eaten cold.

A good way to understand how a soldier lived during the period is to take a look at how his day was structured. Each of the day's events was heralded by an individual and recognizable call on the drum, sometimes accompanied by a fife. Larger garrisons might have full bands of musicians to call the men to their daily duties. The schedule was endlessly repetitive, and ran something like this:

1/2 hour before sunrise Musician's Call Sunrise Reveille
5 a.m. - 7 a.m. Drill - - - 8 a.m. Breakfast - - - 9 a.m. Provisions Issued and Morning Roll Call - - - 10 a.m. Sick Call, Daily Fatigue Duties Begin - - - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Music Practice for Musicians; Drill for Infantrymen - - - Noon Roll Call - - - 1 p.m. Dinner - - - 2 p.m. Fatigue Duties - - - 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Music Practice for Musicians, Drill for Soldiers - - - 6 p.m. Grand Parade of the Garrison, Reviewed by the Commanding Officer, for all Musicians and Soldiers - - - 7 p.m. Supper - - - 8 p.m. Retreat and Roll Call; Punishments Meted Out - - - 8:30 p.m. Tattoo or "retreat"; the Soldiers Must Return to their Tents or Huts. Inspection of Quarters - - - 9 p.m. Lights out

This routine varied slightly from garrison to garrison. In conjunction with rigid schedules like these, a fortification would probably fire an artillery piece at reveille and retreat, and hold a ceremony of raising a gar-

ison flag at sunrise and lowering and storing the flag at retreat.

Regular inspections were essential, according to Baron Von Steuben's manual for the U.S. Army, and included scrutinizing arms, ammunition, food, clothing, barracks, tents, and personal cleanliness. Drill was of paramount importance because the same orders and movements used on the parade ground were used in tactical situations and actual combat. Von Steuben's manual was specific about each motion of the drill, from the step and speed of march to the evolutions of great numbers of men on the battlefield.

In rotation with his regular duties, a soldier was expected to serve on guard. How frequently a soldier served on guard rather than participating in the usual round of daily events depended upon how many men were in the garrison and how big the perimeter was that needed guarding. Commanders preferred a perimeter about 300 paces from most camps. A unit of soldiers became the "guard" of the post for a 24-hour period.

During that time a detail (roughly a third) of this unit spent two hours on guard and four off, relieved in turn by the second and third details. Most posts had a specific guard house designated as the area where the guard unit lived during their 24 hours on duty. This was due to the fact that men were constantly coming and going every two hours, even during the middle of the night, and there was no reason to disturb the sleep of other soldiers in the barracks. Guards were posted on the even hours (8, 10, 12, 2, 4 o'clock, etc.) throughout the day and night. An average guard at Fort Bellefontaine consisted of two sergeants, three corporals and 21 privates.

In addition to fatigue and guard duties within military posts and camps across the country, small groups of men were often chosen for specific missions away from the post. These "details" might be formed for hunting, scouting, felling trees for firewood, carrying messages, or escorting people or provisions from place to place.

Such details would, for the most part, be a welcome relief from the general boredom of camp or garrison life and its grinding and seemingly never-ending routine. It is little wonder that men misbehaved often; and understandable why many privates were so willing to volunteer for the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The Corps of Discovery offered a chance for adventure and variety no army post could match. ■

COLUMBIA CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Columbia Chapter has made distribution of the Knight's Essay Contest guidelines to approximately 30 High Schools in a four county area.

On July 9th, we had an SAR information table in Hurley N.Y. at their Annual Stone House Day. As Chapter President, I was invited by the Minisink Chapter DAR. in Goshen N.Y. to attend their open



Chapter President John Helmeyer and Minisink Chapter NSDAR Regent Linda Burroughs at The Old Stone School House, Florida, NY

house at the Old Stone School House located in Florida N.Y. on August 13th. This School was built in the 1720's and used continuously as a School until 1939. On Nov. 15, 1939 the Minisink Chapter purchased it at Auction for \$750.00 Dollars. This old School has a very rich and interesting history prior to the Revolutionary War and until it's closing in 1939..

I want to thank Linda Burroughs, Minisink Chapter Regent and Alberta Kelsey, who provided the historical background on the School and also Alica Meola and Virginia Moore who invited me to the Open House.

In June the Columbia Chapter mailed a Survey to all it's members about the possibility of changing the name of Columbia Chapter to Mid Hudson Valley Chapter to better reflect the overall location of our membership. Oct. 1, 2005 marks the date of our Autumn Luncheon Meeting at the Sky Top Steak House in Kingston.

The November 5, 2005 Board of Managers meeting will be hosted by the Columbia Chapter. Details of the meeting can be found in a separate article in this issue. As Chapter President, I would like to encourage members of the Columbia Chapter to take advantage of the close proximity of the BOM Meeting and try to attend .

John M. Helmeyer Chapter President ■

ROCHESTER CHAPTER

At the chapter's annual meeting and picnic held at the Gypsum Mills Estates, Victor, on 13 August, service longevity pins for Compatriots with 25 or more years of membership were presented



President Steve Clarke presenting Good Citizenship Certificate and medal to Compatriot Daryl Verstrete

to: Barry B. Bisbee, 40 yrs.; Rev. Dr. Arthur B. Chappell, 111,40 yrs.; Henry R. Dutcher, Jr., Esq., 60 yrs.; William M. Hunt, 25 yrs.; Thomas A. Otis, 25 yrs.; Richard M. Popeck, 25 yrs., John A. Snell, 60 yrs., Charles R. White, 35 yrs., William W. Wilcox, 25

yrs.; Henry W. Williams, Esq., 25 yrs.; Louis P. Willsea, Jr., 30 yrs. The Chapter is proud of its long-time association with these men and is happy to recognize their commitment to the SAR.

Chapter President, Steve Clarke, was also pleased to present the Bronze Good Citizenship certificate and medal to Compatriot Daryl V. Verstrete, Jr., for his tireless efforts in behalf of our drive to locate and photograph all the gravestones for Revolutionary War Patriots in the six county area of New York served by the Rochester Chapter. Daryl has accomplished this goal for Wayne County, NY, and he has also been photographing the Civil War veterans' graves as well. Further, he has obtained and set several new grave-stones-provided by the Veteran's Administration-and done all of this at his own expense. Daryl's efforts contribute greatly to the ongoing project begun by Compatriots Mike Tunison and Alex Williams of the Chapter's Graves Committee.

Steve Clarke, President ■

George A. Lombart, Ph.D.

A Memorial Tribute

October 4, 1920 to July 6, 2005

On July 6, 2005, the Rochester Chapter of the Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution, lost a very good friend and dedicated Compatriot, George A. Lombart, Ph.D. He was a long time member and Past President of both the Rochester Chapter and the Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. He was presented a number of NSSAR medals since joining the society in 1976. The most significant of these was the Patriot Medal which was awarded him in 1987. Only a few short years ago he participated, as a representative of the Rochester Chapter, SAR, on the *Bob Smith Show* (a talk show on WXXI, one of Rochester's radio stations) in an appeal for a more in depth presentation of the American Revolution in high school curriculums. During much of his tenure as an SAR member he also ran the Knight Essay Contest at the state and chapter levels.

Compatriot Lombart, as reported in the July 7,2005 issue of the Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle*, "is survived by his wife of 38 years, Margaret; sons, Kenneth of Louisville and Allan (Julie) of Fairport; daughter, Suzanne Lombart (Robinson Harris) of Philadelphia; grandsons, Zachary of Fairport and Joshua of Bloomfield. He served in the Army Air Corps during WWII. He is a graduate of the U of R where he received his..." baccalaureate, masters and doctoral degrees. "After his retirement from the Rochester School District as a teacher, counselor and Dean of Students, he continued [his involvement in] his love of teaching by tutoring. He was Past President of the local, zone and NY State Retired Teachers Association; Past President of the local chapter and of the state organization of the Sons of the American Revolution; Past Commander of the American Legion Post 899, past Secretary of Phi Delta Kappa, and active in the VFW. He was active in the Boy Scouts, serving as Cub Master. . [and] Scout Master and served the Republican Party of Pittsford for many years. "

George will be missed by many. He was an active participant in every organization to which he belonged. We, at the Rochester Chapter, SAR, will especially miss his wise counsel and patient manner. His dedication, patience and demeanor were models we should all strive to emulate.

NEWTOWN BATTLE CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S REPORT

During our regular chapter meeting held in July we presented the SAR Fire Safety Commendation Award to Glen Cooper, a volunteer firefighter and instructor for over 43 years. Mr. Cooper gave a very interesting talk about his service and some of his most harrowing experiences. He was well deserving of this award.

The Chapter also congratulated and presented Membership Certificates to new members, Timothy L Tompkins and Daniel E. Deuel. Tim's Patriot Ancestor is James King, Jr. who served as a Private from Rhode Island. Also another Private serving from Rhode Island was Dan's Patriot Ancestor - Elijah C. Potter. Since our July meeting we have received notification from NSSAR that the following men have been approved as new members - Kyle A. E. Davis; Philmore M. Sondergaard; James L Sedore, Jr.; Paul S. Perine; and Raymond A. Perine. Their Patriot Ancestors respectively are - Caleb Hazen, Private, NY; Abner Gilbert, Private, CT; Frederick Sador/Sedore, Private, NY; Henry Perine, Private, NJ. We also have a new Dual Member who many of you know, Millard A. "Red" Fairley, Jr. Red is a Primary member with Rochester Chapter and has many years of SAR service under his belt. His Patriot Ancestors are, Isaac Larabee, Sergeant., ME; Nathan Libby, Private, ME; and Samuel Morrison, Private, ME. Red was also recently honored at the SAR Congress held in Louisville, KY this past July for his part in developing a new SAR Award to be presented to EMT personnel. CONGRATULATIONS to each of our new members and welcome to the SAR.

Newtown held their Annual Chapter Family Picnic at the Newtown Battlefield Park once again during the Revolutionary War Re-enactment weekend this past August. We had a good attendance with SAR members and DAR members from other area Chapters and, I believe, no one went away hungry. According to the count, we went through a total of 100 + hot dogs and hamburgs, 5 cases of soda, and 1 ½ cases of bottled water as well as the other "goodies" that each person brought in as a dish to pass. Chemung Valley Living History, which sponsors the event, did a fine job in providing us with a pavilion and parking within a short walking distance from the picnic tables. After the meal and handing out of door prizes, several of us went to work "manning" the Information Booth where we spread the word about the SAR. We spoke with prospective members and may have them as new members in the near future.

Several of us and our wives represented the Chapter and attended the DAR Constitution Week dinner hosted by the Chemung Chapter DAR on 15 Sep 2005. Our next regular Chapter meeting will be held at the Central Restaurant in Painted Post, NY on 15 Oct 2005 and our last scheduled event for the year is the Annual Chapter Christmas Party, also being held at the Central Restaurant on 19 Nov 2005. During this function we bring gifts that will be donated to the veterans at the VA Medical Center located in Bath, NY. Last year's presentation brought our total to over \$2500 in gifts and monetary donations since starting this project. I want to personally thank the members of Newtown Battle for all their help and contributions to this cause. You have made a special Christmas for members of our Armed Services and in a small way said "thanks" for all they have done for us.

Remember these dates and I hope to see you there; 15 Oct 2005 - Regular Chapter Meeting at the Central Restaurant - - 19 Nov 2005 - Chapter Christmas Party at the Central Restaurant.

My best to each of you and your families. Thanks for making our Chapter a great one.

William J Woodworth, Chapter President

SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER SUMMER ACTIVITIES

For the second year in a row the chapter participated in the Citizenship Ceremony at the Saratoga National Historical Park in Stillwater. Immediate Past Chapter President Duane Booth, who gave the welcoming address, was the chapter's representative on this year's organizing committee. The committee thanks chapter 2nd VP George Ballard and "Friends" member Doris Olszewski for the delicious home-baked cookies they made for the event.

Again this year there were at least 150 people in attendance, in addition to the candidates & their families. Many who came for the second year remarked that it was a very moving experience and one that made them proud to be in attendance. What better can one do to start their Independence Day than to come to the one of the area's most historic sites, join in the fellowship of the moment and greet America's newest citizens? The event again garnered excellent coverage from local press and television stations.

The event, which looks to become an annual event, is jointly sponsored by the Saratoga Battle Chapter; Saratoga Chapter, NSDAR; Friends of Saratoga Battlefield; Homeland Security's USCIS Albany Office and the Saratoga Battlefield staff. Participants this year were Assemblyman Roy McDonald - speaker; Assistant Park Superintendent Joe Finan - speaker; Bemis Heights Society, C.A.R - lemonade servers; Boy Scout Troop 6 from Glens Falls - color guard; Danielle McMullen - vocalist; Stillwater Town Supervisor Greg Connors - speaker; Ranger Joe Craig - colonial period toastmaster; Saratoga Battlefield Musket Team and the Sons and Daughters Fife and Drums - colonial music.

11th ANNUAL TURNING POINT PARADE

A small group of chapter members met in Schuylerville on the first Sunday of August to join in the 11th annual Turning Point Parade. The parade, which is always the first Sunday of August, was one of the biggest ever and was viewed by a large and enthusiastic crowd.

Again this year we were blessed with sunny skies and a light summer breeze that made for an enjoyable day. First VP and Treasurer Rich Fullam and Pete Lindemann carried our banner. They were followed by President Jonathan Goebel, dressed in Revolutionary military uniform carrying Old Glory. Following were marching members Dan Mead and Bill Loveday and riding with Carol Slocum, wife of PP Lewis Slocum, in her "Red Pony" were PP Duane Booth and 2nd VP George Ballard.

Submitted By Past President Duane Booth

1ST NEW YORK CONTINENTAL CHAPTER

1st New York Continental Chapter Founder, Charles Galbraith, Junior member, Gavin Galbraith, and Board member, John Hilliard attending the Annual Chapter Meeting at the Yale Club, New York City.



Continued Page 11



*1st New York Continental Chapter Annual Meeting - -
Yale Club, New York City - - June 13, 2005*

Left to Right - - President General, National Society, Sons of the American Revolution, Henry McCarl, 1st New York Continental Chapter President, Wesley Oler and Compatriot Henry Darlington.

The 1st New York Continental Chapter, ESSAR held it's Annual Meeting on June 13, 2005, at the Yale Club in New York City. President General and Mrs. Henry McCarl were on hand to help the chapter swear in their slate of officers and Board of Managers to help chapter President Wesley Oler bestow several special awards.

The first special award was a 50 year Membership Pin that was presented to Compatriot Henry Darlington, Jr., and the second was a War Service medal that was presented to captain Herbert Clarke, who is a member of the Chapter's Board of Managers. *Wes Oler, Chapter President* ■

LONG ISLAND CHAPTER

Hofstra University R.O.T.C. Awards

Thursday afternoon May 12th saw a very impressive awards ceremony held in the University Cultural Center Theater of the Axinn Library. Awards were presented to the Outstanding Corp of Cadets of the "Thundering Pride" Battalion and included presentations from such organizations as the American Legion, Veterans Alumni, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Military Order of the World Wars, National Defense Industrial Association, Reserve Officer's Association, Retired Officer's of Long island, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Society of the War of 1812, and The Daughters of the American Revolution.

This year the Long Island Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution presented the Silver R.O.T.C. Award to **Cadet Jason Newby** of Oregon. Cadet Newby was selected by his Commanding Officer because he fosters the principle of the "citizen-soldier", exemplified by the Minutemen of Revolutionary War days. This cadet was selected for having a high degree of merit with respect to leadership qualities, military bearing and general excellence. Upon graduation, Cadet Newby will be commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army.

The S.A.R. R.O.T.C. Medal has been approved by the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and the Air Force. The medal is struck on a circular planchet. The obverse shows a Minuteman holding a rifle and standing next to a plow, with the Liberty Bell in the background. It is inscribed with the letters "R.O.T.C." The reverse is inscribed "Awarded for Leadership, Soldierly Bearing and Excellence". The medal is suspended from a ribbon of the SAR Colors. A ribbon bar in the SAR colors is included, as is a certificate.

Submitted by David Shields ■



Columbia Chapter SAR Information Table at Hurley Stone School House Day - - July 9, 2005 Left to Right - - John M Helmeyer, Columbia Chapter President, Rodney S Andrews, Vice President, Lloyd M Loop, Jr., Registrar, and Donald L Schiro. At the left of the picture is a new SAR Banner purchased by the President and Vice President as a gift to the chapter ■

NEWS FROM THE FINGER LAKES CHAPTER

Some Revolutionary War Patriot Ancestors of Michael Lewis Tunison

On July 25, 2005 Michael Tunison treated a gathering of about 50 visitors in Interlaken to an energy packed and entertaining presentation of some of the area's patriot ancestors. Family names include Cole, Covert, Crisfield, Frisbie, Hall, King, Miller, Porter, Sawyer, Schooley, Sherwood and Tunison. The program was co-sponsored by the Interlaken Historical Society, The Chief Taughannock Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the newly formed Finger Lakes Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Using an overhead projector to display family trees, Michael demonstrated the interconnections of families in south Seneca County, all being his ancestors. Anecdotes about most of the families produced some laughs and also some sadness as we were reminded of the isolation and primitive conditions in which the early settlers lived.

In concluding, Michael presented a collection of "write-ups" of twenty of his Patriot Ancestors to the Interlaken Historical Society. The references for the "write-ups" are thoroughly documented providing a great resource for others researching their patriot ancestors. The Historical Society is grateful to Michael for sharing some of the information gathered during the seven years that he has been working on this project.

Michael Tunison graduated from Trumansburg High School and has degrees from Mohawk Valley Community College and the University of Rochester. He was a Quality Engineer and Manager for Kodak until retiring in 1998. He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, currently Vice-President of the Rochester Chapter.

Submitted by Alan Buddle, Finger Lakes Chapter ■

New Officers inducted into Oriskany Battle Chapter

At a ceremony held September 8th at Orchard Hall in Sauquoit, The Oriskany Battle Chapter of the Sons of The American Revolution inducted a new slate of officers, sworn in by outgoing President Norb Bankert. Since the early 1900's the Oriskany Battle Chapter has taken an active role in the area promoting knowledge and understanding of the American Revolution. The Chapter has grown considerably over the past two years and the knowledge and experience of the American Revolution the new officers bring, especially as it relates to the Mohawk Valley, will be an asset to both the Oriskany Battle Chapter and the community.

This past spring the following ROTC medals were awarded by the Oriskany Battle Chapter: ROTC Silver Medals were presented to Cadet Nicholas Callahan of Utica College at Syracuse University and Cadet Jason Holmes at Clarkson University. JROTC bronze medals were awarded to Cadet Benjamin Able at Notre Dame H.S., Cadet Bajro Buzaljko at Proctor H.S., and Cadet Tobias Gilbert at Rome Free Academy.

In June the Chapter participated in The Colonial Heritage Days held at Fort Herkimer Church. This event, organized by Oriskany Battle Chapter member Arthur Dunckel, is a three day event featuring battle re-enactments, colonial campgrounds, and

exhibits pertaining to the American Revolution. It featured re-enactors and Fife & Drum bands from across New York State and Pennsylvania.

The Oriskany Battle Chapter also took part in various wreath laying ceremonies throughout the area including the Oriskany Monument in Oriskany, Baron Von Steuben

Monument in Utica, and Colonel Peter Bellinger in Herkimer. The Chapter also supported the Syracuse Chapter by helping to man the booth at the New York State Fair in September. For more information on the Oriskany Battle Chapter, visit their website at www.oriskany SAR.org

Submitted by Norbert Bankert ■



Left to right, Former President, Norb Bankert, President Reverend Terry Sheldon, 1st Vice President Jerry Reed, 2nd Vice President Lt. Col. John Rhude, Treasurer Tom Foley, Registrar Col. Dana Roecker, and Secretary Daryll Gillette



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