



EMPIRE PATRIOT

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

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... AND THE STORY CONTINUES

The British were guided toward Wayne's camp by Tory farmers who had also given them the American password for that night: "Here we are and there they go." Use of the password allowed the British to approach American pickets without suspicion. And when the Americans then let their guard down the British would slide up to the pickets and slice them up with their bayonets. To further heighten secrecy, the British detained any citizen who happened to be out that night. They didn't want word of their advance leaked to Wayne.

Paoli Massacre:

Grey had pulled off a nearly perfect march in the dead of night. He had evaded or killed the outer sentries and save for the last-second warning of two vedettes — which came too late — no one had warned Wayne that Grey was on the way. Now the British General had his army poised on the eastern edge of the encampment ready to sink their bayonets into sleeping American flesh.

Two American sentries on horseback came upon the British and were able to fire their guns, escape, and ride back to warn the camp. They sped back to the sleepy soldiers shrieking, "Up, men, the British are on you." It was too late. With the British light infantry leading the way, the pickets guarding the camp's eastern perimeter were taken by surprise. Most paid with their lives.

At about 1 a.m., the British rushed wraithlike from the murky woods.

Again Andre: The piquet [guards on the perimeter of the camp] was surprised and most of them killed in endeavoring to retreat. On approaching the right of the Camp we perceived the line of fires, and the Light Infantry being ordered to form to the front, rushed along the line putting to the bayonet all they came up with, and, overtaking the main herd of the fugitives, stabbed great numbers and pressed on their rear till it was thought prudent to order them to desist.

The British had blown by the pickets guarding the camp's perimeter and bayonet-rushed the sleepy encampment. Once past the pickets, the sleepy or unprepared Americans had little time to gather their wits or weapons.

Yet another infantry officer later recalled the massacre this way in a letter to a friend: *We took a circuit in dead silence; about one in the morning fell in with a rebel vidette, who challenged three times and fired. He was pursued, but escaped. Soon after two foot sentries challenged and fired; these escaped also. We then marched on briskly. A picket fired upon us at the distance of fifteen yards, miraculously without effect. The unfortunate guard was instantly dispatched by the riflemen's swords. We marched on through a thick wood, and received a smart fire from another unfortunate picket — as the first, instantly massacred. We then saw their wigwams or huts, partly by the almost extinguished light of their fires and partly by the glimmer of a few stars, and the frightened wretches endeavoring to form. We then charged.*

Indeed, Wayne had attempted of form the "frightened wretches" into lines. The route the British took to get to the camp lay at a right angle to the Americans. Had Grey taken Wayne by total surprise, the British would have been able to easily rip into an undefensible position. But Wayne had barely enough time to try to form a line parallel with the enemy. He ordered his troops to "wheel by subplatoons," that is, move to their right to face the enemy head on. In this way he hoped to buy himself enough time to extricate both his soldiers and the four pieces of cannon he had with him. Wayne hoped to retreat west to where General Smallwood's Maryland troops were posted.

But the troops were not able to form properly, for the British were already upon them. The 1st Pennsylvanians pumped a volley toward the British, but their gun flashes only served to illuminate the soldiers. These flashes made them visible as lightning bugs on a soft summer's night.

The Charge

The British charged at the flashes, ripping bayonet holes into the deformed American line. The Americans gave way quickly. Many were cut to bits; others surrendered; yet others fled.

Colonel Richard Humpton's 2nd Brigade got the worst of it. According to Wayne, Humpton reacted slowly to his order to turn right. Then, as the army tried to exit toward the left, Humpton mistakenly spun right — right into the bayonets of the enemy. Worse yet, Humpton moved his men in front of the campfires. It was as if a spotlight had been shone on them. Gleaming bayonets ripped into their flesh and the Americans' screams filled the dark air.

...the Most Dreadful Scene I Ever beheld.

A British officer reported his impressions: *[General Grey] came to the head of the battalion and cried out "Dash on, light infantry!" and, without saying a word, the whole battalion dashed into the wood, and guided by the straggling fire of the picket, that was followed close up, we entered the camp and gave such a cheer as made the wood echo. The enemy were completely surprised; some with arms, others without, running in all directions in the greatest confusion. The light infantry bayoneted every man they came up with. The camp was immediately set on fire, and this, with the cries of the wounded formed altogether one of the most dreadful scene I ever beheld. Every man that fired was instantly put to death.*

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SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER SPONSORS CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

In marking our Nation's 230th Anniversary of Declaring our Independence, there were Naturalization Ceremonies for welcoming 18000 New Citizens at more than 150 locations throughout America.

On July 04th, 2006 for twenty of these new U.S. Citizens, originating from eight different nations, the Battlefield at the Saratoga National Historical Park (SNHP) set the stage for a memorable ceremony, in an historic setting, to recite the Oath of Allegiance.

Jointly sponsored by the National Park Service; Saratoga Battle Chapter, SAR; Saratoga Chapter, DAR; Friends of Saratoga Battlefield; and the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, this is the Third Annual Citizenship Ceremony to be held at the Park.

The program began promptly at 10:00am, led by Frank Dean, Superintendent of the SNHP as the Master of Ceremonies with his introduction of a musical selection by the Sons and Daughters Fife and Drum Corps. This was immediately followed by a Musket volley by the Saratoga National Historical Park Staff and volunteers, always properly attired.

The Boy Scouts from Troop 6 in Glens Falls presented the Colors, standing with the flags throughout the ceremony. As Broadalbin native Danielle McMullen sang our National Anthem, many in the assembled audience sang along with her, setting the stage for Jonathan Goebel, President of Saratoga Battle Chapter, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The new citizens were addressed by Stillwater Town Supervisor Greg Connors and separately by 112th District State Assemblyman Roy J. McDonald. Assemblyman McDonald has also spoken at the two prior ceremonies and says that he looks forward to this each year as a wonderful event, at a perfect setting, celebrating our past and looking to the future.

Marion Walter, Saratoga Chapter, DAR Regent, welcomed the new citizens and then Duane Booth, Registrar of Saratoga Battle Chapter, SAR led the group in reciting the American's Creed. James Barlow, representing the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield also presented welcome comments.

The Oath of Allegiance was administered by Frances Holmes, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (Albany,



L-R) Ray LeMay, George Ballard, Charles King, Charles Walter, Duane Booth, Jonathan Goebel, Peter Goebel, Rick Saunders & Jake Saunders



Volunteers & Battlefield Staff fire muskets to mark opening of the ceremony

NY) with presentation of Certificates following and presentation of gifts to these, our newest citizens, by Marie Burch, Friends of Saratoga Battlefield. Park Ranger, Joe Craig, dressed in character, led a toast to America with distribution of lemonade by members of the Children of the American Revolution.

Following a final musical selection by Danielle McMullen, the Scouts retired the Colors, and the crowd was treated to a second musket salute. Many of the families then busied themselves with individual photographs with some of the participants and sponsors, as a remembrance of this celebration of their new beginning as United States Citizens.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**Peter K Goebel, President
Empire State Society of The Sons of
The American Revolution**

Compatriots,

Greetings. Summer is over and the busy days of autumn are upon us. On the 4th of July, I was privileged to participate in the new Citizens Swearing In Ceremony at the Saratoga Battlefield and to join them in a toast to our country. On the 6th of July ESSAR members joined with NYSDAR members to ring the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange to celebrate the 230th Anniversary of our Declaration of Independence. Both of these events showed how the ESSAR works with the Daughters of the American Revolution to celebrate and to promote America's Heritage.

The Empire State Society had a very notable 2006 NSSAR Annual Congress in Dallas, Texas from 8 — 12 July. I accepted The Children of the American Revolution Activity Award and Streamer on behalf of our State Society, showcasing our sponsorship of, and those compatriots who so unselfishly work with the N.Y.S.S.C.A.R. **Help us share the lessons of our past with today's young minds.**

One ESSAR member received the Liberty Medal for the first time and four other ESSAR members received a total of eight oak leaf clusters for their Liberty Medals. We will continue to move forward and improve in the area of membership with hard work from our members. One ESSAR member was awarded the Gold Color Guard Medal. A Dual ESSAR member was awarded the Florence Kendall Medal for recruiting the largest number of new members for the year and another Dual ESSAR member was awarded the Minuteman Award for

providing outstanding service of an exceptional nature to the National Society. Dual ESSAR member, Charles F. Bragg was elected Genealogist General for 2006 — 2007. We look forward to many more great Congresses.

On 30 July 2006, I attended the Adirondack Mountain District, New York State Society Children of the American Revolution Annual Meeting at Oneonta, New York. I chaired the Atlantic Middle States Conference with Mid—Atlantic District Vice President General John Sinks, held at the Hotel Washington on 11 and 12 August. The attendees were quite pleased with the fine effort put on by our wonderful hosts, the District of Columbia Society. The ESSAR was barely edged out by the VASSAR for possession of the "Jersey Devil" Award, which is based on the registered members from each State Society and the mileage from the capital city of that state to the capital city of the host society's state.

From the Evening Parade at the Marine Barracks to breakfast overlooking the White House to lunch in the Senate Dining Room and being able to sit in the "well" of the House of Representatives guided by the Clerk of the House of Representatives to hearing after dinner remarks from former Vice Chief of Staff of the Army retired General John M. Keane, the weekend will never be forgotten. I encourage each of you who are able to attend the Annual Congresses and the Atlantic Middle States Conferences.

I was fortunate to be able to attend the Commemoration of the Battle of Newtown at the Newtown Battlefield and Sullivan's Monument on 26 August 2006 in Elmira, New York. It is always wonderful to be at the Newtown Battlefield. The next day, I participated in the Commemoration of the 230th Anniversary of the Battle of Brooklyn. The march up Battle Hill and the view of the Statue of Liberty across New York Harbor was indescribable. That week I was also able to attend the New York State Fair in Syracuse and to help man the Sons of the American Revolution Booth. Being able to speak with our members and with the Daughters manning their booth next door made the time fly by quickly.

There are many SAR projects which we can all get involved in. Each of us in the Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution must resolve to do as much as we possibly can for our country. There are so many ways that each compatriot can get involved and remain involved. Membership is one way. The Saratoga Battle Chapter won the Addams Cup in May for recruiting the most new members. **Can they**

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win it again next May? I challenge every other Chapter to all go out and get new members. Start new Chapters. This will help get new members. Two new Chapters are organizing. However, we have still not reached our goal. Every Chapter should be working on this. Lets get started.

There are other ways to get involved in the SAR. The Center for Advancing America's Heritage continues to be an important one we all can and all should support. This will perpetuate the numerous incidences of patriotism, courage, sacrifice, tragedy, and triumph of all patriots who achieved the independence of the American people. This is vital right now to our country and to the future. Our Nation's founders believed in their struggle against tyranny. The CAAH is relevant to all time and will inspire and strengthen each succeeding generation, as those generations are called upon to defend our freedoms both on the battlefield and in our public institutions throughout our great nation.

Each of us can and must do as much as possible as soon as possible. Many have already responded, but please delay no further. **It is very important that we obtain your expression of support for our SAR programs.** We are asking every member to, please, as a minimum, respond in writing supporting our existing programs by filling out, signing, and returning the post-paid card which was sent to you with this years

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The 44th Regiment had followed the light infantry into the American camp wielding terrifying bayonets. Then the 42nd Regiment followed setting fire to huts. A British officer reported, “As many of the enemy would not come out, chusing rather to suffer in the flames than to be killed by the bayonet.”

Another officer remembered: *The whole action was a “dreadful scene of havock — the shrieks groans shouting imprecations deprecations the clashing of swords and bayonets [with] no firing from us & little from [the Americans] except now & then a few scattering shots were horrible to witness.*

When Wayne saw the slaughter being inflicted, he formed his light infantry to cover his retreat. Miraculously, Wayne was able to prevent his four cannon from being captured. The Americans withdrew west toward White Horse Tavern and General Smallwood’s militia. Smallwood, however, had heard the sound of fighting and was bringing his men toward the battle along the Lancaster Road. Wayne’s retreating men ran smack dab into Smallwood’s creating yet another chaotic scene. Soldiers and militiamen fled in all directions. Wayne and Smallwood tried to rally the troops but to no avail.

Wayne and Smallwood gathered their troops near West Chester. Wayne wrote Washington a letter which put the best possible spin on the events of the night. He also commended all his officers for their behavior. Then the two generals went off to find Washington and the rest of the army.

General Grey, following orders from General Howe, returned to camp immediately after the raid was complete. The British set out early the next morning for the fords along the Schuylkill.

Next morning

The morning of September 21 was chilly and wet. Local farmers awoke to find a field of shredded and burned American bodies awash in blood. The Americans suffered greatly. The final count was 53 dead, about 100 wounded and 71 captured. Of the captured, 40 also had been wounded. Since the British had decamped the business of burying the dead was left to the farmers. The land on which the massacre occurred was owned by a Tory who denied the Americans permission to bury their dead there. Tradition holds that the Americans were buried in a common hillside trench overlooking the battlefield.

The fact that the raid occurred at night and involved the dreaded bayonet soon gave rise to rumors that the fight had been a massacre and that the British had bayoneted many men who were trying to surrender.

After the massacre, the following letter, supposedly written by a Hessian soldier was circulated widely. Historians recognize both that there were no Hessians involved at Paoli and that 53 were killed. It is widely assumed that the following was American-created propaganda. *What a running about barefoot, and half clothed, and in the light of their own fires. These showed us where to chase them, while they could not see us. We killed three hundred of the rebels with the bayonet. I stuck them myself like so many pigs, one after another, until the blood ran out of the touch-hole of my musket.*

American propagandists used the Paoli Massacre to rouse anti-British sentiment. Americans thought that bayonets were barbaric. It will not be until Valley Forge that Americans are taught to fight

with bayonets. Further, night raids were relatively rare adding to the general horror. Burning of huts gave rise to rumblings that the Americans were burned and bayoneted in their sleep. All this, and rumors that the British killed Americans trying to surrender were shocking.

The British action at Paoli would even influence their own thinking. Two weeks later at the Battle of Germantown a group of besieged British soldiers locked themselves in a house and faced almost certain death rather than to come out and surrender. They were worried that Wayne’s men would offer them no quarter after what happened at Paoli.

Charges Filed

Colonel Humpton filed charges against Wayne claiming that Wayne had received word of the coming attack, but failed to make “a Disposition till it was too late.” A court of inquiry brought in a verdict of “Not Proven” which left Wayne’s reputation on the line. Wayne demanded a court-martial to clear his name.

At the court-martial which lasted four days, Wayne testified that:

A Mr. Jones, an old gentleman living near where we were encamped, came to my quarters between nine and ten o’clock at night, and informed me before Colonels Hartley, Broadhead and Temple, that a servant boy belonging to Mr. Clayton had been taken by the enemy and liberated again, who said that he had heard some of their soldiers say that they intended to attack me that night. I immediately ordered out a number of videttes in addition to those already planted, with direction to patrol all the road leading to the enemy’s camp. I also planted to new picquets, the one in front of a blind path leading from the Warren to my camp, and the other to the right, and in the rear which made on that night not less than six different picquets. I had, exclusive of these, a horse picquet under Captain Stoddard, well advanced on the Swedes’ Ford Road, being the very way the enemy marched that night. But the very first intelligence which I received of their advancing was from one of the videttes which I sent out in consequence of the timely notice from Mr. Jones, had only time to go about a mile before he met the enemy. Immediately on his return the troops were all ordered to from, having been warned to lay on their arms in the evening. At this time it was raining and in order to save the cartridges from wet, I ordered the soldiers to put their cartouch-boxes under their coats. This, gentlemen, does not look like a surprise [since] we were prepared either to move off or to act as the case might require. The tribunal declared that Wayne had done “everything that could be expected from an active, brave and vigilant officer.” He was acquitted with the “highest honor.”

The March to Germantown

After the Paoli Massacre, something akin to a chess game ensued, but with Howe and the British controlling the board. The British army moved to Valley Forge which forced Washington to protect either Philadelphia or his supply base at Reading — he could not protect both. Washington chose to protect Reading which allowed the British a clear path to the capital. Once it became clear that Philadelphia was in grave danger of falling to the British, a panic gripped the city. Rumors that the British would burn, pillage, and plunder galloped along the streets. Patriots moved out, businesses closed down, and the Liberty Bell was removed to Allentown for safekeeping.

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Lord Charles Cornwallis

On September 26, Lord Cornwallis led a resplendent procession of Grenadiers, Dragoons, and artillery into Philadelphia.

When word reached Benjamin Franklin in Paris that Philadelphia had fallen to the British, the wise statesman rhetorically asked, “Howe has Philadelphia, or does Philadelphia have Howe?” Franklin recognized that occupying Philadelphia would pose a major logistical nightmare.

Of the residents who remained in Philadelphia, some were hopeful, some scared, and all wondered what would happen. Though the Tory sympathizers greeted Cornwallis with “acclamations,” many would soon be displaced from their houses and all would be forced to pay exorbitant prices for food.

Meanwhile, Washington, humiliated that the British had taken the capital, but buoyed by the performance of his troops at Brandywine, prepared a major offensive. His target was Germantown, a village five miles north of Philadelphia. Howe had posted the bulk of the British army there because the British Commander in Chief thought it was a safe spot to keep an eye on Washington. He was wrong.

The Chess Game

General Howe had two choices. He could capture the capital city of Philadelphia, with its political and social benefits, or he could capture the supply depot at Reading, depriving the Americans of their primary source of ammunition and ammunition manufacture. This would have great military benefits for the British. Howe would force Washington to choose which to protect. Washington, meanwhile, was trying to discern which target was Howe’s goal.

The first move was Howe’s. He marched to Valley Forge and from there spread his men along the Schuylkill River. Tents stretched from Fatlands Ford (near Valley Forge) in the east, to Gordon’s Ford (Phoenixville) in the west. If Howe wanted to attack Reading, he would use Gordon’s Ford. If his destination was Philadelphia, he would use Fatlands Ford.

Washington was in trouble. His men were exhausted, having just returned from a tiring three-day ammunition-gathering mission at Reading Furnace. The trip was taken after most of their cartridges and powder had been ruined during the Battle of the Clouds.

Further, Howe’s arrayment of British troops along the river baffled and hamstrung Washington — he just couldn’t tell which way they were headed. Washington personally rode to Fatlands Mansion, a home on the north side of the river to see if he could decipher what the British were up to. From his position he was able to see by telescope all the way down the British line to Cornwallis’s camp at Gordon’s Ford. Washington still could not gain an idea of British intentions.

He observed that Howe had wisely spread his troops out along the river so the Americans couldn’t possibly defend both fording points. Howe probably preferred to take Philadelphia, although he seemed quite willing to attack Reading, if Washington elected to defend the capital. So, Howe had a bridge constructed at Gordon’s Ford to encourage Washington to believe that his goal was Reading.

Washington Defends Reading

Washington chose to defend Reading. He ordered General Sullivan to send troops to block fords along the upper Schuylkill. He reminded Sullivan “not to neglect such fords as the country people tell them are difficult, because at such places the enemy will be most likely to pass.” Washington did not want a reprise of Brandywine, where the advice of locals about fords contributed to his defeat in battle.

Again the British and Hessians antagonized a reasonably docile population, losing more friends, gaining the unfavorable decision of neutrals, and influencing the result of the war.-Joseph Jackson, historian

Meanwhile British soldiers had a grand time plundering houses and farms in the countryside. Despite orders from Howe not to pillage, the troops found the area irresistibly ripe pickings. They took military caches and what food they could find.

Howe Takes Philadelphia

On September 22nd, Howe discerned that the Americans had evacuated their camp and had moved west to defend Reading — precisely what he had hoped Washington would do. Though Reading was a tempting target, Howe now had an uncontested path into the unprotected capital of Philadelphia.

Washington, who had already moved west, tried the ruse of leaving campfires burning in order to fool the British into thinking the Americans were still in the area. But by this time in the war, both generals were starting to catch wise to the other’s tricks. Howe was not fooled.

Howe was wary and sent Jagers across the Schuylkill at both Gordon’s and Fatlands Fords — just in case Washington had something up his sleeve. Once across though, the Jagers met only token opposition from local militia.

At midnight, Howe moved all his men to Fatlands Ford and marched them across in water that was barely over a foot deep. The entire army had crossed the river by morning. They encamped in Norristown, a village between Philadelphia and Washington’s army. Washington could do nothing to save Philadelphia.

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Howe Sends 3k to Philadelphia; Keeps 9k in Germantown

Howe was looking forward to the pomp and circumstance of occupying an enemy's capital city.

After resting in Norristown on the 24th, Howe moved his 12,000 troops into Germantown on the 25th and ordered Lord Cornwallis and 3,000 men to primp themselves for their triumphal entry into the capital city the following day.

Howe would keep 9,000 troops with him in Germantown and establish this defensible position as his buffer between Washington's troops and Philadelphia.

A 12-year-old resident of the village left his impressions of the British army moving into Germantown. *Like a vast machine in perfect order, the army moved in silence, there was no display of colours, not a sound of music. There was no violence and no offense. Men occasionally dropped out of line, and asked for milk or cider.*

Philadelphia's Tories Prepare

The Tories who remained in Philadelphia were worried and concerned. How would the British treat their loyal Colonial cousins? Would they burn houses? Would they quarter in houses? How long would they stay?

In Philadelphia, Joseph Galloway, influential Tory and friend of Howe, tried his best to make the city pretty. Streets were cleaned. Sentinels were ordered to be on the lookout for Whigs who might try to burn houses. Indeed, two men were arrested after confessing incendiary intentions.

Galloway tried to calm a city that was in turmoil. He ordered Thomas Willing "to inform the inhabitant to remain quietly and peaceably in their own dwellings, and they should not be molested in their persons and property.

But those who remained in Philadelphia had good reason to be scared. Congress had long ago departed for York. The beloved State House Bell (Liberty Bell) was packed off to Allentown (the Americans didn't want the British melting it down to make bullets). Many had seen lifelong friends leave.

On the 24th, they had been confronted by a band of American soldiers led by Alexander Hamilton, seeking to remove all items of value. He requisitioned, "with force if necessary, blankets, horses, shoes and every other article" of use that could be carried away. *The inhabitants of this place were threatened with great inconvenience and distress, thro want of provision and necessaries, for the country; of which the rebel army had left it very bare and destitute, having at their departure, a few days before the British forces arrived not only carried off almost every thing of that nature, except only what was immediately wanted for the present use of the inhabitants, taken every boat and vessel in the harbour, under pretence that if they were left, they might be serviceable to their enemies.* -Robert Morton—

The March to Germantown:

Lord Cornwallis, dressed in a scarlet coat with gold lace, led a splendid procession of 3,000 British and Hessian dragoons. At 11 A.M., they marched down Second Street amidst the "acclamation of some thousands of inhabitants mostly women and children." Following Cornwallis were a group of Tories who had earlier fled the city.

The marchers left a great impression. The Hessians, wrote one Philadelphia, "have terrific mustachios" and the British had "a tranquil look and dignified experience." But it was a bare city the British captured.

The Rebel Party was carrying off almost every thing, which they thought might be of use to the English army besides what they apprehended might be wanted by themselves which they chiefly took from the Quakers, and such as least favoured them; as blankets, carpets, cloathing, etc. They likewise took away all the lead and leaden pipes and all the bells in the city except one; and they drove off with them about 4000 head of fat or feeding cattle from the island meadows around the city, with most of the horse they could get, leaving the city and remaining inhabitants in much straight and destitute; they likewise cut the banks of the meadows, and laid them under water having seemingly done all the mischief in their power before their departure. -

British Captain John Montresor

The British began the business of fortifying. Barracks were built. Troops were posted at various points about the city. Cornwallis ordered batteries erected along the waterfront to deal with the pesky Pennsylvania navy.

The British would also soon establish a government with Joseph Galloway acting as police commissioner and another Tory, Samuel Shoemaker, named mayor. They wanted the city to resume all signs of normalcy. But in reality, the British would be in charge all along, much to the chagrin of the puppet politicians. Soon no one would be able to control the reckless behavior of cooped up troops.

Meanwhile, those true to the patriot cause remained active. Patriots were sent into Philadelphia "pretending to be excellent friends to government." They would later send out reports on British actions and movement.

Meanwhile, Washington, humiliated that the British had taken the capital, but buoyed by the performance of his troops at Brandywine, prepared a major offensive. His target was Germantown, a village five miles north of Philadelphia. Howe had posted the bulk of the British army there because the British Commander in Chief thought it was a safe spot to keep an eye on Washington. He was wrong.

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DUES REMINDER

The Society's 2007 dues billing is in full swing and by now most of you have received your invoice. If you have paid your dues your chapter and society officers thank you. If you have put your invoice aside, we remind you that your remittance is due by December 15, 2006. Please don't forget to mail your bill and consider mailing it now before the holiday rush. Chapter treasurers must remit to the state treasurer by January 2, 2007. Remittances received after that date will be considered late and those members will be reported "dropped" and processed as reinstatements after National reporting is complete.

The Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest

The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on the NASSP National Advisory List of Contests and Activities for 2006-2007.

The Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest is open to all students attending home schools, public, parochial, or private high schools who are in their sophomore, junior or senior year of study during the contest year.

Purpose Of The National Contest

- To bring American History to the high school student and focus on events of today.
- To draw an intelligent relationship between the past and the present.
- To clearly demonstrate freedom of opportunity as a basic right of our national heritage.
- To place a positive emphasis on the plans of our founding fathers.
- To emphasize justice under law in the free society.

Official Contest Rules

The contest will be held in preliminary round(s) by state societies and/or chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution to select one winner from each participating state. In districts where no state society sponsors an entrant, a district entry is permitted. Each participating state society or district should provide information regarding the contest to senior high school, parochial, private and home-schooled speech and/or history teachers and principals or counselors as early as possible. The contest is open to all students of the sophomore, junior and senior classes in the public, parochial, private and home schools within the jurisdiction of the sponsoring state society or district. The oration must be original of not less than five minutes or more than six minutes. The subject shall deal with an event, personality, or document pertaining to the Revolutionary War and show a relationship to America today. The oration must be essentially the same as the submitted manuscript. Notes and props (including military uniforms) may not be used in the presentation. The state society or district establishes the date and deadlines for its contest allowing adequate time to submit its winner as an entrant in the national competition. **(For 2007 the deadline is June 15th)** Form A & B (rev. 9/05) (National) must be received by the National Chairman by the deadline. Before the chapter winner competes in the state contest, a copy of the oration, a photograph and biographical sketch of the entrant, and the completed Form B-Rev 9/05 should be mailed to the state chairman following the chapter contest. Form A (Rev. 9/05)(State) will be sent by the Chapter Chairman to the State Chairman. At Congress the NSSAR will furnish awards and give recognition to all orators who participate in the national preliminary and final contests. Expenses involving lodging, meals, and transportation to, at, and from the NSSAR Congress may be borne by the sponsoring state society or district. Chaperon for the entrant may be provided by the state society or district. During the presentation of orations at chapter, state-district, or national contest, no applause is permitted until all orators have finished speaking. During the contest, no private videotaping or flash picture taking will be allowed. By action of the 1985 Congress, all judges in the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest must be members of the SAR. The judges will

select the winners by the following criteria: A. Composition; B. Delivery; C. Significance; D. History; E. General Excellence and F. Time allocated for delivery. The contestants must agree that the interpretation of rules and the decisions of the NSSAR and its judges shall govern without reservation. The first place winner at the national level of the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest may not compete in its future competitions. The first place National winner is expected to attend the youth awards luncheon the day after the final competition.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:

First Place.....	\$3,000
Second Place.....	\$2,000
Third Place.....	\$1,000
The above winners also receive an Olympic-size medal.	
All other finalists.....	\$300
All other national Contestants.....	\$200

The winner of the state or district contest may receive expenses toward their trip to compete in the national contest. The state society or district may give a cash award and/or an Olympic-size medal. ■

Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Scholarship

Open to all Eagle Scouts who are currently registered in an active unit and have not reached their 19th birthday during the year of application. (The application year is the calendar year, 01 Jan. to 31 Dec.) The year that Eagle was awarded is not restricted. College plans do not need to be completed in order to receive the cash scholarship. Three cash scholarship awards are given:

- As the National First Place winner - \$8,000.00;
- Runner-up - \$4,000.00;
- 2nd runner-up - \$2,000.00.

You may apply more than one year if you meet the age requirements but no more than \$8,000.00 total may be granted to any one Eagle Scout.

Entrants need to complete only one application — the one for the chapter competition. If it is a winner it is then used for the state competition, and if it is a winner again it is used for the national competition. The application consists of:

1. The two page application form
2. The Four Generation ancestor chart.
3. The 500 word essay Prizes and recognitions may also be awarded at the SAR Chapter and State levels.

Note: Applications are accepted during a calendar year for Scholarships to be awarded in the Spring of the following year. Your State Chairman can give you specific deadlines for receipt of applications at Chapter and/or State levels. The competition is conducted in three phases, local (Chapter), State (Society), and National. The competition is usually entered through the Chapter level. In some cases, the competition may be entered at the State level. You may not enter at the National level. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: *In addition to the Knight Essay contest, here are 2 other scholarship contest for High School students and Eagle Scouts to consider.*

The President's Corner - Cont'd. from Page 3

balloting materials. If you no longer have the card, please contact me, or the State Secretary, or your Chapter President, to obtain another card.

Your support in this manner will help to attract grants for the CAAH from sources with aims similar to ours. This is a relatively painless expression of support for the CAAH. I thank those of you who have already returned them. The Saratoga Battle Chapter leads the way in this area and is the only Chapter with over ten cards returned. Lets get the other Chapters to catch them. Results in this area with pay off in great benefits for the SAR and for our nation. Help us to ensure that the future may learn from the past.

Very special thanks again go to those compatriots who contributed financially to the CAAH. Some do not want to do this and at the same time, if you feel that you do not want your donations to leave New York State, the Empire State Society will gratefully accept your tax deductible gift to support the programs, aims, and objectives of the Sons of the American Revolution in New York State. Make your checks out to the **Empire State Society Sons of the American Revolution** and return them to the State President marked for the ESSSAR. These can also be returned with your dues. Thank you all again.

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

I look forward to another good year with our state officers and with our Board of Managers, serving with you, and to your contributions to our Society, the Sons of the American Revolution, and to our nation. See you all at our next meeting. In the words of Thomas Jefferson,

"We confide in our strength, without boasting of it; we respect that of others, without fearing it". We will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail.

We remain dedicated to the victory of the United States of America over all of her foes, both foreign and domestic.

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

NEWTOWN BATTLE CHAPTER

Although the weather seemed as though it would cause some problems for this year's Annual Chapter picnic at Newtown Battlefield State Park, everything worked out in our favor and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves as well as having a wonderful selection of foods. Along with members and family from Newtown Battle Chapter, we had guests from Binghamton, Finger Lakes, Rochester Chapters. 2 DAR Chapters were represented, and members of the newly formed Sgt. Christopher Pusateri All Airborne Chapter. All in all we had between 45-50 attendees and several others came just after the picnic supplies were starting to diminish. I want to thank all who attended and hope you all enjoyed you day. As far as I know, no one was "taken hostage" this year by the "enemy" who were roaming the area and involved in several skirmishes with the Colonial Troops during this year's Revolutionary War Weekend Event.

A special ceremony was planned at Knoll Cemetery on 02 Sep 2006 to honor those Patriots who were the first to die during the Battle of Newtown, but was postponed due to heavy rains and wind. It was rescheduled for 16 Sep 2006 and gravestones were obtained from the Veterans Administration to formally mark the gravesites of these fallen heroes. The Knoll Cemetery is located on the very battlefield where these men died. I understand that most Patriots were not buried on the battlefields where they fell so these gravesites are rather unique and locating these sites was a major accomplishment in itself. We have also purchased, through donations from several societies, gravestones to mark the graves of the wives of other Patriots buried in this cemetery. They are descendants of Compatriot Samuel Pulford (Chapter Treasurer), Compatriot Sheldon Robinson (Chapter Board of Managers Chairman), and Kae Smith (Chemung Chapter, DAR Regent). We will also re honoring an Indian Maiden named Falling Feather (other records state her name was Falling Leaf) who was the daughter of Chief Com Planter and was the housekeeper of Patriot Waterman Baldwin. She is buried with the Patriots and their wives in the Knoll Cemetery.

Our next regular Chapter meeting will re held 21 October 2006 at the Central Restaurant in Painted Post at 11:30 AM. If you are in the area around that time, stop in and share a meeting with us. We are in the planning stages for our Annual Chapter Family Christmas Party in which we collect gifts that are then presented to the veterans at the Bath VA Medical Center. It's just a small way of our saying "thanks" to them for what they have done to give us the freedom we enjoy.

We also experienced an special event that was held in Elmira during the same weekend (25-27 Aug 2006) as the Revolutionary War Event and that was the Moving Vietnam Memorial Wall. This Wall is a 3/4 replica of the actual Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington. The truck carrying it was escorted from Painted Post to Eldridge Park in Elmira by several police agencies and a cavalcade of over 300 motorcycles - many of them Vietnam Veterans themselves. There were Honor Guards from many organizations and a fly over of two F-16 jets from Syracuse Air National Guard during a very emotional opening ceremony. One of our newest Chapter members, Compatriot Art Smith, was very instrumental in volunteering his services to provide 160 "readers" who each read approximately 200 names of those men and women listed on the Wall. I was honored to represent the SAR and asked to begin the first reading at 11:20AM on Friday which continued as each reader took their turn. Every 20 minutes, until 4 PM Sunday afternoon when the last name of those fallen heroes was read - over 58,000. Also at another section of the field where the Wall was being displayed were 10,000 American Flags representing all those servicemen and women who had died from New York and Pennsylvania since 1960. A special burial vault was available for all the items, notes from loved ones, gifts, memorable items, an even a Purple Heart Medal which another Vet left for his "buddy". These items were all collected, placed in the vault, and will re buried at Eldridge Park. Elmira was the only city in New York State this year to have this memorial event available to the public. Hundreds of volunteers, like Compatriot Smith, made this all possible and since I had a neighbor boy who I grew up with and is listed on the Wall, it had a very special meaning to me.

William J Woodworth, President ■



L to R, the Old Mill Cemetery work crew: Shirley Burris, Compatriot David Grosvenor, Compatriot Daryl Verstrete, Jr., Sandy Hopkins, Holly Naused, Nancy Nevelizer and the junior crew supervisors.

ROCHESTER CHAPTER, ESSAR

About a year and a half ago it was brought to the attention of the Rochester Chapter that the gravestones in the Old Mill Cemetery in Sodus, Wayne County, NY, had been pulled up and laid flat by town workers to make mowing easier. Many of the stones marked the graves of people who were veterans of the Revolutionary War and most of their tones had sunk into the ground, many were cracked or otherwise damaged, and some were buried under years of decomposed grass clippings. A large portion of Sodus's early history was being lost.

When Compatriot Daryl Verstrete, chairman of the Rochester Chapter's Graves Research Committee, brought this to the attention of the Chapter, the Board of Managers directed Chapter President Steve Clarke to investigate the situation and bring it to the attention of the proper local authorities. The situation fell squarely into the lap of Steve Leroy, Sodus Town Supervisor. He immediately saw the nature of the problem and set to work with the Rochester Chapter and the Sodus Town Historian, Sandy Hopkins, to correct it.

The first thing that had to be done was to locate and uncover all of the old stones, clean them and record the data they had inscribed on them. This information was then compared to the data held by the Town Historian and the information held in SAR and DAR records in order to verify the accuracy of all of it. Of course, the information on the gravestones was given top priority. It was then necessary to determine which of the existing stones could be

reinstalled and used and which could not.

For those that were too badly damaged, new stones had to be ordered from the Veteran's Administration. The VA will supply at no charge a new stone where one never existed or a replacement marker for those stones badly worn or broken for any veteran of any war in which the United States has participated. The markers can be horizontal slabs or vertical markers. The local authorities are required to provide bases and installation labor for each marker. Compatriot Verstrete then set about ordering 17 markers.

Working with Steve Leroy again, it was arranged through the Sodus Town Highway Department to take delivery of the stones and to deliver them to the Old Mill Cemetery when all was prepared for their installation. The concrete bases were poured, and a work crew for installing the markers was organized.

The crew consisted of Daryl Verstrete, Jr., Amanda Verstrete, Sandy Hopkins, Shirley Burris, Dave Grosvenor, Holly Naused, Sodus Boy Scouts, the Wayne County Probation Dept., Robert Mead, and other helpers. The installations were completed on 1 September 2006. It was a big job as the stones weighed a total of 2,210 pounds.

A formal dedication ceremony is planned for the spring. The Rochester Chapter of the SAR is delighted to have restored some of Sodus's early history and is deeply appreciative of the help from all of the officials of the Town of Sodus. Our history is precious and deserves our best efforts to preserve it for future generations.



ORISKANY BATTLE CHAPTER



THE 229TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF ORISKANY

The 229th anniversary of the Battle of Oriskany was celebrated on August 6, 2006. The celebration began with the introduction of Glenda Gleave and the unveiling of her painting Patriot Dreams. This painting shows a sober moment of decision in the life of a true American patriot, Henry Bellinger, age 13, in the year 1777. Henry was the eighth child and third oldest son of Johannes Bellinger and Maria Magdalene Klock. When he was only thirteen years old his father and his two older brothers joined the Tryon Militia.

All three men died at the Battle of Oriskany, leaving Henry at home as the oldest son to look after his mother and eight other sisters and brothers. Henry, once he reached his fourteenth birthday, could enlist as well but his mother pleaded with him to stay at home and help until at least his eighteenth birthday. His younger brother would then be old enough to tend the farm.

The painting shows young Henry dressed with a gun in hand ready to serve his country. His descendants will always be grateful that he stayed home until his brother could take up the responsibility of tending the farm.

The artist, Glenda Gleave, is a descendant of young Henry Bellinger. This painting was purchased for the sum of \$20,000 and will be hung in the Oriskany Battlefield State Historical Site.

Following the unveiling of the painting, the Call to Colors was sounded followed by the Troop of the Colors. Participating were the Fort Stanwix Guard, the Oneida Nation's Living History Unit, several Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Oriskany Battle Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. The United States of America's flag was raised, followed by

the flag of the Oneida Nation and the United Kingdom's flag. The Pledge of Allegiance was made and the American flag was lowered to half-staff, followed by the Oneida Nation's flag and the United Kingdom's flag. All three flags would remain at half-staff for twenty-four hours.

Prayers for the fallen included the Oriskany Collect and the Iroquois Prayer. Thoughts of the day were made by the artist and descendant, Glenda Gleave, Brian Patterson, Bear Clan of the Oneida Nation, Doug George, spoke for the British Allied Forces and Nancy Deryntenaere for the State Historic Site.

Presentation of wreaths and Native America Ceremonial Offerings were made. A Salute to the Fallen with three volleys from the Fort Stanwix Guard and war whoops from two members of the Oneida Nation were made. The celebration concluded with the Iroquois Song of Condolence and the promise to return in 2007. About a hundred and fifty people Attended the anniversary activities.

"If there is no peace, it is because we have forgotten we belong to each other." Mother Theresa.

Submitted by The Rev. Terry L. Sheldon,

President, Oriskany Battle Chapter, SAR ■

WESTCHESTER- PUTNAM CHAPTER

In July the chapter was recognized at the meeting of the Yorktown historical society for our contribution to the commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Pines Bridge in June. We had worked through National to find a descendant of Colonel Christopher Greene, killed in the battle, to take part. Christopher Greene Covell, son of Rhode Island Society member Walter Covell was present for the festivities. The meeting featured a discussion of the just published book, The Nasty Affair at Pines Bridge, which included an introduction by Lincoln Diamant, a local historian and author. Mr. Diamant was making his final local appearance at the meeting before moving to Maine.

August marked the 225th anniversary of the Washington-Rochambeau march through Westchester enroute to Yorktown. Reenactors retraced the route taken by the French and American armies from Southern Westchester County to the crossing point of the Hudson at Kings Ferry. Lectures, reenactments and other festivities were held on August 25-26 near the crossing point.

The chapter's Fall Luncheon meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 7, 2006 at the Brasserie Swiss Restaurant in Ossining. Our guest speaker will be Theora Pierce Hahn, sister of Compatriot Raymond Hahn, speaking on John Jay, Our Most Underrated Founder for the Glorious Cause.

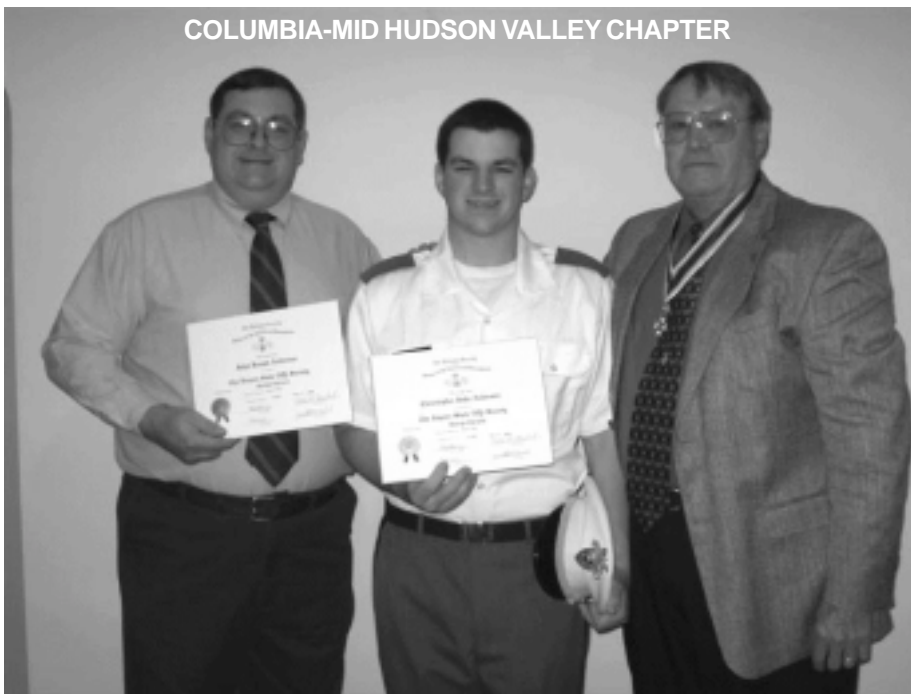
Kenneth Stevens, President ■

NEW ESSAR CHAPTER

We are pleased to announce the chartering of 2 SAR new chapters within the Empire State Society. The first was Valcour Battle Chapter in the Adirondack region and the most recent is Schoharie Leathstocking Chapter in that area of the state. Welcome aboard Compatriots. We wish you well and hope to see your presence at our meetings. ■

BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING

The next Empire State Society Board of Managers meeting will be held November 18, 2002 In Rome NY at the Windham Hotel just off exit 35 of the New York State Thruway. More information will be available from Chapter Presidents. ■



The Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter meeting was held October 7th at the Red Hook Inn in Red Hook, NY. Many members and their spouses celebrated the Chapter's 35th anniversary. The introduction of four of the original members of the Columbia SAR Chapter in 1971 was as follows: Robert L. French, Charles E. Barnard, Rodney Gage and Charles R. Nichols. Past presidents, Mr. Gage (1972), Mr. Nichols (1973) and Mr. French (1978), were also recognized with pins and certificates.

John J. Anderson and his son, Christopher, were announced as new members. A private ceremony was conducted at their home on September 4th in Poughkeepsie by Rodney S. Andrews, President. Being a cadet at West Point, Christopher and his father were unable to attend the meeting. (photo in this article). At the conclusion of lunch, everyone enjoyed a cake decorated with "35th Anniversary". The presentation of "Years of Service" pins and certificates were then given to: Charles E. Barnard, Robert L. French and William T. Shepherd, 35 years and Lloyd M. Loop, 25 years.

Treasurer Alan D. Coon reported on our Chapter's involvement at the Dutchess County Fair in August. Al's wife, Pat, and her sister members of the Chancellor Livingston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Dutchess County, setup an information booth at the fair. A letter was written by President Andrews to Lida Traver-Landy, Regent, and Nancy Kelly, Registrar, thanking them for generously letting us join them. A special thank-you was given to Pat Coon who suggested the idea at the April meeting.

The rewritten and updated Chapters By-Laws were ratified by the attending members. A copy will be sent to each member of our Chapter. A proposal was given by President Andrews on setting up an acknowledgment program for donations to our Chapter. Recently we have received some "In Memory" donations and want to thank loved ones for their generosity.

There was a discussion that the Chapter should begin using the internet for communicating with its members. Of the 35 mem-

bers, 29 have email addresses and we all feel that the expense of postage and stationery is depleting our limited budget. The members who don't have access to the internet will still receive hard copy of all the necessary mailings. The minutes and other documents of the October meeting will be sent out by internet.

The following committee chairmen were announced: George & Stella Knight Essay Contest, William T. Shepherd; Eagle Scout Essay Contest, John J. Anderson; and Nominations for 2007-2009, Donald L. Schiro. Donald L. Schiro will be replacing Lloyd Loop who will be leaving the area in the spring of 2007. The members expressed appreciation for Lloyd's continuous work in our Chapter. Lloyd has held just about every officer position since joining in 1981. Mr. Loop and his wife, Janet, will be dearly missed.

An early December meeting was proposed as the Chapter's final meeting of 2006. And don't forget to visit our website

"<http://www.geocities.com/cmhvsar>"

with up-to-date information about our Chapter.

(correction from last report. Arthur J. Bowen replaced Robert L. French, not Finch)

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney S. Andrews, Chapter President ■

ESSAR BOOTH AT THE STATE FAIR



Syracuse SAR compatriots Bob Pickett and Rich Remling were honored to be instructed in how to use the quill pen by none other than Ben Franklin (noted Franklin impersonator Paul Stillman) at this year's New York State Fair, which was held on August 24th to September 4th.

The SAR booth, the only one solely dedicated to early American history, was host to a large number of visitors, including a welcome visit by ESSAR President Peter Goebel. During the Fair, the roster of booth attendants included compatriots from the Binghamton, Oriskany, and Rochester chapters as well as the home Syracuse chapter. ■



1. National Capital Building dessert 2. Peter Goebel's last inspection as National Color Guard Commander 3. Commander Peter Goebel and "Recruit" Jonathan Goebel 4. Washington DC Color Guard 5. 9/23 BOM meeting - President Goebel Presenting 1 of multiple awards (4 oak Leaf Cluster, NSSAR Officer Attendance Award) to Past President William Woodworth 6. 9/23 - President Goebel Presenting Patriot Medal to Red Farley 7. 9/23 - President Goebel Presenting 2 Oak Leaf Cluster to Chapter President Dana Roecker 8. 9/23 President Goebel Presenting CAR Activities Streamer to Jonathan Goebel 9. 9/23 President Goebel Presenting Liberty Medal to Duane Booth 10 9/23 Jonathan Goebel Presenting 35 Year Membership Certificate to William Loveday



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