



# Empire Patriot

Empire State Society

Sons of The American Revolution

Descendants of America's First Soldiers

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## ANONYMOUS ACCOUNT OF THE BOSTON MASSACRE

*The horrid massacre in Boston, perpetrated in the evening of the fifth day of March, 1770, by soldiers of the twenty-ninth regiment which with the fourteenth regiment were then quartered there; with some observations on the state of things prior to that catastrophe, it may be a proper introduction to this narrative, briefly to represent the state of things for some time previous to the said massacre; and this seems necessary in order to the forming a just idea of the causes of it.*

At the end of the late French and Indian war, in which this province bore so distinguished a part, a happy union subsisted between Great Britain and the colonies. This was unfortunately interrupted by the Stamp Act; but it was in some measure restored by the repeal of it. It was again interrupted by other acts of parliament for taxing America; and by the appointment of a Board of Commissioners, in pursuance of an act, which by the face of it was made for the relief and encouragement of commerce, but which in its operation, it was apprehended, would have, and it has in fact had, a contrary effect. By the said act the said Commissioners were "to be resident in some convenient part of his Majesty's dominions in America." This must be understood to be in some part convenient for the whole. But it does not appear that, in fixing the place of their residence, the convenience of the whole was at all consulted, for Boston, being very far from the centre of the colonies, could not be the place most convenient for the whole. Judging by the act, it may seem this town was intended to be favored, by the Commissioners being appointed to reside here; and that the consequence of that residence would be the relief and encouragement of commerce; but the reverse has been the constant and uniform effect of it; so that the commerce of the town, from the embarrassments in which it has been lately involved, is greatly reduced.



This print depicts a very biased and inaccurate account of the events on King Street shortly after 9 PM on March 5, 1770. The wounded and dead on the left are portrayed as peaceful bystanders rather than the angry and rowdy group that cursed, insulted and threatened the lives of the soldiers. The soldiers fired but one round into the group. They did not fire in unison as this engraving illustrates. Numerous accounts and a later jury decided that the commanding officer of the day, Captain Preston, did not order his troops to fire. In fact many colonists testified that Preston did everything he could to calm his soldiers and prevent them from shooting even one round.

This engraving was made and printed in a hurry so that the leaders of the protest against Parliament and the royal officials could get their version of what happened out to the people before any other story reached them. This picture reinforced the idea that English soldiers just like Parliament, were aggressors against law-abiding and peaceful citizens. Revere knew what he was doing when he constructed this picture of the events of that evening. He produced an image that many people even today believe accurately depicts what happened.

## ROCHESTER CHAPTER RECOVERS AND RESTORES DOCUMENTS OF THE 18TH CENTURY and MARKS THE GRAVE OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT



Rochester Chapter President Steve Clarke, W. Alex Williams (in the background), Chapter Treasurer Millard A. Fairley, Jr., and Mary Huth at the University of Rochester Rare Books Department with the Eddy Collection.

As a part of its ongoing programs to support and recognize educational programs at all levels, the Rochester Chapter presented a collection of nine 18th century documents to Mary Huth, Librarian, and Richard Peek, Director, of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections at the University of Rochester on 27 July. Among the documents are first-hand accounts of actions in New York dating from 1776 and 1777. Scholars or historians saw none of the documents for over 80 years. The story of the papers is almost as remarkable as the history they relate.

In about the year 1912, the Rochester Chapter purchased what was known at the time as "The Eddy Collection" of Revolutionary War and Civil War documents and artifacts. G. Schuyler Eddy, a descendant of Gen. Philip Schuyler of Revolutionary War fame, apparently developed the collection during the late 1800's. Whatever documentation there was with the collection, if any, has since been lost. The Chapter obtained no proof of provenance regarding the collection, but they displayed it at various meetings and patriotic functions until about the end of World War I when the Chapter fell into a period of decline.

At about this time the collection was turned over to the Rochester Historical Society (RHS), an inventory of the items was completed and the Society displayed them throughout the 1920s. The RHS kept the items until its demise when they were returned to the SAR. However, the SAR did not have storage or display capabilities and the items were housed for many years in the basement of the local public library where they remained for approximately 50 years. During that time most of the artifacts and documents were lost. From 1991 to 2003, the Rochester Chapter made a concerted effort to locate as many of the artifacts and documents as possible. A few of the artifacts and this collection of nine documents have been recovered.

In 2003, the documents were de-acidified, cleaned and repaired as necessary by Fred Jordan, a professional paper conservator. At some point there was considerable damage done to the papers, apparently for the purpose of fitting the letters, etc., into existing frames. Some of the letters were cut down to fit. Some had separate pages glued together and

the New York State Seal was cut from the ribbons attaching it to the vellum document appointing John Ten Broeck as Sheriff of Albany County. The seal was repaired and stabilized through the work of Dr. Alexander Wieber, a specialist in the history, use and preservation of wax seals. The cost of this work was borne by primarily by Rochester Compatriots W. Alex Williams and Stephan P. Clarke as gifts to the Chapter and the University of Rochester in the hope of preventing any further damage to significant historic documents to keep them in New York State and to have them remain near the Rochester Chapter.

In October 2003, Rochester Chapter President Steve Clarke contacted Mary Huth, of the University of Rochester Rare Books Collections for the purpose of placing them in a location that would allow scholarly access to and proper storage of the documents. The collection was delivered to Ms. Huth and Richard Peek who accepted the items on behalf of the University.

The collection is now cataloged and posted on the University's web site so scholars all over the world can know what is available and that the SAR made their access possible. All advertising, cataloging and internet notices are relative to the documents is required to state that the materials are a gift of the Rochester Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. ○



USMCR Color Guard, Rochester Chapter SAR President Steve Clarke, Dansville American Legion Post 87 Honor Guard at Bosley family memorial.

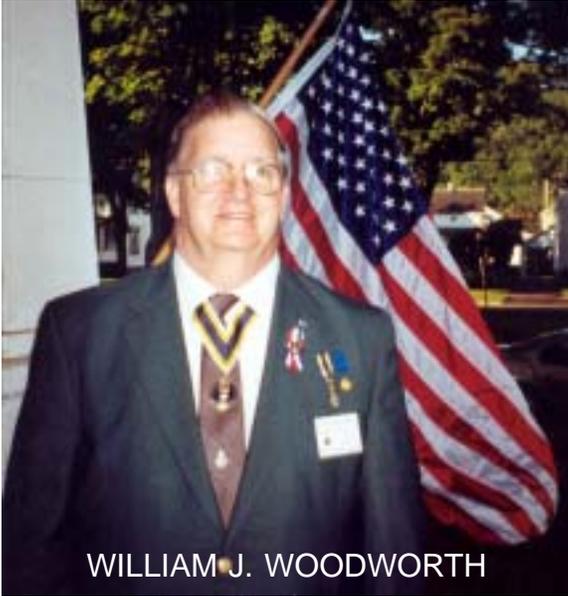
On Saturday 26 June, members of the Rochester Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution welcomed members of the Daughters of the American Revolution and local dignitaries to the Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Geneseo, NY, for a grave marker dedication ceremony for Revolutionary War Patriot John Bosley who died and is buried in this small cemetery near Geneseo. Forty-six people attended including some of Bosley's descendants.

Bosley served the cause of the Revolution in western Pennsylvania where he built a fortified gristmill known locally as Fort Bosley. He also served as a Ranger along the Pennsylvania frontier. After the War, he moved to western New York where he raised his family. He never strayed from his work as a gristmill owner and operator, building the first one in the area around Conesus Lake.

Bosley's grave was never marked, so his descendant, LTC James Shepherd, USMC (Ret.), a member of the SAR in California, contacted the Veteran's Administration to obtain a grave marker. Shepherd then contacted Rochester SAR president Steve Clarke to arrange a ceremony to dedicate the marker once it was installed at the Bosley memorial. The SAR is always honored to help with any such recognition of a Patriot, but the Bosley ceremony was special in that several 4th grade students attended from Maureen Cellura's class at the Gananda Central School. Cellura is one of John Bosley's descendants.

The ceremony was conducted with the help of two honor guards. The first, consisting of Sergeants April Urquizu, Nicholas Beck, Robert Breland and Carl Kurtz from the Headquarters and Service Company, 8th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division of the United States Marine Corps Reserve from the Training Center, Rochester, NY. The second, including a rifle squad and bugler, was provided by the American Legion Post 87, Dansville, NY and consisted of Brad Chapman, Norb Lang, Don Cuddeback, Mike Fairbrothers, Norm Sutfin, Dick Lebar, Bob Stickney, Bob Brydges, Stewart Jerome and Ron Higgins. Bosley's descendants have always been active in the support and defense of the United States. Family members served in uniform for every major military event of our country's history to the present day. *Stephan P. Clarke, Chapter president* ○

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR STATE PRESIDENT



WILLIAM J. WOODWORTH

I want to thank all of you for your prayers, cards, and concerns during my recent surgery and hospitalization. For those of you who may not have known, a lump was found on my right kidney and during major surgery both were removed. The good news is that everything was benign, but the results could have been worse if the tumor had not been discovered at the time that it was. As much as we don't like to make doctor's visits, it's good to get that checkup. My niece told me that all I needed to do now was to go to the grocery store and buy a can of kidney beans to start growing another kidney.

My traveling and driving plans were somewhat disrupted this Summer, but I have a full schedule beginning with September and the Board of Managers meeting will be first on the list. I want to congratulate our "Empire Patriot" **Editor Henry Croteau, Jr.** for the ESSAR newsletter winning the 1st Place award at the Pittsburgh Congress. Hank does a fine job and puts a lot of work into producing this newsletter. Thanks again. Hank, for all you do and have done in making this a top rated publication. As you may have noted in the latest issue of the "SAR Magazine", the ESSAR was also presented another award as was our Knight Essay Winner, **Daniel E. Sigler**, for winning 1st Place in the National Society level of this contest. Daniel was the Empire State Society entrant from Rochester Chapter. Many of the Chapters have been

keeping me updated as to their plans and special functions they have either attended or held and I really appreciate this. We are keeping History alive and making more people aware of what the SAR is. My special thanks to in of you for all your hard work

The new Finger Lakes Chapter will have held their first meeting by the time you read of this in the newsletter and we are looking forward to having a very active group in this Chapter. We are planning, at least, an "interim" list of officers with their first official election held sometime in January. The first meeting will

also entail setting up other functions to get this Chapter rolling. One application has already been submitted for new membership in this Chapter and I am working with several others. At present, there are 20 members who initially started the Chapter and with the submitted application as well as the others to be completed we hope to have that number increased to 27 by the year's end or first part of next year.

Continue to keep our Florida Compatriots as well as those in the other affected States, in your prayers and concerns during this time of these tropical storms. Many have lost their homes or other property and, at this writing, are preparing for yet another "attack" of the Florida coastlines. The backlash of these storms has even brought havoc to those of us in the Northeast as you may have experienced or seen on the news. One village a few miles from our home, where the local creek has only about 1 ½ feet of water in it during the year, experienced 13 ½ feet this past week. Some of the ESSAR Chapters have members in these States that have been hit the hardest, so continue to be in contact with these members and share with all of us any news that you may receive regarding their status.

As always, my best to you and your families.

*William J. Woodworth*

## EMPIRE PATRIOT

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Sons of the American Revolution  
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### ADDRESS CHANGES

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## BOM MEETING

### NOVEMBER 20, 2004

The next regularly scheduled Board of Managers Meeting will be held at the Horseheads, NY Holiday Inn at the junction of Route 14 & 17. Traveling EAST or West on Route 17 ( I-86 ) you will take EXIT 52B. At the end of the Exit Ramp will be a traffic light where you will turn RIGHT onto Route 14 South. The Holiday Inn will be located on your LEFT right across the street as you turn. Meeting begins at 11:00AM.

### MENU

Mixed Greens with Dressings

Potato Salad, Bow Tie Pasta Salad

Macaroni Salad

Cole Slaw with Pineapple Dressing

Sliced Roast Beef and Breast of Turkey

Assorted Cheeses, Lettuce,

Onion, & Tomato

Assortment of Breads and Rolls

Desserts: Assorted Pudding and Cake

Coffee, Tea, and Soda

**COST: \$12.00 person includes gratuity.**

### Make checks payable to:

"Newtown Battle Chapter, SAR"

### mail to:

Samuel R. Pulford, Treasurer

Newtown Battle Chapter, SAR

283 Front Street

Owego, NY 13827-1603

Rooms will be available at the Holiday Inn for a cost of \$60 per night (607) 739-3681.

The residence of the Commissioners here has been detrimental, not only to the commerce, but to the political interests of the town and province; and not only so, but we can trace from it the causes of the late horrid massacre. Soon after their arrival here in November, 1767, instead of confining themselves to the proper business of their office, they became partizans of Governor Bernard in his

ments arrived some time after from Ireland; one of which landed at Castle Island, and the other in the town.

Thus were we, in aggravation of our other embarrassments, embarrassed with troops, forced upon us contrary to our inclination-contrary to the spirit of Magna Charta-contrary to the very letter of the Bill of Rights, in which it is declared, that the raising or keeping a standing army within the kingdom in time of peace, unless it be with the consent of parliament, is against law, and without the desire of the civil magistrates, to aid whom was the pretence for sending the troops hither; who were quartered in the town in direct violation of an act of parliament for quartering troops in America; and all this in consequence of the representations of the said Commissioners and the said Governor, as appears by their memorials and letters lately published.



This print captures the events on King Street shortly after 9:00 P.M. on March 5, 1770. Crispus Attucks, part Native American and part African-American, is known as the "first martyr of the American Revolution". The print represents a very different version of the events that evening than the one depicted by Paul Revere in his engraving published within days of the incident.

As they were the procuring cause of troops being sent hither, they must therefore be the remote and a blameable cause of all the disturbances and bloodshed that have taken place in consequence of that measure.

political schemes; and had the weakness and temerity to infringe upon one of the most essential rights of the house of commons of this province-that of giving their votes with freedom, and not being accountable therefor but to their constituents. One of the members of that house, Capt. Timothy Folger, having voted in some affair contrary to the mind of the said Commissioners, was for so doing dismissed from the office he held under them.

We shall next attend to the conduct of the troops, and to some circumstances relative to them. Governor Bernard with-

These proceedings of theirs, the difficulty of access to them on office-business, and a supercilious behavior, rendered them disgustful to people in general, who in consequence thereof treated them with neglect. This probably stimulated them to resent it; and to make their resentment felt, they and their coadjutor, Governor Bernard, made such representations to his Majesty's ministers as they thought best calculated to bring the displeasure of the nation upon the town and province; and in order that those representations might have the more weight, they are said to have contrived and executed plans for exciting disturbances and tumults, which otherwise would probably never have existed; and, when excited, to have transmitted to the ministry the most exaggerated accounts of them.

out consulting the Council, having given up the State House to the troops at their landing, they took possession of the chambers, where the representatives of the province and the courts of law held their meetings; and (except the council-chamber) of all other parts of that house; in which they continued a considerable time, to the great annoyance of those courts while they sat, and of the merchants and gentlemen of the town, who had always made the lower floor of it their exchange. They [the merchants] had a right so to do, as the property of it was in the town; but they were deprived of that right by mere power. The said Governor soon after, by every stratagem and by every method but a forcibly entry, endeavored to get possession of the manufactory-house, to make a barrack of it for the troops; and for that purpose caused it to be besieged by the troops, and the people in it to be used very cruelly;

The General Court, at the first session after the arrival of the troops, viewed it in this light, and applied to Governor Bernard to cause such a nuisance to be removed; but to no purpose.

Unfortunately for us, they have been too successful in their said representations, which, in conjunction with Governor Bernard's, have occasioned his Majesty's faithful subjects of this town and province to be treated as enemies and rebels, by an invasion of the town by sea and land; to which the approaches were made with all the circumspection usual where a vigorous opposition is expected. While the town was surrounded by a considerable number of his Majesty's ships of war, two regiments landed and took possession of it; and to support these, two other regi-

the challenging the inhabitants by sentinels posted in all parts of the town before the lodgings of officers, which (for about six months, while it lasted), occasioned many quarrels and uneasiness.

Capt. Wilson, of the 59th, exciting the negroes of the town to take away their masters' lives and property, and repair to the army for protection, which was fully proved against him. The attack of a party of soldiers on some of the magistrates of the town-the repeated rescues of soldiers from peace officers-the firing of a loaded musket in a public street, to the endangering a great number of

peaceable inhabitants—the frequent wounding of persons by their bayonets and cutlasses, and the numerous instances of bad behavior in the soldiery, made us early sensible that the troops were not sent here for any benefit to the town or province, and that we had no good to expect from such conservators of the peace.

It was not expected, however, that such an outrage and massacre, as happened here on the evening of the fifth instant, would have been perpetrated. There were then killed and wounded, by a discharge of musketry, eleven of his Majesty's subjects, viz.:

- ' Mr. Samuel Gray, killed on the spot by a ball entering his head.
- ' Crispus Attucks, a mulatto, killed on the spot, two balls entering his breast.
- ' Mr. James Caldwell, killed on the spot, by two balls entering his back.
- ' Mr. Samuel Maverick, a youth of seventeen years of age, mortally wounded; he died the next morning.
- ' Mr. Patrick Carr mortally wounded; he died the 14th instant.
- ' Christopher Monk and John Clark, youths about seventeen years of age, dangerously wounded. It is apprehended they will die.
- ' Mr. Edward Payne, merchant, standing at his door; wounded.
- ' Messrs. John Green, Robert Patterson, and David Parker; all dangerously wounded.

The actors in this dreadful tragedy were a party of soldiers commanded by Capt. Preston of the 29th regiment. This party, including the Captain, consisted of eight, who are all committed to jail. There are depositions in this affair which mention, that several guns were fired at the same time from the Custom-house; before which this shocking scene was exhibited. Into this matter inquiry is now making. In the meantime it may be proper to insert here the substance of some of those depositions.

Benjamin Frizell, on the evening of the 5th of March, having taken his station near the west corner of the Custom-house in King street, before and at the time of the soldiers firing their guns, declares (among other things) that the first discharge was only of one gun, the next of two guns, upon which he the deponent thinks he saw a man stumble; the third discharge was of three guns, upon which he thinks he saw two men fall; and immediately after were discharged five guns, two of which were by soldiers on his right hand; the other three, as appeared to the deponent, were discharged from the balcony, or the chamber window of the Custom-house, the flashes appearing on the left hand, and higher than the right hand flashes appeared to be, and of which the deponent was very sensible, although his eyes were much turned to the soldiers, who were all on his right hand.

What gave occasion to the melancholy event of that evening seems to have been this. A difference having happened near Mr. Gray's ropewalk, between a soldier and a man belonging to it, the soldier challenged the ropemakers to a boxing match. The challenge was accepted by one of them, and the soldier worsted. He ran to the barrack in the neighborhood, and returned with several of his companions. The fray was renewed, and the soldiers were driven off. They soon returned with recruits and were again worsted. This happened several times, till at length a considerable

body of soldiers was collected, and they also were driven off, the ropemakers having been joined by their brethren of the contiguous ropewalks. By this time Mr. Gray being alarmed interposed, and with the assistance of some gentlemen prevented any further disturbance. To satisfy the soldiers and punish the man who had been the occasion of the first difference, and as an example to the rest, he turned him out of his service; and waited on Col. Dalrymple, the commanding officer of the troops, and with him concerted measures for preventing further mischief. Though this affair ended thus, it made a strong impression on the minds of the soldiers in general, who thought the honor of the regiment concerned to revenge those repeated repulses. For this purpose they seem to have formed a combination to commit some outrage upon the inhabitants of the town indiscriminately; and this was to be done on the evening of the 5th instant or soon after; as appears by the depositions of the following persons, viz.:

William Newhall declares, that on Thursday night the 1st of March instant, he met four soldiers of the 29th regiment, and that he heard them say, "there were a great many that would eat their dinners on Monday next, that should not eat any on Tuesday."

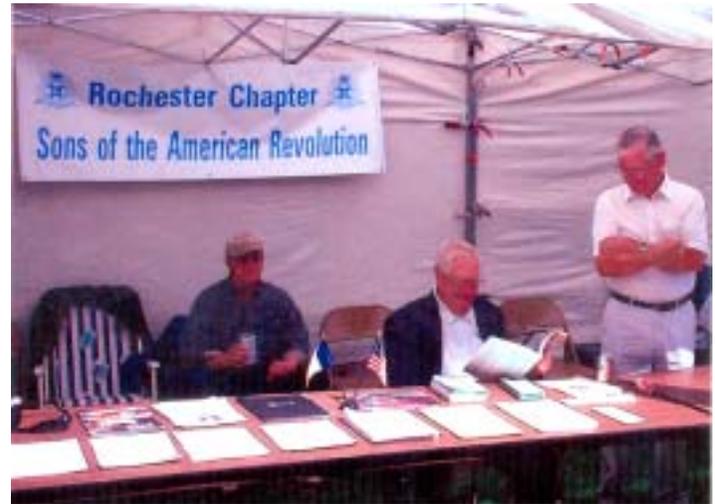
Daniel Calfe declares, that on Saturday evening the 3d of March, a camp-woman, wife to James McDeed, a grenadier of the 29th, came into his father's shop, and the people talking about the affrays at the ropewalks, and blaming the soldiers for the part they had acted in it, the woman said, "the soldiers were in the right;" adding, "that before Tuesday or Wednesday night they would wet their swords or bayonets in New England people's blood."

Samuel Drowne declares that, about nine o'clock of the evening of the fifth of March current, standing at his own door in Cornhill, he saw about fourteen or fifteen soldiers of the 29th regiment, who came from Murray's barracks, armed with naked cutlasses, swords, &c., and came upon the inhabitants of the town, then standing or walking in Cornhill, and abused some, and violently assaulted others as they met them; most of whom were without so much as a stick in their hand to defend themselves, as he very clearly could discern, it being moonlight, and himself being one of the assaulted persons. All or most of the said soldiers he saw go into King street (some of them through Royal Exchange lane), and there followed them, and soon discovered them to be quarrelling and fighting with the people whom they saw there, which he thinks were not more than a dozen, when the soldiers came first, armed as aforesaid. Of those dozen people, the most of them were gentlemen, standing together a little below the Town House, upon the Exchange. At the appearance of those soldiers so armed, the most of the twelve persons went off, some of them being first assaulted.

The violent proceedings of this party, and their going into King street, "*quarrelling and fighting with the people whom they saw there*" (mentioned in Mr. Drowne's deposition), was immediately introductory to the grand catastrophe.

These assailants, who issued from Murray's barracks (so called), after attacking and wounding divers persons in Cornhill, as abovementioned, being armed, proceeded (most of them) up the Royal Exchange lane into King street; where, making a short stop, and after assaulting and driving away the few they met there, they brandished their arms and cried out, "*where are the boogers! where are the cowards!*" At this time there were very few persons

## ROCHESTER CHAPTER OBSERVES 225<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF GROVELAND AMBUSCADE



*Rochester Chapter Compatriots Alex Williams, Red Fairley and Lee Harris in the SAR Information Booth at the Groveland Ambuscade Park.*

*For Further Information Contact*

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On Saturday and Sunday, 11-12 September, the 225th Anniversary observance of the Groveland Ambuscade, the last military action of the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign in western New York State, was held in the Town of Groveland, Livingston County, NY, at the Ambuscade Monument.

The Rochester Chapter was actively involved in the planning and execution of the weekend's activities. Mike Tunison, Chapter Secretary, worked to prepare the site and was an active member of the organizing committee. Steve Clarke, Chapter President, was the featured speaker and delivered a fifteen-minute summary of the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign, the Groveland Ambuscade and their relationship to the Revolutionary War in general. Other Chapter members, Red Fairley, Bob Coomber, Lee Harris and Alex Williams, manned the SAR information booth and met with visitors to the site to answer questions regarding membership in the SAR and about genealogy and lineage societies in general. Eight prospective members were given membership application forms and SAR information pamphlets.

During the noontime ceremonies at the Ambuscade Monument site on Saturday, a representative from Gov. Pataki's office delivered a proclamation from the Governor recognizing the events commemorated there. Members of the NY State Assembly and Livingston County Board of Supervisors spoke. Representatives of the Masonic Brotherhood also addressed the group; many of the men who died there were Masons, including at least one of the Native Americans who fought for the British. Following the ceremony, re-enactors staged the Ambuscade as it might have played out on that very land 225 years ago. ○

in the street beside themselves. This party in proceeding from Exchange lane into King street, must pass the sentry posted at the westerly corner of the Custom House, which butts on that lane and fronts on that street. This is needful to be mentioned, as near that spot and in that street the bloody tragedy was acted, and the street actors in it were stationed: their station being but a few feet from the front side of the said Custom House. The outrageous behavior and the threats of the said party occasioned the ringing of the meeting-house bell near the head of King street, which bell ringing quick, as for fire, it presently brought out a number of inhabitants, who being soon sensible of the occasion of it, were naturally led to King street, where the said party had made a stop but a little while before, and where their stopping had drawn together a number of boys, round the sentry at the Custom House. Whether the boys mistook the sentry for one of the said party, and thence took occasion to differ with him, or whether he first affronted them, which is affirmed in several depositions, -however that may be, there was much foul language between them, and some of them, in consequence of his pushing at them with his bayonet, threw snowballs at him, which occasioned him to knock hastily at the door of the Custom House. From hence two persons thereupon proceeded immediately to the main-guard, which was posted opposite to the State House, at a small distance, near the head of the said street. The officer on guard was Capt. Preston, who with seven or eight soldiers, with fire-arms and charged bayonets, issued from the guardhouse, and in great haste posted himself and his soldiers in front of the Custom House, near the corner aforesaid. In passing to this station the soldiers pushed several persons with their bayonets, driving through the people in so rough a manner that it appeared they intended to create a disturbance. This occasioned some snowballs to be thrown at them which seems to have been the only provocation that was given. Mr. Knox (between whom and Capt. Preston there was some conversation on the spot) declares, that while he was talking with Capt. Preston, the soldiers of his detachment had attacked the people with their bayonets and that there was not the least provocation given to Capt. Preston of his party; the backs of the people being toward them when the people were attacked. He also declares, that Capt. Preston seemed to be in great haste and much agitated, and that, according to his opinion, there were not then present in King street above seventy or eighty persons at the extent.

The said party was formed into a half circle; and within a short time after they had been posted at the Custom House, began to fire upon the people.

Captain Preston is said to have ordered them to fire, and to have repeated that order. One gun was fired first; then others in succession and with deliberation, till ten or a dozen guns were fired; or till that number of discharges were made from the guns that were fired. By which means eleven persons were killed and wounded, as above represented. ○

*Text prepared by Gary Werseema*

*From Revolution to Reconstruction - an HTML project*

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**EDITOR'S NOTE** - The Preceding Article "Anonymous Account Of The Boston Massacre" Has Been Reprinted With The Express Permission Of The Webmaster Of The Site.

# DON'T TREAD ON ME FLAG HISTORY

The following excellent history of the "Don't Tread on Me" First Navy Jack flag is excerpted from UNDERSEA WARFARE, the magazine of the U.S. Navy Submarine Force.

## A Brief History of the U.S. Navy Jack

by CDR Michel T. Poirier

In the fall of 1775, as the first ships of the Continental Navy readied in the Delaware River, Commodore Esek Hopkins issued a set of fleet signals. Among these signals was an instruction directing his vessels to fly a striped Jack and Ensign at their proper places. The custom of the jack-type flag had originated with the Royal Navy in the 15th century or earlier; such was the likely source of Hopkins' inspiration. This first U.S. Navy Jack has traditionally been shown as consisting of 13 horizontal alternating red and white stripes with a superimposed rattlesnake and the motto "Don't Tread on Me."

The rattlesnake had long been a symbol of resistance to British repressive acts in Colonial America; its display on the new jack of the fledgling Continental Navy fit naturally with the fervor of the times. According to Dr. Whitney Smith of the Flag Research Center, the traditional design of the First Navy Jack has never been accurately determined. Historians inferred the design from Hopkins's message and a color plate depicting a slightly different "Don't Tread Upon Me" flag used as a Navy Ensign in Admiral George Henry Preble's 1880 book, *History of the Flag of the United States*. Historians' widely copied Preble's rare color plate, thus providing the probable source of the traditional design of the First Navy Jack.

The first U.S. Navy use of the Union Jack (a flag replicating the canton i.e. white stars on a blue field of the U.S. Flag) probably occurred soon after the adoption of the First Stars and Stripes Law on June 14, 1777. The First Stars and Stripes Law stated that the Flag of the United States be 13 stripes alternating red and white and that the union be 13 white stars in a blue field representing a new constellation. Although the date of introduction of the Union Jack is not precisely known, a 1785 engraving of the frigate USS *Philadelphia* clearly depicts the Union Jack flying from her jackstaff.

As the number of states increased, the Union Jack was altered to conform to the canton of the national flag. General orders were issued from time to time by the Navy Department when a change in the number of stars was necessary.

Navy Regulations, first promulgated in 1865, prescribed the use of the jack. It is displayed daily from the jackstaff of all U.S. naval vessels in commission, from 8 a.m. to sunset while the ship is at anchor. Additionally it is flown to indicate a court martial is in progress, and as the President's and Secretary of the Navy's personal flag.

There have been two instances where the traditional First Navy Jack has been used in lieu of the Union Jack. In 1975, the Secretary of the Navy directed that the First Navy Jack be flown in lieu of the Union Jack during the United States Bicentennial Year as a

colorful and historic reminder of the nation's and the Navy's origin. In 1980, the Secretary of the Navy specified that the ship with the longest total period of active service display the First Navy Jack until decommissioned or transferred to inactive service, at which time the flag shall be passed to the next ship in line with appropriate honors. Since 1998, the USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV-63) has proudly flown the First Navy Jack.

On June 3, 1999, the Secretary of the Navy authorized submarines and submarine tenders to fly a special Submarine Centennial Jack throughout the year 2000 in honor of the U. S. Submarine Force's Centennial. This marks the first occasion since 1775 that a specific class of ships has been so honored.



[Note: The U.S. Navy has now ordered all ships to display the First Navy Jack during the War on Terrorism as outlined below.]

### SECNAV INSTRUCTION 10520.6

**From: Secretary of the Navy**

**To: All Ships and Stations**

**Subj: DISPLAY OF THE FIRST NAVY JACK DURING THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM**

**Ref: (a) U. S. Navy Regulations, 1990**

1. Purpose. To provide for the display of the first navy Jack on board all U. S. Navy ships during the Global War on Terrorism.

2. Discussion. As the first ships of the Continental Navy readied in the Delaware River during the fall of 1775, Commodore Esek Hopkins issued a set of fleet signals. His signal for the "whole Fleet to Engage" the enemy provided for the "strip'd Jack and Ensign at their proper places." Thus, from the very beginning of our Navy, the Jack has been used on board American warships. The first navy Jack was a flag consisting of 13 horizontal alternating red and white stripes bearing diagonally across them a rattlesnake in a moving position with the motto "Don't Tread On Me." The temporary substitution of this Jack represents an historic reminder of the nation's and Navy's origin and will to persevere and triumph.

2. Action. The first navy jack will be displayed on board all U. S. Navy ships in lieu of the Union Jack, in accordance with sections 1259 and 1264 of reference (a). The display of the first Navy Jack is an authorized exception to section 1258 of reference (a). Ships and craft of the Navy authorized to fly the first Navy Jack will receive an issue of four flags per ship through a special distribution. ○

## COLUMBIA AND BINGHAMTON CHAPTERS PARTICIPATE IN GRAVE MARKING CEREMONY OF TEN PATRIOTS



*Presentation of Certificate of appreciation to Meridith G Telian by Rodney Andrews & John Helmeyer, Chapter President*



*Delhi American Legion Honor Guard*

The Columbia Chapter was invited by the Town of Meredith through Historian Bernice Graham Telian to attend the Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony of ten Revolutionary War soldiers. It was held at the West Meredith Cemetery, Delaware County on August 7, 2004. There were over 100 in attendance which included some descendants of the Patriots. One of these descendants was Com-patriot Rodney Andrews, a member of Columbia Chapter, whose ancestor was David Bostwick. Rodney worked very close with Bernice Telian in researching his ancestry as a prelude to become a member of the Columbia Chapter.

Bernice Telian worked several years researching these Patriots for proof that they served in the Revolutionary War and that they are interred at the West Meredith Cemetery. She obtained Bronze Marker's from the Veteran's Administration which have been placed on the graves. She also worked with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to have the West Meredith Cemetery placed on the New York State and the National Register of Historic Sites. Kathleen La Frank, Program Analyst of New York State Historic Preservation presented a certificate to the Town Supervisor, Frank Bachler, Town of Meredith and Bernice Telian listing the West Meredith Cemetery on both the State and National Register.

The names of the Revolutionary War patriots are, David Bostwick, Amos Bristol, Abner Pratt, Uriah Remington, Ezekiel Smith, Nehemiah Smith, Nathaniel Stewart, Caleb Strong Jr., and Reuben War. The majority were from the State of Connecticut; with one from Massachusetts and one from New York where they served during the War. After the War, around the year 1790, they all migrated to Delaware County. Some of the descendants in attendance were members of the DAR and the SAR from the States of New York, Florida, Connecticut, and Illinois.

John M. Helmeyer, President of the Columbia Chapter invited the Binghamton Chapter President Robert Haff, and their members to attend. They jointly participated in the Ceremony in accor-

dance with the National Society's guidelines. Members of the Delhi American Legion Honor Guard performed the Pledge of Allegiance and concluded the Ceremony with taps and a rifle salute.

The Columbia Chapter, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Bernice Telian for all her dedicated work and travel which has made this program a success.

After the Ceremony refreshments were served which included a large sheet cake trimmed with colored photo's depicting Revolutionary War times, along with bushed stars.

The Columbia Chapter has submitted the grave registry forms for each of the Patriots to the Revolutionary War Graves Committee NSSAR in Louisville, KY. for microfilming. ○



*Presentation of Certificate listing West Meredith Cemetery on the New York State and National Registers*

## NEWTOWN BATTLE CHAPTER REPORT



*Compatriot Jack Miller presenting Plaque to  
Chapter President William Woodworth*

With the sounds of muskets, cannons, and battle cries in the distant background, Newtown Battle Chapter held their annual picnic once again at the battlefield park during the 225th Anniversary Battle of Newtown Event weekend

DAR, SAR members, families, and guests numbered 80+ in attendance and I believe no one went away hungry. We might have to refer to this picnic as an "International" one due to DAR, SAR, and guests from New Hampshire, California, Hawaii, and several locations throughout New York State. To my knowledge no one was "taken hostage" this year by either the Native American forces or the British. Western Region VP Rex Fuller took special precautions to make sure it didn't happen to him again.

Among the highlights of the picnic Compatriot Samuel B. Lawson, new SAR member and decorated Vietnam War Veteran, was presented with his Membership Certificate and War Service Medal. Compatriot Lawson's ancestry begins in America with the Pettengill Family Genealogy dating back to 1620. ESSAR Western region Vice President Rex Fuller was presented with the SAR Meritorious Service Medal for his continuing work involving school children and making them aware of their American History. VP Fuller "transforms" himself into his Patriot Ancestor while teaching children the facts of the Founding of America and the Revolutionary War era. Congratulations to both of these gentlemen.

I was honored to accept a special presentation from Hawaii State Society, SAR representative and Compatriot Jack Miller. Newtown Battle Chapter was presented with a beautiful plaque commemorating the 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Newtown. The plaque, Black Galaxy Granite, measuring 12" x 12" x 1/2" with 24K gold leaf design and lettering was designed and produced by Compatriot Alan McCullough also from the Hawaii State Society, SAR. Designed with an outline of the current United States of America which reads, "We the people..." within the outline. The plaque also has a Minute Man, the Hawaii Society SAR Logo with an Eagle above it and Society founding date, the ESSAR Logo with a 13 Star Flag and the words "Newtown Battle Chapter" and founding date. In the center of the plaque it reads . . . .

### "Battle of Newtown August 29, 1779" "Commemorating the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Newtown fought on this site August 29, 1779 Presented to the Newtown Battle Chapter, SAR by the Hawaii Society, SAR"

Because the gold leaf can be damaged by the oils in a person's fingers, we are going to have a Lucite case constructed in which to place the plaque for safe keeping and it will be displayed at many various SAR functions. A "Special Thanks" from myself and all of the Newtown Battle members seems so inadequate for a such a beautiful gift presented by Compatriots Alan McCullough, Jack Miller, and all the members of the Hawaii Society. It is truly a gift that will be well cherished. Compatriot McCullough and I have also discussed the possibility of a grave marker for SAR Members in addition to the one offered by SAR National Headquarters. There will be more details regarding this at a later date.

Our next regular Chapter meeting will be held 16 Oct 2004 and our next big function will be the annual Christmas Party in which all gifts will be donated to the veterans at the Bath, NY VA Medical Center - just our way of saying "thanks" for all they have done to protect our freedom.

By the time this newsletter is in your hands, the new Finger Lakes Chapter will have held their first meeting and chosen officers as well as taken care of other matters to make this another great Empire State Society, SAR Chapter..

*William J Woodworth, President*

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## CELEBRATION HONORING THE 227th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF ORISKANY

On August 6th the Oriskany Battle Chapter participated in the Solemn Commemoration Ceremony at the Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site honoring the 227th anniversary of the battle of Oriskany.

### The "MARCH IN" consisted of:

- ' Combined color guards of Ft. Stanwix National Monument and the Oneida Nation
- ' Oneida Nation Artillery Unit
- ' Garrison and militia members
- ' Descendants of Battle participants
- ' Commemoration wreaths and offerings.

The "raise flag" ceremony consisted of the United States "Stars and Stripes", Oneida Colors and British colors.

The keynote speaker was Dr. David Walrath of Auburn, NY. At least eight Walrath family members fought as officers or enlisted men within the 1st, 2nd and 4th regiments of Tryon County Militia, most were wounded or captured, all believed in liberty.

The wreath laying ceremony included 13 DAR Chapters, the ESSAR Oriskany Battle Chapter, Friends of Oriskany Battlefield, Oriskany Descendants Registry and the Oneida Indian Nation.

**Photo of "March In" on following page.**

*Submitted by Compatriot Burke Muller, Past President*

**THE “MARCH IN “ AT ORISKANY BATTLEFIELD**



**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 114th NATIONAL CONGRESS AT PITTSBURGH**

There are several items from the National Congress that have made a great impact on the Empire State Society and it’s members.

**Change of Command**

One of them being a highlight of the Tuesday evening banquet when the transfer of leadership from the retiring Commander of the National Society Color Guard passed from Missouri Compatriot Robert L. Grover to Empire Sate Society Compatriot Peter K. Goebel. Congratulations Peter

**The George S & Stella M Knight Award**

This award went to the State Society sponsoring the winner of the Knight Essay Contest being the Empire State Society. The winner, Daniel E Sigler, captured first prize for his outstanding essay out of 34 submissions from other State Societies.



Daniel was presented with a check for \$7,500.00 for his essay titled “Framed with Religion in Mind.”

Congratulations Daniel

**PRESIDENT GENERAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

- Color Guard - Peter K Goebel, Commander
- Congress Planning - Peter K Goebel, Committee member
- DAR Liason - Richard W Sage, Vice Chairman
- Fire Safety and Law Enforcement Commendations and Awards  
Millard A Fairley, Jr.
- Genealogy - Charles F T Galbraith, Committee Member
- GWEFB Committee - Dennis F Marr, Executive Office Member
- GWEFB Fund Raising - Dennis F Marr, Committee Member

- Hospitality - Peter K Goebel
- Joseph S Rambaugh Historical Oration - Jonathan E Goebel
- Knight Essay Contest - Richard W Sage
- Medals & Awards - Peter K Goebel
- Membership - Peter K Goebel & Jonathan E Goebel
- Revolutionary War 225th Anniversaries - Dennis F Marr
- ROTC & JROTC - Millard A Fairley, Jr. & Jonathan E Goebel
- SAR - W3R Liason - Jonathan E Goebel & Richard W Sage
- Young Members - Peter K Goebel, Chairman
- Young members - Jonathan E Goebel, Member



**Election of Historian General**

Our Congratulations go out to Compatriot Richard W. Sage, center, in his bid and subsequent election as National Historian General as Compatriots Lt Col. Peter K Goebel, Jonathan Goebel, Dr. Thomas E. Bird and Wes Oler, President of 1st New York Continental Chapter join him at a “Liquid Libation” party held in his honor. Richard has also been appointed as Vice-Chairman of the DAR Liason Committee. Congratulations Richard

# SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER JULY 4TH, 2004 CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY A HUGE SUCCESS



Chapter President Duane Booth Opens Ceremony

The Chapter in joint sponsorship with the Saratoga Chapter, DAR, the Saratoga National Historical Park, the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration and the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield held what Park officials believe to be the first ever Citizenship Ceremony at the historic site.

About 220 people gathered under bright sunny skies on America's 228th Birthday to watch 20 candidates take the Oath Of Allegiance to the United States of America. The program began with a contingent from the G. B. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery Honor Guard presenting the colors. The Color Guard took time away from a busy holiday schedule to be with us on this glorious day.

Assemblyman Roy J. McDonald from the 112th assembly district graciously agreed to be the keynote speaker for the event. In his address Assemblyman McDonald noted the significance of the Ceremony being held at such an historic site on America's Birthday. He read through the countries from where the candidates came and noted while they came from afar they were now a part of the American Family with all the rights and privileges that we enjoy. At the end of his address Assemblyman McDonald light heartedly noted that these new citizens were also new voters.

Assistant Officer in Charge at the Albany Office of the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services which is now a part of the Department of Homeland Security administers the Oath of Allegiance to candidates. Once the candidates have completed the recitation of the Oath and received and signed their naturalization certificate they are citizens of the U.S.A.

Shirley Schadow, Regent of the Saratoga Chapter, DAR explains how the words "...one Nation under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance should be read and leads us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Friends of Saratoga Battlefield, a volunteer support group of the Saratoga National Historical Park makes many things happen at the SNHP. They provided financial support for the event and handouts to the new citizens.

Vanessa Sterling, a high School student from Saratoga sang the Star Spangled Banner. The SNHP Musket Team then fired a salute. SNHP Ranger Joe Craig, dressed in period costume, read the Declaration of Independence. The ceremony ended with a final musket salute.

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## SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER REGISTRAR DENNIS F MARR PRESENTS JROTC AWARD AT HIS ALMA MATER



Chapter Registrar Dennis F. Marr presented the 2004 JROTC Award to Samuel Ogden at his Alma Mater, LaSalle Institute in Troy, NY. Compatriot Marr has represented the Chapter at the LaSalle Institute award ceremony for several years. Pictured with Cadet Ogden are his parents and Registrar Marr.  
Congratulations Samuel



Chapter president Duane Booth with new member Robert E. Skellie and past president Rick Saunders



August 1, 2004 Turning Point Parade in Schuylerville, NY. Those pictured are l to r – Dan Mead, George Ballard, Richie Saunders, Duane Booth, Walt Milbank, Carol Slocum (wife of member Lew Slocum), Lauren Mudge, Rich Fullam, Schuyler Society, C.A.R. life member Stephen Fullam, son of chapter treasurer Rich Fullam, Jake Saunders and Rick Saunders. Richie and Jake Saunders are sons of past chapter President Rick Saunders. Richie and Jake have both been approved as SAR youth applicants at National. Carol Slocum was kind enough to drive two chapter members in her red Mustang convertible she calls the "Red Pony". Thank you, Carol, for driving us in your nice car.



The world's newest and happiest couple, Mr. Logan M. and Mrs Elizabeth W. Cheek!!!

Compatriot Cheek also doubles as our ESSSAR Treasurer !

### COLUMBIA CHAPTER HOSTS 9/11 ANNIVERSARY BOM MEETING

### AWARDS PRESENTED AT SEPTEMBER BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING



*Lt Col Peter Goebel, Mrs. Elizabeth M. McKee, New York State Regent, NSDAR, William J. Woodworth, President Empire State Society SAR  
Photos By Compatriot Matt Murphy*



*Compatriot Henry W. Croteau, Jr., Editor Empire Patriot presented National Society Grahame T Smallwood, Jr. award for best news publication for state society over 500 members containing more than 10 pages.* ○

The Columbia Chapter hosted the most recent Statewide Board of Managers meeting, held September 11, 2004 at Pegasus' Restaurant, Coxsackie, NY. In light of the date being the 3rd anniversary of the terrorist invasion of New York and Washington, President John Helmeyer invited Lt Col Peter Goebel, who has recently returned from a tour of duty in Iraq, to address those in attendance on Iraqi Freedom. His remarks and first hand information were indeed very impressive and brought to light the reality of the role of our troops in their quest to bring stability to this dictator ravaged Country. Compatriot Goebel, as a liason, trying to restore government in small towns, rebuild schools, working with the British authorities while still maintaining tranquility with Iraqi citizens was very taxing to people who knew no other life than ruthless dictatorship.

We were also very delighted to have as an honored guest, Mrs. Elizabeth M. McKee, New York State Regent, NSDAR along with her husband Jack McKee. ○



*Compatriot Rick Saunders, Past President Saratoga Battle Chapter presented with the highest award that can be bestowed on the State level . . . The Patriot Medal. Congratulations Rick!* ○

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