



The Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Fort Lauderdale Chapter Newsletter



website: www.fortlauderdale-sar.org

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Jun 2024

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Compatriots and Friends,

Summer is here! June has several notable milestones to recognize. The 80th anniversary of D-Day, celebrated on June 6th, recognizes the effort and sacrifices of the amphibious landing of U.S. led allied forces to liberate Nazi and fascist occupied Europe. The month of June also celebrates Flag Day on June 14th when, on that day in 1777 the Second Continental Congress approved the design of our flag showcasing the 13 stars of the first united states. June 14th also commemorates the birthdate of the United States Army, which was formed on that day in 1775 as the American continental army.

The month of June also signals the halfway mark in our Chapter's program year. We can look back over the last six months at our many accomplishments as we can also look forward to what is ahead of us for the rest of this year. Looking back – what better than having been recognized at the May 2024 BOM as the best chapter of our size in 2023. Sparing the detail, I can tell you that what we did by this time in 2023, we have already surpassed as of mid-2024. Membership growth, youth education awards, and veteran support and recognition programs are among the many evaluation factors by which chapters are rated. Looking forward, in addition to our scheduled general membership lunch meetings, peruse the "Upcoming Events" column for Color Guard, FLSSAR BOM and NSSAR Congress and Leadership events and meetings all of which are open to you.

For those Compatriots approved two years or more ago – you know how far we have come. How did we get there? Well, a constant net positive growth rate starting five years ago has laid the foundation for attraction and retention of new members many of whom are committed to help carry out and expand SAR programs at the Chapter and State level. The formation last year of our Color Guard – the first in our Chapter's history – has brought together at least five Compatriots that are becoming the new public face of our Chapter. The teamwork that was demonstrated most recently with the completion of the 2024 JROTC and Sea Cadet Medal Awards Program where our presence at award ceremonies increased to over 70% coverage was accomplished due to the efforts of nine participating Compatriots. The individual commitment to veterans that many of you make through volunteer services and donations, help supplement our organized Chapter efforts in the recognition of veterans. The Chapter's reinvolvement in the middle school brochure contest, where we now see our selected winner having most recently won at State and is now in the competition to be judged at the July 134th Congress, has reinvigorated interest in youth education programs beyond what we typically have done.

Five years ago, we had no active members who regularly attended State meetings or events let alone national. Currently, we have three, each now holding a FLSSAR office or committee chairmanship. My goal is to see at least two more of our Compatriots attending the State BOM by this time next year.

So let's all keep up the good work. There are several areas to help build on or expand our successes. For a minimal investment, you can join the Color Guard. In the last quarter of 2024, we will start the planning for the 2025 youth education program and you can volunteer to be a part of it. We are actively and continuously working on veteran support and recognition and you can easily take part in those efforts. And then there is more – those ideas that you may have that have not yet been tried!

Our membership continues to grow. We now can welcome Bob Walsh as our newest dual member. As of May 31st, our 2024 Chapter membership is 82 having started the year with 75 members. In the pipeline at NSSAR, being processed for approval, is the junior member application for Braeden Ray Shurte. Most recently submitted, is the regular member application for Jason Samuel Milgram.

The most current information on upcoming meetings follows this article. For links to archival information on previously published newsletters, meeting minutes and other Chapter documents, visit us at www.fortlauderdale-sar.org.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Chuck Adams
President, Treasurer and Registrar/Genealogist
Fort Lauderdale Chapter SAR

NEXT MEETING - June 15, 2024

Davie Outback Steak House
2725 South University Dr. Davie, Florida 33328

Future Dates:

Saturday, 07/27/2024
Saturday, 09/21/2024
Saturday, 10/19/2024
Saturday, 11/16/2024

Time: 11:30 AM social gathering; Lunch at noon

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 954-345-6276
or e-mail Chuck Adams at: chuckadams1808@gmail.com

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SUMMARY – MAY 25, 2024

At our May 25, 2024, meeting we had 17 members and 11 guests for a total attendance of 28. Members (17): Chuck Adams, President, Treasurer, Registrar & Genealogist; Steve DePaul ^{ca}, Vice President & Sergeant-at-Arms; Mark Snider ^{ca}, Secretary; Kevin Shurte ^{ca}, Historian; Tim McLane ^{ca}, Chaplain; Jim Clark ^{ca}; Paul DeBold; Herb Gardner; Ronald Goodale; Martin Hollick; Jim Lohmeyer; Barry Moss; Lincoln Pero; John Sauerwald; David Scott; Matthew Scott; and Pete Stevenson. Prospective Members / Guests (11): Jason Milgram; Braeden Shurte; Ronna Adams; Ari Alvarez; Emanuel Chevere; Shelley Gardner; Ellen Higginbotham; Lois King; Katy Peterson; Kathy Shurte; and home aide, Ceta. The superscript ^{ca} records compatriots attending in colonial attire and participating in the Color Guard.

Steve DePaul gave this month's 250 Minute on the May 1776 meetings with representatives from the Six Nations of the Iroquois Tribe with the Continental Congress where Congress hoped, unsuccessfully, to secure an alliance with the Iroquois to fight against the British. Color Guardsmen Jim Clark, Tim McLane, & Mark Snider led by Kevin Shurte presented the colors with Chuck Adams leading the assembly in the SAR Pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chuck Adams welcomed our newest junior member, Matthew David Scott, his father, Compatriot David Scott, mother Ari Alvarez, and stepbrother Emanuel Chevere. He also welcomed our newest applicant, Jason Milgram. Our Chapter began 2024 with 75 members and we are currently at 81. Chuck stated that Jim Clark was dressed in militia attire and is our newest member to join our Color Guard. He reported that the Color Guard will participate on May 27, 2024, in the Pompano Beach Memorial Day Parade. The Color Guard will also attend the welcome home for the veteran passengers and volunteers going on the June 1, 2024, Honor Flight South Florida.

Steve DePaul gave the status on the dedication of the Liberty Tree at the City of Dania Beach. Steve said that he was the FLSSAR Chair of the newly created First Amphibious Assault Memorial Committee and would have more to report on that project at future meetings.

Mark Snider provided the status on Veteran Support and Recognition Activities as part of the annual Stark Awards Program Report. He stated that our total to date is 1871 points for the Stark Report. Mark reported that he received feedback concerning last year's Stark Award competition from Doug Gibbons, FLSSAR Veterans Committee Chairman. He said that Doug Gibbons told him that our Chapter had the fourth highest number of points of the 13 Florida chapters that had submitted a 2023 Stark Reports. Mark stated that compared to last year at this time, we have already accumulated more points and are on track to improve on last year's performance in Veteran's support and recognition.

Ellen Higginbotham provided additional logistics on the scheduled Honor Flight for June 1, 2024. She stressed the need for additional volunteers and explained how one can volunteer to assist as a guardian or on the ground crew. Kevin Shurte stated that he was a ground crew volunteer. He reported that the Chapter had bought a supply of veteran thank-you cards and with the help of students at Ramblewood Middle School he has delivered 70 completed cards for use in the upcoming flight and will continue doing this for future flights. Kevin stated that he has also recently delivered to the Nininger Nursing Home snacks and puzzles that he brought back from the Spring BOM.

Chuck Adams gave the financial status of funds reported as of April 30, 2024. He stated that the May 2024 Newsletter has been circulated. It includes the Member Profile of Compatriot Thomas R. Carpenter Jr. The newsletter also has a report of pertinent events occurring at the May 2024 Board of Management (BOM) Meeting. The Chapter won first place in the 2023 Americanism Chapter Challenge.

He stated that the points we earned in the separate 2023 Stark Report, which carry over to the Americanism Report, is perhaps what took us to the first place win.

Kevin Shurte gave the 250 Anniversary Recognition Report on *Capture of Fort Ticonderoga – May 10, 1775*, which is also published in the May 2024 Newsletter.

Kevin Shurte announced that our first place brochure contest entry from Giana Mann on the Bill of Rights won first place at the May BOM. Her entry will now be submitted to national and be judged at the upcoming 134th Congress. Kevin Shurte said that he is the FLSSAR Committee Chair for both the Education Outreach Committee and the American History Teachers Awards Committee. He went on to explain the various components to these programs. It is the goal of the committees to increase chapter participation in one or more of these programs statewide.

Braeden Shurte said that he was the current Treasurer of the Swamp Fox Society C.A.R. and a junior member applicant to join SAR. He said that because of the Chapter's support, the C.A.R. has been able to help with many state and national C.A.R. projects. He went on to summarize some of the significant accomplishments of both the Swamp Fox Society and Florida Society C.A.R. over the past year and their plans for the new year. Katy Peterson said that she distributed copies of their 2023-2024 annual report presented at the Florida Society C.A.R. State Conference in February 2024. Chuck Adams presented Braeden Shurte with the Chapter's donation of \$350.00. He said that the Chapter will also make a donation later in the year at the commencement of the 2024-2025 program. Chuck Adams inducted new junior member Compatriot Matthew David Scott and presented his membership certificate. Steve DePaul presented the Rosette recognition lapel pin.

Chuck Adams, assisted by Kevin Shurte, presented Braeden Shurte with a Certificate of Appreciation for his entry as a member of the C.A.R. in the Middle School Brochure Contest. Braeden's brochure was on the Boston Tea Party, and Chuck Adams also presented him a SAR Boston Tea Party commemorative pin. Next, Chuck Adams presented Bronze 250 Medal Certificates to Compatriots Jim Clark and Barry Moss. Finally, Chuck Adams presented Certificates of Appreciation to the Compatriots that served as Chapter Representatives or Coordinators at the various Broward schools or organizations for this year's award ceremonies. The following Compatriots were recognized: Chuck Adams, Jim Blakeslee, Tom Carpenter, Jim Clark, Steve DePaul, Jim McHugh, Paul Moore, Barry Moss, Joe Motes, Kevin Shurte, & Mark Snider.

Happy Birthday wishes were conveyed to Jim Lohmeyer, celebrating his 94th, and to Shelley Gardner. Mark Snider announced the promotion of his son, Compatriot Zachary Snider, to Major, USAF.

Chuck Adams discussed the logistics for the Color Guard's participation in the upcoming Pompano Beach Memorial Day Parade. He also discussed the JROTC & Sea Cadet Awards Program and said that the reason we were able to have representation of 70%+ at the school's and other organization's ceremonies was because of our volunteer representatives. Chuck Adams stated that he obtained a list of 145 recipients of the Eagle Scout earned over the last year from the South Florida Council BSA. He prepared 63 Certificates of Recognition for the Broward scouts and worked with Lee Popham who prepared the certificates for Miami-Dade scouts all of which were presented at the recognition dinner held on May 19, 2024. Chuck Adams stated that FLSSAR, in cooperation with national, will be implementing an online billing program for upcoming annual dues using Club Express. He said that those members that prefer to pay by check can immediately opt out when they receive their first e-mail from Club Express. For those who wish to pay online, there will be an additional service charge of 3%.

To read the complete set of the minutes of the general members meeting held on May 25, 2024, open the document sent to you by e-mail, or review it at the archive's subpage for minutes and agendas which are maintained at the Chapter website: www.fortlauderdale.sar.org.



C.A.R. Presentation from left: Kathy Peterson, Braeden Shurte, & Chuck Adams.



Membership Induction of Matthew Scott from left: Matthew Scott, Chuck Adams, & Steve DePaul.



Membership Induction of Matthew Scott from left: Steve DePaul, Ari Alvarez, Matthew Scott, David Scott, & Chuck Adams.



Middle School Brochure Contest Certificate of Appreciation & Medal for C.A.R. Entry from left: Kevin Shurte, Braeden Shurte, & Chuck Adams.



Bronze 250 Medal Certificate Award from left: Barry Moss, Jim Clark, & Chuck Adams.



2024 JROTC and Sea Cadet Medal Award Program Certificate of Appreciation Awarded to from left: Jim Clark, Steve DePaul, Barry Moss, Kevin Shurte, Mark Snider, & Chuck Adams. Pictured separately below: Joe Motes. Not present: Jim Blakeslee, Tom Carpenter Jr., & Jim McHugh.



C.A.R. ANNUAL REPORT

At the General Membership Meeting held on May 25, 2024, Senior President Katy Peterson and Treasurer Braeden Shurte were in attendance to give the annual report for the Swamp Fox Society C.A.R. Katy Peterson provided the hand-out restated below that summarizes their 2023-2024 year as reported to the Florida Society C.A.R., in February 2024 at the state conference, held at Melbourne, Florida.

"In 2023-2024, Swamp Fox has accomplished a lot:

1. Entered almost every State Officer and State Committee Contest (28 Contests) as well as the State Merit and State Standard of Excellence contest.
2. Held 3 in person meetings. Swamp Fox invited local D.A.R. and S.A.R. members to our meetings. We invited Florida State and Senior Board Members to our Swamp Fox C.A.R. meetings.
3. Partnered with the Fort Lauderdale Chapter of S.A.R. in visiting and donating to Tomorrow's Rainbow, an organization which helps kids dealing with grief through equine therapy in Broward County.
4. We had a "Fun" meeting at Gumbo Limbo Marine Park where we talked about conservation and the Right Whales, sea turtles and marine life. We walked on a boardwalk through cypress trees. We made a donation to Gumbo Limbo.
5. Participated with the Fontenada Chapter of D.A.R. in Wreaths Across America through donation of 5 wreaths, \$85.
6. Partnered with Estahakee Chapter D.A.R. and sent \$100 to South Florida Honor Flights.
7. Elected and installed our officers for the 2023-2024 year.
8. Donated money to the C.A.R. Indian School Fund to support low income American Indian children with their education.
9. Donated money to the State President Project, "Project Conservation Right Whale"
10. Sent handwritten note to the newest (reorganizing) society, Peace River Society, to encourage them.
11. Learned about the history of our Swamp Fox Society and our founding.
12. State President Sydney Wagnstrom, attended one of our meetings via FaceTime to tell us about the National Project and her State Project, "Project Conservation Right Whale."
13. Published 4 Swamp Fox Society newsletters.
14. Learned about the S.A.R. Color Guard and Medal.
15. We learned about the Boston Tea Party and celebrated the 250th anniversary of that event.
16. Promoted N.S.C.A.R. and F.S.C.A.R. on Social Media.
17. Promoted Wear R.E.D. on Fridays (Remember Everyone Deployed).
18. Promoted Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day and Veterans Day in our newsletter.
19. Promoted C.A.R. and C.A.R. membership through our newsletters and calendar of activities to our members, prospective members, local D.A.R. and S.A.R. Societies through email and social media.
20. Contributed \$20-\$30 to each of the 17 National C.A.R. funds.
21. Sent thank you notes and cards for S.A.R. chapters and D.A.R. societies who have sent us money.
22. Publicized the N.S.C.A.R. Museum and website in our newsletter."

Braeden Shurte thanked the Chapter for our financial support throughout the years. He said that because of our support that the Swamp Fox Society C.A.R. has been able to help with many state and national C.A.R. projects that we would not have been otherwise able to financially assist. He said that our money has contributed to the: USO lounge at the Orlando International Airport, Florida Veteran's Foundation, Oscar Mike Foundation, and The Gary Sinise Foundation. You've also helped kids with cancer, the Historic Halie House in Gainesville, Florida, the Endangered Florida Panthers and Big Cat Society, and Endangered Right Whales.

All of these have been state projects supported by C.A.R. fundraising efforts. Braeden said that at our last State Conference a representative from the State President's chosen organization was presented with a check for approximately \$5,000 to aide in the protection of the Right Whale. He thanked the Chapter for helping our state to meet that goal, and for our donations throughout the years to Swamp Fox.

Braeden reported that our new State President is Caleb Golden and that JoAnn Welker is our Senior State President. Our 2024-2025 State Project is "Nobody Walks Alone", and that the C.A.R. will be raising money for the Wolfhounds Legacy which is a nonprofit organization. Their mission is to rescue, rehabilitate, pair and train veterans and first responders with their dog. On their website it says, "We aim for the dogs to become certified through Wolfhounds Legacy as a service animal for the benefit of the veterans with PTSD and their individual needs. We are 100 % volunteers based in Cape Coral, Florida and Milwaukee, Wisconsin". Knowing that this would be the State Project, Swamp Fox went to Paws 4 Liberty which is a local not for profit organization in West Palm Beach. They have a very similar mission, and we donated \$100 to their program.

The Swamp Fox Society C.A.R. will resume meetings in October and meet once a month through February 2025. Braeden said that the C.A.R. will be selling pins and challenge coins at State D.A.R., S.A.R. and C.A.R. meetings and through the State society to raise funds for our State Project. He asked Chapter members to bring our children and grandchildren to Swamp Fox meetings and encourage them to join.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun 29, 2024	Battle of Alligator Creek, Callahan, FL
Jul 04, 2024	Biltmore Hotel, Coral Gables, FL
Jul 10-16, 2024	SAR 134th National Congress, Lancaster, PA
Sep 07, 2024	Honor Flights of South Florida, FLL International Airport
Oct 03-05, 2024	SAR Fall Leadership, Louisville, KY
Oct 11-12, 2024	FLSSAR Fall BOM, Kissimmee, FL
Oct 26, 2024	Honor Flights of South Florida, FLL International Airport
Nov 11, 2024	Florida Merci Train, Holly Hill, FL
Dec 05, 2024	Fort Lauderdale Yuletide Parade
Dec 21, 2024	Wreaths Across America, Pompano Beach, FL

IN THE NEWS**EAGLE SCOUT RECOGNITION**

On May 19, 2024, the South Florida Council (SFC) BSA recognized 145 scouts who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout over the past year. Sixty-three scouts are members of Broward County troops, and they were each presented SAR Certificates of Recognition prepared by Chuck Adams on behalf of the Fort Lauderdale Chapter. The remainder were presented certificates prepared by Lee Popham on behalf of the Miami Chapter SAR.

FLORIDA SOCIETY ADJUTANT APPOINTED

Congratulations and well wishes to Kevin Shurte who was appointed Adjutant to the Florida Sons of Liberty Color Guard by Commander, Scott Breckenridge on May 26, 2024.

POMPANO BEACH MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

On May 27, 2024, the Fort Lauderdale Color Guard marched in the Memorial Day Parade hosted by the City of Pompano Beach. We participated at the invitation of the Fontenada Chapter DAR who followed us in the parade. The Swamp Fox Society C.A.R. was also represented, and Braeden Shurte carried the C.A.R. flag with our colors. This collaborative public event, coordinated by the mostly Pompano Beach area DAR ladies, is the first event in recent years involving the Fort Lauderdale Chapter SAR and one or more of the five DAR chapters in Broward County.



Fort Lauderdale Color Guard from left: Chuck Adams, Steve DePaul, Tim McLane, Braeden Shurte, and Kevin Shurte along with members of the Fontenada Chapter DAR. Fort Lauderdale Chapter family members and friends not shown: Ronna Adams, Dr. Bernard Hecht, Lois King, and Kathy Shurte.



Fort Lauderdale Color Guard. Banner bearers from left front: Kathy Shurte and Ronna Adams. From left back: Kevin Shurte, Tim McLane, Chuck Adams, Braeden Shurte, and Steve DePaul.

HONOR FLIGHT #31

On June 1, 2024, the Fort Lauderdale Color Guard participated in the "welcome home" for the 68 returning veterans and guardians on Honor Flight #31. Attending with the Color Guard were several additional family members and friends. Kevin Shurte participated with the morning ground crew. He also had students at Coral Springs Ramblewood Middle School prepare thank-you cards, provided by the Chapter, that were given to the veterans at "mail call."



Fort Lauderdale Color Guard from left: Tim McLane, Kevin Shurte, Steve DePaul, Braeden Shurte, Chuck Adams, and Jim Clark. Not shown: Ronna Adams, Amanda Barnes, Ritz DePaul, Dr. Bernard Hecht, and Kathy Shurte.

SEA CADET MEDAL AWARDS

On June 2, 2024, Steve DePaul represented the Chapter at the annual awards ceremony and dinner conducted in Pembroke Pines by the Fort Lauderdale Division, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Steve awarded two cadets the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal. With these awards, the 2024 JROTC and Sea Cadet Medal Awards Program has come to an end.

RAMBLEWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL AWARDS

The Coral Springs Ramblewood Middle School conducted their annual awards ceremonies on June 5, 2024. Kevin Shurte surprised Giana Mann with the FLSSAR Certificate of Recognition for her first place win of the State's Middle School Brochure Contest awarded on May 18, 2024, at the State BOM. In addition to the \$200 cash award from FLSSAR she also received a certificate and check for \$150 from the FLSSAR Ladies Auxiliary. Ms. Mann was the Chapter's winner of the contest whose entry was then submitted to State. Her win at State allows her entry to be submitted for the NSSAR contest which will be judged mid-July at the 134th Congress.



AMERICA 250 ANNIVERSARY
Washington Appointed Commander of the
Continental Army - June 15, 1775

By Kevin Shurte

With their militia massing on the outskirts of Boston, preparing for a siege, the rebellious American colonies were in desperate need of a military commander – a commander who could unite the 13 colonies behind a cohesive cause and the regional militias into a Continental Army. The Second Continental Congress found their man in Virginia planter, statesman, and former Redcoat, George Washington.

Following their hasty and bloody retreat from Concord and Lexington on April 19, 1775, British forces found themselves confined to the city of Boston, surrounded by colonial militia, awaiting the impending siege. Many New England delegates to the Second Continental Congress thought a local militia leader would be the logical choice for leading the attack. However, other delegates sought leadership beyond the sphere of Yankee influence. They hoped that by appointing a non-New Englander as commander-in-chief, they might cultivate the view among the separate colonies that the coming conflict was a broad, all-inclusive, unifying cause, rather than an isolated, regional one.

Washington, who had a well-known albeit questionable military history, seemed to be the logical choice. He had served in the British Army and commanded a force of three hundred men in the Battle of Jumonville Glen, igniting the French and Indian War. He had also begun construction on and defended Fort Mifflin until abandoning it to the French on July 4, 1776. Although Washington's had not been a sizeable force, it was a larger force than any other American-born patriot had commanded to date. Of equal importance, was the fact that Washington hailed from Virginia - the wealthiest colony with the largest population. His leadership would broaden the scope of the war, coalescing colonial minds and militias behind a homogenous cause.

Washington arrived in Philadelphia at the Second Continental Congress on May 9, 1775. He served on several committees assisting in the planning of the colonies' military defenses. As one of his first acts, Washington collaborated with fellow Virginian George Mason to design Washington's now-famous blue and buff uniform which he donned during each congressional session. His appearance may have had as equal an influence on his appointment as did his qualifications. As Benjamin Rush explained, "He has so much martial dignity in his deportment that you distinguish him to be a general and a soldier from among ten thousand people."

On June 15, 1775, John Adams nominated the gentleman from Virginia as commander-in-chief before the Second Continental Congress. Washington excused himself from the hall affording delegates the opportunity to discuss his fate and that of the new army. In a unanimous decision, Congress appointed Washington as commander of the new Continental Army. The following day, General George Washington accepted his appointment, pledging his obedience to civil government, declining a salary, and stating, "I do not think myself equal to the Command I am honored with."

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PATRIOT BIOGRAPHY – EBENEZER SPENCER
(1765 – 1851)

By Robert Martin Walsh

Ebenezer Spencer, junior was born 19 November 1765[1], in Nottingham, New Hampshire, the son of Ebenezer Spencer[2], a farmer, and Mary Robinson[3]. The Spencer's had been early settlers of Durham, New Hampshire[4]. The elder Ebenezer was a veteran of the French and Indian War[5] and served in the New Hampshire militia in the defense of Portsmouth harbor from 1775 through the early years of the Revolution[6].

We know nothing of Spencers early years or education other than he went to school and he could sign his own name. At age 16 he and his father, although living in Barrington, New Hampshire, accepted bounties from the nearby Town of Epping and enlisted in Captain Fogg's Company in the 2nd New Hampshire Regiment of the Continental Army for a six month term commencing July 1781.[7] Years later Spencer recounted that after enlisting he had marched by way of Springfield, Mass to Peekskill, New York. He was stationed at Peekskill and Gallows Hill near Peekskill. He was later transferred and recounted that he travelled to Fishkill Landing, then in a sloop to Albany and then marched up the river to Saratoga where he remained until he had his discharge which was about the last of December or the first of January. He was stationed at Schuyler's Mill's, Saratoga, near where Gen. Burgoyne had surrendered, and he recollected the rejoicing when the news of Cornwallis's surrender arrived.[8]

At Peekskill, the Continentals manned one of the garrisons General Washington established surrounding British occupied New York City. The rebel fort there had been razed October 9, 1777 by British troops under General Clinton as a diversion to General Burgoyne's campaign down the Hudson River. In the summer of 1781 French troops marching from Rhode Island met rebel forces at Peekskill. General Washington had hoped for a joint attack upon the British headquarters in New York City, but when this joint attack had to be abandoned because of the failure of Count DeGrasse, commander of the French Fleet in the West Indies, to cooperate, General Washington had both armies keep up the appearance of a mediated attack upon New York to prevent the British from creating obstacles for the joint armies on their upcoming march to Yorktown, Virginia and to prevent the British from diverting troops from the defense of New York City to the reinforcement of General Cornwallis's troops in Virginia.[9]

The New Hampshire Continentals stationed at Schuyler's Mill in 1781 were on border protection and scouting duty. Following General Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga in 1777, the upper Hudson River area north of Saratoga and the Lake Champlain area were never retaken by the rebel troops and were subject to British forays south from Canada. The Northern Department of the Army had its headquarters in General Schuyler's mansion there. The mansion is now a part of the Saratoga National Battlefield Park. During the time that Spencer served New Hampshire General John Stark was in command of the Northern Department and had his headquarters there.[10]

(Cont'd on page 7)

SAR MEMBER PROFILE - ROBERT M. WALSH

Interview by Chuck Adams



Q. Ok Bob, tell us a little bit about yourself.

A. I am just another old guy moving to Florida for beaches and sunshine. I was born in 1953, and I have resided in Manchester, New Hampshire most of my life. Currently I have taken up residency at Wilton Manors, Florida where I expect to become a full time

resident shortly.

Q. What is your occupation?

A. I received my B.A. from Colby College in Waterville, Maine. In Boston, Massachusetts, I received a J.D. from Suffolk University Law School, and later a master's in law in taxation from Boston University. I have been practicing law for over 40 years. I spent my early career as a prosecutor, and subsequently I have been in private practice.

Q. Tell us about some of your recreational interests?

A. I enjoy walking and sitting on the beach. I also enjoy genealogy research and history writing. I am actively involved with the SAR. My favorite team is the Boston Red Sox.

Q. How about your family?

A. My wife Linda died young from breast cancer. My adult daughter Emily lives in Manhattan. My mother, my daughter and my sister are DAR members at the Molly Stark Chapter in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Q. Who is your Patriot ancestor?

A. My Patriot ancestor is Ebenezer Spencer (1765-1851). In July 1781, as a 16 year old, he enlisted for six months as a private in the New Hampshire 2nd Regiment of the Continental Army along with his father. More information on him is available at SAR's Patriot Research Service (PRS) Biographies and in Revolutionary War Pension File W.19392. I also have SAR proven lineage to five other patriots. I believe that there are twelve others for whom I have not yet filed supplements.

Q. How long have you been a member of SAR and please tell us more about your involvement and experience with SAR.

A. I joined the New Hampshire State Society in May 2008. There I have had the privilege of serving on the State BOM and serving as Chancellor, Vice President and State President. From 2021 to 2022 I had the best job in the whole of the SAR: Vice President General for New England. It was an exciting time to work with the state societies planning for the 250th anniversary of the many Revolutionary War events that took place in New England. The VPG for New England also has a huge advantage over his compatriots nationwide: few meeting or events are more than a three hour drive!

Thanks, Bob, for sharing.

PATRIOT BIOGRAPHY (cont'd from page 6)

Following his military service Spencer returned to Nottingham. He married Mediatable Buzzell[11], the daughter of John Buzzell and Phebe Evans at Barrington 14 July 1791. Shortly thereafter they removed to Peacham, Vermont where Spencer was a farmer. The couple first had six daughters, including twin girls born in 1798. The six girls were followed by three boys in 1802, 1803 and 1805. In 1832 Spencer applied for a Revolutionary War soldier's pension which was allowed 4 April 1833. Spencer received twenty dollars per year from the federal government until his death 18 March 1851. His widow Mehitable received twenty dollars per year as her widow's pension until her death at Peacham 1 October 1856. The two are buried in the Old Cemetery at Peacham beneath ornately lettered Victorian headstones. Unfortunately, the veteran's headstone has broken, and the top part lies on the adjacent ground.

[1] National Achieves, Revolutionary War Pension application S43170. Gs.

[2] Revolutionary War Pension application S43170.

[3] NH Vital Records.

[4] Stackpole et al., History of the Town of Durham, New Hampshire (Concord 1913).

[5] NH State Papers, Vol XIV p 21.

[6] NH State Papers, Vol XIV p 228.

[7] NHSP, Vol XVI pp 256, 505.

[8] Pension file application S43170, supra.

[9] Lossing, Benson John, The Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution (New York, 1852) (e-book @books.google.com).

[10] NPS Ranger/Historian Eric Schnitzer, (Interviewed at Saratoga National Battlefield Park November 4, 2012); See also, Corbett, Theodore, No Turning Point (Norman, 2012).

[11] b. 19 February 1770; d. 1 Oct 1856.

Editor's Note: The Patriot Biography on Ebenezer Spencer is a reformatted facsimile of the original written by Compatriot Robert Walsh and published by SAR many years ago. You may go to SAR's Patriot Research System (PRS) and search the patriot's SAR number P-294847 to see the entire publication in its original form. Submission of a Patriot Biography is an excellent way to preserve the memory of those who supported our cause for liberty. We encourage your participation in this program.

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