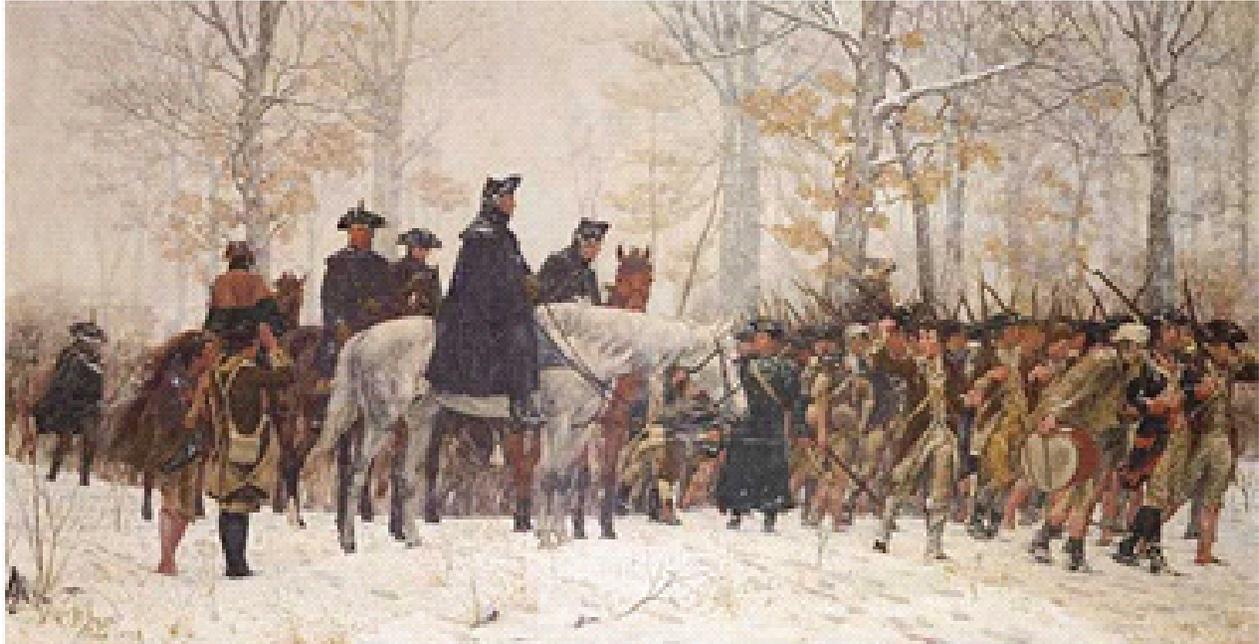




EMPIRE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution
Volume 12 Number 4 <http://www.sar.org/esssar/> Winter 2010

George Washington at Valley Forge



Washington and his army recently had been pushed out of Philadelphia, and with defeats at Brandywine and Germantown, was searching for a suitable encampment site. He was looking for a place to rest and train his men. With winter setting in, he was looking for a defensible position. Valley Forge was only 18 miles northwest of Philadelphia. It was close enough to prevent British raiding parties into the interior, and far enough to prevent a surprise attack. With the Schuylkill River to the north and the high ground of Mount Joy and Mount Misery, he decided it was the best location for his exhausted troops.

The first order of business was to select sites for brigade encampments and build suitable shelters for protection from the winter elements. Washington prepared an order, which gave specific information on the construction of shelters for the men. The men would be grouped in squads of twelve, and they would build a log cabin with a fire-place. The log cabin was built to specifications. The following dimensions were used: *“fourteen by sixteen each, sides, ends and roofs made of logs, and the roof made light with split slabs, or in some other way; the sides made tight with clay, fire-place made of wood and secured with clay on the inside eighteen inches thick, this fire-place to be in the rear of the hut; the door to be in the end next to the street; the doors to be made of split oak-slabs, unless boards can be procured. Side-walls to be six and a half-feet high.”* The difficulty of constructing these shelters came from several problems. Most of the men had limited knowledge of constructing a shelter, and the men came from different areas where homes might be different in style. Then the problem of gathering enough logs for the huts, and the tools to build them. Therefore, the specific shelters were not uniform. These would prove to be potential life threatening in the months to come. Think of a dozen men living in a space not much larger than your bedroom. Conditions in the camp were horrendous. Forced to live in damp, crowded quarters where they cooked, ate, and slept, the troops would become sick. Washington’s army of approximately 12,000 suffered from a lack of adequate clothing and food. Diseases such as typhoid, dysentery, typhus and pneumonia ran rampant. An estimated 2,000 died. Morale plummeted.

The next difficulty was the feeding of the troops. It was estimated that 35 thousand *(continued on page 2)*

pounds of meat and 200 barrels of flour per day were needed to feed the troops. There were many difficulties related to this problem and has always been a major problem; enough food, wagons to move the food, and money to buy the food. When we sit down to either Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner, do with think about the past?

In February 1778, Baron Friedrich von Steuben volunteered his services, and Washington assigned him the duties of Acting Inspector General and gave him the task of developing and carrying out a practical training program. The task of rebuilding the army's efficiency, morale and discipline was of vital concern. Soon the drillmaster had developed a more effective fighting force. His tirelessly drilling and scolding renewed the men's confidence in themselves and their ability to succeed. Slowly the soldiers' endurance, bravery, and sacrifices were rewarded.

When word that the British had departed from Philadelphia, Washington and his men were ready for action. They were in pursuit of the British who were moving toward New York. An ordeal had ended, and that ordeal had forged a new army with a new resolve. It was a victory not of weapons but of will. The spirit of Valley Forge was now a part of the Continental Army. Washington's troops emerged to pursue and successfully fight the British in the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey. They would continue to fight until their fight for freedom was won.



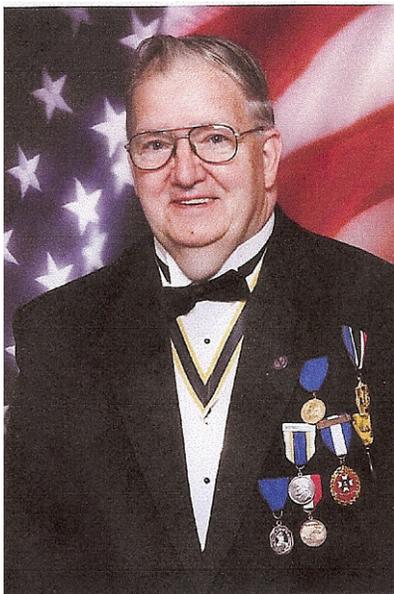
New Constitution and By-Laws

It was decided at the last meeting of the Board of Managers to table the approval of the new Constitution and By-Laws. Perhaps this was a mistake. Wayne Thurston and the committee worked extremely hard on putting it together. It requires only a few minor changes primarily in the area of the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and related items. It is essential to the Constitution and By-Laws committee that these changes be ready to be voted on by the next Board of Mangers meeting in March 2011.

If the changes cannot be made, then the new Constitution and By-Laws should be approved, which would then force the requred changes to be made.

The Constitution and By-Laws were in the hands of most members early enough for changes to be made by the next BOM meeting. Nothing was done. It will be a waste of man power if we don't work together and approve the document. *The Editor*

EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S REPORT



This past summer has been an “interesting” one to say the least. Susan and I traveled to Cleveland, OH, for the SAR Congress in June, to Philadelphia, PA, for the Atlantic Middle State Conference in August, and then to Louisville, KY, for the NSSAR Fall Leadership Meetings in September.

You can all be proud of the Empire State Society being well represented at the SAR Congress. We were the sponsor of the NSSAR 1st place winner of the Eagle Scout Award Competition; the 1st place winner of the NSSAR Knight Essay competition; 2nd place winner in the NSSAR, JRROTC competition, and also, received an award streamer for working closely with the CAR Organization in New York State. Also, there were several individual awards presented to members of our Society.

On another subject of a more serious matter, many of you may or may not have heard rumors of a problem that arose from a recent ESSAR audit. During an audit being conducted in April 2010 by members of our committee, several “irregularities” were discovered which led to questions being presented to our ESSAR Treasurer before and during the May 2010 ESSAR Annual Board of Managers meeting. To make a long story short, after checking our bank

accounts as well as the Brokerage Accounts and finding more problems, the NSSAR was notified as were local law enforcement agencies under the recommendation of the Chancellor General. An investigation is ongoing and several felony charges have recently been filed. There have been two (2) ESSAR Executive Sessions conducted regarding this matter in the past Board of Manager’s meetings - one in September and one in November. During the September meeting a resolution was introduced, voted, and passed in which ESSAR Treasurer Logan M. Cheek, III was suspended from all duties as the treasurer and Duane P. Booth was appointed as Assistant Treasurer to handle all financial matters for the ESSAR. One thing we all need to keep in mind is that our U.S. Justice System states that a person is innocent until proven guilty. We don’t need rumors circulating, making false accusations, or anything else causing more problems for any of our members or our Society. I will keep you updated to any new information in this matter. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at my email: bill sue3@juno.com or telephone (607)962-8290. Respectfully, Bill Woodworth, President

The U.S. Dorchester

The U.S. Dorchester was part of a convoy of three ships and three escorting Coast Guard cutters when, around 1:00 AM on February 3, 1943 it was struck by a torpedo. It was one of three fired by submarine U-223 and this one struck the Dorchester in the midsection. More than 900 men were aboard the troopship and the ship was sinking fast in the freezing waters some 100 miles off the coast of Greenland. On board were four Chaplains, two were Protestant pastors, one a Catholic priest and the last a Jewish rabbi. They were the first on deck and were calming the men and handing out life jackets. When the life jackets ran out, they removed their own and placed them on waiting soldiers with regard to faith or race. The ship sank only 18 minutes after she was struck by the torpedo. The four Chaplains were last seen by witnesses, standing arm in arm, on the hull of the ship. Each was praying in his own way for the care of the men. Almost 700 men died making it the third largest loss at sea of its kind for the United States during World War II. The four Chaplains were Father John Washington (Catholic), Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reform), Rabbi Alexander Goode (Jewish) and Reverend George Fox (Methodist). A First Sergeant who survived the sinking said “They were always together, they carried their faith together.” These Chaplains were later honored by Congress with the creation of a special Congressional Medal of Valor which was never to be repeated again. These medals were presented to their next kin. They also were awarded the Purple Heart. A chapel was dedicated in their memory in Grace Baptist Church in Philadelphia, home of Congress during the American Revolutionary War. Later it was relocated to the Philadelphia Naval Yard. Throughout the nation other chapels have been dedicated to their selfless sacrifice. Stained glass windows have been dedicated to them, a stamp was issued in 1948 and February 3rd, the date the Dorchester went down taking with them the four chaplains, as Four Chaplain Day. Throughout our nation’s history, chaplains have made the ultimate sacrifice along with those in their keeping. *Rev. Terry L. Sheldon*

Newtown Battle Chapter

We had another good attendance at our annual family picnic which is co-sponsored by the Finger Lakes Chapter, and I believe everyone had their fill of food. Although the road construction in the Newtown Battlefield State Park area was a little problem, the weather as well as the British Troops co-operated and no one was taken prisoner. Hopefully, the road work will be completed and directional signs will be better for next year's picnic as well as the re-enactment.

During our October chapter meeting, we were given an excellent program presented by three of the teachers from Calvin U. Smith Elementary School. These are the teachers whose 4th grade students make up the "3rd N.Y. Regiment Troops" that I have spoken of before. I had submitted the names of these teachers for the SAR American History Teachers Award only to be informed that the award was only given for middle school and high school teachers. The 1st place winner is sent to Valley Forge Graduate School for one week, which included a trip to Boston area Revolutionary War sites, Saratoga Battlefield, West Point, and many other sites. With the help from our chapter, these teachers were given the opportunity to go on the trip and they gave a power point presentation during our meeting. Also, they were presented with the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal from NSSAR, and other awards from the chapter for their work in making these 4th grade students very knowledgeable of America's history. If you have never seen these students in action you are missing a treat. They really know their Revolutionary War history and are true Patriots in every sense of the word.

Our next meeting will be held in January 2011, and should any of you wish information regarding our meetings, picnic, the Battle of Newtown re-enactments held each year, just drop me a line at billisue3@juno.com.

Walloomsac Battle Chapter

On Sunday afternoon, November 21st, the Saratoga and Walloomsac Battle Chapters members with their families and other guests met at the New York State Military museum in Saratoga Springs to enjoy fellowship, learn about the history of the museum, and appreciate the military contributions made by citizens of New York State starting with the American Revolutionary and continuing to today.

Museum Director, Michael Aikey, began the program with a review of the history and evolution of the museum. Sadly it was pointed out that in the past, New York's stewardship of its collections. One of the major projects underway is the restoration of the extensive battle flags collection. However, today one can see from touring the museum with its very well done displays that a great deal of attention is being given to the collection. The museum building itself, a former brick Guard building completed in 1891, is a treasure in itself.

After Michael's presentation, a pizza luncheon provided by the Chapter was served and guests then had the opportunity to tour the museum at their leisure.

If you have the opportunity to be in the Saratoga Springs area, be sure to make an effort to include a visit to the museum. It is conveniently located near the center of the city. Hours are: Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

Oriskany Battle Chapter

We held our Chapter meeting on September 11th and presented the SAR Liberty Medal and Certificate to Darryl Hurst. Our next meeting will be the annual Christmas meeting on December 11, 2010 starting at 5 p.m., at the Historic Orchard Hall in Sauquoit.

The Oriskany Battle Chapter and the Oneida Chapter, DAR shared a booth at the Veteran's Exposition at the Armory in Utica, NY.

ESSSAR President, Bill Woodworth and members of our Chapter attended the annual Oneida Nation's recognition breakfast at Turning Stone Casino.

Our Chapter has participated in the wreath laying ceremonies at the Oriskany Battlefield, the General Nicholas Herkimer Home, and joined the Stone Arabia Chapter in ceremonies at the grave of Colonel John Brown who with 40 of his men fell at the Battle of Stone Arabia.

Wreaths Across America is a worthy project of remembrance to our ancestors!

Rochester Chapter

On Sunday, November 7th, Chapter members, Brent Downing and Mike Tunison attended a meeting of the Ensign Robert Wilson Society, Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.). The meeting was held at the Irondequoit DAR Chapter House in Rochester. There were about thirty people in attendance, including sixteen children, some parents, DAR ladies and CAR advisors. Compatriot Downing attended with his wife, who has submitted her application for membership in the Irondequoit Chapter DAR.

Attending this meeting was a heart-warming experience. It is absolutely wonderful to see these children studying our nation's founding, and actively participating in patriotic work. The children run their own meeting and conduct it using Robert's Rules. As a result, at the same time they are learning about our country's founding, they are learning valuable skills that will be of lifelong benefit to them.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America and the C.A.R. Creed was recited by the children. The C.A.R. creed was written by William Tyler Page. Hearing these young children recite their creed at this meeting was truly inspiring.

"I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign states; a Perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its Flag; and to defend it against all enemies."

Also, a special notice, a Special Minute Report for the Ensign Robert Wilson Society C.A.R. meeting was presented by Allison Feely, "George Washington's Church at Ground Zero." The alternate title was, "The Little Church That Stood." I asked for and was given permission to share it with SAR members.

The Little Church That Stood

by Allison Feeley, Ensign Robert Wilson Society, C.A.R.

"When I went to New York City this summer with my family, we visited the site of the 9/11 tragedy. Visiting the area, the feeling overall was sad because of all who lost their lives. As we were walking, we came upon a little church that is directly across the street from where the twin towers once stood. We walked through an iron gate and saw an old church with an old cemetery in front. "

Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter

Our chapter is coming into the electronic age. 87% of our members have internet access which has saved over \$600.00 in postage on correspondence, elections, and news worthy stories. Our election for 2011-2012 will be the third time we have used the electronic ballot and so far we have encountered no problems. Gregory Post, our new Knight Essay Contest Chairman is having great responses to our electronic distribution to the local high schools. Our Chapter has established a communications network through the radio and newspaper announcements.

We have five potential SAR members who have their applications into National for approval, and we have another 10-12 future members at different stages of progress with their applications. We expect to easily reach a membership of 60-65 by 2011. This will increase our membership by 100% since 2006.

On a sad note, Herman Witthoft from Chatham passed away on October 31, 2010 after a long illness. He was a member since 1993, and Past President of the Chapter in 1999-2000. Also, John Helmeyer is having major health problems and is facing major surgery this month. David Silvernail was approved in September as a new member to the Board of Managers to replace Herman Witthoft.

Tim Middlebrook, Vice President, is looking for ways to improve our working relations with the Dutchess County DAR. At our next scheduled Chapter meeting on December 11th at Foster's Coach House in Rhinebeck, NY, we have invited the Chancellor Livingston DAR Chapter to the meeting. We are planning to invite a different DAR Chapter to future meetings. Sarah Hermans, Regent of the Chancellor Livingston DAR Chapter will present their 2011 schedule with the hopes that our Chapter can co-sponsor some of their events. There is a possibility of conducting jointly three cemetery ceremonies in 2011. *(Continued on page 6)*



(l-r) (l-r) Chapter Historian and Eagle Scout Chairman, John Anderson, his Eagle Scout son, Gregory Anderson, and his other son, 2nd LT Christopher Anderson, Class of 2010, West Point Military Academy.

Finger Lakes Chapter



(l-r) Ron Schmitt, sponsor, John Allen new member, and President Blaine Elkie



(l-r) Vice President, Norman E. Wheeler, Sr. President Blaine Elkie

At our last meeting Everett Morse and Fleet Morse made a presentation that included a video composed of original films made in the 1920's. It was about the history of the Thomas-Morse Aircraft Company of Ithaca. The Company produced over 800 one-engine trainer planes (called "Tomies") used to prepare pilots of the United States and Canada to fly during World War I. Later, some of the planes were used in films produced in Ithaca in the 1920s. The hanger built on the southwest shore of Cayuga Lake (at what is today known as Cass Park) during World War I to house and assemble these planes remains today in use as a local drama theater.

We presented the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal and certificate to Vice President, Norman E. Wheeler, Sr. Also we inducted our newest member, John Allen. John lives in Auburn, NY and is a Vietnam veteran and served with the Seabees. He is a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We had another new member, David Kaiser who lives in Ovid, NY, but was unable to attend the induction ceremony.

Steven Carey has undergone major surgery. After the surgery, he developed a couple of blood clots. Then he came down with flu like symptoms. But the latest word, he is on the road to recovery. Test are showing good signs. He has been a member of our chapter, Newtown Battle Chapter and the Board of Managers. Let's keep him in our prayers for a speedy and complete recovery, and hope he is home for Christmas.

American Revolutionary War Veterans Research

Compatriot Daryl Verstrete, Jr., became a member of the Rochester Chapter, SAR in 2003. In the spring of 2005, he began photographing and indexing the headstones of Civil War Veterans and was soon on the more important task of researching the Revolutionary War Veterans. Later, Daryl was asked by the National Graves Committee to do research, and LTC Goebels, president at that time, proposed a State Graves Committee for graves research in the Empire State Society.

For some of his efforts on this project, Daryl has received the Bronze Good Citizenship, Silver Good Citizenship and the Liberty Medals.

Currently, the project has indexed **7,542 Revolutionary War Soldiers and Patriots** in New York with approximately **70-80% photographed**. This effort and resource is posted on the Rochester Chapter and Saratoga Battle Chapter web sites free of charge for the viewing. Since the project has been on the web sites, it has gained national recognition by both the SAR and DAR based on the amount of hits on the web sites and emails received.

There is still more to do. There are **approximately 2,000 to 3,000 patriots** still to be researched. Then the entire state of New York will be completed. The largest contributors of information at the present time comes from the Rochester Chapter, the Finger Lakes Chapter, Schoharie-Leatherstocking Chapter, and volunteers on Find-a-grave.com.

(Note from the Editor. This project requires the help of every member of ESSAR to develop a list of names for their community, and if necessary for neighboring communities. Take the list with a camera and go get that photograph. Then get the information to Daryl. In some cases, it may be too late for photographs. Stones become missing, worn through age, and damaged because of lack of care. We need to support our organization and communities in recording this information for future generations. Even when this is done, we may still find more patriots who have not been identified. With the assistance of others, I have personally identified patriots who were not previously identified on the list. This project only works because of the effort of our members. Please help with great effort. You will be pleased when it is completed.)

Schoharie-Leatherstocking Chapter

Our chapter is the newest chapter in the Society, and it has been a very active chapter. Since our inception, we have made it our main objective to identify, locate and make sure our patriot ancestors graves are marked and cared for properly. We requested a new headstone for Patriot, Peter Young, and a ceremony was held at the grave site after the headstone was received and erected. This spring, we requested and received a headstone for Patriot John Philip Kaker, who served as a scout and messenger during the revolution. He was headquartered at the Lower Fort in Schoharie. The grave site and headstone is located on the Holmes property, off little York Road.

George Warner, Sr. was an active militia man and a member of the Committee of Safety in Cobleskill. During the Battle of Cobleskill, his home was burned, and he was captured by the Tories and Indian Allies. He was held captive for eleven months in Canada. Cameron J. Nichols, Boy Scout, Troop 56, chose to clean up the Warner Cemetery as his Eagle Project. Cameron, fellow scouts, family, friends and members of our chapter completed the clean up this fall. During the clean up, an SAR marker was found with the name of George Warner on it with a date of 1895 inscribed on the back.

Our chapter has been a contributor to American Revolutionary War Veterans Research Project. We believe that it is important that we accurately identify and locate all grave sites in our chapter area.

Let's keep Christ in Christmas!



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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Saratoga Battle Chapter

On Sunday, October 3rd at 11:00 a.m. about 40 people gathered to dedicate a new gravestone to Major Jeremiah Cady who had emigrated here from Dalton, Massachusetts after serving the cause of Massachusetts for American Independence. The exact spot of Major Cady's remains are unknown, but it is likely in this cemetery or an abandoned one nearby.



(l-r) Mary Lou Whitney, Michael, Andrew
and Cassandra Campanion

The idea for this gravestone marking came about when Barbara Cady, wife of a descendant of Jeremiah Cady, was surfing the Internet and found that Jeremiah had settled in the Saratoga area still known as Cady Hill. The property including the cemetery, is now owned by Mary Lou Whitney. Mrs. Cady was able to contact Daryl VerStreate, Jr., a member of the Rochester Chapter, SAR, and Chair of the Empire State Society Patriot Graves Committee who guided her through the paperwork required to obtain the stone.

Michael Campanion, Saratoga Battle Chapter, Treasurer and a re-enactor with the 2nd Continental Artillery was asked to take delivery of a new gravestone from the United States Veterans Administration. Saratoga Supervisor, Matthew Veitch and Saratoga City Historian, Mary Ann Fitzgerald were instrumental in helping Michael to plan a fitting grave marking dedication, including the placement of the veteran's stone.