



EMPIRE PATRIOT

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

Volume 9 Issue 4

November 2007

Printed Four Times Yearly

THE PHILADELPHIA CAMPAIGN 1777

From Rebels to Mature Army

The Siege of Fort Mifflin

Philadelphia belonged to the British and General Howe. Yet the area surrounding the city, and the Delaware River which flowed past Philadelphia, was controlled by George Washington and the Continental Army. Howe desperately needed to find a way to bring food and supplies into the city. To do so, he chose to attack American-held forts along the Delaware. Fort Mifflin, the focal point of the American Defense, came under an intense bombardment. After three weeks of fighting, the British finally conquered the forts but only after a surprising American defense.

Life During Wartime

After being thwarted at the Battle of Germantown on October 4, 1777, the Continental Army fell back to defend the supply cities of the western Pennsylvania, notably Reading. Much of the victorious British army remained in Germantown, five miles north of Philadelphia. The rest of the British, including many officers, quartered in Philadelphia which had been taken on September 26th. But on October 19, a nervous General Howe, fearing for his supply lines and feeling vulnerable to another attack, recalled several thousand British troops from Germantown into Philadelphia proper.

So Philadelphia, already the most populous city in the colonies, was now swelled in size by a British army which numbered about 18,000 or so. With these troops came the usual camp followers — wives, prostitutes, and sutlers. And while many supporters of the Revolution had fled Philadelphia in late September upon word that the British were coming, their place was quickly filled up by a legion of Loyalists. Many of these Loyalists had left Philadelphia earlier in the summer because of an unfavorable political climate.

Adding to this throng was a host of New Yorkers who flocked to Philadelphia eyeing the wartime business prospects. With a good many of Philadelphia's merchants having fled the city, there would be need for new sellers to take their place.

A Hungry City

The city was packed and rooms were hard to find. Moreover, all these people had to be fed and supplied. And Howe had a huge problem — he could not get supplies into Philadelphia.

Washington's army controlled the area to the west and north of Philadelphia; the area south of the city was already denuded and pillaged by Howe's overland march to get into Philadelphia; New Jersey to the east was hostile to Howe and the general's supply trains would be unprotected against attack by the state militia.

Most importantly, the Delaware River, the channel by which supplies could be brought in from England and other parts of the colonies, was in the hands of Washington's troops. Washington, recognizing Howe's dilemma, observed:

If the river defenses can be maintained, General Howe's situation will not be the most agreeable; for if his supplies can be stopped by water, it may easily be done by land. The acquisition of Philadelphia may, instead of his good fortune, prove his ruin.

Howe recognized that the only sensible way to supply the surrounded city was via the Delaware River. The Americans, however, controlled three forts in and along the river which the British would have to conquer so that their ships hauling supplies could pass safely. To reach these forts, British ships would first have to navigate past *cheveaux-de-frise*, a weapon consisting of sharpened spikes hidden in the river with the capability of ripping holes in hulls.

The Pennsylvania Navy

Further, the British would have to contend with the mosquito like Pennsylvania Navy patrolling the Delaware. The 48 boats and ships of the state navy were lilliputian compared to the massive hulks of the British navy. Yet, mosquitoes have been known to raise welts on much larger beasts — as Howe would soon appreciate.

The two southernmost of the Americans forts, Billingsport and Fort Mercer were on the New Jersey side of the Delaware River. On the Pennsylvania side of the river, 1,900 yards to the north of Fort Mercer, was Fort Mifflin — the focal point of the American river defense. The British needed to vanquish these forts to get supplies into Philadelphia.

Toward that end, the British sent heavily cannoned warships toward the forts, plans were made to attack Fort Mercer by land, and British batteries were being prepared to bombard Fort Mifflin. In the interim, a large portion of the British flotilla that had landed at the Head of the Elk River six weeks earlier now lay at anchor off of Chester, Pennsylvania. These supply-laden ships could bring

► *Continued Page 4 Column 1*

NEWS FROM THE 117th NATIONAL CONGRESS

The 117th Congress was held in Williamsburg, VA from July 7th to the 12th. This year's congress coincided with the 400th anniversary of Jamestown and was very well attended, to the point that many of the events were completely sold out. The State Society was well represented with the following in attendance:

- VPG, North Atlantic District & ESS President – Peter K. Goebel
- VP, ESS Capital Region – Duane Booth
- ESS Secretary – Jonathan E. Goebel
- Society Member – Dennis G. Booth
- Society Member – Millard "Red" Fairley

In addition, past ESS President Ron Newton was there as were Dual State Members: Past PG Hank McCarl; Genealogist General Chuck Bragg; VA Society President Joe Dooley, who played a big role in the success of the Congress; Past Genealogist General Bill Neal & Immediate Past Color Guard Commander Chuck Lampman.

Duane Booth Awarded the Coveted National Society Membership Award



Genealogist General Chuck Bragg Congratulates Duane Booth on 1st Place Florence Kendall Award

VP-Capital Duane Booth was awarded the prestigious 1st place Florence Kendall Award. The award is given to the three SAR members who recruit the largest number of new members in the preceding calendar period. Booth recruited 65 members (approved at National in 2006); the 2nd place finisher (IL) recruited 37 and 2 tied for 3rd (CA & CT) with 25 each.

Liberty Medal Membership Awards & Oak Leaf Clusters

Congratulations to the following Society Members who were awarded the Liberty Medal for being the 1st line sponsor on 10 applications within the past three years:

- Stephan P. Clarke; Rex L. Fuller; Jonathan E. Goebel, Peter K. Goebel; & Harry G. Taylor, Jr.

Society members Duane Booth (6) Bill Neal (2) & William J. Woodworth received Oak Leaf Clusters as they had previously been awarded the Liberty Medal. The number in parentheses represents the number of clusters awarded with each cluster being equal to 10 applications.

Best Membership Quota & Certificate of Appreciation

VPG, North Atlantic Peter Goebel received a certificate for his district making the best percentage over quota based on last year's membership results. Peter also received a Certificate of Appreciation from President General Nathan White for service he rendered at the National Society level during the preceding year.

Society Awards

C.A.R. Streamer Award - A streamer that will be attached to our SAR Flag for working with the C.A.R.

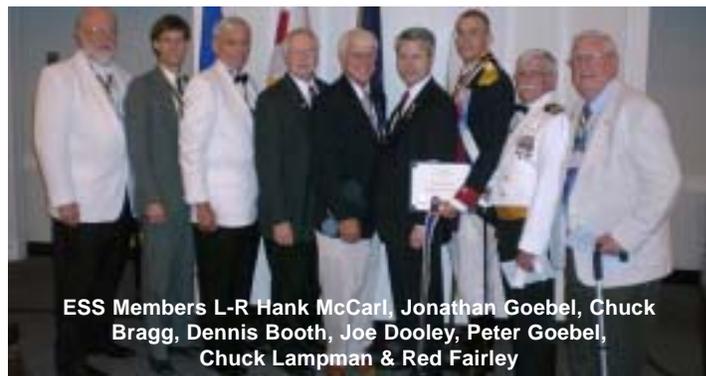
Certificate Award - largest number of members under age forty

Certificate Award - for the largest numerical increase of members at the end of the membership year

CA.R. Society Wins Newsletter Award

The Schuyler Society, of which the Saratoga Battle Chapter is a joint sponsor, won the Eleanor Smallwood Award local Society award for the best local newsletter based on C.A.R. requirements and judging.

In summary, our Society was well represented both in attendance and in capturing National Awards. For Chapter Members Duane & Dennis Booth it was their first experience at an SAR Congress. They both had a wonderful time and were very impressed by the events and activities. One of the highlights for both was the Sunday Memorial Service. Both Dennis & Duane highly recommend that everyone take the time to experience a National Congress. *Submitted By: Duane Booth* ■



ESS Members L-R Hank McCarl, Jonathan Goebel, Chuck Bragg, Dennis Booth, Joe Dooley, Peter Goebel, Chuck Lampman & Red Fairley



Group Color Guard Group Photo after Memorial Service

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Peter K Goebel, President ESSAR

The Empire State Society had a very notable 2006 Annual Congress in Dallas, Texas by winning The Children of the American Revolution Activity Award and Streamer. One member received the Liberty Medal for the first time and four other members received a total of eight oak leaf clusters for their Liberty Medals. These achievements illustrate two areas

that we were and still remain committed to improve Membership and Youth Recognition. We also chartered one new chapter in our State Society-The Valcour Battle Chapter in Plattsburgh, New York, in April.

The Empire State Society continued our success at the 2007 Annual Congress in Williamsburg, Virginia by again winning The Children of the American Revolution Activity Award and Streamer. We brought home The Robert L. Sonfield Award to the State Society with the largest numerical increase of members at the end of the membership year. We had 1,151 members and are the eighth largest State Society in the NSSAR. We won The Len Young Smith Award to the State Society which enrolled the largest number of new members under 40 years of age and took Second Place for The Colorado Award to the State Society with the highest percentage of increase in membership among states with greater than 100 members, with 11.6% to New Hampshire's 12.5%. Five members received the Liberty Medal for the first time and three other members received a total of nine oak leaf clusters for their Liberty Medals. We are working to improve in this area. We will establish another new chapter in October. We will continue to improve in the area of membership with hard work from our members. In Williamsburg, Duane Booth was awarded The NSSAR Florence Kendall Medal from President General Nathan White for being the top compatriot who recruited the largest number of new members in the nation, easily outdistancing the Second Place Compatriot, 65 members to 37 members. Saratoga Battle Chapter-sponsored Schuyler Society won the Eleanor Smallwood Niebell Award to the local C.A.R. Society who was judged to have the best newsletter by N.S.C.A.R. guidelines.

We also continue to actively support our Historic Celebrations, including 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 honor the many sacrifices of our Patriot ancestors in this way and encourage others to join us in this and in many other worthwhile endeavors.

We continue to work closely with the NYSSDAR and the C.A.R. in our State. ESSAR members worked together with the NYSSDAR on many State and local projects. Many ESSAR members participated in the New York State Children of the American Revolution State Conference and continue to support the C.A.R. in many ways throughout New York State.

At the 116th Annual Congress in Dallas, the Empire State Society joined with the New Jersey Society to make the North Atlantic District the first district in the NSSAR to donate \$1,000 to The Center for Advancing America's Heritage. Our ESSAR has donated over \$1,000 and the Saratoga Battle Chapter has also donated \$1,000 for the CAAH. We understand just how important this new library and center is to the future of our country and to the memory of our Patriot ancestors. We will continue to raise funds and to improve our unfailing support for this inestimable and vitally valuable resource. We challenged other districts and state societies to join us in our support for The Center for Advancing America's Heritage by matching or exceeding this donation.

Our ESSAR Color Guard continues to appear in public. These appearances continue to spotlight the importance of SAR in honoring our Patriot ancestors and the great nation for which they sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

There has been much strife concerning our Annual Meeting and Election. In accordance with our ESSAR By-Laws and Robert's Rules of Order, neither side has won either election, and the currently elected officers must stay in office, until the next election according to the By-Laws. The first ballot was in accordance with ESSAR By-Laws. Only the second election turned out to not follow our By-Laws. Violations were enumerated in the last issue of The Empire Patriot. Under the ESSAR By-Laws and Robert's Rules, the president could never authorize a new election. Two thirds of the ESSAR Board did not vote to nullify an election. An illegal motion was made to do this with inactive members who had not paid their dues voting to do this. Their votes cannot count at all. Breaking the ESSAR By-Laws is something we should never condone nor allow. Under Robert's Rules of Order, the election motion was declared null and void. This was not done under any obscure technicality, but under Robert's Rules of Order and our ESSAR By-Laws. We are following the By-Laws of the ESSAR, and State and Federal Law. No vote, except of the proper membership, can change the By-Laws in the correct manner; and even if any vote is unanimous to not follow the By-Laws, the vote is null and void (Robert's Rules of Order). An improper election would have broken State Law. Members of the ESSAR want to follow the rules and the law. It is unfortunate that our State Secretary was threatened with bodily harm at the 22 September meeting. It was also stated to me that I did not have to follow Robert's Rules of Order, because one State President had not always followed Robert's Rules of Order. We will follow the By-Laws of the ESSAR, and State and Federal Law.

Our members will continue to work for the SAR and for our nation. We will work together and get along with each other. We must do this for the United States.

Peter K. Goebel, President ESSAR ■

The Philadelphia Campaign, Cont'd. from Page 1

desperately needed food into nearby Philadelphia — if only the river was cleared of obstructions.

Time was now the biggest foe of the British. News of the General Burgoyne's defeat at the hands of American troops under General Gates had reached the British in Philadelphia. Major Serle wrote, "This is the most fatal Blow we have yet felt, and will I fear occasion every sort of Chagrin & Uneasiness at Home. GOD save & bless my King & Country from the wicked Conspiracies off all their enemies!"

Howe recognized that the taking of the forts would provide a big morale boost not only to his own soldiers, but to the folks back in England. More importantly, he would be able to get supplies into the city. But as October waned, Howe grew impatient. Neither his army nor navy was able to make any headway in clearing the river. Then there was ice.

If the Delaware River froze, British ships would not be able to reach Philadelphia. And it was already unseasonably cold for October. Ice could already be seen along the shoreline. If the city could not be supplied, the British would have to consider making an ignominious retreat from Philadelphia.

In the meantime, criticisms from the caustic Howe began to rankle his officers. Howe grew increasingly frustrated at the combined efforts of his army and navy to conquer the river forts. His officers responded by griping at Howe behind his back and questioning his leadership at Germantown. The British were showing strain from an unsuccessful campaign.

Whitemarsh

The Continental Army spent six weeks encamped at Whitemarsh. From the hills at Whitemarsh, General Washington was able to both protect the supply cities of the west and monitor the British, who were occupying Philadelphia.

Early in December, General Howe tried to launch a surprise attack on the American position. But the British plan had been ferreted out by spies, and the Americans were well prepared for their expedition. On December 5, the British began a probe of the American position in the hills. Three days of non-decisive skirmishing followed, after which the British returned to Philadelphia. It was the last engagement in the campaign of 1777.

Both armies now turned their thoughts to winter encampment. The British would remain snug in Philadelphia. The Americans marched to a small Schuylkill River village called Valley Forge.

The waiting is the hardest part. -Tom Petty

For the average soldier, Whitemarsh was a story of waiting. During the six weeks the Continental army encamped there, the Americans

- waited for the British to attack
- waited to see if Washington would order an attack on Philadelphia
- waited to get paid
- waited to find out where winter quarters might be
- waited for their enlistments to run out
- waited for food and shoes
- waited for something to happen.

For George Washington, though, plenty was happening. There was...

- a court-martial which hinged on the sobriety of one of his generals
- an angry salvo of letters on the subject of prisoner exchange with Lord Howe
- a demand of his attention to respond to expiring enlistments
- the increasingly problematic level of desertions
- the gathering of two war councils on the subject of attacking Philadelphia
- a three-day skirmish which left hundreds of Americans and British dead and wounded.

All the time the Americans camped at Whitemarsh, the locals suffered. About 20 families on the outskirts of Philadelphia were left homeless after the British burned their houses in retaliation for harboring Whigs. The poor in Philadelphia suffered severely as inflation raged and the price of food skyrocketed. An egg was a luxury item.

And a Quaker woman, Lydia Darragh — at the risk of her life — walked through snow to deliver a vital message to George Washington. In the process she outwitted a British spy master while saving countless Americans.

Background

On October 29, George Washington and the Continental army remained in a holding pattern. After the American setback at the Battle of Germantown on the 4th, Washington had spent the next several weeks watching the British in Philadelphia. Now the Americans were nearing the end of their second week encamped in Whitpain Township, 15 miles north of occupied Philadelphia and two miles from Whitemarsh. Wanting resolve, Washington called a council of war.

Council of War

Here is the situation the war council had to take into consideration: The British occupied Philadelphia. The Americans controlled the Delaware River — the all-important supply channel into the capital. Howe, and a good portion of his army and navy, were desperately trying to capture the American-held forts along the Delaware. A teeny American force and a tiny state navy, dwarfed in numbers and firepower, were desperately trying to hold the British off.

At Whitemarsh, the Continental Army under Washington numbered about 15,000, including militia. These men were needed here because Congress had asked Washington to prevent British forays into the countryside surrounding Philadelphia. Washington also needed to prevent a British attack toward York, where Congress was now meeting, as well as the supply cities of Reading and Lancaster.

Nine Courses Considered

The American commander in chief enumerated nine possible courses of action. He listened attentively without weighing in, while his commanders debated possible strategies. The option most vigorously discussed was an attack on Philadelphia. In the end, this was considered unfeasible, because the British had erected impassable defenses around the city.

Instead, the Council recommended moving to a safer series of hills around Whitemarsh where the army could continue to watch

The Philadelphia Campaign, Cont'd. from Page 4

Howe and offer protection to the countryside. The council further suggested detaching any troops that could be spared to the Delaware forts.

Washington complied with the Council's recommendations, and, on November 2, moved to Whitemarsh, which was about 13 miles northwest of Philadelphia. The army immediately began building redoubts and connecting works on three principal elevations in the area: Militia Hill, Fort Hill, and Camp Hill.

Drunk During Battle

General Washington, who had seen three of his officers brought before courts-of-inquiry within the last month — and acquitted — started off the Whitemarsh encampment with yet another trial.

Now it was General Adam Stephen's turn. Though a laundry list of charges was brought against General Stephen, everyone present at his court-martial knew that the most serious accusation was for leading his troops while drunk during the Battle of Germantown. During the battle, Stephen's men broke into a crazed retreat, and the inebriated officer was unable to control them.

General Sullivan, who on October 10 had himself been "honorably acquitted" of charges stemming from conduct in battle, presided over Stephen's court martial. The trial, which began on November 3, ended 17 days later in Stephen's conviction on "unofficer like behavior and "drunkenness." Washington approved the court's recommendation that he be dismissed.

The Marquis de Lafayette was given command of the dismissed Stephen's division.

"In a Manner Shocking to Humanity"

While Stephen's trial was proceeding, Washington took time to initiate a prisoner exchange with General Howe. Disturbing reports of the Draconian treatment of American prisoners had begun reaching Washington, who on November 14, urged an immediate swap of captives. The Americans, according to Washington, were being treated "in a manner shocking to humanity."

Howe, never one to act swiftly, took his time responding.

After nine days passed without word from Howe, Washington wrote anew on the 23rd, demanding a response. When the British commander in chief finally did reply, he agreed to a parole of officers only, but put off an exchange of regular soldiers. Once an officer was paroled, he was in effect out of the war, until an official exchange of prisoners could be worked out. The paroled officer had to sign a pledge promising not to fight until said exchange was worked out.

Howe was happy to be relieved of the burden of caring for the paroled American officers, while at the same time he recognized that until he signed a formal exchange of prisoners, the Americans would have a hard time finding new, qualified officers to take their place. Conversely, Howe did not agree to an exchange of soldiers, as it would have benefitted the Americans.

This lampoon is entitled "Qualifying for a Campaign." It shows British soldiers playing at silly war games. Throughout the American Revolution, criticism of the British army grew constantly. This cartoon links British misfortunes in America with an inadequate army. On the wall is a map entitled "Seat of War in North America."

Meanwhile, paroled British officers were shipped back to England, where the British had a seemingly endless supply of officers being pumped out of military schools.

Concurrently, Washington sent the Commissary of Prisoners, Elias Boudinot, to Philadelphia to look into prison conditions. All the rumors of British maltreatment proved shockingly true. American prisoners were living in unheated jail cells swarming with lice and other vermin. Many Americans starved, while some became desperate enough to eat shoe leather to survive.

The Walnut Street Gaol. Built sometime after 1770 by Robert Smith of Philadelphia Carpenters' Company, the prison was the locale of horrible deprivations during the War. In 1777, American prisoners died in droves from starvation or disease and were unceremoniously buried across the street in unmarked trenches in Washington Square. In 1778, after the Americans reoccupied Philadelphia, British prisoners were kept in the jail.

Howe, busy with all the aspects of occupying a city, and satisfied with a prisoner exchange arrangement that benefited the British, was blithe to the pain of the American captives.

Baby, It's Cold Outside

At Whitemarsh, many Americans were suffering also. Eating was never guaranteed, as food was scarce. Sometimes the soldiers supped on soup so thin as to be nearly translucent. Often the main ingredients in this mess were weeds.

Thomas Jones, Deputy Commissary General of Issues stationed at Whitemarsh wrote this desperate plea to another commissary officer in Lancaster.

The present is to advise you of the approaching calamity, which I expect here every moment. Not a single barrel of flour, I declare upon my honour, have I to deliver out to the troops this morning. I need not point out to you the distress I labor under, for Dog's sake exert yourself in this affair or all's over.

At night, the temperature had already started dipping into the 20's. Blankets and warm clothing were lacking. Shoes, for those lucky enough to have them, were worn to a near-translucent thinness. All-in-all they probably tasted better than the soup.

In desperation, Washington offered a reward of \$10 out of his own pocket "to any person who shall produce the best substitute for shoes made out of raw hides. The Commissary of Hides is to furnish the hides & the Major Genl of the Day is to judge the essays & assign the reward to the best artist." It's not recorded who, if anyone, won the prize. It is known that less than a month later, hundreds of barefoot American soldiers left the snow red with trails of blood while marching to Valley Forge.

Though conditions were hard, Washington tried to make life in the camp as orderly and disciplines as possible. For instance, a post office opened. An announcement read, "the postmaster has paper to sell at the price he gave for it." Orders on the 9th, decreed that men on guard duty should be shaven, have their hair combed, and be in clean uniforms.

In the meantime, the cold, hungry, soldiers hadn't been paid for two months. Washington sent officers to various states begging for supplies and aid. They usually came back empty handed.

The soldiers who could afford it, entertained themselves by drinking. During the Whitemarsh encampment, the boozing appeared to be getting out of hand. The General Orders of November 24th ordered tipping houses suppressed. Operated by "divers of the late sutlers and some of the inhabitants," Washington threatened to confiscate the liquor being sold at these ad_hoc hooch houses and to "banish the sutlers from the army."

The Philadelphia Campaign, Cont'd. from Page 5

Congress Complains

Just when the situation looked as if it couldn't be bleaker, Congress stepped in to make it worse. Fort Mifflin had finally fallen on November 16th. And Congress, which had recently taken up quarters in York, Pennsylvania, was tired of waiting for Washington to *do something*. On the other hand, Howe seemed to do anything he wanted. Word of the Congress's dissatisfaction reached Washington who fired off a letter to that distant Body late in November.

I am informed that it is a matter of amazement, and that reflexions have been thrown against this army, for not being more active and enterprising. I refer you to the returns of our strength; the wonder will be, how [the army] keeps the field at all this season of the year.

Washington also fumed that General Gates, the celebrated October 7th victor at Saratoga, took so long in sending reinforcements south after the British surrender there. The commander in chief felt he needed more troops for any effective action. Alexander Hamilton, an aide to Washington, was sent north to attend to the situation. Hamilton was received coldly by the Gates who wanted to run his theater of operations independently from Washington.

Finally, on November 18th, Colonel Daniel Morgan's troops arrived at Whitmarsh from Saratoga. Morgan, chafing to be actually fighting again, instigated his own release from the service of Gates. Gates also released the brigades of Glover, Paterson, and Poor. They would arrive just in time to spend the winter at Valley Forge. On the 24th, Washington held another War Council to determine a course of action. The main point of discussion was whether Philadelphia should be attacked. In the end, 11 members voted not to attack, while four voted in favor of such an action. Washington decided to table the motion until several key generals, currently away on duty, could weigh in on the matter. Washington in particular wanted to hear from the trusted Nathanael Greene. At present, Greene was in New Jersey scavenging and, at times, skirmishing with Lord Cornwallis.

The next day, Washington reconnoitered Philadelphia personally. He wanted to make sure that the reports of the city's impregnability were true. They were. "I had a full view of the left, and found their works much stronger than I had reason to expect for the accounting I had received." Now Washington concurred with the majority of his generals — no attack should take place.

Along with Washington on his reconnaissance mission was aide John Laurens, the son of the President of Congress, Henry Laurens. Knowing that Congress would be displeased by Washington's continued inaction, Laurens sent a mollifying missive to his father which attempted to explain Washington's decision. *Our Commander-in-Chief wishing ardently to gratify the public expectation by making an attack upon the enemy — yet preferring at the same time a loss of popularity to engaging in an enterprise which he could not justify, went to view the works...we saw redoubts of a very respectable profit, faced with planks, formidably fraised, and the intervals between them closed with an abattis unusually strong. General du Portail declared that in such works with five thousand men he would bid defiance to any force that should be brought against him.*

Back in Congress, some wondered aloud about Washington's capabilities, while others kept their misgivings to themselves.

Saratoga proved that the British could be beaten — so why wasn't Washington doing anything? Congress dispatched a three-man delegation to talk to Washington about the possibility of pursuing a winter campaign. Generally, armies rested in the winter, but Congress was anxious to confront the British.

No doubt Washington pointed out to this delegation that his troops were not being fed, not being paid, were wearing rags, and were always scuffing for supplies. Meanwhile, the British were well-entrenched in Philadelphia — in fact preparing for a season of theater and parties.

Congress agreed that the army should look for Winter quarters instead of pursuing battle.

Burning Down the Houses

Washington would not let the British rest in peace. Though Washington ruled out a full-scale attack on Philadelphia, he nonetheless posted skirmishers outside the British defenses north of city. These troops harassed the British positions. The British found the raids so irksome that they burned down houses that had been launching points for American troops during the raids. At least ten families, and probably closer to twenty, lost their homes. A local Quaker woman reported that the British talked of "burning all houses within four miles of the city without the lines." The destructive torching campaign helped build a bonfire of resentment against the British.

November ended with yet another war council, this one to determine where winter quarters should be. Three choices were proffered: a camp at Wilmington, a movement west toward the supply cities of Lancaster and Reading, or a line of troops which would stretch between the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers. Each plan had its merits and drawbacks as well as supporters and detractors. Washington could not make a choice and so asked his advisors to put their thoughts in writing. The commander in chief was torn by his own indecision. To trusted advisor Joseph Reed he wrote, "I am exceedingly embarrassed not only by the advice given me but in my own judgment." Yet more immediate concerns made the matter moot.

Loose Lips

On the same day the War Council met, American spy, Major John Clark, Jr., operating in Philadelphia, got word to Washington that the British were "in readiness to march" with an end to a surprise attack on the Americans. These reports were corroborated by General Armstrong who wrote, "Every intelligence agrees that General Howe now, no doubt with his whole force, is immediately to take the field in quest of this army."

Washington's army spent the next three days on alert. But he was "disappointed that no attack had come." Washington knew the Americans were in a strong defense position and could give the British all they could handle.

He wasn't disappointed for long though.

On the 3rd, he again received word from his master spy, Major Clark, this time stating that "the enemy are in motion; [they] have a number of flat-bottomed boats and carriages and scantling, and are busy pressing horse and wagons. Clark's information was in essence correct, but came a day early.

The Philadelphia Campaign, Cont'd. from Page 6

That same day, Washington also received news that the British were on the move from an unlikely source: an middle-aged Quaker woman named Lydia Darragh. Darragh, whose house was being used by the British for meetings. She brought a message out of the city saying the Howe would be mounting a major attack on the 4th. Captain Allen McLane of the light horse independently reported a similar message to Washington.

The British, nearly 10,000 strong, began moving out at 10 P.M. on the evening of the 4th. General Howe was in part acting on information from his spies, who told him that the Americans were moving to a new camp. He hoped to catch the Americans out in the open.

As was Howe's custom he broke into his troops into two columns. The advance column led by Lord Cornwallis, headed up the Germantown Pike to Chestnut Hill, three miles from the American right. The main column, led by General Knyphausen, started out for the American left.

Two days of supplies, were loaded up and taken in reserve. This was to be a major British attack. Only a few regiments were left behind to guard Philadelphia.

At 3 A.M. on the 5th, alarm guns were fired in the American camp — the British were coming.

Skirmishing

On his march to Chestnut Hill, Cornwallis's column was fired upon by Captain McLane's patrol stationed at Beggar Town (modern Mount Airy). Before falling back, McLane sent a message to Washington, letting him know the British were moving toward Whitemarsh. In retaliation for being fired upon, the British burned yet another house which harbored American riflemen.

The British arrived at Chestnut Hill at dawn. Cornwallis, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Abercrombie of the Light Infantry headed out along the Bethlehem Pike to reconnoiter the American position. They saw countless campfires blazing in the hills. What they didn't know was that Washington had ordered his men to make extra campfires so as to deceive the British as to true troop strength. Washington sent out General James Irvine and about 600 Pennsylvania militiamen to meet Cornwallis. The Americans fired first and drew heavy return fire from the British. The militiamen were unable to respond to the disciplined reaction from the British platoons. Instead of fighting, they headed for cover. Heavy skirmishing followed which the British got much the better of.

Two musket balls threw General Irvine from his horse. One shot grazed his head, while another took three fingers from his left hand. Dozens of Americans were wounded, killed or captured in the brief engagement. The British losses were light.

While retreating, the Americans were intercepted by a Hessian column who had outflanked them. In a panic, the Americans hightailed it for the hills.

The British marched down Bethlehem Pike to St. Thomas Episcopal church where they encamped. They spent a night in "weather [that] was excessive cold." In the morning, General Howe came to the church to survey the American position. From the church tower, he found the American position which was just half a mile away, to be strongly defended. Even as Howe was looking on, the Americans continuing to fortify their defenses. Howe could also see that the Americans were sending reinforcement to bolster their defenses.

Regardless, Howe decided to probe the enemy with artillery fire. But the shells couldn't reach the American lines. Howe withdrew and decided to try an attack on the American left. On the way, he split his column to form against the American center and left. Howe formed solidly on high ground, but the Americans were on higher ground even still.

For once the American forces controlled the flow of action. On the 6th, when the British shifted toward the center, the Americans fluidly sent extra troops to follow them. Howe, who loved using flanking maneuvers, was unable to do so as the Americans in the hills could see everything he tried to do. In fact, Howe's own flank would have been vulnerable if he tried such a feint.

December 7, 1777

On the 7th, Washington discovered Howe shifting his troops toward Edge Hill where Daniel Morgan's riflemen were posted. This was the left-center of the American position. Morgan, along with Colonel Gist's Maryland troops assaulted the British 1st Light Infantry in "guerrilla" fighting. Using trees and rocks as cover, the Americans gave the British all they could handle, and "the Battle of Edge Hill" dragged on throughout the day. Ultimately, Cornwallis brought his 33rd Regiment into the action, whereupon Morgan decided it was best to withdraw. Casualties numbered about 40 on both sides.

As Morgan was retreating, Howe began a preplanned probe of the American center. He sent a detachment of British Grenadiers toward the Americans, but Major Baurmeister reported it to be well-defended with "strong abatis," "trenches," and "nine uncovered pieces" of artillery.

Meanwhile, British General "No Flint" Grey was straining to get into the action. Howe instructed Grey to hold his troops until Howe's own troops had been able to advance. So Grey dutifully reined in his Rangers. But since Howe discerned no weakness after probing the American lines, he had been unable to move. Grey, meanwhile, waited past the time he had expected to move, then decided to march on his own.

Accompanied by Light Infantry and Queens Rangers he marched toward the American center. Shortly after starting out, they ran into musketry fire which probably came from the Marylanders retreating from Cornwallis's foray earlier in the day. A new battle began on the edge of Edge Hill, which the Americans got the worst of, suffering over a dozen casualties. Grey continued on. As he pushed forward, Grey cut off Americans Colonel Joseph Reed and General John Cadwalader from the American line. Reed was rendered helpless after falling from his horse which had been shot. He was beset by a host of Hessians bearing barbaric bayonets. Cadwalader drew his sword and prepared to defend his friend to the death.

Just then the cavalry rode in to save the day.

Captain Allen McLane, at the head of a squad of horseman, ordered a charge. The Hessians fled and McLane rescued the two American officers. The Cavalry had saved the day. Shortly after this, the 2nd Continental Regiment attacked Grey's troops halting the British forward movement. Grey, thinking he was outnumbered and feeling he had accomplished his original goal of softening the American position, withdrew.

As night fell two Hessian regiments were brought in to solidify the British line. All seemed in place for another major engagement the next day.

The Philadelphia Campaign, Cont'd. from Page 7

Come sunrise though, Howe was in no mood to fight. The prior nights had been too cold for his liking. Further, he had used up his two-day supply of provisions. His only real offensive threat appeared to be a very wide flanking movement to the east which many of his officers favored. But Howe thought that the American position was too strong to attempt such a movement. The comforts of city life beckoned the soft general. Thus, on the afternoon of the 8th, the British started marching back to Philadelphia.

American cavalry and foot soldiers were sent at the rear of the retreating British column forcing Jagers to turn around, form on elevations, and shoo the pesky Americans away. Finally, some British cannon blasts convinced the Americans they had chased the British far enough.

Surgeon Albigeance Waldo commented, "We were all chagrined [at the British retreat] as we were more willing to chase them in the rear than meet such sulkey dogs in front. We were now remanded back [to quarters] with several draughts of rum in our frozen bellies, which made me glad, and we all fell asleep in our open huts, or experienced the coldness of the night."

Howe's foray against the Americans at Whitmarsh had gained him nothing. A local Tory could not understand Howe's mindset. He wrote that it seemed "as if the sole purpose of the expedition was to destroy and spread devastation and ruin, to dispose the inhabitants to rebellion by despoiling their property."

The three day campaign had resulted in over 300 casualties. The Americans casualties numbered nearly 100.

Parliament, as displeased as the American Congress with the pace of the war, would soon hear word of yet another futile expedition. Meanwhile, Washington could not remain at Whitmarsh indefinitely. Though he had held off the British once, there was no guarantee that he could repulse them a second time. Further, Whitmarsh was just too close for comfort to the British in Philadelphia. And Whitmarsh was also not a particularly good location for a winter camp. It was too spread out too hard to supply.

On the 11th, Washington broke camp at Whitmarsh and headed over the Schuylkill yet one more time.

In eight days the American army would wind up at a small village along the Schuylkill — Valley Forge.

This material is copyright by, and used with permission of, the Independence Hall Association, on the web at ushistory.org. ■

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 hankc@fairpoint.net

Published Four Times Yearly - Feb. 1st, May. 1st, Aug. 1st, Nov. 1st
Submissions must be received 30 days prior to mailing (15 days before publish date) and are printed at the discretion of the Editor. They may be edited for length, content and accuracy. All submissions must include the name, address and telephone number of the sender. The Editor.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send all changes of address to:
**Jonathan E. Goebel, Secy. ESSAR, 510 Hoags Corners Rd
Nassau, NY 12123-2618, Telephone 518-766-2143**

SYRACUSE CHAPTER PARTICIPATES IN AWARD CEREMONY



Dr. Robert Pickett, Secretary of Syracuse Chapter presenting the Good Citizenship Award to Cadet Kayla Patrick

President William A. Billingham and Chapter Secretary were invited to participate in the Sea Cadet Award Ceremony to present a Good Citizenship Award. The ceremony was conducted by Vice Admiral J. B. Stockdale in Mattydale, New York at the U. S. Naval Reserve Center on June 10, 2007 ■

Chapters Join-up for Turning Point Parade

Saratoga Battle Chapter President George Ballard & Walloomsac Battle President John Sheaff got both chapters to the August 5, 2007, Turning Point Parade in Schuylerville. A total of 16 members were at the parade, with a few members participating with other groups. Walloomsac Battle members John Sheaff, Harold Owen, Ben Harrison & Duane Booth were with the SAR & Paul Loding was with the British Re-enactor's. Saratoga Battle members in the SAR contingent included George Ballard, Harry Taylor, Charlie King, Rich Fullam, Harry Booth, Dan Mead and Bill Loveday. Bret Trufant & Mike Companion were with the American Re-enactors while Lew Slocum was with the Shriners. Carol Slocum drove several of us in her red Mustang convertible – thanks Carol we do appreciate you!

Treasurer Mike Companion offered his newly built cannon to us for display. John Sheaff graciously towed it on his nicely decorated trailer. I was a great day for a parade and a good time for those participating as well as those viewing the parade. Our group is always well received and appreciated by the crowd. Plan on Sunday, August 2, 2008. Submitted By: Duane Booth



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Dear Members of Empire State Society of
the Sons of the American Revolution

My name is Kate Szewczyk and I am a member of the Bemis Heights Society, N.S.C.A.R here in Saratoga Springs, NY. I am writing to you in hopes you might place an article about my society and our National and State President's projects and theme's in your Society your newsletter.

The Bemis Heights Society of Saratoga Springs was one of the first societies to be organized by Mrs. George Perkins Lawton on June 6, 1896 and holds charter #7. The society was chartered with sixteen members, at Pine Grove, on North Broadway, one of the oldest residences in the city of Saratoga Springs at the home of Mrs. Ellen Hardin Walworth, who was one of the three Founders of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Founders of the Children's Society were the late Mrs. Walworth, and the late Mrs. Lawton. Mrs. Daniel Lothrop founder of our National Society, Children of the American Revolution, and its National President was present and inducted Mrs. Lawton into office.

The first public meeting of the Bemis Heights Society was at the Grand Rally at Saratoga, July 6, 1896 in connection with the celebration of the 120th anniversary of Independence Day by the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Society selected its name from the BATTLE of BEMIS HEIGHTS, as the First Battle of Saratoga was called, which took place at Freeman's Farm at Bemis Heights, Sept 19, 1777.

Over the years our society has been organized and disbanded several times. However, we reorganized in 2003. We currently have 14 members ranging in ages from 4 to 19 years of age.

This past year our society for the second consecutive year, has won not only the State Gold Star Merit Award, but also the National Gold Merit Award. We were pronounced the 3rd Most Outstanding Society in New York State this past March 2007.

Our society has been very active in the local community. We have marched in local parades, **Honored our Patriots** by participating in the Saratoga National Historic Parks, **March for Parks program**, donated numerous books and supplies to Tamasssee DAR school, visited the Brookside Museum located in Ballston Spa during the towns "**Heritage Days**" program, held a Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Saratoga Battlefield, took a private guided tour of the New York State Museum, located in Albany, NY Indian artifacts collection, which is not on public display. We also visited the Vanderbilt Mansion located in Hyde Park, NY. These are just a few of the **Adventure's** our society has had in the past year. Our society is always looking for new members and has a public website which can be found at <http://www.rootsworld.com/~nybhccar/>

This year our National President, Katie Marie Stanley's theme is "**Leading the American Adventure.**" National President Stanley's project this year is to raise funds to help Yorktown Battlefield put its Junior Ranger Program on the World Wide Web. The money that N.S.C.A.R raises will help to hire a Web page designer who will create a beneficial program for all to access as well as help to provide the badges that the children earn when they become Junior Rangers. Many children across the United States are unable to visit the park due to financial limitations or family circumstances. However, by accessing a free Web site, all children, no matter what their situation, will be able to participate in the legacy of Yorktown Battlefield.

The Junior Ranger Program at Yorktown Battlefield provides an educational experience for children up to 12 years of age to learn about the legacy of Yorktown. With games, arts, crafts, and opportunities to work with the Rangers at the national park, Junior Rangers are given the chance to explore and learn about the Battlefield at Yorktown, VA.

While visiting the west, during my summer vacation this year, my cousin, who lives in Idaho and whom is also a member of my society, and I visited Glacier National Park located in Montana. We both participated in and received our Junior Rangers badges at the park. I took lots of photos to show my fellow members of my society what a wonderful **adventure** my cousin and I had while visiting the Park and learning about the **Junior Ranger program.**

Our New York State President's theme is "**Honoring our American Heroes.**" Schuyler VanBuren's project this year is to raise approx \$2,000.00 to authentically clothe and equip a Revolutionary War re-enactor who will portray Sgt. Elijah Churchill as he would have appeared in 1783, at the Purple Heart Hall of Honor and in local schools.

To accomplish this goal the State President has asked local societies to sell lapel pins and sterling silver key chains with Purple Heart emblem for \$5.00 each. Our society is supporting the State President's request by purchasing and selling both items. We hope the members of the Sons of the Revolution will support this worthy project and purchase either of these items. To purchase either item please contact our Senior Society President, Mrs. Carolyn Weatherwax at 518-584-1827 or email her at CWeather5@aol.com

I encourage the members of Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution "**Lead the American Adventure**" by supporting our National, State and local society's!

Miss Katherine Szewczyk, Society Historian/Secretary
Bemis Heights Society, N.S.C.A.R., Saratoga Springs, NY ■

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Compatriots and Friends,

I have been your Editor of this publication going on ten years and I have enjoyed every minute of it. I was appointed by Past State President Dennis F Marr, to whom I am very grateful. Thank You Dennis. It was a learning experience for me as I did not come on board with all the necessary credentials. The staff at Johnny's Ideal printing, Tom, Paul, Jo Ann, Betty and John were a tremendous help advising me and offering suggestions. Everyone was so cooperative sending photos and articles about their chapters. I was able to meet, converse, break bread and associate with a great group of men - - and some of the wives. I tried to come up with feature articles and some light humor along with your chapter news that you could all enjoy. We were recognized in National Newsletter competition winning First place. You honored me by presenting me with the Patriot Medal, for which I am very grateful and I wear it proudly.

However it is time that I move on and pass this torch/title on to a deserving member that can extract as much enjoyment out of being your Editor as I did. The February Issue 2008 will be my last. Thank you.

Very Truly Yours, Henry W. Croteau, Jr.

COLUMBIA-MID HUDSON VALLEY

Our Chapter meeting was held on September 29, 2007 at the Roasted Garlic Caterers at the Red Hook Inn, Red Hook, NY. The ESSAR election was discussed and explained to the members by President Andrews. After that, "Years of Service" Pins and Certificates were presented to Henry Croteau, Jr., 25 years; Henri Baxter III, 25 years; and Charles Nichols, 35 years. Compatriot Baxter III lives in Oakdale, CT, so his sister Bea Croteau and his mother Bea Baxter accepted his award. Bernard "Bud" Weaver, Jr. was presented a "Past President" Pin and Certificate for the years of his presidencies, 1975 & 1976.

Present at the meeting were five DAR members which included Pat Coon of the Chancellor Livingston Chapter; Rhinebeck, NY; Bea Croteau and Phyllis Nichols of the Hendrick Hudson Chapter, Hudson, NY; Janet Loop of the Wiltwyck Chapter, Kingston, NY; and Jean Shepherd of the Melzingah Chapter, Beacon, NY. All the DAR ladies are spouses of our chapter members.

Stephen Bradley, a college student at Cortland SUNY, was recognized as a new member. His certificate was mailed by President Andrews to his grandfather, Roger Bradley, a Chapter member. This will bring our Chapter membership to forty-one, up from a total of thirty-four in 2005. Andrew Middlebrook's, son of Chapter member Tim Middlebrook, application has been approved at National. Andrew Middlebrook's membership is included in the forty-one Chapter members. James Hadley submitted his application for signatures and will mail his application to Donald Schiro, Chapter Registrar. There are presently 7-9 other potential SAR members that have their applications at different stages of submittal.

The Chapter set up for three events so far this year: Clarmont State Historical Site (Dutchess County) on July 4th, Hurley Stone House Day (Ulster County) on July 14, and the Senate House Heritage Day (Ulster County) on September 15th. All events were very successful with having eight additional potential SAR members sign up for information. One individual wanted to join our Chapter but was from the Schenectady area so he was referred to the Albany area SAR chapter by President Andrews.

President Andrews had a very positive and lengthy conversation with Jennifer Dragon, newly elected Regent of the Wiltwyck Chapter NSDAR, Kingston, NY. The main subject was to try to encourage both the DAR and the SAR chapters to have joint events, share meetings, etc.

The Hendrick Hudson Chapter NSDAR newly elected Regent, Mary Lou Zimmermann, was kind enough to invite our Chapter to their outing on Monday, Sept. 17th. It consisted of a lunch at the Neptune Diner, Newburgh, NY, prior to the tour, and the DAR chapter meeting at The National Purple Heart Hall of Fame site in Vails Gate, NY. At their DAR meeting, I was asked to give a brief talk on our Chapter. Several DAR members were in attendance. In addition to my wife, other SAR chapter members, Charles Nichols, Ralph Avery and Henry Croteau joined their respective wives and attended the function. A very interesting day!!! The tour consisted of a twenty-minute lecture, a twenty-minute film and a tour of the Hall of Fame and the Cantonment on the hill above the Hall of Fame Building. The Cantonment was the last post of General George Washington's

Continental Army before the Revolutionary War ended. It's free to visit the site and ground scheduled tours can be arranged for groups for \$3.00 each.

We learned during the tour that the decoration that would become known as the Purple Heart was awarded less than a year after Gen. George Washington designed it in 1792. Established as the Badge of Military Merit, it went first to 26-year-old Sgt. Elijah Churchill, Sgt. William Brown, and Sgt. Daniel Bissell, Jr. all members from Connecticut who on Nov. 21, 1780, were part of the force that attacked Fort St. George on New York's Long Island. Sgt. Elijah Churchill's Badge of Military Merit along with his sword is on exhibit at the site. It is the understanding of historians that only three Badges of Military Merit exist.

On Feb. 22, 1932, the bicentennial of Washington's birth, the Badge of Military Merit was redesigned and reissued as the Purple Heart. President Herbert Hoover's instructions read that the Purple Heart was to be given for "any singularly meritorious act of extraordinary fidelity or essential service. A wound received in action may be construed as resulting from such an act." Presently, there have been one million-seven hundred thousand Purple Hearts awarded. Anyone who received a Purple Heart in combat is eligible to join The National Purple Heart Hall of Fame. Either call or email your request for an application and with proper paperwork, your request will be processed. Call **1-877-28HONOR** or **www.thepurpleheart.com** to set up a tour or to submit an application.

In a joint effort, the Hendrick Hudson Chapter NSDAR and our Chapter is at the final stage of planning the dedication at the Methodist Church Cemetery in Copake, NY, for Revolutionary War soldier, 2nd Lieut. James Robison. A new gravestone has been received from the Veterans Administration and, in addition, our Chapter will donate a bronze flag marker. The bronze flag marker is part of the Grant Funding money our Chapter received from the Hudson, NY, Wal-Mart store.

In the other joint effort with the Hendrick Hudson Chapter NSDAR, we are trying to finalize the dedication at the Hudson City Cemetery involving forty-two Revolutionary War Soldiers. All Bronze grave flag markers were from the Wal-Mart Grant Funding money. Boy Scout Troop 102 of Hudson, NY, as a troop project, will install all the thirty-five grave markers and seven stone grave stones this fall. On Sept. 29th, six Boy Scouts from the troop dug holes and installed fourteen of the Grave markers. In the following weeks, the scout troop will install the remainder of the markers and the dedication will be scheduled.

This past spring the Rochester Chapter bought a bronze grave marker for their deceased chapter member, Royce Earl Coon. The grave marker was installed by our Chapter as requested by his wife, Edna Coon, in the Claverack **Reformed Dutch Church** Cemetery in Claverack, NY. At this time, I want to express my gratitude to the Rochester Chapter for their quick response in ordering the marker and having it shipped to me in Woodstock. That action saved weeks or even months of delay. Upon completion, photos were sent to all parties involved with the project, including Mrs. Coon.

John Helmeyer, Chapter Historian, is in the process of cataloguing our Chapter history. Several documents were uncovered by Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Alan Coon and were given to a John in the spring of 2007.

Contd. Page 11 Col 1

Our Chapter received a second check from the Wal-Mart Grant Funding Program. This check was given by the Kingston Wal-Mart Store for purchasing additional bronze flag markers in our 4-county area cemeteries.

Chapter members, please take note: our next Chapter meeting will be held at the Pegasus Restaurant in Coxsackie, NY on Saturday, December 8th at 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.”



Henry Croteau (25 years), Bea Croteau, sister & Bea Baxter, mother of Henri Baxter III (25 years) and Phyllis & Charles Nichols (35 years)

Rodney S. Andrews, President ■

Here are a couple of photos from our past - the first one is 2 Copake NY Police Officers guarding the actual bible that George Washington took his oath office on as President of the U.S.A.

The 2nd one is Past president Dennis Marr congratulating Compatriot Robert French receiving the Patriot Medal.



ORISKANY BATTLE CHAPTER ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS & ANNUAL WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Oriskany Battle Chapter held their elections on June 12th. Lt. Col. John Rhude was elected President, Art Dunckle was chosen as First Vice-president, George Gydesen as Second Vice-President, Jeffrey Wells as Secretary, Tom Foley as Treasurer, Robert Wollaber as Chaplain, and Darryl Hurst as our Registrar. The Rev. Terry L. Sheldon was presented with the Past President’s pin. The Chapter also voted to be a sponsor of the Fort Schuyler Society of the Children of the American Revolution and voted to provide two magnetic signs for use in parades.



The picture above shows John Rhude presenting the signs to Christopher Roy, Past President of the Fort Schuyler Society. The primary and original sponsor is the Oneida Chapter of the DAR. The Chapter also voted to donate \$200 to the restoration of Marker #10 which is one of several that marked the trail taken by General Herkimer on the way to the relief of Fort Stanwix. This marker was damaged when new roads were installed and is the only one requiring repair.



On August 12, 2007, members of Oriskany Battle Chapter attended a ceremony at the Herkimer Home State Historic Site commemorating the life and death of Patriot Nicholas Herkimer. Chapter President, John P. Rhude is pictured at the site presenting the wreath at the grave of the Unknown Soldier in Rome, at the Celebration of the Battle of Oriskany and at General Herkimer’s gravesite. *Submitted by the Rev. Terry L. Sheldon* ■

BINGHAMTON CHAPTER TO HOST NOVEMBER ESSAR MEETING

The Binghamton Chapter will host the November 3, 2007 meeting of the Board of Managers, ESSAR. The meeting will be at the Best Western Regency, Binghamton, NY starting promptly at 11:00 AM. The Regency is located at One Sarbro Square in downtown Binghamton. The address is P.O. Box 2337 Binghamton NY 13902 and the phone number is (607) 722-7575.

The lunch menu will be a buffet consisting of:

- Soup du Jour
- Tossed Salad
- Assorted Baked Breads
- Sliced Ham, Turkey
- Sliced Cheeses
- Assorted Relishes and Condiments
- Stuffed Shells with Red Sauce and Mozzarella Cheese
- Chef's Dessert Tray
- Coffee, Tea and Decaf

This announcement is for those who are not on regular Board of Managers mailing list. The ESSAR Secretary will be sending out a reservation form to all managers for completion and return to the host chapter.

Compatriots who are not on the mailing list and wish to attend the meeting can send in a check to the address below. The total cost of the meal is \$18.00 per person. Those not having a meal, the cost is \$5.00 to defray the cost of the meeting room.

Please make the check payable to the
Binghamton Chapter, ESSAR

and mail it to:

Roger Cargill, Treasurer

516 Dickson St., Endicott NY 13760 -4616
post-marked no later than Oct 27, 2007.

There will be a surcharge of \$5.00 added to the cost of the meal for those who cannot get their payment in on time. No exceptions.

For those wishing to stay overnight, the Regency will hold rooms for a special price. Please mention SAR when making reservations.

For members who wish to travel by bus, the Binghamton terminal is only three blocks from the Regency. Service from the eastern part of the state and the New York City area is provided by Coach

USA/Short Line. If anyone is flying in, the Greater Binghamton Airport has taxi service to the hotel.



EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY S.A.R.
441 ROUTE 23
CLAVERACK, NY 12513-5145

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
HUDSON, NY
PERMIT NO. 1329