



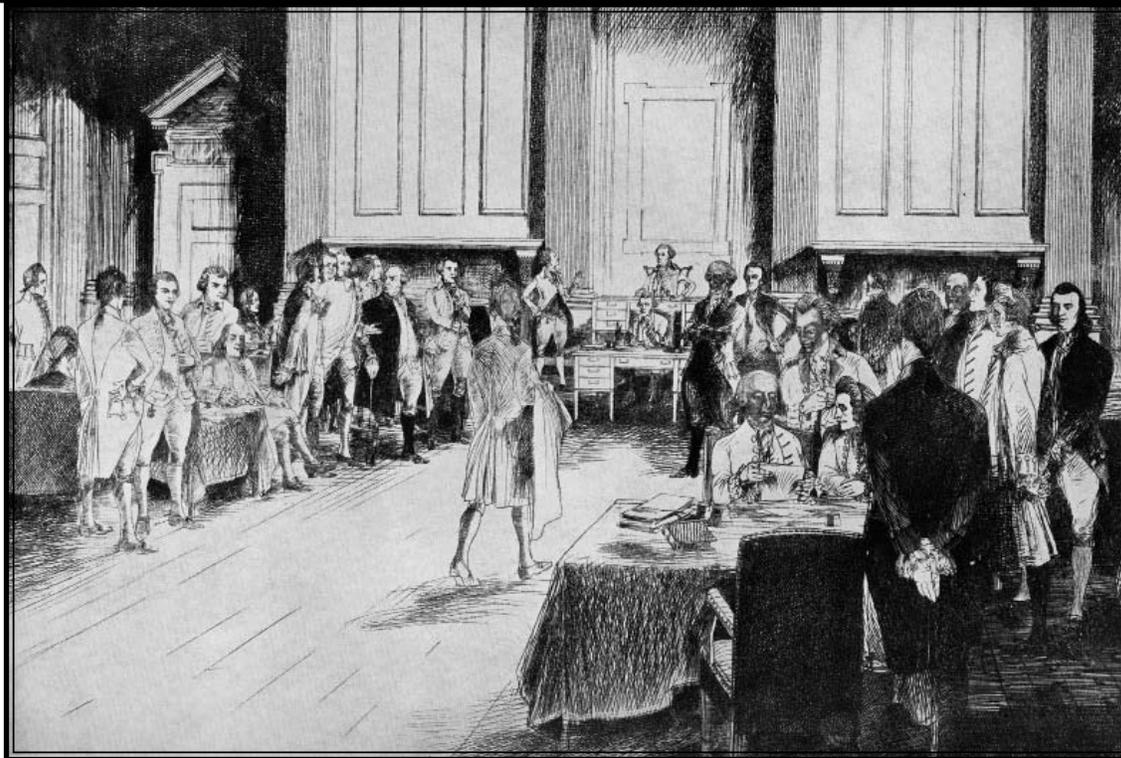
EMPIRE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Volume 10 Number 3

<http://www.sar.org/esssar/>

November 2008



Washington at the convention. Etching by John W. Winkler, 1932.

Washington and the Constitution

part two of two parts

OPENING OF THE CONVENTION (MAY, 1787)

Washington set out for the Convention on May 9; on the 13th was met at Chester by Generals Knox, Mifflin, and Varnum, Humphreys, Major Jackson, who was to become secretary of the Convention, and other former army officers. "At Gray's Ferry the city light horse ... met me, and escorted me in by the artillery officers who stood arranged and saluted as I passed ... kindly pressed by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Morris to lodge with them, I did so ... Waited on the President, Doctr. Franklin, as soon as I got to Town. On my arrival, the Bells were chimed." For lack of a quorum the Convention did not meet until May 25, "when by a unanimous vote I was called up to the chair as President." Meetings were secret; Washington respected this so thoroughly that "nothing being suffered to transpire, no minutes of the proceedings has been, or will be inserted in this diary." There is an anecdote that when one member happened to drop his copy of the proceedings, luckily found by another member

and given to the president, Washington's criticism was so scathing that the papers were never reclaimed.

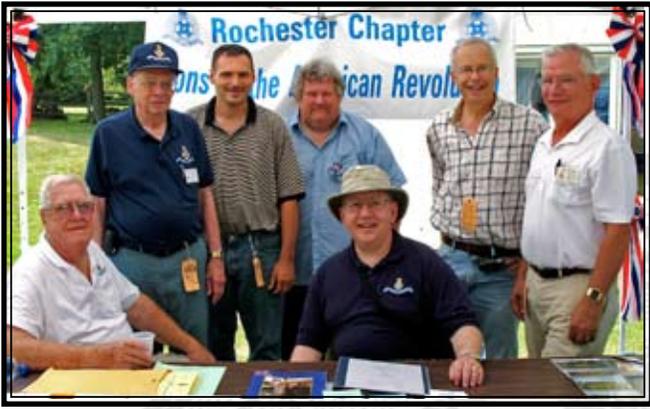
VOTES AND ATTITUDE IN CONVENTION (1787)

Since Washington followed his intent of making no use of his diary as a record of consultations or arguments, purposely confining the entries in this crisis to very brief notes on social engagements, we are dependent upon fellow members for knowledge of the participation and personal influence of the president of the Convention. So far as known he made but one speech in the Convention; Madison's notes give this as a plea, in the final hours of the meeting, in favor of a more liberal ratio of representation.

His only known votes were: (1) in favor of a single executive; (2) against the election of the executive by Congress; (3) in favor of an export tax requiring a two-thirds vote; (4) ratification by seven states; (5) and against overruling the veto by a two-thirds vote.

(continued on page 5)

ROCHESTER



Seated L to R: Millard "Red" Fairley, Steve Clarke. Standing L to R: Bob Coomber, Daryl Verstrete, Bob Pugsley, Mike Tunison and Lee Harris.

The Rochester Chapter manned a recruitment booth at the Genesee Country Village and Museum's 26th Annual Civil War Re-enactment Weekend. The Museum's Civil War Weekend attracts visitors from all over the northeast. Our booth, located near the main entrance, saw a steady stream of visitors and a growing list of prospective members. The effort was successful enough that we have asked for permission to return next year and we hope to work with the Museum officials to establish a Revolutionary War Re-enactment weekend as well.



Four members of the Rochester Chapter honored Revolutionary patriots of Nunda - Daniel Andrus, 17th NY Regiment, Albany County Militia; Daniel Hamilton, Continental Line; and William Deake Gould, 16th NY Regiment, Albany County Militia. This landscaped plot was a project of Eagle Scout Thomas Coates, and contains a flagpole with a large American flag, three VA gravestones, small American flags, and flowers.

SYRACUSE

The Syracuse chapter picnic was held at the former Jesuit "fort" St. Marie on Onondaga Lake Shore in Syracuse. Among the 17 in attendance were 11 members. President **Pickett** led the rededication of the Jesuit well that dates from 1650. The well was reconstructed 75 years ago under the direction and encouragement of SAR chapter.

Registrar **Shawn Doyle** placed a new bronze grave marker on the grave of Sergeant Jedediah Durfey (1758-1828) at Blue Springs Cemetery east of Richland Hamlet in Oswego County New York. The marker was set a month after Durfey's 250th birthday. Durfey was a Sergeant in the Connecticut line, and later joined the Vermont Militia. He was a founder of Lincoln, VT and served a term in the state legislature before moving to Canada. He left Canada after the War of 1812 and settled in Ellisburg, NY. He died in Pulaski while visiting to swear out a pension affidavit for former soldier Stephen Lindsey.

LONG ISLAND

On February 9th, 2009 we will see history being made here on Long Island when The Long Island Chapter Sons of The American Revolution celebrates its 100th birthday.

On our 50th birthday in 1959 the compatriots of our chapter honored those brave heroes of the Revolutionary War by erecting a flagpole with a plaque in Huntington's Old Burying Ground; the final resting place for many of our Revolutionary War heroes.

In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Chapter in 2009, we will be replacing the worn and rusted S.A.R. flagpole at the Huntington Town Cemetery. The Chapter is still in discussion about what, exactly, will replace the flagpole, but current discussions point toward a Revolutionary War Monument, in memory of those Huntington Town Patriots who helped attain American Independence.

For our 100th birthday it is only fitting that we again recognize those who gave us so much. We anticipate that we will do this by erecting a granite monument with an inscription honoring our Revolutionary War

SCHOHARIE



l. to r.: Albert Gustafson, Bryan Stolzenburg, Richard Sherman, Carl Stolzenburg, Peter Lindemann, Nan Stolzenburg

Who was the last surviving patriot in Schoharie County?

The United States Congress, on March 4, 1864, paused to recognize and increase the pensions of the last surviving veterans of the Revolutionary War. Based on the records of the United States Pension Office, the resolution recognized a dozen men, whom the New York Times, in a pretty bit of reporting (14 June 1864), later dubbed the “Twelve Apostles of Liberty”.

In reality, as Congress acted, only eight of the “Twelve Apostles of Liberty” were actually still alive: Lemuel Cook, Samuel Downing, Jonas Gates, William Hutchings, Adam Link, Alexander Maroney, John Pettingill, and Daniel Waldo. (Rev. Elias Brewster Hillard managed to interview and photograph six of these men for his book “The Last Men of the Revolution,” published in 1864.) [editor’s note: see:

<http://www.americanrevolution.org/lastmen.html>]

George Zimmer was born in the Town of Wright on 5 November 1762. When he was 20 years old, his brother Jacob was tomahawked and scalped in front of his wife and mother by the “blue-eyed Indian” Adam Crysler.

In the year 1782 Zimmer was from April to late in the fall of that year, in the stone house on stockade at Major Becker’s on duty as a private soldier in standing guard, and watching the enemy.

Finally, on 5 August 1857, at the age of 94 years and nine months, Revolutionary War soldier George Zimmer died. Future research may find another soldier who outlived our hero. Nevertheless, we proud Sons, gathered around the gravestone of that home-grown patriot, within that copse, under that flag-blue sky, knew we were, at that time and place, in the presence of a true Apostle of Liberty. ❧

HELP WANTED

Editor. No experience necessary. Will train. Immediate opening available.

Please contact Bill at bill sue3@juno.com or Ed at Patriot1@AmericanRevolution.org

Christmas Quiz

Did you know that celebrating Christmas was once illegal in America? When Cromwell was Lord Protector of England (and her American Colonies), it was strictly a religious day, and one could be fined five shillings for feasting instead of working. The definition of “feasting” went so far as even eating a mince meat pie, since that was closely associated with the holiday in those days. For you trivia buffs, allow me to present the “twelve doozies of Christmas” (obviously, the pun buffs have already been at work).

1. What did George Washington do on Christmas 1776?
2. When and where was Christmas first granted legal recognition in the U.S.?
3. What town was founded in Pennsylvania on December 25, 1741?
4. Where was Captain James Cook on December 25, 1777?
5. What President had the first Christmas tree installed at the White House?
6. When and where were the first Christmas lights used?
7. When were lights first put on trees at the White House?
8. Has Santa Claus ever appeared on U.S. currency?
9. Who celebrated Christmas in what is now the State of Washington in 1805?
10. What did Delaware do on December 25, 1787?
11. What American war ended on December 24th?
12. What did George Washington do on December 24, 1783?

Answers may be found on page 9 ❧

THE MILITIA

An invitation is extended to compatriots and their families to visit the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center, at 61 Lake Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY. Among the main galleries of the museum is the American Revolution Gallery. Gain an appreciation of the history of the New York Militiaman.

Since early colonial days, militias have consisted mostly of local volunteer military organizations that varied widely in scope and character. However, one of the factors remaining constant with the militiaman was the terms on which he served. He viewed the arrangement as a contractual arrangement in which he worked as long as he was paid. In mid-18th century, among the New England troops serving in the Champlain-Hudson corridor, the arrangement was further imbedded with Calvinist theology.

New York's Naval Militia is the only active, federally-recognized Naval Militia with continuous, unbroken service to the Country and State for more than two centuries, dating back to the American Revolution. In October of 1776 the first naval battle of the Revolution was fought at Valcour Island on Lake Champlain by New York Militiamen.

The NYS Military Museum and Veterans Research Center maintains and displays one of the finest military collections in the country. The Research Center preserves and makes available the history of New York State's military forces and records of its veterans, while the NYS Military Heritage Institute serves as the privately based contact between the public and the museum.

Our goals and objectives at the Institute are to promote statewide awareness of the museum, to support acquisition and preservation efforts of the collection; to focus on operational and long-term endowment fundraising; to maintain a six-day operation of the museum store; to publish a newsletter for the membership known as "The Standard Bearer"; and to increase membership by inviting *You* to become a member.

G. William Glidden, MAJOR (R) NYARNG
Historian, NYS Military Heritage Institute
Historian, Valcour Battle Chapter

LONG ISLAND (cont'd from page 2)

heroes (more details regarding this will be made available on our website <http://www.longislandsar.org> in the months ahead). As we continue to work on this very important project we will be asking you for your support. It will be through your generous donations that we can make our 100th birthday truly memorable.

Ongoing meetings with the Town of Huntington and Village officials have been happening since the spring of this year. The chapter officers met in June to look over the site where the old flag pole is located and a new memorial will be located. Discussions with vendors is ongoing to obtain not only the best value, but the best in updated design and function. It might be that the flag pole will be replaced with a Revolutionary War Memorial Monument, since there are other flag poles in the cemetery and many more in and around the Town and Village of Huntington.

It is planned that the dedication of the replacement memorial be on Flag Day, June 14th, 2009 and we will be looking for many of our chapter members to attend. Please mark your calendars and attend the festivities.

NEWTOWN BATTLE CHAPTER

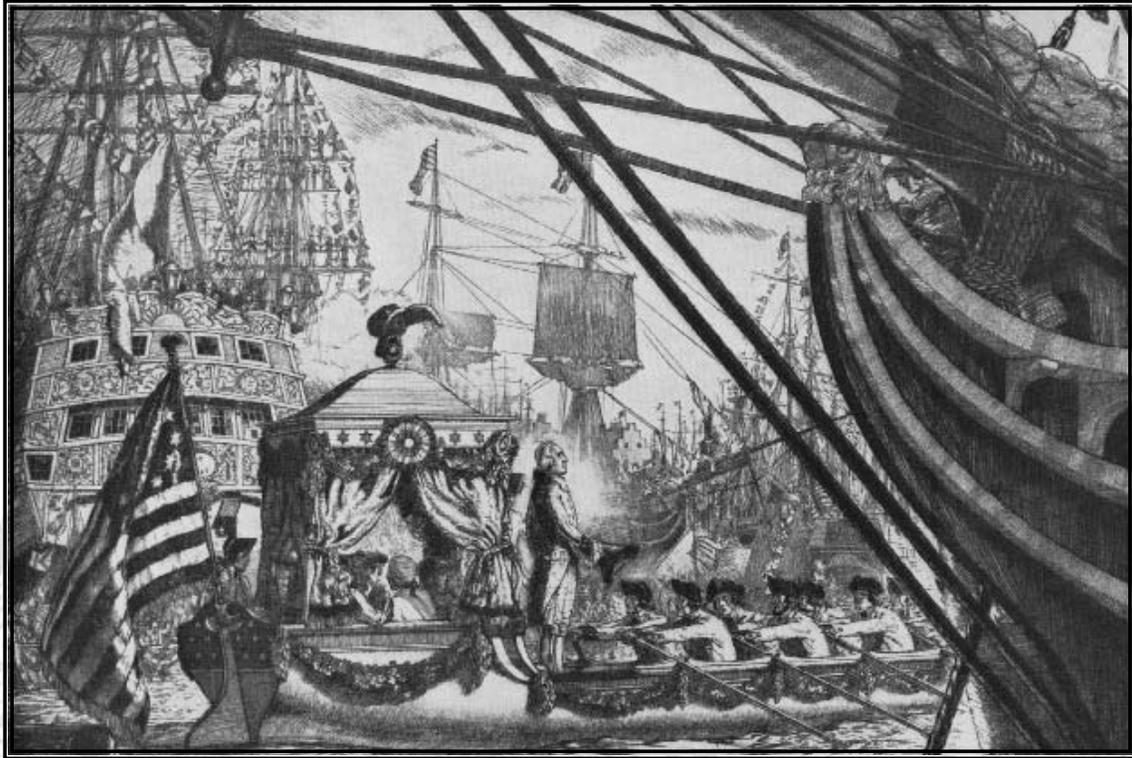
The chapter held their annual picnic, attended by some 60 people.

During our July Chapter meeting we honored a 12 year old young man who had won the Essay Contest sponsored by the VFW at the New York State level. He went on to the National Level and placed 30th out of over 110,000 entries.

Members of the chapter will be attending the 150th Anniversary Ceremony of Woodlawn Cemetery in Elmira, NY, honoring Revolutionary War Patriot Col. John Hendy who was one of the first internments at Woodlawn. There will be Revolutionary War Reenactors from Connecticut, Honor Guards, descendants of Col. Hendy, a horse drawn hearse, and other events happening throughout the day.

The following Saturday we will be honoring many of our membership with a special Awards Ceremony night and banquet as a way of saying "thanks" to the members for all they have done in making this chapter and Society a good one.

Our last "project" for the year is our Annual Christmas Party where all the attendees bring gifts for the Veterans at the Bath V. A. Medical Center.



Result of the convention. Washington's barge arrives in New York for the Inauguration. Etching by Robert Lawson, 1932.

Washington (continued from page 1)

He was originally opposed to restricting the introduction of money bills to the lower house, but receded from that stand for the sake of harmony, not deeming it important.

Luther Martin declared that in committee of the whole he advocated a strong, centralized government.

Historian John Corbin, in a study of Washington's constitutional influence, points out that the basic principle of his polity was republican and not democratic: that is, government of the people, for the people, but by the constituted authorities. Washington believed in representative government. When his nephew Bushrod informed him of the formation of a local patriotic society to keep a check on its legislator, a sort of early local substitute for the initiative and referendum, Washington replied, September 30, 1786: "I am no friend to [such institutions] ... To me it appears much wiser and more politic to choose able and honest representatives, and leave them, ... to determine questions ... What figure then must a delegate make, who comes there with his hands tied, and his judgment forestalled?"

BASIS OF SOUND GOVERNMENT (1785-1787)

Washington believed in the absolute necessity of the federal government possessing coercive power, although he was uncertain of the form that power should take. This appears in his letters to Madison and John Jay.

On May 20 and again on November 5, 1785, Noah Webster was a visitor at Mount Vernon and remained overnight in both cases. In this year Webster published his Plan for the Union of the American States which contains thoughts on the need of coercion and direct application of the federal government - ideas upon which he and Washington undoubtedly exchanged opinions. Knox wrote Washington January 4, 1787, offering some suggestions on government, including a separation of powers and also: "All national objects, to be designed and executed by the general government, without any reference to the local governments." Washington replied, February 3, 1787: "The system on which you seem disposed to build a national government, is certainly ... in every point of view more desirable than the present, which ... having the legislative, executive, and judiciary branches concentrated, is exceptionable." This shows not only that he had placed before him ideas from which the Law-of-the-Land principle might have originated, but this last quotation shows also his belief in the separation of powers.

Washington believed in a bicameral Congress. In the letter to his nephew he commented upon the Shays movement in Massachusetts, "Why, they have declared the senate useless, many other parts of the constitution unnecessary, salaries of public officers burthensome, &c." He believed in a federal court. As early as 1775 he was urging the necessity of establishing without loss of time proper courts for the decision of property rights and the legality of seizures. As a result of this and other promptings, Congress first established a prize committee and later a fixed Court of Appeals in Cases of Capture, of which one historian said "may be justly regarded not simply as the predecessor, but as one of the origins of the Supreme Court of the United States."

The Massachusetts Constitution of 1780 was nearer a model of the Federal Constitution than any other of the early constitutional documents. John Adams, who was the chief author of it, wrote a Defence of the Constitutions of the Government of the United States, which was originally published in London, but the first part of which was available in Philadelphia during the Federal Convention. Washington possessed a copy of it.

WASHINGTON'S INFLUENCE IN THE CONVENTION

We know that he was acquainted with the Virginia Plan [Madison - 3 branches (15 resolutions)] in advance. Madison wrote GW, April 16, 1787: "Having been lately led to resolve the subject which is to undergo the discussion of the Convention, and formed some outlines of a new system, I take the liberty of submitting them without apology to your eye." GW also attended the preliminary meetings of the Virginia delegation which discussed the plan.

Monroe wrote Jefferson, July 27, 1787, expressing a common opinion: "The convention is an expedient that will produce a decisive effect. It will either recover us from our present embarrassments or complete our ruin; for I do suspect that if what they recommend should be rejected this would be the case. But I trust that the presence of Genl. Washington will have great weight in the body itself so as to overawe and keep under the demon of party, & that the signature of his name to whatever act shall be the result of their deliberations will secure its passage thro' the union."

CLOSE OF THE CONVENTION (SEPTEMBER, 1787)

These doubts vanished with the successful accomplishment of the task. As Alexander wrote to Jefferson in November 1787: "I never saw him so keen for anything in my life as he is for the adoption of the new scheme of government."

The business being thus closed, the Members adjourned to the City Tavern, dined together and took a cordial leave of each other; after which "I returned to my lodgings, retired to meditate on the momentous w[or]k which had been executed, after not less than five, for a large part of the time Six, and sometimes 7 hours. sitting every day, [except] sundays for more than four months."

WASHINGTON'S INFLUENCE ON THE RATIFICATION CONTEST (1787-1788)

Washington took no public part in the agitation for ratification, but from Mount Vernon there proceeded a stream of private support and advice that filtered through various channels to public information. The mere knowledge that this venerated character had presided over the Convention and signed the drafted Constitution was one of the most powerful reasons in public opinion why it was worthy of acceptance. He was provoked because some "hasty and indigested sentiments" in a letter from him to Charles Carter got into the newspaper in a distorted form, even though Madison thought that on the whole "it may have been of service, notwithstanding the scandalous misinterpretations of it which have been attempted."

Washington wrote: "I did not incline to appear as a partisan in the interesting subject, that has agitated the public mind since the date of my last letter to you. For it was my sincere wish, that the constitution, which had been submitted to the people, might, after a fair and dispassionate investigation, stand or fall according to its merits or demerits. Besides, I found from disagreeable experience, that almost all the sentiments extracted from me in answer to private letters, or communicated orally, by some means or another found their way into the public gazettes, as well as some other sentiments ascribed to me, which never had an existence in my imagination."

WASHINGTON'S ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION (1788)

Washington did not consider the plan flawless but, as he wrote Mrs. Macaulay Graham, November 16, 1787: "I think it is much to be wondered at that any thing could be produced with such unanimity as the Constitution."

To Lafayette he wrote with more freedom, February 7, 1788: "it appears to me, then, little short of a miracle, that the delegates from so many different States (which States you know are also different from each other), in their manners, circumstances, and prejudices, should unite in forming a system of national government,

"We are not to expect perfection in this world; but mankind, in modern times, have apparently made some progress in the science of government. Should that, which is now offered to the people of America, be found on experiment less perfect than it can be made, a constitutional door is left open for its amelioration."

PERSONAL DISCUSSIONS ON RATIFICATION (1788)

Throughout the whole period of ratification his residence continued to be "a well resorted tavern," and with such men as Madison, the Lees, Robert and Gouverneur Morris, Carrington, Dulany, Humphreys, Harrison of Maryland, Powell of Pennsylvania, Jones of North Carolina. These visitors not only carried home but later voiced the general's impressions. Henry Lee wrote, December 7, 1787: "Genl. Washington ... continues firm as a rock." Washington himself wrote Carter at this time, "My decided opinion of the matter is that there is no alternative between the adoption of it and anarchy"; and to Jay, March 3, 1788, "for myself I have never entertained much doubt of its adoption." This last statement was after the plan had successfully passed its first real test, in the Massachusetts Convention. The only large state which had previously ratified had been Pennsylvania, and there a species of dragoonage had checked the opposition.

After Virginia had ratified, Monroe wrote Jefferson, July 12: "The conduct of General Washington upon this occasion has no doubt been right and meritorious ... To forsake the honorable retreat to which he had retired, & risque the reputation he had so deservedly acquir'd, manifested a zeal for the publick interest,

that could after so many illustrious services, & at his stage of life, scarcely have been expected of him ... Be assured his influence carried this Government."

Gouverneur Morris in October 1787 wrote: "I have observed that your Name to the new Constitution has been of infinite Service. Indeed I am convinced that if you had not attended the Convention, and the same Paper had been handed out to the World, it would have met with a colder Reception,

AFTERMATH (1788)

After New York ratified, he expressed his thankfulness and praise with characteristic gallantry to Mrs. Stockton, August 31, 1788: "I can never trace the concatenation of causes, which led to these events, without acknowledging the mystery and admiring the goodness of Providence. To that Superintending Power alone is our retraction from the brink of ruin to be attributed. A spirit of accomodation was happily infused into the leading characters of the Continent and the minds of men were gradually prepared, by disappointment, for the reception of a good government. Nor would I rob the fairer sex of their share in the glory of a revolution so honorable to human nature, for, indeed, I think you ladies are in the number of the best Patriots America can boast."

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DEADLINE

For submissions for the February issue will be:

14 January 2009

Send all stories, photos and etc. to:

Patriot1@AmericanRevolution.org

Please, no photos smaller than 300 dpi

WALLOOMSAC BATTLE



Chapter Vice President **Paul Loding** (right) confers with General Stark (Peter Schaaphok)

Chapter President **John Sheaff** was the event coordinator for the 231st anniversary of the Battle of Bennington in Walloomsac, from which the Chapter took its name. The day long event included John's display of RW material and pictures and handouts by the Chapter.

A British Encampment was set up at the site of the original "Tory Redoubt", led by Chapter VP **Paul Loding**, a re-enactor with His Majesty's 53rd Regiment of Foot. Peter Schaaphok of the Brigade of the American Revolution portrayed General John Stark and talked with visitors as he described how the battle took place on August 16, 1777.

Chapter member **Mike Companion** and Rangers Eric Snitzer and Joe Craig from the Saratoga National Historic Park, talked with visitors.

The Chapter, with the help of Mrs. Lois Sheaff hosted a picnic supper for all chapter members and participants.

Before closing the event with a wreath laying honoring all American soldiers and musket salutes, visitors were presented with a program in which individuals, in period dress, described (from written accounts) what it was like for people who were there that day or who were greatly affected by the events of that day, at this little remembered but important battle, which made the victory at Saratoga the "Turning Point of the Revolution". - By Duane Booth

WELCOME NEW COMPATRIOTS

Mathew David Anderson
Willis Herman Barney Jr.
Alfred Booth
Edward Lee Cox
Thomas Rogers David
Robert Barr Deans III
Robert Barr Deans Jr.
Nicholas Wyeth Deans
Herbert Linwood Doughty
James Philip Festa
Patrick Joseph Festa
Matthew Joseph Festa
Thomas Patrick Festa
Nicholas Matthew Goodwin
Richard Charles Holbrook
Timothy Paul Kirkup
Daniel Ray Levering
Herbert Lewis Mulford III
Brendan Brooks Phillips
Matthew Scott Rakoff
Rodman Daniel Stewart
Landin Irving Van Buren
Charles Joseph Whitesell
Charles Warren Jones Wright Jr.
William Alden Andrews
Sean Robert Callahan
Peter Benjamin Desrochers
Brenton William Downing
Peter Edward Fountaine
Timothy Michael Green
Brian Joseph Greening
Edward Michael Growney Jr.
Wesley Ivanhoe Hale III
James Michael Hickey
Edmund Paul Hickey
Robert John Kolb
Noah Taisan Lukeman
Douglass Timothy Mabee
Michael Reed Marquardt
Donald Fred McFarland Jr.
Douglas Francis Monroe
Richard Allen Norton
Scott Arthur Odabash
Douglas Wayne Phillips
Louis Wendel Snell
Victor Yuri Van Vliet
Edward Richie Van Vliet

NEW COMPATRIOTS cont'd

Vincent Sacha Van Vliet
Valerien Yannick Van Vliet



IN VENI PORTAM



Richard Hugh Fraser
David Bowen McCandlish
Herbert Lewis Mulford III
Donald H. Piron Jr.
Seely Fournier Pratt Jr.
Edwin Thomas Smith
Ralph E. Springstead
Nathaniel Elmer Wheeler Jr



Answers to Christmas Quiz

Quiz appears on page 5

1. Crossed the Delaware
2. Alabama, 1836
3. Bethlehem, by Count Nikolaus von Zinendorf, who led a band of Moravians with lighted candles
4. Christmas Island
5. Franklin Pierce, 1856
6. In 1909, at Mt. Wilson, California
7. 1923, by Calvin Coolidge
8. Yes! In 1863, when banks could still issue their own currency, a bank in Troy, New York, put him on their \$3 bills. If you can find one, they're worth \$300 today
9. Lewis and Clark
10. Ratified the U.S. Constitution
11. The War of 1812
12. Resigned his commission



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Ms. Kelly Mathews - Sr. Vice President, Financial Accountability & Compliance Services for the Council of Community Services of New York State, Inc. spoke at our September ESSAR Board of Managers meeting enlightening us on the laws governing Non-Profit Organizations. It was a very interesting talk along with the material she supplied. One of the main issues was that we are not to pay any officers or directors for their services. This was also specified in a letter from the Internal Revenue Bureau which I read to those attending. Ms. Mathews also covered a number of other new laws that we, as an organization, need to comply with. One such law was in regards to fund raising for our State Society as well as Chapters. Fund raising from our membership is one thing but when you bring the community into your fund raising projects and this is done quite regularly, then the Society or Chapter involved could end up paying taxes. Ms. Mathews gave an example of this happening to a volunteer fire department which had a "Pizza Night" every month to raise funds for the department. The local pizza establishment complained to NYS and the fire department ended up having to pay taxes on the amount of meals they sold even though they were non-profit.

Tom Rankin, ESSAR Chancellor, spoke to the members regarding the proposed revisions for our Constitution and Bylaws. Because of the size (approximately 40 pages), he suggested placing it on a web site rather than the costs of printing and mailing a copy to each member for their reviewing, editing,

and suggestions. Those members who don't have computer capabilities will receive a printed copy. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to mail each Chapter President a copy to have accessible for copying to their members.

The Finger Lakes Chapter is to be commended for hosting the September BOM meeting. Chapter President Blaine Elkie and his membership provided a fine meal, facilities, and even an assortment of door prizes. A local historical society furnished an actual Revolutionary War British Soldier's coat for display. One member asked if there were any bullet holes in it and the representative said there were only moth holes. Another member asked if the holes were put there by "Colonist moths".

I've been busy as your representative attending different functions spreading the word about the SAR and have several more different organizational meetings as well as events ahead of me to attend this month.

Thanks again to all of you for your interest in this organization and for keeping Revolutionary War as well as family history alive for future generations.

My best to you all and your families,
William J. Woodworth, President
Empire State Society, SAR

Sons of the American Revolution
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Officers of the Empire State Society
2008-2009

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WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM

Chapter member Ed St.Germain has been busy lately. Sailing the Hudson as a crew member on the “Woody Guthrie,” a replica of an 18th century Dutch designed vessel; being part of a gun crew with Lambs Artillery on Patriots Weekend on Constitution Island, and demonstrating 18th century dancing in Schenectady with a dance troupe at the Annual Walkabout in the Stockade Historic District. Photos on last page. Ed advises that Lambs is looking for a few good men, so anyone wishing to join and learn about 18th century artillery should contact Al Florio avffrp@aol.com or Frank Cecala FKCEcala@msn.com ❧

SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER



(l-r) Brett Trufant, Charles Walter, Dennis Marr, Rich Fullam, Harry Taylor, Lew Slocum, Duane Booth, Tivo Africa

The Saratoga Battle Chapter held its annual wreath laying at the DAR Monument located on the Saratoga National Historical Park’s tour road.

Our event coincided with the Park’s anniversary weekend. Park attendance was up and re-enactors were on hand and presented the colors for us. Wreaths were laid by **Ron Newton**, Past VPG New England District, SAR; **Dennis Marr**, Past President ESS and **Tivo Africa**, Saratoga Battle 2nd VP.

At the meeting which followed, **Richard H. Fullam** was installed as Chapter President. President **George Ballard** stepped down for health reasons and received the Past Chapter President’s pin and certificate. **Harry Taylor** received the Liberty Medal and **Duane Booth** received a Liberty Medal Certificate (4 Oak Leaf Clusters); **Jonathan Goebel** received a Liberty Medal Certificate (3 Oak Leaf Clusters) as well as **Bill Neal** at the National Congress in Sacramento. **Frank Moy** received his 30 year service award. ❧

Christmas 1776

From The American Journal of Ambrose Serle, Secretary to Lord Howe----

“[New York, NY] Wednesday, Dec. 25th, 1776— Dined with Lt. Col. Clerk of the 43rd Regt. With Mr. Strachey &c. Nothing material occurred in Conversation, &c. The Troops remain in status quo in the Jerseys.

Thursday, 26th December - A most tempestuous Day of Rain, Frost, Wind & Snow, confined me wholly to my Apartment; I employed myself in preparing materials for the Press, in reading, &c.

Friday, 27th -- Heard the very unpleasant News of a whole Brigade of Hessians under Col. Rall, being taken Prisoners at Trenton by a large Body of Rebels, and at nine o’clock in the morning. I was exceedingly concerned on the public account, as it will tend to revive the drooping Spirits of the Rebels and increase their Force, and extremely chagrined on my own Account as it will detain me probably for a further Space of Time from my longed-for Home, and the happy enjoyment of my Family and Friends.” ❧

And Later Years

“Let no pleasure tempt thee, no profit allure thee, no ambition corrupt thee, no example sway thee, no persuasion move thee to do anything which thou knowest to be evil; so thou shalt live jollily, for a good conscience is a continual Christmas.”

--Benjamin Franklin

“But what a cruel thing is war; ... to devastate the fair face of this beautiful world! I pray that on this day [Christmas] when only peace and good-will are preached to mankind, better thoughts may fill the hearts of our enemies and turn them to peace.”

--Robert E. Lee

“The Christmas spirit of Peace, hope, and love is the spirit Americans carry with them all year round, everywhere we go. ... The tree that lights up our country must be seen all the way to heaven ... its lights fill the air with a spirit of hope, and joy from the heart of America.” --Ronald Reagan ❧



Sons of the American Revolution
Empire State Society
Ed St.Germain, Editor
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below center, in the 17th and 18th centuries, hundreds of craft like this one carried passengers and cargo up, down and across the Hudson River.



below left, Lambs Artillery mans a 3-pounder on Patriots Weekend at Constitution Island, opposite West Point.



below right, 18th century dancing in the streets of the historic Stockade District of Schenectady at the 49th Annual Walkabout

