



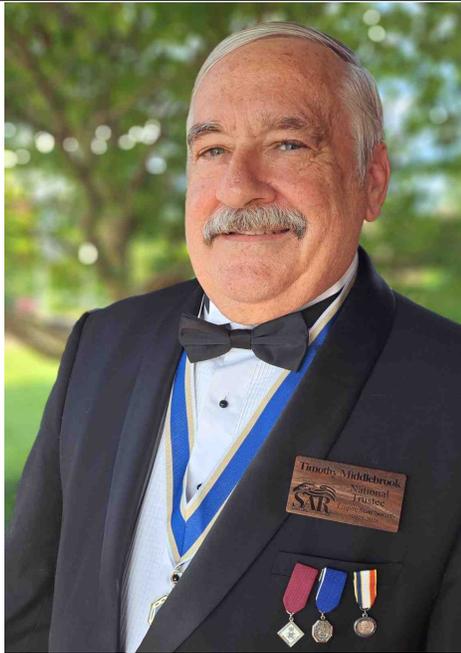
# EMPIRE PATRIOT

Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution

*Preserving the Past, Forming the Future*

Vol. 27, Issue 1, July – October 2025

Summer Issue



**Tim Middlebrook, President**

## President's Report

Dear Compatriots,

Welcome Fall! It's that time of year again for dues payments. The chapters will be sending dues notices out within the next few weeks. I encourage everyone to pay early and avoid the Treasurers having to follow up for unpaid dues.

It has been a busy time since I took over as President in May. We had the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Fort Ticonderoga, the Merchant Marine Academy Convocation where we presented the Peter Goebel award and clock to a graduating senior, the Annual

Oriscany Battlefield Commemoration, the Atlantic Middle States in Pennsylvania and the Trinity Church Ceremony in NYC, attended by our National Officers. A big congratulations and thank you to Gary Lane and the Battle of Brooklyn Chapter for all the work done to make the event a success and to Gary's wife for the amazing refreshments she had for us afterwards. There were also multiple Pomeroy Grave sign decorations throughout the state and other events Chapters held.

There are many events coming up this fall as we gear up for the 250<sup>th</sup>. Oct. 11-12 are Paths through History weekend. On Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> Clifton Park is celebrating Canal Fest for the Bicentennial of the Erie Canal. There will be a Pomeroy sign dedication at 10am and a parade at 10:30, followed by day long events. The Color Guard will be at Stop 3 in the Battlefield with the cannon doing demonstrations. On Oct 12<sup>th</sup> the SAR Knox Bench will be unveiled at the Visitor Center in Schuylerville, time to be announced. SPAC is celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> of the US Navy starting at 12 pm.

cont'd



## Upcoming Events

### **SAR Knox Bench Unveiling**

October 12, 2025

Visitor Center

Schuylerville, NY

### **ESSAR BOM Meeting**

November 1, 2025

Half-Shire Historical Society

Richland, NY

See the ESSAR website for additional events.

## In this Issue:

Get Your ESSAR Patriot Certificate

Chapter News

History Corner:

\* \* \*

In December 12-14<sup>th</sup> the Knox Cannon will be on the move for the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration and will be in Lake George and move to Washington County which will have a parade. On Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> it will move to the Van Schaick House where the SAR will unveil the Bench for the 250<sup>th</sup>. The Cannon will then continue down through Albany County to Columbia County where it will be passed off to Massachusetts on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>.

Looking forward, the SAR National Event for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be in Philadelphia, PA July 2-6. 2026. Further information will follow.

Our next Board of Managers meeting will be on November 1<sup>st</sup> at Half-Shire Historical Society in Richland, NY. We will have the Saratoga Challenge Coins and ESSSAR Hats for sale there and at the upcoming events in Saratoga.

### **Tim Middlebrook, President**

Empire State Society, NSSAR

JOIN/RENEW SAR at [www.sar.org/find-your-chapter/](http://www.sar.org/find-your-chapter/)

---

## **ESSSAR News**

### **Annual Battle of Saratoga Commeration**



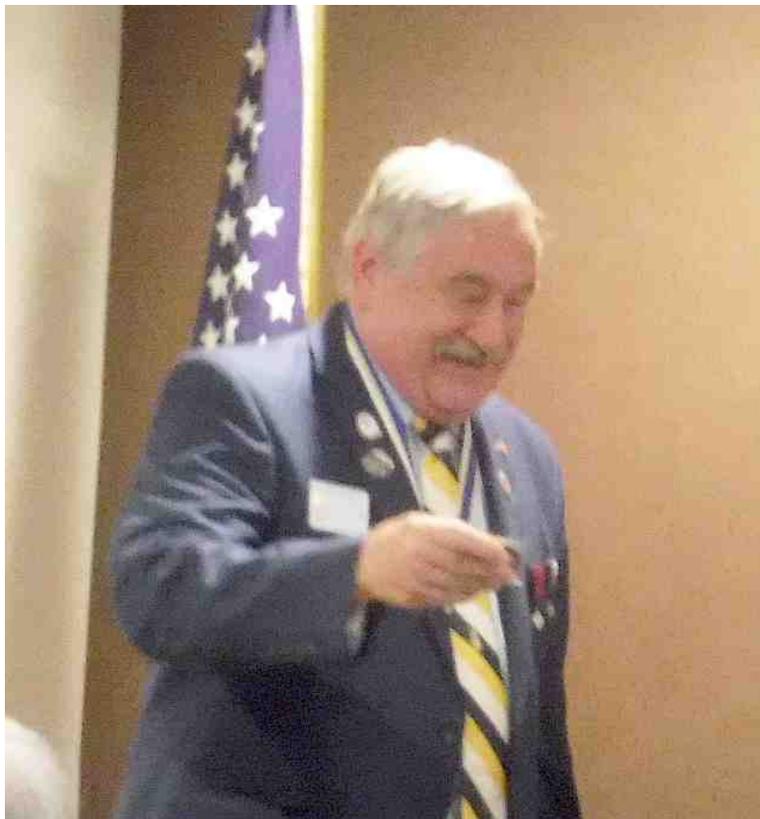
ESSSAR President Middlebrook and two other Empire State members participated in the 248<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Saratoga in the Saratoga Battlefield National Historical Park in Stillwater, NY. State President Middlebrook presented a wreath in behalf of the Empire State Society SAR commemorating the first major victory of the Continental Army over the British Army in the American Revolutionary War.

The commemorative event is conducted annually by the DAR at their monument.

*ESSSAR Wreath – (l.-r) Joe Sicluna, VP Capital Region, Tim Middlebrook, and Kark Danneil stand behind their wreath.*

## September Board of Management Meeting

The Summer BoM meeting was held on September 6, 2025 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Pittsford (Rochester) on September 2025, hosted by the Rochester Chapter.



*President Middlebrook opening the meeting*

President Middlebrook started off the meeting with a guest presentation by Mr. Robert Emerson from the Fort Plain Museum. He discussed the roll of central New York in the Revolutionary War. While there were no major victories in New York colony until the Battle of Saratoga, there were a lot of small activities involving both the British and the native American Indians.

Emerson concluded with a fun – 'though possibly mythical story, about Ethan Allen. According to the tale Allen was taken prisoner by the British. To irritate him the British posted a picture of George Washington in the latrine. When he didn't respond, the British asked him how he liked the picture of his leader. Allen responded that it was great. It made the Brits shit much faster!

Afterward Pres. Millbrook presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Emerson, and the ESSAR voted to make a donation to the Fort in appreciation.



*(r-l) Pres. Middlebrook presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Guest Speaker Mr. Emerson.*

Some significant Reports presented were:

### **State President's Report**

May 4<sup>th</sup>- Attended the Mahwenawasigh Chapter, DAR Spring Meeting and Installation in Poughkeepsie

May 10<sup>th</sup>- Fort Ticonderoga 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the DAR and CAR

May 17<sup>th</sup> – Attended an Eagle Scout ceremony in Pine Island, NY

June 14<sup>th</sup>- Attended the RevCon 250 Day in Hyde Park, NY

June 20<sup>th</sup>- Merchant Marine Academy Convocation and presented Peter Goebel Award and clock

June 21<sup>st</sup>- Attended a Pomeroy Grave sign dedication in Amenia, NY

July 9<sup>th</sup> - Attended Wake for Hank Croteau, former BOM member and CMHV member

July 26<sup>th</sup> - Attended a Pomeroy Graves sign dedication in Feura Bush, NY

Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>- Attended the Oriskany Battle Annual Ceremony in Oriskany

Aug. 15-16<sup>th</sup>- Attended the Atlantic Middle States convention in York, PA

Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> – Attended the Trinity Church ceremony in NYC

### **Excerpts from the 250<sup>th</sup> Committee Report**

- The Henry Knox “Noble Train of Artillery” granite bench to be dedicated at the Lake Champlain Canal Park Visitor Center October 12, 2025 has been ordered.
- The Van Schaick granite bench to be dedicated at the Van Schaick Mansion in Cohoes, NY December 14, 2025 has been ordered.
- We have developed a brochure to alert NSSAR members and the public of our 2027 Saratoga Program.
- An ESSAR 250<sup>th</sup> Challenge Coin Commemorating the 1777 Surrender at Saratoga has been minted and is available for sale to ESSAR members and the public at large.

The purpose of the coin is to raise funds to support 250<sup>th</sup> projects. Coin price will be set at \$20 each, \$15 for members and \$15 each for chapters who buy 5 or more. If the Challenge Coin concept is successful we will consider minting future coins for other 250<sup>th</sup> events.



- An ESSSAR 250<sup>th</sup> baseball hat has been developed for sale to members and the public



*Hats available in various colors for sale*

- We have applied for three Grants with the Heritage Foundation America's 250<sup>th</sup> Innovative Prizes. These Grants were applied for, for the following projects
  1. Henry Knox "Noble Train of Artillery" Granite Bench
  2. Van Schaick Mansion Granite Bench
  3. Lake George Battlefield Park "Repose of the Fallen" 5 Granite Benches
- The Lake George Battlefield Park "Repose of the Fallen" dedication will take place on May 29, 2026

## National Trustee Report by Former President David Powell

For those unaware, the position of National Trustee is the lowest ranking “National Position”. By default, under the bylaws of the NSSAR, the State President is the State's nominated Trustee. The state society can however nominate someone to replace the State President as the nominee for National Trustee from that state. The National Trustees are elected at the middle of Congress by the floor votes of the registered delegates at Congress. The trustees are sworn in at Congress. The Trustees's term runs from the middle of Congress to the last Trustee meeting of their term in the middle of the next Congress. The term is for one year.

All state Societies are to supply a National Trustee nominee and a second nominee designated as the “Alternate National Trustee” who may substitute for the Trustee if he is unable to attend a meeting of trustees. The State Societies are required to supply either a Trustee or Alternate Trustee for all regular meetings of the Trustees, which occur at two Leadership Conferences in Louisville and at the National Congresses, or by electronic means for meetings that may arise between such regular meetings.

All trustees are what you would in a state society be called a “manager”. Trustees however have a fiduciary duty not to their state society, but to the NSSAR. All trustees are expected to be a member of at least one National Committee.

It has been my pleasure to serve as a National Trustee from the ESSAR for the 2023-2024 and the 2024-2025 term.

## Color Guard

The State Color Guard was active as usual. Below are some photos from recent events



*Annual Turning Point Parade, Schuylerville, NY.*



*Stephentown Historical Society patriot cemetery commemoration –(l-r) SBC Mike Skelly, Compatriot Tim Mabee and NYS Color Guard Michael Companion.*



*Annual commemoration of the Battle of Saratoga, Saratoga Battlefield National Historical Park, Schuylerville., NY.*

Coming events: Oct 13 Bench at Van Schaik Mansion, Cohoes; Oct 17 Fort Hardy Park Surrender ceremony; Nov 8 US Marine Corp Founding Ceremony, Milton; Dec 12 – 14 Knox Artillery Train multiple events  
For more information goto [SaratogaBattle-SAR.org](http://SaratogaBattle-SAR.org) Events

## Get Your ESS-SAR Patriot Certificate

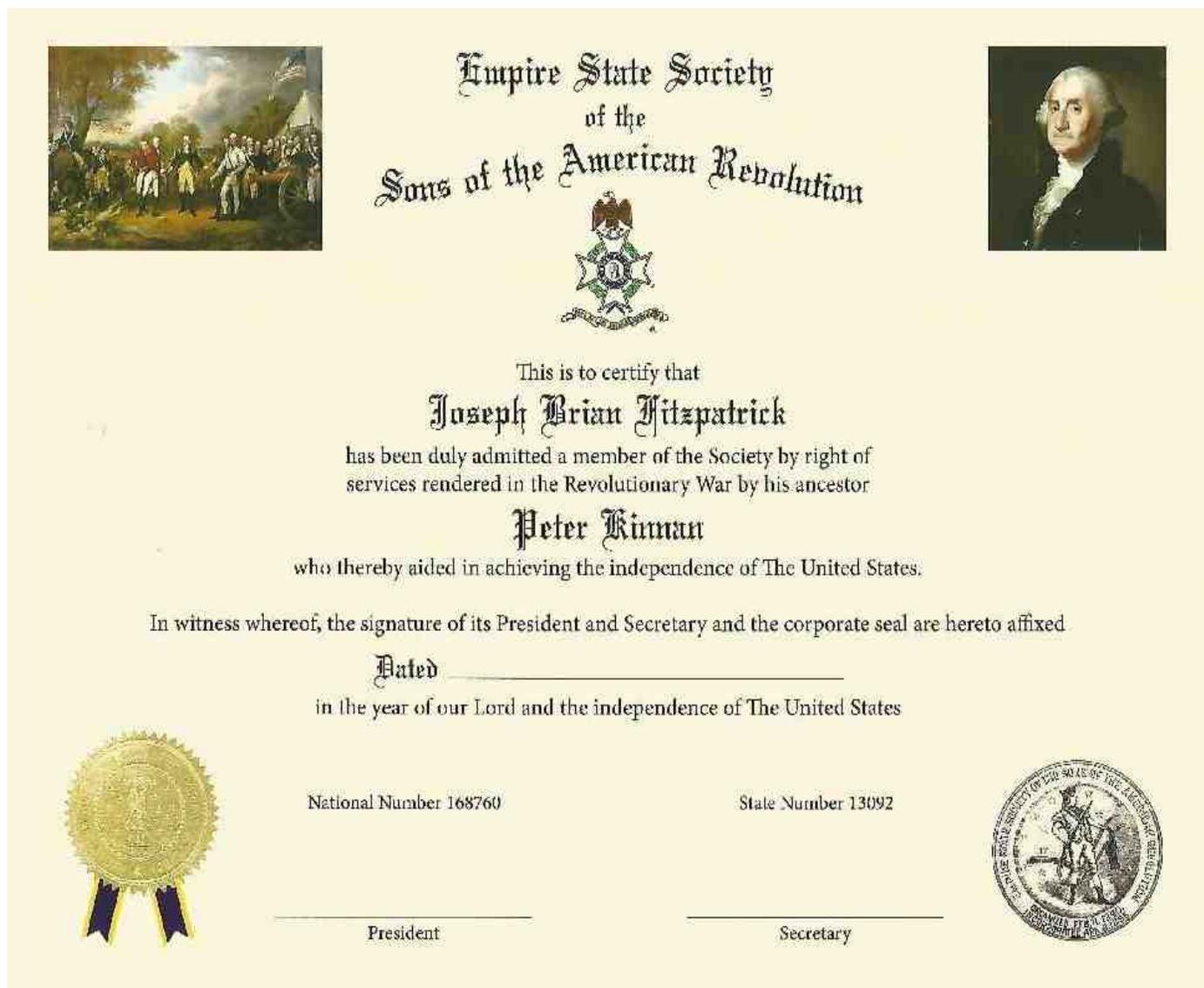
This certificate is personalized with your name, your ancestors name, with your state and national member numbers. The certificate is custom printed using the highest quality professional equipment available. This is an heirloom-quality document suitable for framing.

The price for this valuable family record document is very modest at \$20. When you purchase a certificate, five dollars of the purchase price is donated to your chapter.

This beautiful heirloom certificate was designed by compatriot Joseph B. Fitzpatrick, former Vice President of the Capital Region, ESSAR, and former Empire State Society President.

Below is a sample of the Patriot Certificate, which will be printed on premium quality heavy paper.

### Patriot Certificate



 Empire State Society  
of the  
Sons of the American Revolution





This is to certify that  
**Joseph Brian Fitzpatrick**  
has been duly admitted a member of the Society by right of  
services rendered in the Revolutionary War by his ancestor  
**Peter Kuman**  
who thereby aided in achieving the independence of The United States.

In witness whereof, the signature of its President and Secretary and the corporate seal are hereto affixed.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_  
in the year of our Lord and the independence of The United States

National Number 168760 State Number 13092

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary



Empire State Society SAR  
Patriot Certificate

ORDER FORM

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

National Number \_\_\_\_\_

State Number \_\_\_\_\_

Patriot Name \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cost \$20.00 make check out to ESSSAR

Send to : Schoharie L-S Chapter SAR  
C/O Joseph B. Fitzpatrick  
PO Box 193  
Esperance, NY 12066

# Chapter News

## Capital Region

- **Columbia-Midhudson Valley Chapter** –
  - August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – We attended the Atlantic Middle States Conference in Pennsylvania.
  - State President Tim Middlebrook and State C.A.R. President Kate Keesler received the N.S.C.A.R. Activity Award for 2024-2025 awarded to the State at the National Conference this Summer in CT.
  - State President Tim Middlebrook and VP Joseph Sicluna presented new member Richard Valentine his certificate of Membership at the Chapter's Fall meeting.
- **Sararoga Battle Chapter** –
  - August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 – Participated in the Turning Point Parade , Schuylerville, NY.
  - August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Attended a commemoration ceremony at the New York State Bennington Battlefield Historic Site, NYS Rt 67, Walloomsac, NY remembering the Battle of Benington which actually occurred in Walloomsac, New York.
- **Schoharie-Leatherstocking Chapter** – No Report
- **Stone Arabia Battle Chapter** – No Report
- **Valcour Battle Chapter** –
  - VBC members participated at the 250<sup>th</sup> events at Battle Road; at Fort Ticonderoga; Bunker Hill, Siege of Ft. St. Jean and Ownard to Canada at Ft. Ticonderoga.
  - Certifiates were presented to Eagle scouts at two ceremonies.
- **Walloomsac Battle Chapter** – August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Attended the anniversary of the Battle of Bennington (which occurred in New York), a commemoration ceremony at the New York State Bennington Battlefield Historic Site, NYS Rt 67, Walloomsac, NY.



## Central Region

- **Binghamton Chapter** -- The chapter installed a marker for three Veterans (Jesse Pike, Jonathan Meed and Samuel Haight) at the Plasterville Cemetery in North Norwich, Chenango County, NY. Dedication not yet scheduled. The sign was damaged in an auto accident, but is now repaired.

- Marker for John Conklin and Joseph Thomas is installed. The dedication is scheduled for October 11<sup>th</sup> at the Riverside Cemetery, Kirkwood, Broom County, NY.
- **Oriskany Battle Chapter** –
  - August 6<sup>th</sup> 2025 – We joined State President Tim Middlebrook and state VP Central Mark Crandall for the 248<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the battle of Oriskany
  - August 17<sup>th</sup> , 2025 – We took part in the ceremonies of the 248<sup>th</sup> year of the death of General Nicholas Herkimer at the Historic Herkimer Home.
  - August 23<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – We elected new officers, to be sworn in at our October meeting.
- **Syracuse Chapter** – July 5<sup>th</sup> 2025 The chapter held an event at the Oswego County Fair with a marker dedication.
- **Thousand Islands Chapter** –
  - Several of our members (John Peck, Thomas LaClair, Bruce Coyne, and Leon VanWie) are participating in the Jefferson County 250<sup>th</sup> Monument Committee. It appears that nearly 500 patriots settled in Jefferson County after the war. We hope to dedicate a monument in 2026 honoring the patriots.
  - We presented a flag certificate to the Marks Farms on August 9, 2025, south of Lowville for their display of the American Flag:

## Metropolitan Region

- **Battle of Brooklyn Chapter** – The 1<sup>st</sup> New York Continental and the Battle of Brooklyn Chapter hold joint meetings.
  - Battle of Brooklyn Chapter presented
    - 11 Eagle Scout Certificates
    - six (6) JROTC Medals
    - Youth Video Contest Award (awardee also came in 1<sup>st</sup> Place for State ESSAR)
    - Attended Trinity Church Grave Marking Commemoration in Manhattan.
    - Battle of Brooklyn Commemoration, Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn
- **First New York Continental Chapter** – Presented the following award:
  - Americanism (Poster) Contest to Teddy Oh (Awardee was designated the State ESSAR winner)
- **Long Island Chapter** – Chapter President Bryan Irrgang attended a number of events.
  - August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Attended Suffolk Countys 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence Kickoff Ceremony (where George Washington slept!). In attendance were local government and historical leaders and political, militia and craft reenactors. The purpose of the Kickoff meeting was to generate cooperation, coordination and enthusiasm among organizations planning 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events in the county
  - August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Attended the Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony at Trinity Church. This was a National SAR event, honoring ten patriots of the American Revolution, including Alexander Hamilton.
  - August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Attended the 249<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony at the Green Wood Cemetery. We

laid a wreath from the Chapter

- August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Compatriots Wayne Haddock, Ted Philips and I presented a Flag Certificate to the owner of the Embassy Diner in Bethpage, NY.
- **Stony Point Chapter** – No Report
- **Westchester-Putman Chapter** –
  - August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – President Stevens attended the Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony at Trinity Church Cemetery hosted by the Battle of Brooklyn.
  - Nine new member applications have been approved by NSSAR, bringing our current chapter membership to 95, a new 35+ year high.

## Western Region

- **Buffalo Chapter**
  - August 15 – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Andrew Peirce attended the Atlantic Middle States Conference in Pyorke, PA, attended the Tour of York and participated in the color guard at the Saturday night dinner.
  - Participated in uniform with the color guard at the Alexander Hamilton Revolutionary War Marker ceremony at the Trinity Church in NYC.
  - September 20, 2025 –The Chapter presented a Flag Certificate to the Eagle House American Bar & Tavern in Williamsville, NY. The certificate recognizes their Patriotism for continually flying of the American Flag



*The Eagle House American Bar & Tavern flying the American flag.*



*Chapter members & Ms. Brown--(l-r) Robert Christman, President; Tricia Brown, Eagle House Mgr; Andrew S. Peirce, State BoM, Gary Warren, Treasurer.*

- **Chautauqua Chapter** – No Report
- **Finger Lakes Chapter**-- No Report
- **Newtown Battle Chapter** –August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 – Chapter VP Jeff Bedford welcomed attendees to the Oneonta Chapter's DAR dedication of a NYS Historical Marker, funded by the Pomeroy Foundation,

honoring Revolutionary War Veterans, early residents and York, a formerly enslaved man interred at the West Burlington Cemetery.

- August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Chapter President Mark Burdick spoke “The American Revolution and Broome County” at the Kirkwood Historical Society and Museum
- August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 – The Chapter hosted a picnic at the Newtown recreation weekend.
- **Rochester Chapter –**
  - Five members welcomed returning Veterans from the Rochester Honor Flight.
  - Honored Revolutionary War patriots at Corning and at Pittsford Cemeteries.
  - Four chapter members displayed our historical collection at the Ft. Niagara visitor center during a French & Indian War event.
  - Supported the Moving Wall Viet Nam Veterans Memorial at the National War Plane Museum, Geneseo NY.

## History Corner

### Battle of Oriskany – Tactical Loss or Strategic Victory?

The Battle of Oriskany was not a victory for the Americans, the British retreated. But this conflict contributed to the American Victory and the British loss and surrender at Saratoga two months later – the Turning Point of the American Revolution.

The Battle of Oriskany occurred about six miles from Fort Stanwix near Rome NY. It took place on August 6, 1777, and was a clash between American militia soldiers sent to relieve Ft. Stanwix under siege by the British and their Indian allies. Two of the Iroquois Confederacy, the Oneida and Tuscarora tribes, were loyal to the Americans, and the other four tribes the Mohawk, Seneca, Cayuga and Onondaga sided with the British.

The Battle of Oriskany was one of the bloodiest battles of the Revolutionary War. General Nicholas Herkimer was wounded and died later. More than half of Herkimer's men, three hundred eighty five were killed, 50 wounded and 30 captured. It is recorded that 15% of the British and Indian attackers were killed and injured as well.

British Lieutenant Colonel Barry St. Leger commanded 800 British soldiers in western New York. He was ordered to march east to join Burgoyne's campaign (which would eventually end with the American victory at the Battles of Saratoga). St. Leger's troops were expected to move along the Mohawk River valley and meet up with Burgoyne's forces near Albany, with the intent to cut off New York from the Atlantic Colonies.

At Fort Stanwix, together with 800 Indians, St. Leger laid siege to the Fort, beginning on August 2.

The Tryon County militia under Brigadier General Nicholas Herkimer, learned of the siege and assembled at Fort Dayton, 28 miles east of Fort Stanwix. Herkimer, with about 740 militia and 100 Oneida Indians, went to the relief of Ft. Stanwick. They got close but never made it.

Unfortunately for Herkimer, the British and their Indian allies learned of his plans. St. Leger sent out 450 men, mostly Seneca and Mohawk Indians to stop them.

Meanwhile Herkimer sent out scouts to the fort with a plan for Herkimer's men to attack the British when Gansevoort in the Stanwix signaled with 3 cannon shots. Unfortunately, the scouts did not get through the British lines until the next day. Of course the cannon signal did not come since the scouts hadn't delivered Herkimer's plan.

In the morning (August 6<sup>th</sup>) Herkimer finally ordered the attack anyway. What followed was a disaster. As the militia marched through a deep ravine west of the Oriskany creek, about six miles from the Fort, they were ambushed from the sides by British and Loyalist troops under Sir John Johnson and Col. John Butler, and Native American forces led by Mohawk Joseph Brant. It was a brutal fight in hand to hand combat. Hundreds were killed or wounded on both sides. General Herkimer, riding his horse, was shot in the leg. Although he continued to direct the battle, he would eventually die from the consequences of the wound. Despite heavy losses, the patriot militia prevailed, and caused their opponents to retreat, the Indians first and then the British.

As battles go, the Battle of Oriskany ended inconclusively. Neither side won. It could be called a tactical victory for the British, in that they stopped the American militia force from relieving the attack in progress on Ft. Stanwix. It was however, a strategic loss for the British and a crucial victory for the Americans because it contributed to the British defeat and surrender at Saratoga two months later, which stopped the British campaign to split the colonies. The Battle of Oriskany is therefore counted as a strategic victory by the Americans.

#### References:

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/revolutionary-war/battles/oriskany>

<https://parks.ny.gov/historic-sites/oriskanybattlefield/details.aspx>

<https://www.californiasar.org/america-250>

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/revolutionary-war/battles/oriskany>

#### Note from the Editor:

If your chapter would like to have your stories, events and photos published in the *Empire Patriot* send your material to Editor Karl Danneil at [kdanneil@att.net](mailto:kdanneil@att.net).

\* \* \*