



EMPIRE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution
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THE BATTLE OF NEWTOWN

The 230th Anniversary of the Battle of Newtown was celebrated on August 29 and 30, 2009. This living history event is the only Revolutionary War Battle re-enactment that takes place in the Southern Tier. Over four hundred re-enactors gathered to recreate the Battle of Newtown, and to honor and commemorate all of its participants, whether American, British, Canadian or Native.



First, some background. There are a few more important events recorded in American history than the short but decisive campaign of Major General John Sullivan of New Hampshire and Brigadier General (later Major General) James Clinton of New York against the Six Nations, the great confederacy of Indians composed of the Seneca, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Tuscarora Indians. The Six Nations held the greater part of New York and Pennsylvania during the Revolutionary War. The Indian and Tory massacres at Cherry Valley, NY and Wyoming Valley, PA, following each other in close succession, and the continued warfare of Brant and Butler on the defenseless and unoffending inhabitants of the frontier steadily depopulated the white settlements and narrowing their boundaries. General Washington found it necessary to plan a campaign of devastation and extermination against the enemy.

Accordingly, General Sullivan was dispatched in May 1779 with two regiments for the Indian country. Sullivan's army cut a road through the wilderness, from the Delaware River to the Susquehanna River at Wyoming. As commander-in-chief, Sullivan was to proceed with all possible haste up the Susquehanna Valley to Tioga, where General Clinton, proceeding down the Susquehanna from Otsego Lake, was to join him. Sullivan ordered Clinton, on June 2nd to start down

the Susquehanna. Boats to convey the troops had to be drawn overland by horses from Canajoharie to Otsego Lake. There were 110 bateaux requiring four horses each. Clinton reached the south end of the lake on July 1st, where he was to await further orders from Sullivan. No orders were received by him until August 9th. The river was very low by this time, and Clinton had to dam the waters of Otsego Lake, and by freeing them at the proper time, caused a flooding of the Susquehanna which carried his troops down stream. The affect of the high water caused damage of Indian villages along the shores and frightened them away. The Indians thought they were being punished by the Great Spirit.

The two armies did not meet at the rendezvous at Tioga until August 22nd. Clinton's army was greeted with cheers and a 13 gun salute. This brought the entire command to approximately 5,000 men. The movement of such an army gave the Indians and Tories opportunities to make every preparation to meet Sullivan and Clinton for a decisive battle. Brant had about 1,000 of his best warriors ready for the coming conflict. British soldiers and American and Canadian Tories numbered about five hundred. These forces were under the command of Sir John Johnson, Sir Guy Johnson, Colonel John Butler, and Major Walter Butler. The Crown's forces were strongly entrenched about one mile from Newtown. The enemy chose the battleground, which was a heavily wooded tract, commanded by breastworks erected on Hart's Ridge. The breastworks were half a mile in length, and covered by fresh cut saplings. In front flowed Baldwin's Creek, and on the left flank



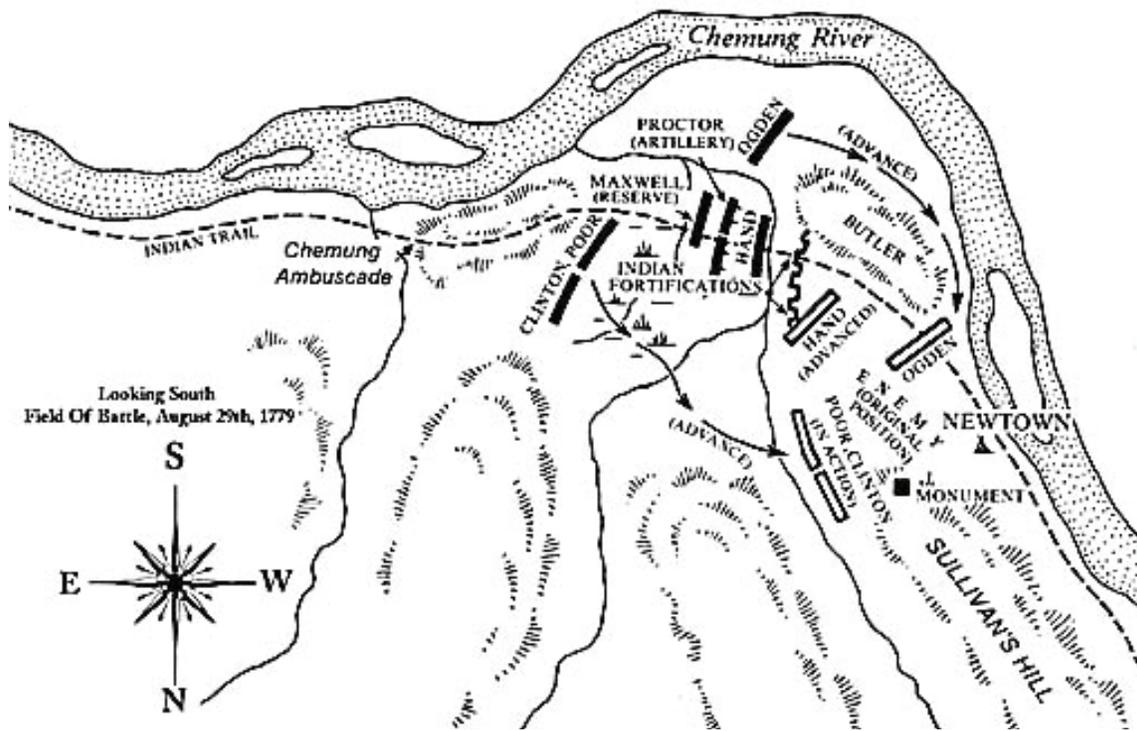
was extensive swamp. At the rear, was a high hill, and on the right passed the old Indian trail over which Sullivan should advance. Some 200 yards beyond this trail lay a wooded ridge where British forces were hidden. Thus the trap was set.

Sullivan's scouts discovered the ambush and sent word back to their commander.

The battle was fought on August 29th. Although the Americans had the greater numbers, the Indians and Tories successfully held them in check for most of the day. General Sullivan sent Colonel Ogden to the far left and Clinton and Poor's brigades to the right to turn the enemy's flank and rear in a double envelopment. Colonel Proctor's artillery was moved to within 300 yards of the breastwork. At a pre-arranged time the artillery began a heavy fire and the plan went into action.

Clinton and Poor were delayed by the swamp, but eventually gained high ground, and engaged in active combat with the enemy. For awhile, it was a hotly contested battle. Brant's battle cry could be heard above the tumult of the fighting, inspiring his band of warriors. But eventually the vigorous artillery fire had a telling effect on the Indians, and the signal for retreat was sounded by the Indian leaders. The defeated Tories and Indians fled up the valley, crossing the river and taking to the hills.

During the battle, the Indians and Loyalists suffered 12 killed, an unknown number of wounded because they were carried off, and 2 captured. The Patriots suffered 3 killed and 36 wounded. Historian Allan W. Eckhart wrote, "The Battle of Newtown had certainly not been a bloody battle compared to others, but it was most certainly a significant one.



This was the battle that broke the back of the Iroquois League...and the hearts of the people of the Six Nations.”

On August 31st, Sullivan marched to Catherinetown, the present site of Watkins, with a scorched earth campaign, burning villages and destroying crops. There were larger Indian villages at Kanadesegia, now Geneva; Ganondaga, now Canandaigua; Honeoye and Geneseo. Kanadesegia was the capital of the Seneca Nation. These were all given the torch in addition to 35 smaller villages from Seneca Lake to the Genesee River. Also destroyed during the campaign was the very large Cayuga village of Coreorgonel in what is now the southwest side of Ithaca, NY.

The Indians and Tories continued the flight toward Niagara, a British stronghold, where all of the bloody excursions of the past few years had begun. The result of the campaign was greater security on the borders, a security that was made absolute by General Wayne's decisive campaign against the Indians a few years later. Many of the Indians were forced to live near Fort Niagara and be supported by the British while many others suffered diseases caused by starvation and infection.

After his war service, Sullivan went on to serve as a two time Federalist governor of New Hampshire, having led the drive there to ratify the US Constitution. Washington then appointed him a federal district judge. The counties of Sullivan in New York, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Missouri and Tennessee are named for him, as was Sullivan Street in Manhattan.

James Clinton served on a commission defining the NY – Pennsylvania boundary, and served as a delegate to the New York convention ratifying the US Constitution. His second son, DeWitt, was governor of New York largely responsible for one of the most ambitious and successful civil engineering and public works projects in world history, the Erie Canal.

At the reenactment this August, the spectators had the opportunity to visit re-created military camps of the Continental and British soldiers, and the Indian village with log cabins.

The reenactment began with the blood curdling scream of a young girl. The young girl and several others fled for their lives as an armed “native” gave chase. The screams caught the attention of Continental soldiers gathered nearby. And so began the “Woods Walk Skirmish”, which was most interesting. The spectators played the part of 18th century frontiersmen and settlers being guided through the wilderness to safety along a forest trail by a regiment of Continental soldiers. Along the way, they were attacked by Canadian and native Americans reenacting the Crown forces of 1779. The two warring factions continued a back and forth fighting over the same land until the Americans were victorious and the British and Indians fled the scene. Also, the spectators had the opportunity to visit re-created military camps of the Continental and British soldiers, and an Indian village with log cabins. Dialogue with the re-enactors gave the spectators a feeling of actually being at the battle site talking with real eighteenth century soldiers.



John Sullivan stares down ...



... his lobsterback adversary



The Americans respond to the ambush



EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY, SAR PRESIDENT'S REPORT

August 7-8, 2009 was the Atlantic Middle States Conference which was held at the Radisson Hotel in Rochester, NY. Besides having attendees from the seven State Societies located within the Atlantic Middle States (DCSSAR, VASSAR, MDSSAR, DESSAR, PASSAR, NJSSAR, and ESSAR), we had SAR representatives and their wives attending from nine other State Societies as far away as California and Texas. President General Ed Butler and 1st Lady Robin were in attendance as well as many of the current NSSAR Officers and those campaigning for next year's offices.

Friday night's buffet had as our guests, "Colonels" Kate Bowman, Cindy Watson, Kelly Jamison, and Bruce Bowman from the Calvin Smith Elementary School "3rd NY Regt." located in Painted Post, NY. These 4th grade teachers presented a power point demonstration and video of the work they are doing with 60+ fourth grade students who make up this "Regt." The project began about 6 years ago to teach the students the facts of the Revolutionary War era history as well as what it was like to be a soldier fighting for your Country's independence.

A business meeting was held Saturday morning in which next year's NSSAR Officer Candidates were nominated and voted on for endorsement by the members of the Atlantic Middle States. While the

business meeting was being conducted former Rochester President, Steve Clarke, conducted a Ladies Meeting with his topic of discussion being "Genealogy in Western NY: Influences of the Holland Land Purchase and the Erie Canal". From all the reports I received, this was a very interesting and educational meeting. Saturday night's banquet was a time for presentation of awards and a word from the President General in which he spoke about the upcoming trip to Spain next May 2010 for any SAR members and their wives to attend. The Atlantic Middle States Conference is hosted on a rotating basis between the seven societies and next year's conference will be hosted by the Pennsylvania State Society to be held in Philadelphia, PA. My thanks to "Red" Fairley, Steve Clarke, Art Smith, my wife, and many others for their help in making this conference a success.

September 19, 2009 the ESSAR Board of Managers meeting was hosted by the Binghamton Chapter and VPG John Moller of the North Atlantic District, SAR was in attendance. A special thanks to President Bob Haff and the Binghamton Chapter for hosting this BOM meeting.

Susan and I attended the Constitution Day event at the Calvin Smith Elementary School where the "3rd NY Regt" students reside. They gave a very good and interesting presentation of how the U. S. Constitution came about. Then they recited it and explained just what it meant. All this was done by 4th Grade students!!

I have been invited to represent the ESSAR and speak at the upcoming NYS DAR Conference being held at the Radisson Hotel in Corning, NY September 24-27, 2009.

Thanks for all you're doing to make this a great society.

Did You Vote?

Not only is it your right to vote as a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, it is your duty to vote. You should have voted in your governmental elections. Also, the New York Society, SAR, has proposed changes to the constitution and by-laws. Please vote. If you didn't or don't vote, don't complain.

2009 Mid Atlantic States Conference

Rochester, New York August 7-9

Mid-Atlantic District Vice President General, Rick Ashmun of the Pennsylvania Society and North Atlantic District Vice President General, John Moller of the New Jersey Society conducted the annual meeting of the State Societies represented by their districts: New York, New Jersey, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia. The two-day meeting at the Radisson Airport Hotel Rochester was well attended with more than 75 Compatriots and guests in attendance. They came from seven states making up the two districts, plus national officers and candidates from California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, and Texas. A third day (Sunday) was scheduled for a National Executive Committee meeting led by President General, Ed Butler, and an SAR Foundation Board meeting led by Bill Allerton, Foundation President.



Conference Chairman and President of ESSAR, William Woodworth was presented the Meritorious Service Medal by North Atlantic VPG John Moller.



Compatriot Millard "Red" Fairley of the Rochester Chapter received an Emergency Medical Service Award from William Woodworth, President of ESSAR, and a Certificate of Appreciation for his assistance in organizing the Conference.



(l to r) Bruce & Kate, Cindy and Kelly



Colonel Cindy Watson



Student members of the 3rd NY Regt.

Colonels Kate Bowman, Cindy Watson and Kelly Jamison presented a "Revolutionary War Soldier Project." They spoke about their 3rd New York Regiment at the Calvin U. Smith Elementary School in Painted Post, NY. Col. Kate was accompanied by her husband, Bruce, who is a re-enactor. The program was well received by delegates to the conference and their guests.

3rd New York Regiment

After undergoing a brief dental exam, checking to make sure their teeth were in good condition for tearing open the cartridges of powder for their weapons, the troops are enlisted by signing their names to a ledger with a quill pen. "General" Karen Bracy (also known as Calvin U. Smith, Principal) handled the swearing in of the recruits during the induction ceremony.

The troops wear the traditional tri-cornered black felt cocked hats and have haversacks that they sewed themselves. Among their duties, they have been instructed in the making of mock rifle cartridges for the mock rifles they carry as they drill in formation. They learn what it was like to live in the Revolutionary War era, and how to conduct themselves accordingly. It is as though they had gone back in time and are portraying the Patriots of those times. It is very impressive the way these young recruits handle themselves in their drills, formations and knowledge of the times. In one instance, Colonel Bowman called on the troops to name each of the Bill of Rights. Not only could they recite the Bill of rights, but went on to explain just what each one of these Rights meant.

They meet twice a week for two hours on their own time after school hours. In addition to their knowledge from the books, these young men and women learn to play the fife, keep journals, write letters home about their exploits, and the status of the war. For all the training and drilling, each recruit receives a salary of \$6 per month in Colonial Dollars which they covet very closely while spending some for meals of apples and bread.

The regiment has marched in several Colonial Day parades and the re-enactment of the Newtown Battle. They play "Yankee Doodle" on their fifes, and carry their Betsy Ross and Don't Tread on Me flags. In 2004, the Fort Smith 3rd NY Regiment took 1st place out of 80 different units who marched in the Colonial Days parade in Painted Post, NY. They were "Crowd Pleaser."

This program was originally organized as an after school club, and became an integral part of the 4th grade social studies curriculum. Thanks to Colonel Bowman and Colonel Watson, there are some school age youths who will remember what it was like to live during the Revolutionary War era. Keep up the good work.

PATRIOTS

We glance about and see the signs, as memories buried deep
Begin to surface in our thoughts, and make it hard to sleep.
For once within our country there was freedom earned by blood
And full belief that freedom came from all our trust in God.
But now it is as though the story needs to be re-told.
What's that! I hear the marching feet of patriots of old!

You can't usurp a country born by those whose hearts were free
Who structured laws and government to work for you and me;
Who threw into the king's own court his yoke of tyranny
And vowed to die before they ever gave up liberty!
Those men and women's honor was the type that can't be sold!
O yes! I hear the marching feet of patriots of old!

Our country is the only one that fought for Freedom's Way.
To freely live religion and to give each man his sway;
To build and prosper honestly--not plunder nations' wealth.
And so we thrived as vigorous youth of joy and strength and health
O! Liberty is in our veins, by God to us bestowed!
That's why I hear the marching feet of patriots of old!

Now tyranny has reared it head again within our land,
And cunning foes from many parts think vic'try is at hand.
For treason has been purchased by the best laid plans of men
From godless politicians who do not yet know their end.
O give me men of honesty, whose hearts are made of gold!
Alas! I hear the marching feet of patriots new and old!

by A. J. Forester
July 4, 2009

Permission to reprint this poem is freely given by the author. --
A. J. Forester

A 230 Naval Heritage

This summer became the second summer, in which a naval heritage begun during the American Revolution of security and protection by New York militia, of providing service to the U.S. Border Patrol. Since the disaster of the World Trade Center in 2001, a fleet of patrol boats provided by the Division of Military and Naval Affairs of the State of New York provides security in the vicinity of the port of New York City and now on Lake Champlain. Further information can be obtained by the website: www.dmna.state.ny.us. and clicking on Naval.

Due to ill health

We are in need of someone to take over being editor of the newsletter. Doctors tell me, I need to get away from all stress. Thank you for allowing me to be the editor for these past two months.

Healthy Living

50% of U.S. Population expected to get H1N1 Flu!

Nobody wants to get the flu. This dreaded head-pounding, body-aching, feverish, nauseating, cough fest packs equal parts of misery and inconvenience. But, nobody wants to get a shot that may be either unnecessary, ineffective or flu producing.

For those individuals who do get the flu shot, and those who don't, the following are suggested ways to outsmart the flu.

1. Wash your hands over and over. Your hands need attention. Use plain old soap and water. Limit your use of antibacterial soaps. Rub vigorously for at least 15 to 20 seconds. An alternative is to use either the alcohol hand wipes or the gel hand sanitizer.

2. Avoid crowds. The flu virus thrives on socialization. Do more shopping on line than at the mall, and try to cover your face if someone sneezes near you. If you must go shopping, and need to use a cart, make sure you carry some antiseptic wipes to clean the handle of the cart.

3. Keep hydrated. Membranes in your nose and throat trap viruses, and move them out in the form of mucus. Drink lots of fluids and gargle to keep your membranes in fighting shape. But avoid humidifiers, they can spread germs.

4. Do vitamins. Vitamin C may not fight off colds, but several experts still recommend it for keeping you healthy during flu season. Vitamin D and selenium may guard against the flu, too. Foods like orange juice or yogurt are usually fortified with vitamin D, and OJ has plenty of vitamin C.

5. Try herbs. Drugstores have plenty of herbal remedies. In studies, Cold Fx made with an extract from North American ginseng, has a good track record in reducing the infection rates and severity of both colds and flu. Other choices that may help:

a. Echinacea. A controversial cold remedy for fighting off flu symptoms. For best results, get a tincture and take it for a week or two if you hear the flu is going around. Also, use it if you begin to feel sick. A 1000 mg capsule used daily as a preventative at the beginning of the flu season until it is over.

b. Astragalus. A Chinese herb (root) that can boost your immunity. It is suggested to use a few slices of the root in soup. The root can be found in Chinese grocery stores, and is safe to consume during the entire flu season.

For those individuals over 50, the recommendation for a pneumonia shot is strongly recommended. The pneumonia shot is different from the flu shot in that the flu shot contains a weakened virus, but the pneumonia shot is a protein substance that helps you fight off colds.

Chaplain's Column

Reverend Oliver

Perhaps the name doesn't ring a bell. He is a factious character from the movie The Patriot starring Mel Gibson. Gibson plays the character loosely conceived as Francis Marion better known as the Swamp Fox. The final battle in the movie was based the tactics used by Daniel Morgan at the Battle of Cowpens. Similar tactics were used in the Battle of Guilford Court.

Reverend Oliver was the minister of a church when Gabriel, Benjamin Martin's son, goes to the church to enlist men for the militia. After some discussion for and against the seeking of volunteers, Gabriel is successful in recruiting several.

Reverend Oliver is one of them. I believe he volunteers and takes up his rifle simply out of patriotism. There seems to be no struggle on whether it is right to take up arms against the foe, at least none that we are aware of. Does he leave his flock at the church to be the shepherd of those becoming part of the militia? Is it in the heat of the moment that goes with the other volunteers? He does continue his ministerial duties by marrying Gabriel and his fiancée Anne Howard. Most chaplains in more recent times seem to be concerned with the spiritual welfare of the men (and women) serving our country and in their physical well being by acting as medics.

Reverend Oliver represents the younger patriots deeply religious and naïve view of the war. He conducts his role as a militiaman by believing that war is dignified and honorable. That is until he finds the church he served burned down with the town members locked inside. No longer does he see war as an adventure. Now he sees it for what it truly is. Eventually Reverend Oliver makes the supreme sacrifice by being shot while protecting Gabriel. The Bible tells us that there is no greater love than to give up ones life for another.

Hollywood can take great liberties in portraying historical events as they did in this movie. Characters, too, become the composite of several others. Reverend Oliver became a stereotype of conflicting attitudes and, yet, in the end becomes a hero in his own right.

Veterans Day

November 11th is Veterans Day. Keep those who are fighting in foreign lands in your prayers. Thank anyone you know who is a veteran for the service they have render for you, me and our country. Has your chapter done anything lately for a veteran?

COMPATRIOTS IN ACTION

Oriskany Battle Chapter

232 Anniversary of the Battle of Oriskany

On August 6th 2009 the Oriskany Battle Chapter Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution was joined by National Society, Sons of the American Revolution, Chaplin General Clark Wisner, South Atlantic Region, Sons of the American Revolution, Sam Powell and North Carolina Society. Sons of the American Revolution, President LTC Frank Horton in honoring those who fought and those who fell at the Battle of Oriskany 232 Years ago.



(l to r) Oriskany Battle Chapter President George Gydesen, National Chaplin General, Clark Wisner, South Atlantic Region, President Sam Powell, North Carolina Society President, LTC Frank Horton, Oriskany Battle Chapter Treasurer Tom Foley.

Walloomsac Battle Chapter News

The Walloomsac Battle Chapter is well along with our 2009 schedule. Several of our members just participated in the Turning Point Parade in Schuylerville, NY in early August. Our Chapter, with the help of other groups, held a day-long celebration on Sunday, August 16th marking the 232nd anniversary of the Revolution's Battle of Bennington. This battle, won by the American forces, was fought along the Walloomsac River, in North Hoosick, NY, which is a NYS Historic Site. The battle contributed greatly to the American success at Saratoga in October of the same year.



Pictured above is crew member Bret Trufant who ignited the cannon along with Michael Companion, front, and Peter Hormell. Bret and Mike are SAR and all three are re-enactors with the 2nd Continental Artillery. The cannon, a 1½ lb. tube was built by Mike and is named "Cricket". Photo by Robert C. Wilson, Bennington, VT

Binghamton Chapter



George Cummings II presented a program at a joint luncheon of the Binghamton ESSAR and the Tuscarora NSDAR. George demonstrated to the group the items that a foot soldier would use during a typical Revolutionary War Campaign. The items can be seen in the background.

Saratoga Battle Chapter

TURNING POINT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION COMMEMORATED WITH ANNUAL PARADE

Sunday August 2nd saw the Saratoga Battle Chapter and Walloomsac Battle Chapter joined forces again marching in the 15th Annual Turning Point Parade. Although it was raining, it was not pouring, and the little drizzle only stopped a few muskets from firing.

This was the ninth year that the Saratoga Battle Chapter has participated in the event which was begun “to serve as a public reminder of the importance of this area in the history of our country, in particular, the defeat of the British Armies in 1777 and their subsequent surrender by General Burgoyne”, and serves as part of the Mission Statement of the Parade.

Participants range from Scout Groups, bands and musical ensembles, Color Guards from the American Legion, veterans, re-enactors, Military units, Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, local dignitaries, and other varied groups especially fire and rescue personnel.

The Parade has grown through the years and although the Parade Committee previously presented honorariums to participants, the Saratoga Battle Chapter initially returned and then refused any payment. Subsequent years have seen the Parade Committee struggling with the lack of funding, although every year up to 100 organizations continue to look forward to participation in the parade.



SAR members, Michael Companion and Bret Trugant, 2nd Continental Artillery and Saratoga Battle Chapter.



(l to r) Doug Reynolds, SB; Charlie Walter, 2nd VP, SB; Rick Saunders, SB&WB; George Malinoski, SB; Rich Fullam, Pres, SB; John Sheaff, Pres, WB&SB; Duane Booth, WB&SB; Harold Owen, WB; and Paul Virtue, WB.

Newtown Battle Chapter

We hosted the recent Atlantic Middle States Conference in Rochester and had representatives from 16 State Societies in attendance as far away as California, Texas, and Louisiana. Many of the NSSAR Officers attended as well as those candidates for the upcoming 2010 slate of officers' election.

Our next event was the annual chapter picnic at Newtown Battlefield State Park. The weather dampened things a bit, but we had 45-50 attend with some of those being several of the re-enactors who were participating in the Revolutionary War Weekend event. SAR Chapters represented at the picnic were Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Finger Lakes, and Newtown Battle. With this being the 230th Anniversary of the Battle of Newtown, the coordinators expected over 400 participants and many vendors, but the rainy weather the days preceding the event caused some to cancel. All in all the rainy weather held off for the picnic and the re-enactors had good weather for a couple days to stage their battles. Logan Cheek, ESSAR Treasurer, wandered about the battlefield park taking many pictures of the participants at both the picnic and the “troops”.

Our next scheduled Chapter meeting will be held October 17, 2009 at the Central Restaurant in Painted Post, NY – 11:30 AM with the Business meeting beginning at 12 Noon. We will then “round of the year” with our Annual Christmas Party where we
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donate all the gifts to the Veterans at the Bath VA Medical Center.

On a sad note, we recently lost a very good friend and member of Newtown Battle Chapter, Sereno “Cy” Tanner. He was 88 years young, served the SAR for over 56 years, was a Chapter President, and held many other offices locally – the last being Chapter Historian. Cy constructed a 4’ X 8’ display which contained Gen. Sullivan’s 1779 Troop Roster, and he also had a book attached to the display which contained the units which each of these men served in. I like to refer to Cy as the “Gentle Giant” because he was a rugged built man who had a hand shake which left you checking your fingers afterward to see if they were all there, but his friendliness and big smile made you feel that you had known him all your life. He will be missed. We will have good memories of this great gentleman and friend. I would ask that you might keep his wife, Dori, and the family in your prayers. The Chapter Board of Managers are in the process of establishing a “SAR Memorial Award Fund” in honor of Cy, and awards will be given to the winning Chapter Essay contestant in addition to the regular Chapter prize. If any of you would like to honor Cy’s memory and contribute to this fund, you can send all donations to:

Newtown Battle Chapter, SAR
% SAR Memorial Award Fund
447 Brainard Place
Painted Post, NY 14870-1101

Rochester Chapter

On September 12th, the Rochester Chapter SAR once again held its Annual Meeting and Picnic at the Groveland Ambuscade in Livingston County, NY. The Groveland Ambuscade is located at the site of an ambush set for General John Sullivan’s Army during the 1779 expedition organized, in Washington’s words, for “pushing the Indians to the greatest practicable distance from their own settlements and our frontiers, [and] to the throwing them wholly on the British enemy.” The ambush could have been devastating, but the plan was exposed when Sullivan’s scouting party stumbled into the trap and sprung it prematurely. The scouting party of approximately twenty-five men had no chance against eight hundred Indians and Tories, but around eight escaped, including the famous Tim Murphy.

A business meeting was conducted by President Michael L. Tunison. Highlights of the meeting included the awarding of Military Service Medals to Peter Crounse, and in absentia, to father and son, Robert L. Morrill and Robert A. Morrill of Latham, NY; a reading from the chapter’s 25th

anniversary handbook from 1919; and the dedication of a new WWII Service Banner, complete with a reading of the names of every man who served in the war while members of the chapter. The Buffalo Chapter was represented at the event by Vice-President, Bill Leed.

After the business meeting, the attendees proceeded to nearby Union Cemetery, located just north of Scottsburg on Route 256 in the Town of Conesus, for a rededication of the grave of Patriot Daniel Shays. During the Revolution Daniel served as a captain in the 5th Massachusetts Regiment in 1777, and participated in the battles of Bunker Hill, Saratoga, Stony Point and Ticonderoga. Perhaps, he is better known for his leadership of the famous Shays’ Rebellion in 1786.

After the Revolutionary War, small farmers, many of whom were former soldiers, were especially hard hit by the economic conditions of the time. The main problem was excessive land taxation to finance the heavy war debt, and the farmers were threatened with the loss of their farms and imprisonment for their inability to pay their taxes. Peaceful efforts by the farmers in attempts to obtain protective legislation, the abolition of the Court of Common Pleas and a significant reduction of taxes were ignored by the government. This led to militant action by several hundred farmers under the leadership of Daniel Shays. The Massachusetts state militia put down the rebellion and Shays was condemned to death on a charge of treason, but he was able to successfully escape to Vermont.

Shays’ Rebellion helped convince elected officials that the Articles of Confederation were ineffective at governing our new nation and that a new constitution was needed. During the Constitutional Convention in 1787 Shays’ Rebellion was fresh in the minds of the delegates, and today it is recognized as a highly influential factor in the creation of our United States Constitution.

Daniel Shays was eventually pardoned. He moved to the Livingston County Town of Sparta around 1816 and settled in the hamlet of Scottsburg where he lived out the remainder of his life. He died in 1825 and is buried in Union Cemetery. There is a roadside state marker on Route 256 commemorating his burial site.

The grave rededication ceremony for Daniel Shays was attended by over two dozen people, including Alice Denneville, former Town of Conesus Historian. The Rochester Chapter SAR provided a color guard, and Amie Alden, the Livingston County Historian, gave a talk covering aspects of Daniel’s life in Scottsburg and excerpts from his will. The program closed with a symbolic salute from an authentic Revolutionary-era musket echoing through the valley where Daniel Shays spent the final years of his life. The flintlock musket was owned and fired by Compatriot William Brewer, Rochester Chapter’s BOM.

Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter

Our Chapter held its fall meeting at August 22, 2009, meeting held at the Cappuccino's Restaurant, Red Hook, N.Y.

Alan D. Coon, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer and recipient of the Museum of Rhinebeck History Award for 2009, was guest speaker and explained his eight year quest, raising \$26,000 to have the "Doughboy Statue of Rhinebeck" restored to its original condition and moved to the Dewitt Gurnell Park.

A 4 by 4 foot foundation was created. Then a granite pedestal was installed on the foundation to which the restored statue was placed. Alan also had bronze plaques of the WWI and WWII veterans installed on the statue. At a later date, Alan added two monuments of the Korea and Vietnam veterans placed on both sides of the statue. The landscape surrounding the statue and monuments was done by the Explorer Scouts of Rhinebeck.

Alan ended his presentation by expressing a concern that existing historical statues and monuments are being eaten away by the pollution and that our Chapter members and others should get involved with their communities in restoring them. Alan D. Coon was presented the "Silver Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate" by Rod Andrews.

Our Chapter has processed thirteen Eagle Scout Certificates. The Chapter continues to grow with fifty-two members, an increase of five so far in 2009. Sadly missed will be Henri L. Baxter, III, Chapter member since 1982, passed away on Sept.16, 2009 in Oakdale, CT.

William Shepherd, George & Stella Knight Essay Chairman, has insured 100% mailing of the 2009-2010 contest rules to the high schools in our area,



(l to r) President Rodney Andrews presenting Alan D. Coon with certificate and medal.

Valcour Battle Chapter

Jim Hays, President, Valcour Battle Chapter, SAR, marches to Memorial Service on September 10th, at Riverside Cemetery, Plattsburgh, NY. Both British and American soldiers were buried there after September 11, 1814, the date of the Battle of Plattsburgh.



Stony Point Chapter

The Stony Point chapter and the Newburg Lions Club help to dedicate a new flagpole. The chapter assisted in providing a new flagpole and flag to Captain Kristopher Geis, USAF, who recently returned from Iraq. SAR member, Eldred Carhart chaired a project to obtain and replace the flagpole that was damaged while Geis was deployed in Iraq. A severe thunderstorm destroyed the old flagpole at his home.

The Newburg Lions club was involved in this project, and Vice President Will Thorpe said, "I was not about to have (Kris) return home from serving our country without the ability to hang the very flag that he and so many others sacrifice so much for."

During the dedication of the new flagpole, Geis (continued on last page)



National Society S.A.R.
4 Sharon Drive
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raised the new flag on the pole with the assistance of Will Thorpe. The Stony Point chapter provided a color guard for the ceremony.

In addition to the fine work of the chapter, at the last state meeting in Binghamton, the Stony Point Chapter was presented with a check for \$500.00 as the winner for 2009, and was awarded the Addams Trophy.



Finger Lakes Chapter

Members of the Finger Lakes Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, Lansing, NY were helpful to Michael Tunison, a member of the Rochester Chapter, SAR in locating the gravesite of his Patriot Ancestor, **George Rhodes**. George is buried with his wife in a gravesite located in the Old Dutch Burying Ground at 800-804 Lansingville Road, Lansing, NY. George was a Private during the war, and served with distinction in the 5th and 8th Companies of the 5th Regiment, Pennsylvanian Militia. (Note: unmarked means that he has not been identified as a Revolutionary War soldier.)

The Finger Lakes Chapter, SAR will conduct a Gravesite Marking Ceremony in the spring to mark and identify the unselfish sacrifice made by George in the early days of our new nation. Any living relatives will be invited to this auspicious occasion.

**Say a prayer for our servicemen
and women overseas.**