



# EMPIRE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution  
Volume 11 Number 3 <http://www.sar.org/esssar/> Summer 2009

## George Washington, General of the Armies

by Edward Alan St. Germain



A General usually has overall command of a whole army. His title comes from the Latin word *generalis* that meant something pertaining to a whole unit of anything, rather than just to a part. As a military term General started as an adjective, as in Captain General indicating the Captain who had overall or “general” command of the army.

Before the Sixteenth Century armies were usually formed only when needed for a war or campaign. The king would be the commander, but he might appoint a Captain General to command in his name. Later, when the title of Colonel became popular, some kings called their commanders Colonel General. The British Army stopped using the Captain part of the title by the Eighteenth Century, leaving just General as the top commander. Some nations still use the Colonel General rank, among them the former Soviet Union and its satellites.

The king or his Captain General would often be away from the army since they had other interests elsewhere, so the job of actually running the army fell

to the Captain General’s assistant—his lieutenant—the Lieutenant General. This was not a permanent rank until the Seventeenth Century. One of the Colonels might be appointed Lieutenant General for a particular campaign or war, but he would still command his own regiment. Since he might also be Captain of a company in his regiment, it was possible for one man to serve as Captain, Colonel and General simultaneously.

The army’s chief administrative officer was the Sergeant Major General who was also appointed for the particular campaign or war. He would be an experienced soldier, possibly a commoner, who serve as chief of staff. For much of his administrative work, he dealt with the regimental Sergeant Majors, thus his title meant “overall” or “chief” Sergeant Major. His duties included such things as supply, organization, and forming the army for battle or march. Here again, as with the regimental Sergeant Major, a loud, commanding voice was a key requirement. As the

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General ranks became fixed during the Seventeenth Century, the Sergeant portion fell away leaving the title Major General. We can see this trend in England where in 1655 Oliver Cromwell, who ruled that nation temporarily as Lord Protector, organized the country into eleven military districts each commanded by a Major General.

The Lieutenant General and Sergeant Major General dealt directly with the Colonels commanding the Army's regiments. When there got to be too many regiments for the two generals to handle effectively, they organized battle groups or brigades, usually composed of three or more regiments. Brigade comes from the Florentine word *brigare* that in turn came from the Latin *briga*, both of which referred to fighting or strife. The brigade's commander was the Brigadier, who in some armies later became Brigadier General.

When our Army started in 1775, the Continental Congress commissioned George Washington, General and Commander-in-Chief. He and his Major and Brigadier Generals wore various colored ribbons to show their ranks. There were no Lieutenant Generals in that army. In June 1798, General Washington ordered the Major Generals to wear a uniform that included two gold epaulets with one silver star on each. General Washington might have chosen the stars because the generals and admirals of the French forces serving in that war wore stars. Another story has it that he was inspired by the stars in our new flag. The General's stars, then, are the oldest rank insignia still in use by our armed forces.

General Washington was the first to wear three stars, when he became the nation's first Lieutenant General in 1798.

The temporary grade of "General of the Army" (five-star) was provided for by Public Law 482, 78<sup>th</sup> Congress approved December 14, 1944, and became permanent on March 23, 1946, under provisions of Public Law 333, 79<sup>th</sup> Congress.

#### **Five-Star Generals and Dates of Rank:**

General of the Army, George C. Marshall:  
December 16, 1944

General of the Army, Douglas MacArthur:  
December 18, 1944

General of the Army, Dwight D. Eisenhower:  
December 20, 1944

General of the Army, Henry H. Arnold: December 21, 1944 (redesignated General of the Air Force pursuant to Public Law 58, 81<sup>st</sup> Congress, approved May 7, 1949)

General of the Army, Omar N. Bradley: September

20, 1950

The grade of General of the Armies of the United States is associated with two officers in our history, George Washington and John J. Pershing, although only General Pershing actually held it.

After Washington's death an Act of May 14, 1800, specifically authorized President Adams to suspend any further appointment to the office of General of the Armies of the United States, "having reference to economy and the good of the service."

Although the office was not expressly referred to in any of the actions taken to reduce or disband forces that had been raised in contemplation of war with France, it ceased when it was not mentioned in the Act of March 16, 1802, which determined the peacetime military establishment.

Congress enacted legislation authorizing the grade of General of the Army on July 25, 1866, and on that date the new grade was conferred on Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant. The grade was recognized and continued in various acts until the Act of July 15, 1870, which contained the requirement that "the offices of general and lieutenant general shall continue until a vacancy shall exist in the same, and no longer, and when such vacancy shall occur in either of said offices shall become inoperative, and shall, by virtue of this act, from thence forward be held to be repealed."

William T. Sherman, Grant's successor as Commanding General of the Army, was appointed as General of the Army on March 4, 1869, and upon his retirement in February 1884 was placed on the retired list as General of the Army. Under the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1885, authorizing the appointment of a "general of the Army on the retired list," this grade was also conferred on General Grant shortly before his death on July 23, 1885. The title ceased to exist as a grade of military rank at Sherman's death on February 14, 1891.

Sherman's successor was Lieutenant General Philip H. Sheridan, who could not be promoted to General of the Army because of the 1870 Law. Congress, however, enacted legislation on June 1, 1888, shortly before Sheridan's death, that discontinued the grade of lieutenant general and merged it with that of General of the Army. The grade of General of the Army was conferred on Sheridan and was discontinued when he died, while still on active duty on August 5, 1888.

War Department General Orders No. 75, September 5, 1866, prescribed that the insignia for the newly authorized General of the Army grade would be four stars. General Grant wore this insignia, as did General



**William J. Woodworth, President  
Empire State Society**

Congratulations to the Finger Lakes Chapter for their fine hosting of the ESSAR Annual BOM meeting in May. President Blaine Elkie and his members not only provided us with a good meeting location, meal, and service, but also their usual variety of interesting door prizes. Thanks again for a fine job. During that meeting, the following chapters agreed to host the upcoming BOM meetings;

- Binghamton Chapter – September 2009
- Buffalo Chapter – November 2009
- Saratoga Battle Chapter – March 2010
- Finger Lakes Chapter – May 2010

If any chapter would be interested in hosting a BOM meeting and would like to know what is involved, please contact me.

Another matter that was approved by the Board was an increase in the ESSAR dues which could actually be referred to as a surcharge. If you pay your dues BEFORE December 31<sup>st</sup>, then the dues amount remains the same - \$10.00. If you pay your dues AFTER December 31<sup>st</sup>, then the amount will be \$15.00. This is an incentive to pay your dues on time, but also the extra charge will be used to finance having all the ESSAR membership applications placed in archival folders or digitalized record material.

The Atlantic Middle States Conference will be held in Rochester, NY this year (August 7-8,

2009), and consists of seven participating SAR State Societies which host a conference on a rotating basis. The conference is always held in August, and will be hosted next year by the Pennsylvania State Society. Many representatives from the State Societies as well as NSSAR Officers attend these conferences which are also “open” to any SAR members who wish to attend.

I’d like to welcome our new “Empire Patriot” Editor, Norman Wheeler. He is asking for your help to carry on the tradition of Hank Croteau and the late Ed St. Germain in continuing to make this newsletter a great one. Ed passed away on July 8, 2009 from a battle with cancer. I never had the honor of meeting Ed, but we had some very interesting e-mail messages that made me feel a lot of respect for this man. His integrity and desire to carry on with the same dedication to give us an exceptional newsletter that Hank Croteau gave us with his tenure as Editor, could be “felt” in every one of his requests for interesting articles. He also desired to have ALL of us involved in submitting articles because, as he mentioned to me several times, “this newsletter belongs to all of the ESSAR members”. He also has an American Revolution web site that contains all kinds of information, genealogy links, etc. which many say is “second to none on Revolutionary War History” and can be accessed at [www.americanrevolution.com](http://www.americanrevolution.com) He certainly will be missed and on behalf of all the ESSAR membership, I send our deepest and sincere sympathy to the family.

**Empire Patriot**

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Published 1<sup>st</sup> of Feb. May, Aug & Nov.

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

George Washington continued

Sherman until War Department General Orders No. 92, October 26, 1872, changed the insignia to two silver stars with the arms of the United States in gold between them. General Sherman, and later, General Sheridan wore the new insignia.

When General Pershing was appointed General of the Armies, he continued to wear the four stars that he, as well as Generals Tasker H. Bliss and Peyton C., March had adopted under the provisions of then current uniform regulations, which permitted them to prescribe the insignia denoting their grade. Army Regulations 600-35, Personnel: The Prescribed Uniform, October 12, 1921, and all subsequent editions during General Pershing's lifetime, made no mention of insignia for General of the Armies, but prescribed that generals would wear four stars. General Pershing at no time wore more than four stars.

Following the establishment of the General of the Army grade on December 14, 1944, Army Regulations 600-35 were changed to prescribe that Generals of the Army would wear five stars. Although General Pershing continued to wear only four, he remained pre-eminent among all Army personnel, by virtue of Congressional action and Army Regulations governing rank and precedence.

Congress revived the grade of General of the Armies of the United States by Public Law 45, approved September 3, 1919, to honor General John J. Pershing for his wartime service. He retired with that rank on September 13, 1924, and held it until his death on July 15, 1948. No other officer held this specific title until 1976 when SAR member President Gerald Ford posthumously appointed George Washington, General of the Armies of the United States, and specified that he would rank first among all officers of the Army, past and present. The date of rank was set as July 4, 1776, so he will ALWAYS be the army's most senior officer.

### **General Order - 1776**

**“The time is now near at hand which must probably determine whether Americans are to be freemen or slaves... The fate of unborn millions, will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army. Our cruel and unrelenting enemy leaves us only the choice of brave resistance or abject submission. We have, therefore, to resolve to conquer or die.”** G. Washington

**“To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace.”** G. Washington

## **Your new editor**

I am Norman Wheeler, married, with two children (Susan Ann and Norman, Jr.), one grand-child (Rebecca Lynn), and one great-grand-child (Cierra Payge). My wife is Patricia. We were born in Worcester, MA. I hope the remainder doesn't sound like boasting.

My occupations: I have been a truck driver, a hospital orderly, a social worker, a classroom teacher, school administrator, college instructor and associate professor, and an education specialist for the State Department of Education in MA. & VT. I served in the military for over 23 years; eight years enlisted service in the U.S. Navy and Reserve (Korean Veteran), and 15 years in the U.S. Army and Reserve. I retired as a Lieutenant Colonel, Medical Service Corp. The last 15 years I have been a safety director for a construction company in Buffalo, NY. I have recently retired from the world of work.

I took a break in service, left the navy and went to college where I received a BS in Biological & Physical Sciences, and a Masters in Education.

I was commissioned as a reserve officer in the U.S. Army as a Captain, Medical Service Corp. (MSC). I completed all required officer training including Command & General Staff College. Also, I earned the equivalent of a masters degree in Health Care Administration.

I am a member of the Phi Theta Kappa national honor society, and have received other honors from the military and other organizations.

I have been a volunteer instructor of safety programs with the American Red Cross for 57 years (at one time I was a volunteer National Representative in safety programs for VT & NH), a leader with the Boy Scouts of America for 55 years (never was a Boy Scout), and various other groups.

I am a life member of Military Officers Association of America, National Association Uniformed Services, Veteran of Foreign Wars; a member of the Sons of the American Revolution (Newtown Battle Chapter and the Finger Lakes Chapter), Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, American Legion; and a 4<sup>th</sup> degree with the Knights of Columbus; and various other groups.

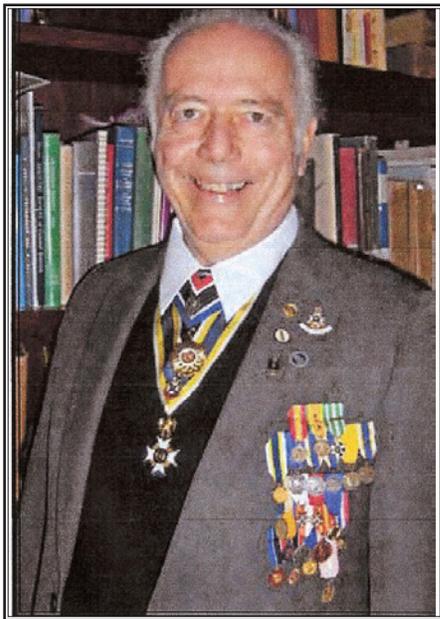
My wife and I are becoming world travelers; we have visited over 40 of our 50 states, I have been to Japan, Australia, and all through the South Pacific; and most recently, we were in Spain.

A philosophy I have followed through life:

***“Throughout life, be productive.”***

## *Lest We Forget*

*Almighty Father, we ask thy blessing on the soul of our departed Compatriot, we thank thee for his membership in our society these many years. And now that he has passed on to that greater light, that light which we cannot receive while here in the body, we ask thee to receive him more and more into thy faithful service and keep him under thy protected care to the Honor and Glory of thy Holy Name. Amen.*



*In memory of*

### **Edward Alan St. Germain**

Edward passed away before 3 a.m. on July 8, 2009, after a valiant fight against cancer.

He was born and raised in Poughkeepsie, and spent his early and happy childhood vacationing at his grandparent's farm near Ballston Spa. He graduated from Arlington High School, winning a New York State Regent's College Scholarship. He served in the U.S. Navy, and was deployed to Vietnam as a Hospital Corpsman First Class (HM1). One of his jobs, there, was providing combat medical services for river and coastal patrols—very dangerous work. (note: **The navy hospital corpsmen are the front line medical support for the U.S. Marines during combat.**)

After graduating with a B.A. in Psychology

from Marist College, Ed moved to California where he worked to put himself through Law school. His excellent legal work earned him Verdictum Juris Magazine's award "1988 Southern California Lawyer of the Year." Among other jobs, Ed worked as a Deputy District Attorney in San Bernardino, and as House Counsel for a national insurance company—"chasing the ambulance chasers" (job description, according to Ed.)

He was an avid historian. Ed knew almost everything there is to know about the American Revolution, and he built a website containing vast amounts of information on the subject, so that all could see and share it. *Please take a look*, [www.americanrevolution.org](http://www.americanrevolution.org).

Recently, Ed returned to the Hudson Valley where he happily renewed acquaintances with many old friends. He kept in touch with his many friends, from far and near, via the internet, so it is fitting that remembrance-sharing will take place in that medium. Per his wishes, his body will be cremated.

A brave, clever, honorable man, he will be remembered as a staunch champion of truth and justice, and as a loving, caring, sharing person. It is hoped that we shall all cherish the memories of the "Saint" with love and appreciation.

The following are awards he received from the Sons of the American Revolution and positions held:

1993-War Service Medal

1994-Silver Good Citizenship Medal

1994-99-CASSAR Chancellor

1994-President, Riverside Chapter

1995-97-99- Secretary, Riverside Chapter

1996-Meritorious Service Medal CASSAR

1998-Patriot Medal

1999-25 Year Membership Certificate

2000-Communications, Riverside Chapter

2000-07-George Washington Bicentennial Medal

2002-06-VonSteuben Color Guard Medal

Ed was a Revolutionary War re-enactor in the Lamb's Artillery in New York. One of his hobbies was collecting signatures of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. His collection had 22 of the 56 signatures.

*O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered, accept our prayers on behalf of the soul of Thy servant departed, and grant Edward A. St. Germain an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of Thy saints; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen*

# Interesting News

## The First Shots of the American Revolution

A short story of the incidents at Lexington and Concord in April 1775 as shown in pictures with a commentary. To see, visit [http://www.earlyamerica.com/shot\\_heard.htm](http://www.earlyamerica.com/shot_heard.htm) submitted by Don Matthias.

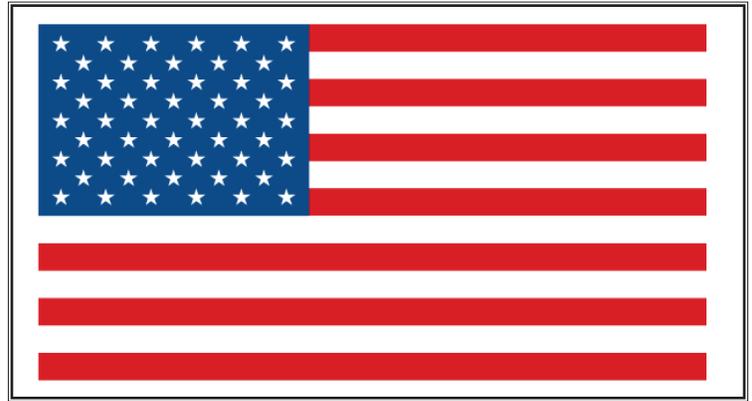
## “Loyalist Tales From New York to Canada”

by Mark Jodoin

Again as the Membership Chair, I would like to announce the forthcoming achievement of one of the newest members of the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch. There is a pleasant irony that Mark Jodoin’s “Shadow Soldiers of the Revolution: Loyalist Tales from New York to Canada” is published by an up and coming American history publisher, History Press of Charleston, South Carolina and Salem, Massachusetts. Readers of the publication *Esprit de Corps* will recognize many of the book’s personalities who originally appeared in Mr. Jodoin’s history feature articles.

The subject matter has been enlarged and enhanced for a North American audience with new material including 80 images with more than 30 new maps, photographs, and sketches. He warned me that since the book’s primary target audience is the northeastern United States, the spelling and editing reflects American usage. It will also be available in Canada, both online and in bookstores.

One highlight of the book is the foreword by David Wilkins, who until recently was the US Ambassador to Canada. Ambassador Wilkins points out, “If there was one thing I discovered during the three and a half years I was privileged to serve my country in Canada, it was this: most Canadians think they know everything about America, and most Americans think they know enough about Canada. The truth is, Americans and Canadians alike would be well served to know and understand one another a lot better.” Ambassador Wilkins took an interest in the book’s focus on Revolutionary War personalities, and the events that took place in the Mohawk, Champlain, Hudson and St. Lawrence valleys, all in relative proximity to our international border. Mr. Jodoin is proud to be the first Canadian author for History Press as well as an Associate Member of the Sir John Johnson Branch of UELAC. He is looking forward to attending several UELAC events in the coming months. Submitted by Adelaide Lanktree, Past President, SJJ



## Flag Amendment

There are new proposed constitutional amendments that would return to the American people the right to protect their flag from desecration. The Senate Joint Resolution reads: “The Congress shall have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States”

## ESSSAR Revised Proposed Constitution and By-Laws

“A copy of the ESSSAR Revised Proposed Constitution and By-laws are listed on the ESSSAR Web site at [www.sar.org/esssar](http://www.sar.org/esssar) for each member’s reviewing, and any comments, suggestions, etc. to be sent to the C&B Chairman, Thomas Rankin. His e-mail address is [rtrankin@windstream.net](mailto:rtrankin@windstream.net). We will soon be voting on these proposals and need your input.”

## 119<sup>th</sup> Congress

The business session of the 119th Congress concluded with the following decisions;

National dues will increase from \$25 to \$30 effective January 1, 2010 for Regular Members.

National dues will increase from \$5 to \$10 effective January 1, 2010 for Junior Members.

New Membership Application (processing) fee will increase from \$60 to \$80 effective January 1, 2010.

# COMPATRIOTS IN ACTION

## Oriskany Battle Chapter



(l to r) Vincent Scalise, Paul Scanlon & Nate George

We held our spring meeting and made the following awards: Good Citizenship awards were presented to Vincent Scalise, Paul Scanlon, and Nate George for outstanding service to Veterans. NROTC awards were presented at Syracuse University and Clarkson University. JROTC awards were presented at Proctor High School and Rome Free Academy.

President Gydesen was guest speaker at the General William Floyd Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. Also, he was the guest speaker at Fort Herkimer Church Independence Day services.

The Oriskany Battle Chapter was joined with the Massachusetts Society, Colonel William Henshaw Chapter, and Virginia Society Fairfax Resolves

## Saratoga Battle Chapter

On May 2, 2009, the ROTC Presidential Awards Ceremony was held at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. President Richard Fullam was proud to present the SAR ROTC medals to the following cadets: **Jonathan Ruffier- Army, Glenn Walton- Navy, Joshua Ahmed- Air Force.**

It was a great experience seeing the men and women that will be defending this country upon graduation from their respective universities receiving honors from a variety of patriotic and academic institutions; the American Legion, VFW, and DAR to

name a few. We look forward to taking part in next year's ceremonies as well.

Saratoga Battle was also a key partner in the Sixth Annual Citizenship Ceremony at the Saratoga National Historic Park in Stillwater, NY. Nineteen candidates from eleven countries became American citizens on July 4, 2009 at an event that was well covered by the local media. State Senator Roy McDonald took time from his busy schedule to come say a few words at what he has professed is one of his favorite events on his calendar. Lemonade toasts, cannon salutes, and the beautiful singing of our National Anthem by Danielle McMullen filled the program as our newest countrymen received their certificates.

The ceremony was dedicated to two men who loved the park and their organizations, and worked hard to make past ceremonies a success. Immediate Saratoga Battle Chapter Past President George Ballard and President of the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield Richard Beresford both passed away this spring. George's widow, Nancy, and new FOSB President Tim Holmes were presented certificates of appreciation in their honor.

Future events: the Turning Point Parade in Schuylerville, NY, on August 2, and a wreath laying ceremony at the Battlefield on September 20, 2009.

## Stony Point Chapter

### Re-dedication of the Waldron Cemetery

On July, 18, 2009, after almost two years of work, we officially re-dedicate the historic Waldron Cemetery, which is located in Neilly's woods.

This tract of land was originally owned by Resolvert Waldron, the progenitor of the Waldron family in the North Rockland area. Then by John H. Neilly, whose wife, a granddaughter of Abraham Waldron, was the last to own any part of the tract.

There have been many attempts to maintain this property. In 1965, volunteers from the boy scouts, cub scouts, and Stony Point Highway Superintendent, Randy Riker. Again, 1980's it was a cub scout and boy scout project. However, the project was never finished. The tree, brier and vine root removal never occurred

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nor was the cemetery re-graded and re-seeded. More importantly it was not maintained on a regular basis as it is now, thanks to the efforts by the Sons of the American Revolution and our current Highway Superintendent Larry Brissing.

In the fall of 2006, I came to check on the grave markings, and could not locate the cemetery. At that time, the undergrowth, brush, briars and vines were eighteen feet high and a virtual jungle. The ravages of time took it's toll on this place over the past two hundred years. *Please see pictures posted on the Stony Point Chapter website.*

A "thank you" goes to Larry Brissing, with members of the Sheriff's Dept "Weekend Warriors", and other Chapter members who helped in clearing the area and righting many downed tombstones. The major effort was accomplished by the Cedar Brook Construction Co., the Cedar Pond Tree Services and other business'. We had huge piles of debris that was removed by the Stony Point Highway Dept. These men donated their time, and their equipment to do what we could not do without such services. Also, to the Orange and Rockland Utilities who are the present owners of this property. Without their outstanding commitment, this restoration project would not have been possible.

A crucial finding occurred. Charles Goetschius, an expert dowser, discovered the true size of the cemetery. He kept getting hits on his dowsing rods beyond where there were tombstones. We spent many days until the rods finally stood still meaning no more interments could be found. This cemetery is 10 times larger than previously thought when they recorded just the stones. The cemetery records however said it was 200-300 plus feet in size. The cemetery is almost full, and thanks to the Town of Stony Point, it will continue to be cared for by the Stony Point Parks Dept.

After talking to many genealogists and historians, we have agreed that other patriots should be recognized at this site with an identifier as to where they are buried. I will work with the cemetery staff, and try to fill in some of the missing records.

My promise to the towns of Haverstraw and Stony Point is that the Stony Point Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will have an aesthetically designed list of North Rockland "**Known Patriots from the Revolutionary War**" as well as "**War of 1812 Known Veterans**" available for display at various locations. This will be a long lasting contribution in conjunction to the Quad Centennial Celebration of 2009 from the Stony Point Chapter, SAR.

## Finger Lakes Chapter

Norman Wheeler, has been working on a project of identifying living and dead individuals who have served in the military during war and peacetime. The scope of the project is to identify male and female service members during any time period from the Revolutionary War to the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. The town of Lansing may just be the beginning, and it may spread to include other towns within the chapter.

He has currently identified 28 Revolutionary soldiers who are buried in 12 different cemeteries. At least half of these cemeteries have been closed for many years.

## Rochester Chapter



On May 31., 2009 the Rochester Chapter SAR celebrated Memorial Day in a very special way. At a luncheon ceremony at the Rochester Radisson Airport Hotel, the following awards were given to members, who were qualified to receive, but had not been honored: the SAR War Service Medal and the SAR Military Service Medal..

In the presence of family and friends, medals and framed certificates were presented to each of the largest single group to ever receive awards at one time from this chapter. Of the twenty five members who were eligible and received awards, twenty compatriots were able to attend and receive their awards at the luncheon.

Those compatriots so honored were Steve Arter, Chris Bailey, Robert E. Brewer, William A. Brewer, Robert L Clark, Robert P Clark, Bob Coomber, Brent Downing, Jim Eagan, Roy Goold, Ron Hanley, David Hawley, Dana Johnson, Elijah Monroe, Bob Peters, Dr. Preston Pierce, Richard

Continued on page 9, column 1.

Popeck, Ron Regal, Dick Seager, Sean Shillington, Daryl Verstrete, Andrew Watts, Steve Whittaker, William Andrews and Todd Shillington

Also, the occasion marked the first public display in many years of the chapter's coveted memorial banner honoring those fellow compatriots from the Rochester Chapter who served during WW 1, along with other historical articles owned by the chapter.

Mementos of Sgt. R.F. Livingston were on display. He was an aviator who perished in a Prisoner of War camp during WW II

Roberta Calhoun-Eagan LCW was the guest speaker. She spoke about the work of the Veterans Administration newly created National Crisis Intervention Hotline which is located in Canadaigua,

### **Newtown Battle Chapter**

Newtown Battle held a meeting on July 18, 2009. The program included information regarding the Volunteer Services at the local VA Medical Center in Bath, NY. We support this service with our Annual Chapter Christmas Party, and donate all gifts as well as monetary donations to the veterans at this center. Plans are already underway for our next Christmas Party. If there are other SAR members who would like to attend the party please contact me, and I'll send you all the information. Also, we will be discussing what our part will be in the "Wreaths Across America" program that will again take place at the Bath National Cemetery this coming December.

The Annual Family Picnic will once again take place at Newtown Battlefield State Park on September 29, 2009 which happens to be the Anniversary Date of the original battle. A Revolutionary War Reenactment will be held that weekend with battles, skirmishes, vendors, exhibits, tours, etc. As always, we send out this notice so you can plan on attending, "We are not responsible for anyone taken hostage by the enemy forces".

The chapter continues to work on membership and currently have several prospective members at various stages of completing their paperwork.

We continue to work toward establishing a CAR Society in the local area, and have had many requests for information regarding this. We have not reached the required number of members needed to obtain the charter, but Newtown Battle Chapter has offered to pay the application fee for any interested prospective CAR members to reach this "goal" and receive the

charter. If you would like more information regarding the CAR, requirements please drop me a line.

The upcoming SAR Atlantic Middle States Conference is being held in Rochester, NY on August 7-8, 2009, and several members of the Rochester Chapter as well as Newtown Battle Chapter are working on different stages of this meeting. The conference is open to all SAR members.

Don't forget to check out the proposed revisions for the ESSAR Constitution and Bylaws that are listed on the ESSAR Web site.

Finally, last but not least, CONGRATULATIONS are in order for the following members; **Compatriots Benjamin Dean, Everett Morse, Fleet Morse, and "Cy" Tanner.** These four men have over 200 years combined service in unbroken SAR membership with all of them holding several officer positions during this service!!!

### **Binghamton Chapter September ESSAR Meeting**

We will host the Board of Managers meeting on Sep. 19. 2009. It will be held at the Binghamton Best Western Regency, One Sarbro Sq., tel: 607-722-7575. Meeting will start promptly at 11:00 a.m.

The menu: either (1) Marinated Chicken Breast with Rice Pilaf, or (2) Prime Rib on Toast Points with Oven Roasted Potatoes, and either a Garden Tossed salad or Chef's choice vegetables; rolls, and coffee or tea. The cost of the meal is \$19.00 per person. Those not having a meal, the cost is \$5.00. Please make checks payable to the **Binghamton Chapter, ESSAR.** Mail to: **Roger Cargill, 516 Dickson St., Endicott, NY. 13760-4616 no later than Sept. 12.** An additional \$5.00 will be charged if payment in not in time. Please indicate your meal choice.

Accommodations at the Best Western is \$79.00 single/double plus tax. Reserve by Aug. 28, 2009, and mention SAR when making reservation.

The Best Western is three blocks from the bus terminal serviced by Coach USA/Short line.

### **Walloomsac Battle Chapter**

Chapter activities planned for August 2009 include commemoration of the Battle of Bennington fought in the area of Walloomsac, New York (near North Hoosick, NY). This will take place at the New York State Bennington Battlefield Historic Site on Sunday,

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August 16, 2009 with on going events from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The formal commemoration ceremony will take place at 4:30 p.m. followed by a picnic for chapter members and those volunteers who participated in the day's programs. All SAR members and their family present are invited to the picnic as guests of the Walloomsac Battle Chapter. It would be helpful for planning purposes if SAR members planning to attend would contact Chapter President John Sheaff either at 518-677-5562 or [ljsheaff@nycap.rr.com](mailto:ljsheaff@nycap.rr.com).

On Wednesday, August 19, 2009 the Chapter will be working with the Ondawa-Cambridge Chapter, N.S.D.A.R. to present a program; "The Road to Walloomsac," which will describe the approximate 30 mile route that Colonel Baum's forces took from the area of Hudson Falls, N.Y. to the Walloomsac battle site. The program will take place at 7:00 p.m. at the Cambridge Museum, Cambridge, N.Y., and will be led by Compatriot Paul Loding.

### Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter



The Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter will be holding their next meeting on August 22, 2009 at the Cappuccino by Coppola's in Red Hook at 11:00 a.m.. Our guest speaker will be Alan Coon, our Chapter Secretary/Treasurer. Alan was recently honored by the Museum of Rhinebeck History for the outstanding job he has accomplished over the past few years preserving and creating memorials and monuments of our American Soldiers who fought in the wars of our Nation.

On June 13, our Chapter set up a display booth at the annual Hudson Elks Flag Day. All though we had contact with the many people, no new potential SAR members

were recruited.

We have three new members, Thomas G. Anderson, Brig. General Paul E. Benenati and David W. Silvernail bringing our total to fifty-three members. Another two applications are at NSSAR pending approval. In addition, our potential SAR members are currently working on their applications.

We have been very active in creating and presenting Eagle Scout Certificates to at least five new Eagle Scouts in the Rip Van Winkle and the Hudson Valley Councils, which is the area our Chapter covers. At this time, we have another eight Eagle Scout letters in our possession to process for additional certificates.

Our next meeting will be on December 5<sup>th</sup> at the

### Huntington-Long Island Chapter Long Island Patriots Monument Unveiled



**Mario Buonopane, Jo-An Raia, Robert Corwin, Tom Ronayne, Walter Kuhn, Reginald Metcalf, Susan Berland, Arthur Sniffin, Frank Messina, David Shields, Edward Burns, Albert Meyer, Desander Mas**

Sunday, June 14, 2009, Flag Day. A gathering on the lawn of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial on Main Street in Huntington, saw the dedication of the new Revolutionary War Patriots Monument. Among those who honored the brave Patriots of an era over 225 years ago, were Huntington Town Councilwomen Susan A. Berland who welcomed everyone. Others included were Tom Ronayne, Director of Suffolk County Veterans Services, Frank Messina, Chief Engineer for Telephonics Corporation, Mario Buonopane, Town of Huntington Veterans Advirosy Board, Jo-An Raia, Huntington Town Clerk/RMO and Robert Hughes, Town of Huntington Historian.

Speaking on behalf of the Long Island Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution was Reginald Metcalf Jr.,

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Chapter Historian, who explained that the monument was the only memorial to the Revolutionary War in the Town of Huntington, and is being donated to the Town from the Long Island Chapter to replace the previous SAR memorial, the old flag pole which graced the top of the hill in the Revolutionary War Cemetery for the past 50 years. In addition, he gave an account of the history of the Revolution in the Town of Huntington, describing and pointing out exact locations where actual events took place.

The formal presentation of the monument was done by Chapter President, Desander J. Mas, with the actual unveiling done by Treasurer Albert H. Meyer, Secretary David M. Shields, Registrar Edward A. Burns and former New York State President Walter R. Kuhn, Jr. Other compatriots in attendance included Compatriot Robert L. Corwin, Esq. and Compatriot Arthur F. Sniffin.

On June 8, 2009, 14 high school students from all over Long Island received citizenship awards for excellence in scholarship with emphasis on history and citizenship. The ceremony was co-hosted by the Ketewomoke Chapter, DAR.

## Westchester-Putnam Chapter



President Stevens presenting the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal to Frank Daquino

Our annual meeting was held on May 30, 2009 at the Brasserie Swiss Resturant in Ossining. Our speaker was Vincent Dacquino, who spoke about *Sybil Ludington*, the female Paul Revere of the American Revolution. Mr. Dacquino, recently retired after thirty years of teaching, is the author of several books  
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# Chaplain's Column

## THE HISTORY FOR CHAPLAINS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The Old Testament often refers to priests serving with troops going into battle. One reference is from the Book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 20:2-4.

*"And it shall be, when ye are come nigh unto the battle, that the priest shall approach and speak unto the people, And shall say unto them, Hear, O Israel, ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies: let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them; For the LORD your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you."*

Recall, too, that at the siege of the battle of Jericho, priests marched around the city's walls each day for six days. On the seventh day, the priests, accompanied by the Ark of the Covenant, marched around the city seven times blowing the trumpets and the soldiers gave a giant shout and the walls came tumbling down.

The Hebrews weren't the only nation that had priests accompany their troops into battle. The Egyptians had priests representing their various gods. The Romans made sacrifices of animals and studied their livers for tell tale signs concerning the battle. Priests would study the parts and report the findings to the Senate.

Chaplains have a patron saint as many various professions have. St. Martin of Tours is ours. Tradition has it that Martin, a pagan Roman soldier, in the fourth century, encountered a beggar shivering from the cold. Martin, cut his military cloak in half, giving a portion to the beggar. That night he had a vision of Christ dressed in his cloak. As a result, Martin converted to Christianity and devoted his life to the church. Martin died and eventually was canonized and made the patron saint of France. His cloak, now a holy relic, was carried by Frankish kings into battle. Cloak, in Latin, is "*cappa*". It's caretaker priest became the "*cappellanus*". Time passing, all clergy affiliated with the military were called "*capellani*" or in French "*chapelains*", hence **chaplains**.

**Our Chaplain is the Reverend Terry L. Sheldon, State Chaplain-elect, and is from the Oriskany Battle Chapter.**



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including **Sybil Ludington: The Call To Arms**, and is a frequent speaker at schools and other organizations. He discussed the misinformation about her that his research has corrected. In recognition for his efforts in educating the public about the American Revolution, the Chapter presented him with the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal.

Also, we recognized Stewart Manville for his sixty year membership in SAR, and William Rockefeller for his fifty years as a member.

The entire slate of proposed chapter officers for 2009-2010 was elected. The Chapter has added a new member, Charles Banks, Jr. of Katonah.

I was pleased to represent the SAR at the DAR, Enoch Crosby Chapter's annual meeting in June. I gave a brief update on all levels of SAR activities, and urged the DAR members to encourage their male relatives to join the SAR.

## **Do You Know?**

Who made the following statement, and what was happening that caused him to make it?

**“A little rebellion now and then is a good thing. It is medicine necessary for the sound health of government. God forbid that we should ever be twenty years without such a rebellion.”**