



SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER
Empire State Society of the National Society
Sons of the American Revolution

Serving North Eastern New York

CHAPTER HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS
1974-1998

Compiled By
Dennis F.M. Marr
31 Dec 1998

DEDICATION

This Chapter History and Highlights is dedicated to our beloved and respected compatriot

Carlton Ellsworth Covell

In preparing this story of the first twenty-five years of our chapter, it became clear that Carl's devotion to this Society is one of the primary reasons we even exist today. In 1977 he rescued the chapter from certain extinction by stepping in and holding a crucial reorganization meeting. Carl has served our chapter as President, Registrar and Chaplain. In spite of advancing age and occasional ailments, he has always been there when we needed him. We owe him a lot, and we are all richer for having known him. Thank you, Carl.

INTRODUCTION

When I first became chapter President in March of 1997 and took custody of what chapter records existed, I was dismayed to see how little of even our recent past had been documented and preserved. Some records were filed in folders by year, and others were unorganized. Over the past one year, I have attempted to put all of the records into chronological order, with a folder for each year. Then, using these as a base, I have compiled this timeline of what has transpired since the earliest records from 1974.

I at first hesitated to call this a history, as the surviving records are quite sparse for some years. However, this is what we have to work with and, for better or worse, is all that is available to record where we have been and what we have done.

Our chapter has had a precarious existence over the past twenty-five years, nearly going defunct more than once. This should be an object lesson to all of us as we near the end of the 20th century: all that is required for a viable organization to become irrelevant and inactive is for its members to stop caring whether or not it does so.

These are perilous times for lineage organizations such as the SAR. Younger members, our lifeblood, find that life presents many demands upon their time and resources, and can find it difficult to justify the time and expense that membership can entail. Our older members, who have shepherded the chapter through many difficult times, will not be with us forever. The last thing that we can afford to do is to lose our institutional memory, that sense of belonging to an organization that is larger than any one of us. It is hoped that this chronicle will put in place a foundation for the Saratoga Battle Chapter to maintain and add to its own history, for the benefit of us all, present as well as future members.

Dennis F.M. Marr, Compiler
31 December 1998
President 1997-1999

1974

The earliest records of our current chapter date from 1974, when it was known as the *Admiral George Browne Capital District Chapter*. There is reference to a \$600 grant from the Empire State Society in 1972 to assist in organizing a chapter in the Capital District Area.

We have an undated list of officers and members describing the individuals thusly: "all are charter signers except William C. Dixon III and Wayne F. Wilson, and they have indicated they will sign the charter, which is being held open, at the time of the installation affair." Officers and members are listed as follows:

President - Delbert Victor Browne, Albany, NY
Vice President - LaVerne W. Getman, Albany, NY
Secretary - Rafael Scheibley Figueroa, Menands, NY
Treasurer - Mark Hoyt Fish, Chestertown, NY

Members:

Dr. Gordon L. Barclay - Albany, NY
Kent H. Brown - Slingerlands, NY*
Delbert Victor Browne - Albany, NY
William Collins Dixon III - Ballston Spa, NY
Louis N. Fickeisen - Saratoga, NY
Rafael Scheibley Figueroa - Menands, NY
Mark Hoyt Fish - Chestertown, NY
James B. Gardiner - New York, NY
LaVerne W. Getman - Albany, NY
Marcus J. Greene - Scotia, NY
Dr. Robert S. Hayden - Saratoga, NY
Wynton T. Hotaling - Greenwich, NY*
Robert W. Leavitt - Lake George, NY
Albert Shaw - Shushan, NY
Frederick T. Stiles - Delmar, NY
Alex Wiltse - Catskill, NY
Cyrus H. Woodbury - Diamond Point, NY
Ralph Hoyt Bacon (Dr.) - Pleasantville, NY (ESSSAR Registrar)

Handwritten added member:

Harvey H. Moses - Sabbath Day Point, NY

Typed Note:

"James B. Gardiner and Dr. Ralph Hoyt Bacon are retaining membership in their home chapters. They joined our chapter in an honorary way and should be billed for our chapter dues until further notice".

*(Compiler's note: compatriots Kent Brown and Wynton Hotaling are still members of our chapter as of 31 Dec 1998).

In a letter to chapter members dated 1 July, chapter Secretary Everett S. Willoughby informs the membership that the vote regarding the (SAR) monument to be placed at the Saratoga National Historic Park (Saratoga Battlefield) was favorable; subscriptions received towards its cost were also favorable.

The unveiling of the monument was held on 4 August. The *Spirit of '76 Ancient Fife and Drum Corps* of West Sayville, NY provided the music for the ceremony. Representatives of the US Army, Air Force and Navy presented the colors. The keynote speaker was US Rep. Samuel S. Stratton.

The bronze plaque affixed to the monument commemorates the 200th anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga in 1777. The US Bicentennial celebrations were ongoing in 1974, and the monument apparently was the chapter's tangible recognition of the significance of these events.

On 9 August, chapter President/Registrar Delbert V. Browne resigned both of his positions in a one-sentence letter to Secretary Willoughby. We have no written evidence of the reasons for this action. Empire State Society President Robert B. Newcomb wrote to Secretary Willoughby on 2 September indicating that he had written to Mr. Browne asking him to reconsider, but that he had received no reply. President Newcomb points out that the chapter has 20 members, and that continuity of leadership is imperative. On 18 November Mr. Browne writes to Secretary Willoughby informing him that, since no one else has stepped forward to assume the presidency, after long consideration he will resume that position.

Secretary Willoughby, in a letter of 15 September to Ray Perry of the ESSAR refers to the resignation of President/Registrar Browne and that no successor has come forward. He states that he gathers that the chapter has "always" been a passive organization. He had joined just during the past year and knows nothing of the events of the chapter's founding. He has so far met only Mr. Browne and one other member. He concludes: "I regret that I cannot give you further information but at present the inactivity appears to be total."

In another letter the same day to ESSAR President Newcomb, Secretary Willoughby stated that he did not know the reasons for Mr. Browne's resignation. He then goes on: "The chapter appears to be a completely passive organization. Perhaps that is what the members want: I don't know. We made an attempt at meeting in Saratoga in May but canceled it since only three or four members _____ attendance. The officers have not met since I have been a member and there is no active program."

1975

An undated member roster labeled "Fall 1975" indicates that the chapter had 31 members. On 1 April chapter President Browne informs Secretary Willoughby that he is "ceasing my

(SAR) activities."

On 17 May Secretary Willoughby forwarded to ESSAR Registrar Ralph Bacon the application of Carlton E. Covell. Carl, as we know, would go on to become one of our chapter's most distinguished and active members, serving variously as President, Registrar and Chaplain.

In a letter to a prospective member dated 22 August, Secretary Willoughby described the chapter as follows: "There are about two dozen members scattered over a rather large area. The chapter is not active. There have been no meetings of the membership."

1976

On 4 January, Secretary Willoughby transmitted the chapter's records to Vice President Laverne Getman, stating that he was discontinuing his membership.

Mr. Getman received a letter from ESSAR Past President E. Fred Dougherty. He (Dougherty) has been asked by State President J. Wesley Pullman to "contact your chapter with respect to what appears to be its present moribund state." In this, the Bicentennial year, it seems that SAR should be at the top of the list of active organizations in observing this great event, says Mr. Dougherty.

Mr. Dougherty continues: "We were most hopeful that the formation of the Albany Chapter would fill in the gap in the Capitol (sic) City area which had been long felt. It does not appear that such hopes have been fulfilled." He suggests a meeting to see what can be done to get things going.

On July 4 (how appropriate!), ESSAR Past President Dougherty replied to a letter from Carl Covell with reference to reviving the Admiral George Browne Chapter. SAR needs good representation in the Capital District. Compatriot Laverne Getman is Vice President and is Acting President since the President is not active. If compatriot Getman calls a meeting with a view to getting things going, Mr. Dougherty would be happy to attend.

Everett Willoughby also wrote to Carl Covell in a letter dated August 22: "The chapter has never been an active one and exists mainly on paper, I believe. I am no longer a member since I transferred my membership to At-Large status this year....I can agree with you that it is rather sad to see chapters lapse, especially in the time of the Bicentennial and in a location so historically rich.....I believe Mr. Getman would be greatly interested in your offer of help and I suggest that you talk with him about it."

1977

In a form letter to members of the Admiral George Browne Chapter dated March 10, chapter Treasurer Mark H. Fish informed the membership that the status of the chapter had been a topic of discussion at the February 5 ESSAR Board of Mangers meeting in White Plains:

"It was felt that since the chapter is not active that it might become affiliated with the Stone Arabia Chapter of Ft. Plain, which is a very active chapter. It is doing very well, has interesting meetings with speakers... Members are being invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the Empire State Society, SAR, to be held in April at the Johnstown Hotel one advantage of this would be that we would not lose the money in our treasury. If we do not become active it is likely that Empire State will ask the return of the \$600 it granted us in 1972....."

At the bottom of this letter was a clip-off form to be returned indicating whether or not the compatriot was in favor of "becoming affiliated" with the Stone Arabia Chapter SAR.

On 22 March, the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs confirmed to Carl Covell that it has reserved a room for an SAR meeting and luncheon on April 3 for 16 persons.

Note of 25 March from ESSAR Registrar Bacon to Carl Covell:

"Dear Compatriot Covell

Have just received Compatriot Fish's note of March 22. Am so glad that you are taking over. Let me know if there is anything I can do for you.

With best wishes, Sincerely,
Ralph H. Bacon"

On April 3, a meeting was called to order by Vice President Laverne Getman at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs. Motion was made and seconded that Carlton Covell be elected President of the Admiral George Browne Chapter. Also nominated and elected were:

Charles Carroll - V. President
Dr. John R. Moon - Secretary
Mark Fish - Treasurer

The Annual Meeting will be held in Saratoga. There will be at least four meetings per year. The Treasurer reported \$670.12 in the treasury: \$366.76 in the savings account and \$303.37 in the checking account.

A letter to members dated May 9 from President Covell described the April 3rd meeting as a "reorganizational meeting." Carl states: "It is only by your participation that the chapter can become successful. As officers alone, we cannot do much, either in the way of obtaining new members, nor in conducting the affairs of our chapter. Stop to consider one important fact: you cannot *buy* membership in this Society."

At a meeting in Saratoga on June 5, Mr. Fred Dougherty of ESSAR inducted the recently-elected officers. Discussion was held as to how best to recruit new members. According to a press release dated June 6, other dignitaries on hand included: Past Pres. James B. Gardiner of New York City; Pres. Norman H. Dieter of Stoneycress; and Registrar (ESSAR) Ralph H. Bacon of Brewster. The Rev. Robert Field, rector of Christ Church in Ballston Spa, acted as Chaplain. Plans were made for a special program to mark the Surrender of Burgoyne in 1777. The chapter is presently named in honor of a World War II naval officer; it is seeking

a name more closely connected with the area in honor of battles, skirmishes or local Revolutionary heroes.

1978

There is nothing of note in our files for this year.

1979

In a meeting notice dated January 1, Secretary Dr. John R. Moon revealed that "a number of compatriots have suggested that we change the name of our chapter."

On January 5, Treasurer Mark H. Fish's wife wrote to Secretary Moon that compatriot Fish was developing cataracts and was no longer able to drive at night. She stated that he asks to be relieved of the duties of Treasurer for the chapter, as his eyesight makes the carrying out of these duties extremely difficult.

At a dinner meeting in Albany on January 26, the issue of a new name for the chapter was discussed. "Although all agreed on a change, almost each compatriot had a different suggestion." Suggested new names included: Phillip (sic) Schuyler; Saratoga Battle; Yankee Doodle; Lafayette-Capital District; Livingston; DeWitt Clinton. A committee consisting of Compatriots Covell, Bradley and Moon was formed to study the matter further. In attendance at this meeting were the ESSAR President Dieter and ESSAR Registrar Bacon, who presented rosettes to three new members. Lauren Bradley was appointed Treasurer to replace Mark Fish.

On May 11, five members convened a meeting in Albany. Compatriot Bradley presented his research on the history of "*Yankee Doodle*." The majority of compatriots present (!) voted for "Yankee Doodle" as a chapter name that would not be geographically constricting. Mr. Bradley Stevenson was voted in as a new member and elected Vice President; compatriot Lauren Bradley became the permanent Treasurer.

President Covell proposed Bruce Arnold and John Gormley to "receive our first honor awards" (i.e., the NSSAR Law Enforcement Medal).

At the ESSAR Board of Managers meeting held in Ithaca on June 9, Registrar Bacon brought up the formal change in our chapter's name to "Yankee Doodle Chapter. " This choice is described in the minutes as "somewhat lacking in dignity for some compatriots."

In August of 1979 letters were sent regarding the awarding of the Law Enforcement Medals. The proposed recipients' names are now given as Bruce Arnold of the New York State Police and John Connelly of the Mechanicville Police Department (it is possible that the "Gormley" rendering of this name was simply garbled in the chapter records).

These two awards were presented on September 7 at a meeting held at the Watervliet Arsenal Officers' Club. The February 1980 issue of the ESSAR newsletter contains the details of

the heroic actions of these two law enforcement officers. Lt. Arnold was shot and wounded in answering a call involving a hostage situation in New Salem, NY; the perpetrator was later shot and killed. Patrolman Connelly was wounded in the eye by a sniper who had barricaded himself in a building on Main Street in Mechanicville; the officer subsequently lost his sight in the injured eye.

1980

Eleven compatriots met in Albany on January 11; among the four prospective members in attendance was Col. George W. Chesbro, who would go on to become chapter President and a member of the ESSAR Board of Managers. Robert Crocetta was elected President at this meeting and Carlton E. Covell Vice President; compatriots Moon and Bradley were re-elected Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The installation was performed by National Trustee Norman Dieter.

Compatriot Covell presented the NSSAR War Service Medal to President Crocetta in recognition of his service in World War II.

The Washington's Birthday dinner was held in Albany on February 22. Treasurer Lauren Bradley resigned that day as Treasurer due to his being transferred to White Plains in connection with his job with the Boy Scouts of America. Compatriot Bradley was recognized by Vice President Covell for his work on behalf of the chapter, as well as for suggesting the "Yankee Doodle" name. Everett Willoughby was elected as the new Treasurer.

A meeting was held at the Watervliet Arsenal on September 19. It was reported that three NSSAR ROTC medals were presented at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy on April 19. Concerns were raised over the amount of time spent by the state society in wrangling with the New York City chapter over repayment of a loan advanced by ESSAR for the purchase of the Odell House, an historic structure. Vice President Covell raised the idea of moving the ESSAR Headquarters to the Capital District.

1981

At the Washington's Birthday meeting on February 20, a discussion was held regarding one of the more colorful individuals that we have ever had as a chapter member. Ira Gray, "Adirondack Ike" to all, had written that he was now age 94 and confined to a nursing home at a cost of \$600 per month. Because of this, he was unable to meet his dues requirement of \$17. A motion was passed to have the chapter take care of his dues for him.

President Crocetta noted that the chapter and state society would be hosting the Atlantic Middle States SAR conference in Albany on July 24 and 25. This would be a large undertaking, comprising the NY and NJ societies of the North Atlantic District and the DE, DC, MD, PA and VA societies of the Mid-Atlantic District.

This conference was chaired by Yankee Doodle President Crocetta and was, by all accounts,

a rousing success. This compiler had an opportunity to discuss this event with compatriots Crocetta, Covell and Clyde Childs in June of 1997. It seems that they had been able to arrange for all elements of the conference on very favorable terms and generated a nice profit for the chapter treasury.

Another significant event of this year occurred on September 19: the first ESSSAR Board of Managers meeting in the new state headquarters in Schenectady. After having shared space with the New York City chapter for many years, it was decided to move the headquarters upstate. For one thing, only 25% of the state membership belonged to the New York City chapter; for another, rents upstate would be much lower.

The September 1981 issue of the ESSSAR newsletter praises Yankee Doodle Chapter and, in particular, compatriots Crocetta and Covell. It was Carl Covell who went to New York City and brought the state records to Schenectady. Work done at the new office included repairing and repainting ceilings and walls; sanding and refinishing the woodwork; constructing built-in cabinets; complete cleaning of floors; and installation of new carpet. Total hours expended were reported as follows:

Robert Crocetta.....	60
Carl Covell.....	60
Kathleen Crocetta.....	6
Lewis Decker.....	10
Webster Frederick.....	4
Gregory Frederick.....	4
Clyde Childs.....	5

1982

The Washington's Birthday meeting was held on February 19. The number of offices filled at the election indicates a high level of activity in the chapter. In addition to the traditional official posts, the chapter had an Historian, Sergeant of Colors, Publicity Chairman, Public Relations Chairman, Educational Chairman and Grave Research Chairman.

President Crocetta reported that two years ago there were only 6 members in the chapter, whereas it presently has over 40, with 8 or 9 applications pending. President and Mrs. Crocetta presented American and SAR flags to the chapter for its use at meetings.

Six chapters held a combined excursion to the Farmers' Museum in Cooperstown on May 22; dinner was at the nearby Otesaga Inn. Participating chapters were: Binghamton; Oriskany Battle; Columbia; Stone Arabia Battle; Syracuse and Yankee Doodle. Carl Covell, ESSSAR State Vice President, gave a presentation on "The Female Paul Revere."

In July the chapter again played host, this time to the North Atlantic District Conference held in Albany on the 24th to the 26th.

At a meeting in Albany on November 5, President Crocetta informed the members that

Treasurer Willoughby had recently had a heart attack. Registrar Covell reported that Yankee Doodle was at the top of the ESSSAR list in member recruitment; the chapter currently exceeds 50 members. Carl also had the sad duty to report the death of "Adirondack Ike" Gray on August 1.

1983

Bunker Hill Day was observed by the chapter with a meeting in Albany on June 17. This was the first meeting of the year. New members introduced included Tom Nesbitt, past National Vice President of the CAR-New England Region; Lewis Slocum, who would later serve as chapter President; and Ronald E. Newton, Chairman of the Albany County Eagle Scout Program for the Boy Scouts of America, who belongs also to the DC Chapter. Ron would go on to a distinguished SAR career as chapter President, ESSSAR President and Vice President General- New England District.

A "Fall Festival Dinner" was held in Albany on October 28. Honored guest R. Wendell Lovering, ESSSAR President and Vice President General-North Atlantic District, praised Yankee Doodle as "the most active and growing chapter in New York State." Ron Newton was appointed Chairman of the chapter Eagle Scout Program, a post he would hold until moving to the state of Maine in 1997. Citations were presented to two ladies for their untiring service to our chapter: Kathleen Crocetta and Iva Covell; presentation was made by State President Lovering.

1984

In a somewhat unusual departure from established procedure, the chapter held two dinner meetings in February. The first, on February 17, was held at the Century House in Latham and is described in the meeting program as "In Honor of the Birthday of George Washington." The program was "dedicated to the fine efforts of Compatriot Ron Newton and his Eagle Scout program." Ron presented three SAR Bronze Good Citizenship medals to three Eagle Scouts.

On February 22, another dinner meeting was held at the Watervliet Arsenal Officers' Club "In Honor of the Actual Birthday of General George Washington." The program consisted of a portrayal of three Revolutionary War soldiers by the local chapter of the Company of Military Historians.

A Spring Dinner was held in Albany on May 18. Two medals were awarded on this occasion. The SAR Martha Washington medal was presented to Nancy Childs for her leadership in the efforts to raise funds to purchase additional land at the Saratoga Battlefield. The Good Citizenship Medal (presumably bronze) was presented to Michael Jenkins, ESSSAR Eagle Scout competition winner. The annual election of officers took place at this meeting. National Trustee and ESSSAR President Charles Skeeel swore in the slate of officers:

Joseph Pierce - President

George W. Chesbro - Vice President: South
Ernest L. Kendall - Vice President: North

Arthur McAuley - Secretary
Everett Willoughby - Treasurer
Rev. Robert Field - Chaplain

Several appointed positions and committee chairmanships were also filled.

A chapter roster from ESSSAR dated September 21 listed 39 active members, two of whom had actually recently died, including Treasurer Willoughby.

On October 7 a Memorial Service was held at the Saratoga National Historical Park. The program, entitled "A Tribute to the American Dead at the Battle of Saratoga," was jointly sponsored by the Yankee Doodle Chapter and the Citizens' Advisory Committee for Saratoga Battlefield (Nancy Childs, Chairman). A memorial wreath was placed by the SAR and DAR. A dinner meeting followed at the Spa Brahaus in Ballston Spa. At this meeting U.S. Rep. Gerald Solomon presented a flag that had been flown over the US Capitol. The back page of the meeting program is an "In Memoriam" to Everett Willoughby. In addition, Secretary McAuley was reported to have recently taken ill: Lewis Slocum was appointed Treasurer and George M. Briggs as Secretary.

At this meeting, President Pierce asked the membership to think about the chapter's name: he felt that "Yankee Doodle" was a "strange" name for an SAR chapter in an area where the most important battle of the Revolution was fought, the Battle of Saratoga. In fact, the SAR had initiated the establishment of the battlefield site as an historical one in 1923.

1985

The Washington's Birthday Dinner Meeting was held on February 22 at the Watervliet Arsenal Officers' Club. Ron Newton reported on the Eagle Scout program, indicating that he had given out 106 Eagle Scout recognitions to scouts from 5 councils.

At this meeting there was considerable discussion of a proposal to change the chapter name to "Saratoga Battle." Past President Crocetta argued in favor of retaining the "Yankee Doodle" name as it is easily remembered by the public and easily associated with the good works done by the chapter. If the name is changed, there should be a gradual transition. President Pierce repeated his contention that "Yankee Doodle" was a "silly" name: he said he joined in spite of, not because of, the chapter's name. A vote was taken to change the name, but it stalemated at 6-6. It was decided to get a "sense of the membership" by putting the proposal in with the annual dues billing.

On June 15 five SAR chapters again held a combined outing, this time to Hyde Hall at Glimmerglass State Park in Cooperstown. Dinner followed at the Otesaga Inn. Participating chapters were: Columbia; Oriskany Battle; Syracuse; Stone Arabia Battle and Yankee Doodle.

The annual Memorial Service was held on October 6 at the DAR monument at the Saratoga National Historical Park. A dinner meeting followed at the Ash Grove Inn in Saratoga Spa. Registrar Covell reported that the chapter had 6 new members, placing it second in the state in recruitment.

Eagle Scout Competition winners for the year were:

Adirondack Council - Luke D. Ludovico, Troop 19
Governor Clinton Council - Carl D. Wirth, Troop 72
Mohican Council - Raymond R. Sharkey IV, Troop 63
Saratoga Council - Eric C. Pelletier, Troop 24
Schenectady Council - Andrew P. Balet, Troop 50

Yankee Doodle Chapter winner was Eric C. Pelletier, who went on to become the ESSAR Runner-Up.

1986

This year marked the tercentennial of the granting of a charter forming the City of Albany; internal documents reveal a desire on the part of the chapter to participate in the commemorations surrounding this event.

The Washington's Birthday Dinner and annual election of officers was held on February 21 at the University Club in Albany. President Pierce noted that there had been a compromise in the matter of the changing of the chapter's name: "the matter is resolved by the compromise of calling the chapter by the transitional name of *Saratoga Battle-Yankee Doodle*." Bob Crocetta pointed out that the DAR had been involved in sponsoring the ceremonies at Saratoga Battlefield. They apparently wish to relinquish this role, and it is proposed that the SAR conduct these memorial services around October 17-19 in the SAR's name. President Pierce appointed Carl Covell and Bob Crocetta to study the matter.

New member Stannard Butler stated that on the following day, February 22, the first meeting of the George Washington Chapter of Louisiana will be held in New Orleans with 100 members; Dr. Bruce Butler is the founding President. [Complier's note: Col. Bruce Baird Butler, DDS, of Louisiana is the son of Stannard Butler. In 1998, Dr. Butler, currently Registrar General and candidate for Secretary General in 1999, joined Saratoga Battle as a dual member in honor of his late father's membership in our chapter.]

President Pierce swore in the new slate of officers:

Col. George W. Chesbro - President
Ernest L. Kendall - Vice President
George M. Briggs - Vice President
George M. Briggs - Secretary (temporary)
Maj. G. William Glidden - Treasurer

Carlton E. Covell - Registrar

Board of Managers: Robert Crocetta, Sr.; Webster C. Frederick; Ronald E. Newton

At a dinner meeting in Albany on June 20 it was noted that the chapter had participated in "Heritage Sunday" at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Albany. Registrar Covell discussed the possibility of cooperating with several other heritage societies in a program at the Empire State Plaza in Albany on September 17. Compatriot Covell also addressed the need for a National Cemetery in upstate New York: he would like to see one near Saratoga Battlefield.

The matter of changing the chapter's name proved more involved than originally thought. On April 3, Secretary Briggs informed the ESSSAR that the chapter had changed its name to "Saratoga Battle-Yankee Doodle." On April 30 the ESSSAR Chancellor, Herbert Forbes, wrote to ESSSAR President Charles Lee regarding this matter. Chapter President Chesbro had reported at the ESSSAR Annual Meeting at West Point on April 12 that the chapter had changed its name; some discussion ensued as to whether or not this action required State Society approval. The Chancellor pointed out that, while the ESSSAR Constitution does not specifically address this situation, a reading of Article IX in the whole strongly suggests that such approval is required. He goes on: "The local chapter is a creature of the State Society and can exist only so long as its charter remains unrevoked by the State." While the more proper procedure would have been to seek approval before enacting the change, if the chapter now submits a resolution authorizing the change, the Board of Managers may ratify such action at a subsequent meeting. The requested resolution was transmitted to ESSSAR on May 29; on July 18, ESSSAR notified the chapter that the Chancellor had reviewed and approved the resolution; at a Board of Managers meeting, the motion was passed.

Registrar Covell was Chairman of a combined presentation by several area lineage societies. The event took place September 10 at the concourse of the Empire State Plaza in Albany. Saratoga Battle-Yankee Doodle Chapter used this occasion to inform the public as to the origins and purposes of the SAR, as well as to lend assistance to prospective members needing a hand with their genealogical research.

The annual wreath-laying ceremony took place at Saratoga National Historical Park on October 5. At the dinner meeting which followed at the Spa Brauhaus in Ballston Spa, Registrar Covell introduced four prospective members who had contacted the chapter at the September 17 heritage society day in Albany.

Eagle Scout Competition winners for the year were:

Adirondack Council - Jason P. Chamberlain, Troop 202

Governor Clinton Council - Garrett A. Wirth, Troop 72

Rip Van Winkle Council - Rudy W. Numssen, Jr., Troop 31

Saratoga Council - Scott E. Miller, Troop 6

Schenectady Council - Michael A. Favata, Troop 82

Saratoga Battle/Yankee Doodle Chapter winner was Garrett A. Wirth, who went on to tie for First Runner-Up at the state level.

At the February 20 Washington's Birthday Dinner Meeting, Ron Newton reported that 5 out of the 6 Boy Scout councils in our chapter area had candidates for the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship medal. George Chesbro will present 3 SAR ROTC medals at RPI in Troy on April 18. Bob Crocetta announced that the chapter would host the ESSAR Annual Meeting on April 11. The meeting will be at the Gideon Putnam in Saratoga Springs. The evening's speaker was compatriot Lew Decker of Stone Arabia Battle, who is Fulton County and City of Gloversville Historian. Lew was dressed in Revolutionary War era garb and spoke on the topic of events in the Mohawk Valley prior to and during the Revolution. Ralph Gibbs appears as chapter Secretary, replacing temporary Secretary George M. Briggs.

The fall wreath-laying was scheduled for October 4 at Saratoga National Historical Park. October 4 was the date of the infamous freak October snow storm that dumped over a foot of wet snow, toppling trees and power lines and leaving some without power for over a week. The wreath-laying was canceled, but a dinner meeting was held at the Masonic Temple in Mechanicville. SAR Law Enforcement Awards were presented to two police officers from Bethlehem in Albany County: Wayne D. LaChapelle and Jeffrey Vunck.

At this meeting the chapter unanimously passed a resolution seeking "Congressional Action To Protect and Honor War Dead." This action was the result of a 1972 incident which had only recently come to light. In that year, during an archaeological dig at Saratoga Battlefield, the skeletons of two men, presumably American Patriots killed at the Battle of Saratoga, were disinterred. The remains were subsequently treated as "archaeological specimens," including spending 15 years as museum "collection items." They had recently been reinterred in a "disgraceful manner," with their "specimen" status retained for possible "further study." The resolution states "such abuse is a breach of public trust by the National Park Service as custodian of military sites....." The resolution called for immediate bipartisan Congressional action "to remove military remains from the jurisdiction of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, affirming that they are neither "cultural resources" nor "archaeological resources....." The resolution was sent to, among others, NY Senator Alphonse D'Amato and NY Congressman G. Solomon, as well as to ESSAR for consideration at its upcoming Board of Managers meeting in Schenectady on November 7. A letter dated December 29 from President Chesbro to NYS Assemblyman Richard Connors, Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Veterans, states that the ESSAR Board of Managers unanimously passed the resolution at the November 7 meeting, as did the Saratoga Battle-Yankee Doodle Chapter on December 3.

Eagle Scout Competition winners for the year were:

Adirondack Council - James P. Sunderland, Troop 29
Governor Clinton Council - Arthur A. Holmes, Troop 102
Mohican Council - Thomas J. Shevlin, Troop 2
Saratoga Council - Kevin D. Pelletier, Troop 24
Schenectady Council - David M. DePasquale, Troop 32

Saratoga Battle/Yankee Doodle Chapter winner was Kevin D. Pelletier, who went on to win the ESSSAR competition for the year.

1988

On January 29 Vice President George M. Briggs confirmed to ESSSAR President Arthur S. Merrow, Jr. that Saratoga Battle-Yankee Doodle Chapter will host the ESSSAR Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held April 15-17 at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs.

The Washington's Birthday Meeting was held at Donovan's Restaurant in Clifton Park on February 19; minutes of this meeting are not on file.

A joint dinner meeting with the Gen. Peter Gansevoort Chapter-DAR is held on March 26 at the Schuyler Meadows Country Club in Loudonville.

On May 17 Vice President Briggs informed President Ernest L. Kendall that work obligations force him to resign as Vice President.

An undated notice was sent to the membership from Secretary *pro tem* Ralph Gibbs regarding participation in the Anniversary Parade in Watervliet. The parade, to be held on July 9, celebrates the city's bicentennial as well as the 175th Anniversary of the Watervliet Arsenal; the chapter will march in Division 4.

On July 14 President Kendall wrote to Secretary Gibbs calling an Executive Committee meeting for August 2. One of the items of business is the question of changing the chapter's name to "*Saratoga Battle Chapter.*"

The chapter hosted the ESSSAR Board of Managers meeting held at state headquarters in Schenectady on November 12. At this meeting the Board of Managers approved the change in the chapter's name to "Saratoga Battle Chapter." The ESSSAR minutes also indicate that the chapter has come out in favor of the Federal government purchasing land around the Saratoga Battlefield so as to keep the park from being despoiled by commercial development.

The Eagle Scout Competition winners for the year were:

Governor Clinton Council - Nicholas Monitto, Troop 516
Mohican Council - Travis J. Birkholz, Troop 20
Otschodela Council - David Gaynor, Troop 13
Saratoga Council - Franklin Nickerson, Troop 6
Schenectady Council - John Davis, Troop 50

1989

On January 27 Registrar Carlton E. Covell informed President Kendall that, due to health

reasons, he would be unable to accept the Registrar position for another term.

On January 28, President Kendall sent a form letter request to US Rep. Gerald Solomon asking that he sponsor a Congressional Resolution recognizing the centennial of the NSSAR and that April 30 be proclaimed *SAR Centennial Day*.

On February 2 Secretary *pro tem* Ralph Gibbs sent a letter to the chapter's 40 members seeking a volunteer for the job of Registrar.

The chapter held its Annual Meeting and Washington's Birthday Dinner in Albany on February 25. The chapter winner of the Eagle Scout competition was on hand; he was Travis J. Birkholz of Warrensburg, a member of the Mohican Council. Also on hand were the winners from the following councils: Otschodela, Saratoga, Governor Clinton and Schenectady. Minutes of this meeting are not on file, but we have a letter to ESSAR listing the new officers:

1st Vice President - Ronald E. Newton
2nd Vice President - Maj. William Glidden
Secretary-Treasurer - Edward R. Leonard
Registrar - Daniel J. Mead

President Kendall was re-elected to that office. Others appearing on a list entitled "Chapter Officers-1989":

Sergeant of Colors - Webster C. Frederick
Boy Scout Chairman - Ronald E. Newton
Program Chairman - Robert G. Miller
Grave Research Chairman - Kurt H. Kilmer
Publicity Chairman - Stannard M. Butler
Historian - Clyde W. Childs
Chaplain - Carlton E. Covell
Board of Managers: Robert Crocetta, Sr.; Webster C. Frederick; Ronald Newton

A computer printout dated April 25 lists 36 members with 1 handwritten addition.

On April 8 Carlton Covell was given the ESSAR Bronze Membership Award for sponsoring 3 applications during the 1987-88 year.

On April 22 President Kendall presented 3 SAR Silver ROTC medals at R.P.I. in Troy.

Chapter Sergeant of Colors and Board of Managers member Webster C. Frederick of Gloversville died on May 28.

On July 25 new Registrar and Board of Managers member Daniel Mead informs President Kendall that he must resign both positions.

The annual wreath-laying at Saratoga National Historical Park was to have taken place on September 23. According to the minutes of the ESSAR Board of Managers meeting in Schenectady of November 4, this ceremony had to be canceled due to the severe effects of Hurricane Hugo; President Kendall placed the wreath himself the next day, September 24. As a sidelight to this, the chapter's park use permit was signed on April 11 by Park Superintendent W. Glen Gray; Mr. Gray passed away very unexpectedly on July 17.

President Kendall presented the SAR Silver ROTC medal at Siena College in Loudonville on September 30.

Eagle Scout Competition winner for the year was:

Mohican Council - Grant M. Howe

1990

On January 6 Secretary/Treasurer Edward Leonard resigned his posts in a letter to President Kendall, citing family and business obligations.

The Annual Meeting and Washington's Birthday Dinner was held in Albany on February 25. Eagle Scout competition winners for 1989 were honored: Grant M. Howe of the Mohican Council was the Saratoga Battle Chapter winner and Evan L. Greebel of the Westchester-Putnam Council was state winner. Law Enforcement Awards were presented to Hon. Harold E. Cronin of Lake Luzerne and Hon. Ronald B. Straight of Corinth. Robert Mulligan of the NYS Museum spoke on the topic of Revolutionary War firearms.

The following officers were installed at this meeting by Past President Col. George W. Chesbro:

President - Ronald E. Newton
1st Vice President - Maj. William Glidden
2nd Vice President - Clyde W. Childs, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer - Ronald E. Newton (temporary)

The Annual Memorial Service was held on September 22 at the Saratoga National Historical Park. The Fall Meeting followed at the Spa Brahaus in Ballston Spa. The speaker was John Kacharian, an authority on the US Flag Code and flag protocol and etiquette.

An Executive Committee meeting was held at ESSAR headquarters in Schenectady on November 16. A "Help Wanted" notice was included in the mailing indicating that the chapter still needed a Secretary/Treasurer. It was also noted that the chapter had been invited to the Gen. Peter Gansevoort Chapter's (DAR) National Defense Program at Schuyler Meadows Country Club in Loudonville on November 11.

The chapter hosted the ESSAR Board of Managers meeting in Schenectady on November 3.

The meeting notice announced the filling of two chapter offices: Treasurer is Carl D. Wirth and Secretary is Lewis O. Slocum, Jr.

Eagle Scout Competition winner for the year was:

Rip Van Winkle Council - James E. Davis

Saratoga Battle Chapter winner was James E. Davis, who went on to win the ESSAR competition.

1991

The Washington's Birthday and Annual Meeting event was held on February 22 in Albany; this meeting was held jointly with the Teunis Slingerland Chapter of the CAR. Marilyn Schrader, Senior State NYSSCAR was at this meeting.

The Annual Memorial Service was held at Saratoga National Historical Park on September 28. A meeting followed in the Visitors' Center, where the chapter heard from Dale Henry, Boatbuilder, about the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. A dinner followed at the Spa Brahaus in Ballston Spa.

Eagle Scout competition winners for the year were:

Adirondack Council - Cory West Hughes, Troop 202

Mohican Council - Christopher W.A. Getman, Troop 13

Rip Van Winkle Council - Frank C. Tietjen III, Troop 66

Schenectady Council (former) - Michael T. Koelker, Troop 32

Twin Rivers Council - Collin Ernest Campbell, Troop 632

Saratoga Battle Chapter winner was Collin E. Campbell, who went on to become runner-up in the ESSAR competition.

1992

On January 23 Past President Kendall sent a letter to chapter members asking them to write to the Bureau of Veterans' Affairs in support of the siting of a National Cemetery just north of the Saratoga Battlefield.

The Washington's Birthday Dinner and Annual Meeting was held on February 16 in Albany. Among the guests was chapter Eagle Scout competition winner Colin Campbell. The chapter voted to give \$500 to the new NYS Military Heritage Museum in Albany. Compatriots Kendall, Covell and Chesbro discussed the possibility of the establishment of a new National Cemetery adjacent to the Saratoga Battlefield.

Law Enforcement Awards were presented by President Newton to Officer Kevin Burke and Sgt. William Bowen.

Compatriot Gordon Murray was welcomed as a transfer-in chapter member.

The following slate of officers was elected and installed:

President – G. William Glidden
1st Vice President - Clyde W. Childs, Jr.
2nd Vice President - George Briggs, Jr.
Secretary – Lewis O. Slocum, Jr.
Treasurer – Carl Wirth

There is reference to a meeting being held on June 21, but we have no details of it.

On September 26 the Annual Memorial Service was held at Saratoga National Historical Park. Secretary Slocum reported that letters of thanks were sent in appreciation of the selection of Saratoga for the new National Cemetery to US Sen. Alphonse D'Amato, US Rep. Gerald Solomon and Secretary Derwinski of the US Bureau of Veterans' Affairs.

Compatriot Covell said a few words about Nathan E. Cook, last veteran of the Spanish American War, who had died recently at the age of 107.

The business meeting, held at the park Visitors' Center, then adjourned and the assembly proceeded to the Old Mill Restaurant in Mechanicville for dinner.

Eagle Scout competition winners for the year were:

Adirondack Council - Jeffrey C. Gaylord, Troop 1
Mohican Council - Mark Allen Neely, Troop 13
Rip Van Winkle Council - Jonathan L. Wallborn, Troop 166
Twin Rivers Council - Michael Thomas O'Meara, Troop 679

Saratoga Battle Chapter winner was Michael Thomas O'Meara, who went on to win the ESSAR competition.

1993

On February 4 Compatriot Carlton Covell represented SAR at a "Genealogical and Heredity Awareness Project and Workshop" that he had helped to organize. State Senator Joseph Bruno was the official sponsor of the event, and he personally recommended the participation of our chapter to the NYS Office of General Services; a total of 14 lineage societies participated in this event.

The Washington's Birthday Annual Meeting and Election was held on February 19 at the Century House in Latham. Compatriot Covell spoke briefly in praise of Mrs. Bernice O'Neill, a local DAR who signed up her 4 sons in Saratoga Battle; she will be presented with an appropriate certificate and medal at the next meeting [compiler's note: Saratoga Battle

won the \$1,000 ESSAR prize for most new members recruited, in no small part because of getting the 4 O'Neill boys as members]. The medal was presented at the October 1 meeting; one was also Alice Goebel for placing her three sons in our chapter.

Col. George Chesbro installed the new slate of officers:

President - Clyde W. Childs, Jr.
1st Vice President - Lewis O. Slocum, Jr.
2nd Vice President - Vacant
Secretary - Lewis O. Slocum, Jr.
Treasurer - Edgar J. Tulloch
Registrar - Dennis F. Marr

Chapter Eagle Scout competition winner Frank M. Ridzi, Jr. received his medal and scholarship award.

A letter to members dated September 2 announces that the annual Memorial Service will be held at Saratoga National Historical Park on September 25, followed by dinner at the Century House in Latham. We have no program or minutes on file for these events.

1994

A roster of officers submitted to ESSAR for the year 1994-1995 lists the following:

President - Clyde W. Childs, Jr.
Vice President - Lewis O. Slocum, Jr.
Secretary - Lewis O. Slocum, Jr.
Treasurer - Edgar Tulloch
Registrar - Dennis F. Marr
Chaplain - Carlton E. Covell
Membership Chairman - Ernest L. Kendall

At the chapter's Annual Meeting and Washington's Birthday Dinner, details of which are lacking, Anna Fernald of the DAR was awarded the SAR Medal of Appreciation for her service in the chapter's Eagle Scout competition.

On April 30 Registrar Marr represented the chapter at the Annual Conference of the Capital District Genealogical Society. Held in Albany, this event attracts well over 100 individuals with a serious interest in genealogy. 4 solid prospects were identified, along with a possible transfer from the CT Society.

On June 1 President Childs had the happy duty of informing the membership that Saratoga Battle had won the ESSAR membership contest for the year ended March 31, 1994. We won a \$1,000 cash prize and had our name placed on the Paul K. Addams trophy. Ron Newton and Carl Covell led the recruitment effort that resulted in our winning the contest. Enough new members were signed up in the Cambridge, Washington County area that they

would later be spun off as a new chapter, the Walloomsac Battle Chapter. President Childs also reported that he presented the SAR Bronze ROTC award at Christian Brothers Academy in Albany, while George Chesbro presented 3 SAR Silver ROTC awards at R.P.I. in Troy. Registrar Marr will be presenting a Bronze ROTC medal at his *alma mater*, LaSalle Institute in Troy.

On August 21 several members joined with the Jane McCrea Chapter-DAR in a grave marking ceremony in Whitehall. Due to a tremendous downpour, the assembly made their way back to the fire house and held the ceremony there.

The Annual Memorial Service took place at Saratoga National Historical Park on October 1, followed by a dinner at the Century House in Latham. A chapter meeting was held at the park Visitors' Center. At the dinner following the meeting, two NSSAR Medals of Appreciation were awarded to two ladies of the DAR for their services to the SAR: Mrs. Bernice O'Neil and Mrs. Alice Goebel were honored for placing their sons into our chapter, enabling us to win the ESSSAR membership contest. Mrs. O'Neil gave us her four sons as members and Mrs. Goebel's three sons Peter, Paul and Jonathan joined the chapter.

On November 12, Saratoga Battle hosted the ESSSAR Board of Managers meeting at state headquarters in Schenectady; Dennis F. Marr, Peter K. Goebel and Jonathan E. Goebel attended this, their first state board meeting.

On December 4 Registrar and Mrs. Marr, along with Carl Covell, attended a meeting of the General Peter Gansevoort Chapter-DAR held at the home of Regent Peggy Gifford in Ballston Lake.

A chapter membership roster dated December 1 from ESSSAR lists 59 active members.

Eagle Scout competition winner for the year was:

Twin Rivers Council - James E. Martin

Saratoga Battle Chapter winner James E. Martin went on to win the ESSSAR competition. Jim was subsequently accepted into the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

1995

The Annual Meeting and Washington's Birthday Dinner was held on February 25 at the Century House in Latham. The following slate of officers was elected:

President - Lewis O. Slocum, Jr.
Vice President - Maj. Peter K. Goebel
Secretary - Jonathan E. Goebel
Treasurer - Edgar J. Tulloch
Registrar - Dennis F. Marr
Chaplain - Carlton E. Covell

Registrar Marr and compatriot Covell manned the SAR booth at the April 22 Annual Conference of the Capital District Genealogical Society in Albany.

On June 3 Registrar Marr manned an SAR booth at the headquarters of the Schoharie Chapter-DAR by invitation of their Regent, Ann Schultes; this was in connection with the Schoharie Bicentennial.

On September 24 the annual Memorial Service was held at Saratoga National Historical Park. A chapter meeting followed at the park Visitors' Center. The members then adjourned to the Century House in Latham for a dinner. Registrar Marr reported 1 application sent to ESSAR and 6 in progress (all of which would subsequently be submitted and approved). He also gave a brief explanation of the confusion between Civil War Muster Rolls and the Adjutant General's Books experienced by users of these records at the NYS Archives in Albany.

Eagle Scout competition winners for the year were:

Rip Van Winkle Council - Peter Orrin Profera, Troop 44
Twin Rivers Council - Peter M. Mason, Troop 78

Saratoga Battle Chapter winner Peter Profera went on to become first runner-up in the ESSAR competition.

1996

The Washington's Birthday Celebration and Annual Meeting took place at the Old Mill Restaurant in Stillwater/Mechanicville. Ronald E. Newton presented the 1995 chapter Eagle Scout award to Peter Profera. Registrar Marr reported 6 new approved members, and introduced one of them who was present, Floyd Milbank Jr. \$200 has been donated to the NSSAR microfilm project to help purchase NYS census microfilm for use at National; \$150 of this amount was donated in the name of Saratoga Battle and \$50 in the name of Walloomsac Battle.

Col. George W. Chesbro installed the slate of officers:

President - Lewis O. Slocum, Jr.
Vice President - Maj. Peter K. Goebel
Secretary - Jonathan E. Goebel
Treasurer - Edgar J. Tulloch
Registrar - Dennis F. Marr

On March 16, Registrar Marr gave an extensive presentation entitled "*So You Want To Join The SAR*" to the Heritage Hunters genealogy group held at the Saratoga Springs Public Library. The event was well attended, and 2 new members were signed up as a direct result of this event: Walter D. Jennings, Sr. and Walter D. Jennings, Jr. Registrar Marr donated the

\$25 honorarium to the chapter treasury.

An Executive Meeting was held at the Masonic Temple in Mechanicville on April 2. Col. Chesbro will present SAR Silver ROTC medals at R.P.I. in Troy on April 27 and Dennis Marr will present the Bronze ROTC medal at LaSalle Institute in Troy. President Slocum reported that the bronze plaque that forms part of the SAR monument at Saratoga Battlefield had been removed by park rangers for safekeeping after a vandalism attempt.

Registrar Marr has purchased for his personal reference library Virgil White's 8-volume set of Revolutionary War Pension Abstracts and Military Files on file at the National Archives; he will do free lookups for SAR and DAR members.

Another Executive Meeting was held on May 7 at the Mechanicville Masonic Temple. The plaque from the SAR monument needs to be cleaned; the back should be sandblasted before it is reattached to the stone.

The annual Memorial Service was foregone this year due to President Slocum's commitments to another organization.

A Fall Dinner Meeting was held on October 27 at Chaucer's Restaurant in Clifton Park. Registrar Marr reported 12 new members since the last full chapter meeting in February; new member Richard C. Saunders, Jr. was present and was introduced to his compatriots. 3 prospective members, all subsequently approved, were also present. Registrar Marr reported that he and Carl Covell had manned the SAR booth at the Capital District Genealogical Society's Annual Conference in Albany on May 4. Registrar Marr represented us at the New York State *Palatines To America* conference on October 5 in Sand Lake, Rensselaer County, as well as at the Ancestor Connection Day put on by Heritage Hunters at Ballston Spa on October 12. Col. Chesbro and Registrar Marr attended a luncheon at the University Club in Albany in October at the invitation of the Gen. Peter Gansevoort Chapter-DAR; that chapter Registrar's son is interested in joining SAR (Richard H. Fullam subsequently did join our chapter).

On November 8, Vice President Peter K. Goebel and Secretary Jonathan E. Goebel represented the chapter at the Second Annual Sons and Daughters Ball held jointly by the 1st NY Continental Chapter and the NYC DAR Chapter.

4 Eagle Scouts were recognized at a Court of Honor held at the Sullivan Jones Post 7466 VFW in Poestenkill on November 22. Registrar Marr, who lives in the area, presented SAR Eagle Scout recognition packages to the four new Eagles.

Eagle Scout competition winners for the year were:

Rip Van Winkle Council - Luke Q. Staffaord
Twin Rivers Council - Daniel J.H. Shyer

Saratoga Battle chapter winner Daniel Shyer went on to become runner-up in the ESSAR

competition.

1997

The Washington's Birthday Celebration and Annual Meeting was belatedly held on March 2 at the Century House in Latham. President Slocum's commitments to another organization had made it impossible for him to continue carrying out his SAR duties, so several veteran members called upon Registrar Marr to arrange for the Annual Meeting, and also to consider becoming the next chapter President; both of these requests were acceded to.

Past President Clyde W. Childs, Jr. graciously consented to preside over this meeting. Award presentations were made by National Trustee and Past Chapter and ESSAR President Ronald E. Newton: the 1996 Eagle Scout Scholarship Award went to Daniel Shyer and the NSSAR Fire Safety Commendation Medal was presented to John Wallace, Sr. Col. George W. Chesbro gave a brief presentation on the Air Force Hall of Fame.

Registrar Marr introduced the following new members and presented them with their membership certificates: Donald B. Haid, Walter D. Jennings, Jr., Walter D. Jennings, Sr., George D. Martin III, Walter C. Milbank, Robert G. Quila and Richard C. Saunders, Sr.

Nominating Committee Chairman Clyde W. Childs, Jr. introduced the new slate of officers, who were installed by Ronald E. Newton:

President - Dennis F. Marr
Vice President - Maj. Peter K. Goebel
Secretary - Jonathan E. Goebel
Treasurer - Richard C. Saunders, Jr.
Registrar - Dennis F. Marr
Chaplain - Carlton E. Covell

On March 15 President and Mrs. Marr represented the chapter at a joint DAR meeting of the Gen. Peter Gansevoort and Mohawk Chapters held at Wolfert's Roost Country Club in Loudonville.

On April 12, compatriots Marr and Covell once again staffed the SAR booth at the Capital District Genealogical Society's Annual Conference in Albany.

In May President/Registrar Marr gave a presentation to the Capital District Genealogical Society on the procedures for joining a lineage society, with brief descriptions of several such organizations.

In May, the first issue of the chapter's newsletter *Battle Lines* appeared under the editorship of Dennis Marr. Consisting of Chapter News, Ancestor Corner and other items of interest, *Battle Lines* seeks to keep the membership informed between chapter meetings.

A chapter Luncheon Meeting was held on June 7 at the Century House in Latham. We were

treated to a unique presentation entitled *Invisible Road to Freedom: The Underground Railroad in the Tri-Cities Area.*" This talk was given by local historian and genealogist Gertrude (Judy) Rowe of Sand Lake, a member of the Ft. Crailo Chapter-DAR. Judy had vintage photographs, maps and articles to illustrate her vast original research into this subject. After her talk, President Marr surprised her by awarding her the SAR Medal of Appreciation for her tireless efforts in supporting our chapter in recruiting, genealogical research and relations with the DAR.

President Marr asked for a moment of silence "...in memory of the thousands of American men who made the ultimate sacrifice on the beaches of Normandy, June 6, 1944, to free our European cousins from the yoke of tyranny."

Registrar Marr reported 10 new members since the March 2 meeting.

Later that month we were invited by the Ft. Crailo Chapter of the DAR to take part in a tour of the Executive Mansion in Albany. Pres. Marr, Vice Pres. P. Goebel, Secy. J. Goebel and Peter's son Joshua of the Catharine Schuyler Chapter of the CAR (he was flag custodian) had an enjoyable and educational outing.

In July, Dennis F. Marr was awarded the Liberty Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters for recruiting 30 new members.

On July 11 compatriots Marr and Covell represented the chapter at a program in East Greenbush. The Ft. Crailo Chapter-DAR presented the NSDAR National Conservation Medal to Mr. Peter Dubacher of the Berkshire Bird Paradise in Petersburg, Rensselaer County. Mr. Dubacher tends to numerous species of neglected, injured or unwanted birds, but most especially the American Bald Eagle.

On July 21, compatriots Marr and Covell met at Broadalbin with compatriot Lew Decker and other members of Stone Arabia Battle to plan their jointly-funded New York State Historical Marker for Revolutionary War soldier Samuel Downing, who died at Edinburg, Saratoga County at the age of 105.

During the summer, the long-delayed matter of repairing the plaque on the SAR monument at Saratoga Battlefield was addressed. Duane Booth, a dual member from Walloomsac Battle, packed up and shipped the plaque to International Bronze in New Hyde Park, NY. Compatriot Richard W. Sage of ~ NY Continental picked up the plaque and delivered it to the park, where park staff were able to re-install it in time for the 220th Anniversary celebrations of the Battles of Saratoga.

Our chapter was invited to participate in these celebrations. In conjunction with the 1st NY Continental Chapter, we also hosted an ESSSAR Board of Managers meeting at Galileo's Restaurant in Middle Falls, NY.

The wreath-laying this year was a most impressive and inspiring ceremony, with dignitaries

and re-enactors, and numerous wreaths placed at the DAR monument.

A special postal commemorative envelope and cancellation was issued for this event by the SAR. The cachet features the SAR emblem and the legend "*Sons of the American Revolution/Memorial Wreath Laying/Saratoga Battlefield/September 20, 1997.*" The \$500 cost of the 500 envelopes was split by the two chapters. President Marr donated our chapter's one-half so as not to burden the treasury. Examples are still available at \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00.

Compatriot Sage of 1st NY Continental wrote a fine article covering these events, and it was the cover story in the Winter edition of the *SAR Magazine*.

On October 3 President and Mrs. Marr were guests of NYS DAR Regent Marikay McHoul at the State DAR Conference Banquet in Albany. Peter Dubacher of the Berkshire Bird Paradise was on hand with an eagle and was formally presented with his NSDAR National Conservation Award medal.

On October 24, Vice Pres. P. Goebel and Secy. J. Goebel again represented the chapter at the 3rd Annual Sons and Daughters Ball in New York City.

The chapter held a Fall Luncheon Meeting October 25 at the Century House in Latham. Photos of the restored SAR plaque were circulated to the attendees. President Marr proposed a \$200 chapter donation to the NSSAR microfilm project, which motion was made, seconded and approved.

Saratoga Battle chapter Eagle Scout competition winner for the year Eric Kaelin Dubowsky of Troop 50 in Schenectady went on to become the winner of the ESSAR competition.

1998

The Washington's Birthday Dinner and Annual Meeting was held on February 15 at the Century House in Latham. Registrar Marr reported 3 new members since the October meeting: two of these, Richard H. Fullam and Stephen Coye were present to receive their membership certificates.

Carl Covell presented the slate of officers on behalf of the Nominating Committee:

President - Dennis F. Marr
Vice President - Major Peter K. Goebel
Secretary - Jonathan E. Goebel
Treasurer - Richard C. Saunders, Jr.
Registrar - Dennis F. Marr
Chaplain - Carlton E. Covell

The officers were installed by past Chapter and Empire State Society President Ronald E. Newton, who was a candidate for VPG-New England District at the time.

President Marr stated that some deserving compatriots were overdue for recognition, and he presented the following awards:

Carlton E. Covell - Meritorious Service Medal for chapter service
Col. George W. Chesbro - Meritorious Service Medal for chapter service
Edgar J. Tulloch - Meritorious Service Medal for chapter service
G. William Glidden - Bronze Good Citizenship Medal

The SAR Medal of Appreciation for outstanding service to the SAR by a DAR was presented to Martha (Mrs. Edgar) Tulloch. "Marty" rolled up her sleeves and saw to the chapter Treasurer's work when her husband Ed was no longer able to do it because of illness.

On March 28 the dedication of the NYS Historical Marker for Patriot Samuel Downing was held at the Edinburg (Saratoga County) Common School. Descendants of Samuel were on hand with a display of family memorabilia. President Marr represented our chapter, which split the cost of the marker with the Stone Arabia Battle Chapter. Several of President Marr's business clients made donations to the chapter to help defray this expense.

On May 29 President Marr presented the SAR Eagle Scout recognition package to John Marshall at a Court of Honor held at the Latham Community Baptist Church.

On August 2 the chapter sponsored an excursion to the Berkshire Bird Paradise in Petersburg, Rensselaer County. We were given a tour of the sanctuary, which is home to numerous species of exotic fowl. Of particular interest was the section housing the sanctuary's American Bald Eagles. Director Peter Dubacher is one of a handful of individuals in the US certified to take in injured, wounded and unwanted eagles.

At the 108th National Congress held in Orlando in June, President Marr was named to the National Genealogy Committee by Genealogist General Charles T. Galbraith of the 1st NY Continental Chapter. Former chapter and state president Ronald E. Newton was elected and installed as VPG-New England District.

A truly memorable annual memorial wreath-laying was held at Saratoga National Historical Park on September 19. Held jointly with the Saratoga Chapter-DAR, the ceremony also included: a wreath placed by Mr. John Finn, a Pearl Harbor survivor and the oldest living Medal of Honor winner, and a wreath placed by Compatriot Myron (Mike) Lyman on behalf of the VA Society. Lending grandeur to the event was the presence of Peter Dubacher who brought "Martel," an American eagle who had lost a wing to a poacher's bullet. Honored guests included:

Richard W. Sage - VPG-North Atlantic District
Ronald E. Newton - VPG-New England District

Helen (Mrs. Ronald) Newton - Sr. National VP-New England, NSCAR
Col. Bruce B. Butler, DDS - Registrar General and candidate for Secretary General

Re-en actors in period uniforms were arrayed on either side of the DAR monument.

In his remarks before a large group of spectators on a pristine autumn afternoon, President Marr stated: "...a beautiful day, an American Eagle, and the American Flag flying it doesn't get any better than this!"

A chapter meeting followed in the park Visitors' Center. President Marr surprised Peter Dubacher by awarding him the NSSAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal in recognition of his efforts to save injured, wounded and unwanted eagles.

Registrar Marr reported 6 new members approved since the February meeting; three other applications are at Louisville awaiting approval.

At this meeting the members voted unanimously to endorse the candidacy of Col. Butler for the office of Secretary General. Col. Butler will be joining our chapter as a dual member in honor of his late father Stannard Butler, a member of our chapter. A wonderful buffet followed the meeting at Cohans-On-The-Lake. Situated at the north end of Saratoga Lake, the facility afforded a panoramic view of the lake and countryside; the screened-in deck only added to the ambiance of a glorious autumn day.

At the NSSAR National Board of Trustees meeting in Louisville on September 24-25, which President Marr attended, the chapter's application to award an NSSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal to outgoing US Rep. Gerald B.H. Solomon of Queensbury was approved by the Medals & Awards Committee and the Executive Committee. As President Marr stated in his cover letter accompanying the nearly 3 pounds of documentation sent in support of this award, "...Congressman Solomon's political resume reads like an NSSAR Mission Statement." Mr. Solomon's stalwart and outspoken defense of the Flag, Veteran's Rights, the new National Cemetery at Saratoga and the restoration of the Saratoga Battle Monument, among many other achievements, richly merit this highest award of the National Society. Chapter Treasurer Richard C. Saunders, Jr. is a friend of the Congressman's and is on good terms with his staff, both local and in Washington; Rick was able to obtain the several pounds of documentation (!) that accompanied our application to National for this award, which must meet the most stringent criteria with respect to the appropriateness of the nominee as well as the completeness of the documentation. We hope to be able to present this award to Mr. Solomon at our Annual Meeting in February of 1999. Also attending this Trustees' Meeting was Vice Pres. Peter K. Goebel (his 2nd meeting) and Secy. Jonathan E. Goebel (his 4th meeting).

On October 15 President Marr represented the chapter at the 87th anniversary celebration of the Schenectady Chapter-DAR held at the Mohawk Golf Club in Schenectady. The ladies had an impressive display of scrapbooks, photos and memorabilia illustrating their history from 1912 to 1998.

On October 17 Registrar Marr participated in a Lineage Workshop sponsored by the Ft. Crailo Chapter-DAR at the East Greenbush Public Library.

The chapter held a Holiday Dinner and Meeting on November 20 at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs. Registrar Marr reported 2 new members since the September meeting; one of these, Earl Slanker of Schenectady, was present and was introduced to his compatriots. Treasurer Saunders reported that we have 76 paid-up members plus 9 dual/auxiliary members, with 7 remaining unpaid for 1998. In addition to Col. Bruce B. Butler, the chapter welcomed compatriot William G. Loveday, Jr. of Stone Arabia Battle as a dual member.

President Marr reported on the status of our request to have the SAR monument at Saratoga Battlefield moved to a more visible location. Park Superintendent Doug Lindsay has requested from the archives the original paperwork authorizing the installation of the monument: if there was a compelling reason for its being placed where it is, then it will have to remain there; if not, then they will entertain our request to have it moved.

Treasurer Saunders read a letter from US Rep. Gerald B.H. Solomon, expressing his regret at not being able to be with us this evening; he sent along a US flag that had been flown over the US Capitol in honor of our chapter on November 17. Compatriot Saunders will work with the congressman's office to arrange a mutually convenient time for him to meet with us and to accept his NSSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal.

Compatriots Carl Covell and Benjamin Meyers (a licensed funeral director) updated us on the US National Cemetery adjacent to the Saratoga Battlefield. As of now, plans are for it to open in the Spring of 1999, with a formal dedication in September of 1999. We discussed the possibility of our chapter participating in the dedication ceremony: compatriot Covell will keep us apprised of developments.

Eagle Scout competition winners for the year were:

Mohican Council - Michael Fitzgerald

Rip Van Winkle Council - Justin Pierce

Twin Rivers Council - Alexander Courtney III

Saratoga Battle chapter winner was Justin Pierce.

CONCLUSION

This concludes the chronicle of the 25 years of activity of the Saratoga Battle Chapter SAR from 1974 through 1998. It is hoped that this record will be maintained and periodically updated, so that the institutional memory of this distinguished chapter is not lost.

Dennis F.M. Marr
Compiler
31 December 1998

ROSTERS OF OFFICERS
1974-1998

SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER AND PREDECESSORS
ROSTERS OF OFFICERS

The following lists of chapter officers have been compiled from various sources, including mailings to ESSAR after annual elections as well as from internal chapter documents on file. In some cases, we know who were officers at a certain point in time without necessarily knowing exactly when they were elected, or for how long.

ADMIRAL GEORGE BROWNE CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER

1973-1974

Pres.....Delbert V. Browne Resigned 8/19/74; Resumed office 11/18/74
Secy.....Rafael S. Figueroa
Treas.....Mark H. Fish

July 1974

Pres.....Delbert V. Browne
Secy.....Everett S. Willoughby
Treas.....Mark H. Fish
Registrar.....Delbert V. Browne

Note: SAR Monument unveiled at Saratoga National Historical Park 4 Aug 1974

July 1975

Pres.....Vacant
Secy.....Everett S. Willoughby
Treas.....Mark H. Fish
Registrar.....Laverne W. Getman

1976

Pres.....Vacant
V. Pres.....Laverne W. Getman
Secy.....Everett S. Willoughby
Treas.....?????
Registrar.....Laverne W. Getman

Note: The chapter went inactive in 1976

March 1977

A possible affiliation with the Stone Arabia Battle Chapter is considered

4 April 1977 Reorganization Meeting

Pres.....Carlton E. Covell
V. Pres.....Charles Carroll
Secy.....Dr. John S. Moon
Treas.....Mark H. Fish

5 June 1977

An installation ceremony was held at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs. ESSAR dignitaries present included: Past Presidents James B. Gardiner of New York and E. Fred Dougherty of Johnstown; current President Norman H. Dieter of Stoneycrest; and Registrar Ralph H. Bacon of Brewster. Past President Dougherty installed the following officers:

Pres.....Carlton E. Covell
V. Pres.....Charles A. Carroll
Secy.....Dr. John R. Moon
Treas.....Mark H. Fish

The chapter is seeking a new name more closely connected with the area in honor of battles, skirmishes or local Revolutionary heroes.

1978-1979

Pres.....Carlton E. Covell
Secy.....Dr. John S. Moon
Treas.....Mark H. Fish Resigned 1/26/79
Registrar..... Laverne W. Getman

YANKEE DOODLE CHAPTER

11 May 1979

Pres.....Carlton E. Covell
V. Pres.....----- Stevenson
Secy.....Dr. John S. Moon
Treas.....Lauren R. Bradley

At this meeting it was decided to rename the chapter the "Yankee Doodle Chapter" in order to have a name more closely associated with Revolutionary War themes; the previous chapter name was in honor of a WW II naval admiral who was an ancestor of the then current chapter president.

1979-1980

Pres.....Carlton E. Covell
Secy..... Dr. John S. Moon
TreasLauren R. Bradley Resigned 2/22/80
Registrar.....Laverne W. Getman

22 Feb 1980 Election

Pres.....Carlton E. Covell
Secy.....Dr. John S. Moon
Treas.....Lauren R. Bradley
Registrar.....Carlton E. Covell

19 Sep 1980

Pres..... Robert P. Crocetta, Sr.
Secy.....Dr. John S. Moon
Treas.....Everett S. Willoughby
Registrar.....Carlton E. Covell

20 Feb 1981

Pres.....Robert P. Crocetta, Sr.
V. Pres.....Carlton E. Covell
Secy.....Dr. John S. Moon
Treas.....Everett S. Willoughby
Registrar.....Carlton E. Covell

Note: 19 Sep 1981 first ESSSAR Board of Managers meeting held at new headquarters in Schenectady

19 Feb 1982 (Elected for 2 year terms)

Pres.....Robert P. Crocetta, Sr.
V. Pres.....Joseph S. Pierce
Secy.....Ernest L. Kendall
Treas.....Everett S. Willoughby
Registrar..Carlton E. Covell
ChaplainRev. Robert Field
Historian..Col. Donald Huxley
Sgt. Of Colors.....Webster C. Frederick
Board of Managers: Webster Frederick, Robert Van Alstyne, Harold Horton

17 Jun 1983

Pres.....Robert P. Crocetta, Sr.
V. Pres.....Joseph S. Pierce
Secy.....Ernest L. Kendall
Treas.....Everett S. Willoughby
Chaplain.....Rev. Robert Field
Sgt. Of Colors.....Webster Frederick
Board of Managers: Webster Frederick, Robert Van Alstyne, Harold Horton

28 Oct 1983

Pres.....Robert P. Crocetta, Sr.
V. Pres.....Joseph S. Pierce
Secy.....Ernest L. Kendall
Treas.....Everett S. Willoughby
Registrar..Carlton E. Covell
Sgt. Of Colors..Webster C. Frederick

18 May 1984: Annual Election: 1984-1985

Pres.....Joseph S. Pierce
VP South.....George W. Chesbro
VP North.....Ernest L. Kendall
Secy.....Arthur McAuley
Treasurer.. ..Everett Willoughby
Asst. Treas.Lewis O. Slocum, Jr.
ChaplainRev. Robert Field
Historian.....George Briggs
Sgt. Of Colors...Webster Frederick

Program Chmn.....Robert Miller
Education Chmn. .Donald Hartley
Registrar.....Carlton E. Covell
Asst. Registrar ...Ernest L. Kendall
Graves Research.. Kurt H. Kilmer
Boy Scout Chmn. . .Ronald E. Newton
Board of Managers
Robert P. Crocetta, Jr.
Webster Frederick/Robert Van Alstyne

7 Oct 1984

Pres.....Joseph S. Pierce
V. Pres.....Ernest L. Kendall
Treas.....Everett S. Willoughby (has died)
Secy.....Arthur McAuley (very ill)
Appointed Treas..... Lewis O. Slocum, Jr.
Appointed Secy..... George M. Briggs
Registrar.....Carlton E. Covell

22 Feb 1985 Annual Meeting

Discussion of proposal to change name from "Yankee Doodle" to "Saratoga Battle." The resulting vote was 6-6. It was decided to try to get a sense of the membership on this matter by including a copy of the proposal with the dues notice.

Officers 1985-1986

Pres.....Joseph S. Pierce
Vice Pres.....George W. Chesbro
Vice Pres.....Ernest L. Kendall
Secy.....George M. Briggs
Treas.....Lewis O. Slocum, Jr.
Registrar.....Carlton E. Covell

Past Presidents: C. Covell, R. Crocetta, Jr.

Officers 1986-1987

Pres.....George W. Chesbro
1st Vice Pres.Ernest L. Kendall
2nd Vice Pres.....George M. Briggs
Secretary..... Ralph K. Gibbs
Treasurer G. William Glidden
Asst. Treas. Robert Crocetta
Registrar Carlton E. Covell

Sgt. of Colors...Webster Frederick
Program Chmn....Robert C. Miller
Boy Scout Chmn. . Ronald E. Newton
Grave Research...Kurt H. Kilmer
Publicity Chmn.....Stannard M. Butler

Past Pres.: C. Covell, R. Crocetta; C. Covell

SARATOGA BATTLE-YANKEE DOODLE CHAPTER

At the February 21, 1986 Annual Meeting outgoing president Pierce indicates that there has been a compromise on the matter of the chapter name change: it will use a transitional name of "Saratoga Battle-Yankee Doodle Chapter." Incoming President George Chesbro will entertain comments from the membership regarding the name change.

21 Feb 1986 Election: 1986-1987

Pres.....George W. Chesbro
Vice Pres.Ernest L. Kendall
Vice Pres.....George M. Briggs
Secy.....George M. Briggs (temporary)
Treas.....G. William Glidden
Asst. Treas.....Robert Crocetta
Registrar.....Carlton E. Covell

(On 29 May 1986, the chapter notified the ESSSAR of its desire to change its name and transmitted a proposal to be approved by the State Board of Managers at its next meeting).

Officers 1987-1988

Pres.....George W. Chesbro	Boy Scout Chmn.....Ronald E. Newton
1 st VP.....Ernest L. Kendall	Program Chmn.....Robert G. Miller
2 nd VP.....George M. Briggs	Grave Research.....Kurt H. Kilmer
Secy.....Ralph Gibbs	Publicity Chmn.....Stannard M. Butler
Treas.....G. William Glidden	Historian.....Clyde Childs
Asst. Treas.....R. Crocetta, Jr.	Chaplain.....Rev. Robert Field
Registrar.....Carlton E. Covell	
Sgt. of Colors.....Webster Frederick	

Board of Managers: R. Crocetta, Sr.; C. Covell; J.S. Pierce

SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER

At the ESSSAR Board of Managers meeting on 12 Nov 1988 a motion was made and approved to change the name of the chapter from "Saratoga Battle-Yankee Doodle" to "Saratoga Battle Chapter."

On 27 Jan 1989, Registrar Covell informs the president that due to health reasons he is unable to continue with the duties of Chapter Registrar.

25 Feb 1989 Election

Pres.....Ernest L. Kendall	Boy Scout Chmn.....Ronald E. Newton
1 st VP.....Ronald E. Newton	Program Chmn.....Robert G. Miller
2 nd VP.....G. William Glidden	Grave Research.....Kurt H. Kilmer
Secy.....Edward R. Leonard	Publicity Chmn.....Stannard M. Butler
Treas.....Edward R. Leonard	Historian.....Clyde W. Childs, Jr.
Registrar.....Daniel J. Mead	Chaplain.....Carlton E. Covell
Sgt. of Colors.....Webster J. Frederick	

Board of Managers: R. Crocetta, Jr.; W.S. Frederick; R. Newton

25 Feb 1990 Election

Pres.....Ronald E. Newton
1st VP.....G. William Glidden
2nd VP.....Clyde W. Childs, Jr.
Secy/Treas.....Ronald E. Newton (temporary)

Apparently the other offices were filled as well but they are not mentioned in the records of this election (see below).

Officers 22 Sept 1990

Pres.....Ronald E. Newton
1st VP.....G. William Glidden
2nd VP.....Clyde W. Childs, Jr.
Secy.....Edward R. Leonard (resigned)
Treas.....Edward R. Leonard (resigned)
Registrar.....Daniel J. Mead
Program.....Ronald E. Newton
Grave Research.....Kurt H. Kilmer
Publicity.....Stannard M. Butler

1991: Records Needed

16 Feb 1992 Election

Pres.....G. William Glidden
1st VP.....Clyde Childs, Jr.
2nd VP.....George Briggs, Jr.
Secy.....Lewis O. Slocum, Jr.
Treas.....Carl Wirth

19 Feb 1993 Election

Pres.....Clyde W. Childs, Jr.
1st VP.....Lewis O. Slocum, Jr.
2nd VP.....Vacant
Secy.....Lewis O. Slocum, Jr.
Treas.....Edgar Tulloch
Registrar.....Dennis F. Marr
Chaplain.....Carlton E. Covell

25 Feb 1995 Election

Pres.....Lewis O. Slocum, Jr.
VP.....Major Peter K. Goebel
Treas.....Edgar Tulloch
Secy.....Jonathan E. Goebel
Registrar.....Dennis F. Marr
Chaplain.....Carlton E. Covell

2 Mar 1997 Election (1st year of a 2-year term)

Pres.....Dennis F. Marr
VP.....Major Peter K. Goebel
Secy.....Jonathan E. Goebel
Treas.....Richard C. Saunders, Jr.
Registrar.....Dennis F. Marr
Chaplain.....Carlton E. Covell

Feb 1998 Election (2nd year of a 2-year term)

Pres.....Dennis F. Marr
VP.....Major Peter K. Goebel
Secy.....Jonathan E. Goebel
Treas.....Richard C. Saunders, Jr.
Registrar.....Dennis F. Marr
Chaplain.....Carlton E. Covell