

“THE GOWANUS GAZETTE”

Historical Journal and Newsletter
The Battle of Brooklyn Chapter
Empire State Society
Sons of the American Revolution

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7 Jun 2026



Join Us This Year in Celebrating the 250th
Anniversary of the American Revolution
Independence Day 4 July 1776-2026



POINTS ON THE 250TH FROM OUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT DAVID NELSON

Dear Compatriots,

- * 251 years ago 19 April 1775 the American Revolution began with “The Shot Heard ‘Round the World
- * 250 years ago, the British evacuated Boston on 17 March 1776, shifting the focus of the American Revolution to New York.
- * 250 years ago 4 July 1776m The Declaration of Independence was signed, signaling the beginning the “The American War of Independence”!
- * Signed in ink in Philadelphia, it was paid for in blood 27 August 1776, at the Battle of Brooklyn
- * 2026 will be a banner year for the SAR, the Battle of Brooklyn and the 1st New York Chapters we will be in the thick of the Campaign for New York!
- * Please come out and “Honor” your Patriot Ancestors and support the Chapters the best you can.
- * There are many ways to support the Chapters even from a distance or from your home. You can held by donating to various Commemorative Events; serving on Committees; helping with Grave Marking research; serving and as a Youth Contest judge; mentoring new members and by encouraging family and friends to join CAR, DAR or SAR to further the Spirit of Independence and to help preserve our Patriotic Heritage, as well as out Nation’s traditions and History!
- * Looking forward to sharing these histric events with you throughout our Sesquicentennial the Celebrations wrapping up 25 November 2083 in Manhattan for Evacuation Day!!

Patriotically yours, David Nelson

To our newer members and older members that would like to become more involved in the 250th events mentioned above please review the following list and contact Dave Nelson, Gary Lane or Dave Peters and we'll point you in the right direction:

- Color Guard-Required Continental Army Uniform or Militia Dress
- 250th Events, anniversaries of battles and other key historical events
- General Events and Parades
- 250th Liberty Tree Planting and Historic Signs
- Historical Education and Lectures
- Youth Programs-BSA, JROTC and Student Contest Awards
- Patriot Grave Markings
- Patriot Grave and Historical Plaque Restoration
- Veterans Programs
- Genealogy, New Membership and Mentorship
- DAR and CAR
- Event Photography and Video
- Revolutionary War Soldier and Patriot Documentation

Chapter Officers

- * Battle of Brooklyn: Dave Nelson, Pres., Kevin Johnson, 1st V.P. Gary Lane 2nd V.P. Brian Ante, Sect., Bill Caccese, Treas., Rich Rossin, Registrar, Norman Goben, Chaplain and Sgt. at Arms and Dave Peters, Historian, Genealogist and Asst. Registrar
- * 1st NY Continental: Dave Nelson, Pres. Thom Taylor V.P, Scott Postell Treas./Sect., Rev. Evan Cummings, Chaplain

Partner and Associated Organizations

- * Lineage Societies: SAR Long Island and other regional chapters, Greater NY DAR, NYS CAR, NY Sons of the Revolution/Fraunces Tavern, Society of Cincinnati and Sons of Union Veterans Civil War.
- * Veterans and Military Organizations: JROTC, Sea Cadets, Rawley American Legion Post 1636, Fort Hamilton, USIVO (United States Island Veterans Organizations), Marine Corp League, Rolling Thunder, American Legion and VFW Posts on Staten Island and S. I. Veterans Ceremonial Affairs Committee
- * Museums and Public Venues: Old Stone House, Green-Wood Cemetery, Prison Martyrs Monument, Church of St Andrew's, Trinity Church, Historic Richmond Town, NYCP&R and NPS.
- * Historical Societies: Friends of New Utrecht, Friends of Staten Island Reformed Church, Greater Astoria Historical Society, Friends of Abandoned Cemeteries, S.I. and Queens Historical Society/Bowne House
- * Misc. Organizations: BSA/SUSA and Camp Pouch and the Hercules Mulligan Awareness Society

RECENT EVENTS

American Legion Four Chaplains Day Luncheon

7 Feb 2026

Greater Li Greci's "The Staaten", Staten Island

"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"
Gospel of John 15-13



The Battle of Brooklyn Chapter was honored to be invited by American Legion Commander Jaime Gonzalez and the Legion Chapters of Staten Island to act as the Color Guard for this annual event honoring the "Four 4 Chaplains".

During WW II a troop transit ship the SS Dorchester headed for Europe loaded with US troops when was it torpedoed by a German U-Boat as the ship sunk the four Army chaplains organized the troop evacuation, gave up their own life jackets and seats in lifeboats, they linked arms sang hymns and prayed as the ship sunk. Rev. George Fox, Methodist, Rabbi Alexander Goode, Jewish, Rev. Clark Poling, Reformed and Father John Washington, Roman Catholic were all awarded posthumously, the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart and a special medal was created with the same weight of the Medal of Honor. Goode, Poling and Washington were also Boy Scout leaders.

The Color Guard, Dave Nelson, Brian Ante, Jim Sarlo and Dave Peters were awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the American Legion and treated to a nice lunch. Many Legionnaires and their wives came up to us and said they were glad we could be the Color Guard on the 250th. We hope to participate in this event in the years to come to honor these courageous four chaplains who held true to their calling and their faith.



Col Samuel Atlee's Musketry Pennsylvania Battalion. Battle of Brooklyn
17 Feb 2026
Rawley American Legion Post

Compatriot Norman Goben gave a lecture on Atlee's Musketry Battalion to a nice size group from GANYC (Guides Association of NYC). Chapter associate George Tonkin is a member. During the Battle of Brooklyn Atlee's Battalion was the third battalion of Mile's Pennsylvania State Rifle in Gen. Stirling's Brigade and were a big part Stirling's fighting retreat from the Old Stone house and the Heights of Gowanus. Atlee's Battalion crossed the Hudson during Washington's retreat from New York with the exception of one company which remained at Ft. Washington and were taken as POWs. Their numbers were decimated and merged with Mile's Regt. when they crossed the Delaware with Gen. Washington, they numbered about 200 together, again in Stirling's Brigade and at Princeton in Mercer's Brigade. In the 1777 second organization of the Continental Army Atlee's Bn. and Miles's Regt. were merged to form the 13th Pennsylvania Regt. under Col. Walter Stewart



Chapter Meeting
250th Commemoration
British Evacuation of Boston/Arrival of the continental Army in New York
7 March 2026
Old Stone House



The chapter honored the 250th Anniversary of the British Evacuation of Boston and Arrival of the Continental Army at New York, Dave Peters gave a short lecture on the subject and the building of the New York defenses.

Two new members were inducted David Blackston and his son Zachary, who attends university in Scotland. Compatriot Bob Linekin who was recently reinstated was also in attendance. David and Zachary's patriot ancestor John White served in the Connecticut Militia and Line under Colonels, Samuel McClellan and John Durkee and various Captains, promoted to Orderly Sergeant. He received bounty land in Ohio and a pension for his service

Zachary and David Blackston being sworn in by Kevin Johnson and Dave Nelson



Brooklyn St. Patrick's Day Parade
15 March 2026
Prospect Heights, Brooklyn

Battle of Brooklyn members marched in annual Brooklyn St. Patrick's Day Parade, Bill Caccese and Kevin Johnson carried the chapter banner, while Norman Gobon, Brian and Michael Ante and Dave Peters carried the colors. Post parade we adjourned to the Rawley Legion for libations and all the corn beef and cabbage we could eat generously provided by the Rawley Legion



Pvt. Matthias Hulsart Grave Marking
21 March 2026
Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Matawan, NJ



The Battle of Brooklyn and the New Jersey State Society were joined in honoring Pvt. Matthias Hulsart by the seven members of the McDonald family who are descendants of Pvt. Hulsart, a cousin Richie Hulsart who traveled from Kansas City to attend and another local cousin was also in attendance, additionally we were joined by the Michele Donnelly, Regent of the Middletown DAR Chapter and members of her chapter and the Matawan Historical Society.

The Color Guard was a combined unit of Battle of Brooklyn and NJ State Color Guard. Commanded by NJ State commander Ed Glidden, Robert Meyer, National SAR Commander served as Chaplain, and were joined by Dave Tinker

(NJSSAR), Dave Nelson, Brian Ante and myself from the Battle of Brooklyn. Patrick McDonald was inducted into the SAR and his son Ian, brother Frank and his sons Ry and Sam have been added to our numbers.

I emceed the event and spoke of the historical significance of Mt. Pleasant Centenary which was attached to the Rev. Charles McKnight's church which was burned by the British and Rev. McKnight imprisoned, we honored McKnight and his two sons Dr. Charles McKnight, Jr. and Capt. Richard McKnight last summer at Trinity Church. Also a bit on the Revolutionary War history of Monmouth County and some on the commanding officers, Generals Nathaniel Heard and David Forman, Colonels Asher Holmes and Nathaniel Scudder the only member of the Continental Congress killed in action and Capt. Joshua Huddy whose hanging by the Loyalist which led to the "Asgill Affair".

Pvt. Matthias Hulsart enlisted in the 1st Regiment of the Monmouth Co. Militia and was at the Battle of Brooklyn and White Plains under Gen. Heard and Col. Forman. He was taken as a POW at the Battle of Navesink and spent 18 months in Sugar House Prisons after his exchange he was involved in a number of skirmishes with Loyalist Militias in Monmouth County and the capturing of the British privateer "Britiania" off Sandy Hook under the command of Col. Asher Holmes and Capt. Samuel Carhart also buried in Mt. Pleasant.



Descendants of Pvt. Matthias Hulsart, McDonald, Hulsart and Stillwaggon families



Dan, Sam, Pat (inducted) and Frank McDonald

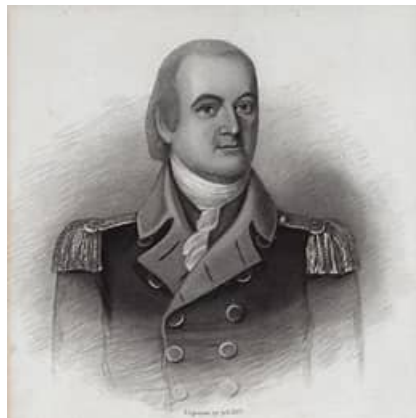


Tartan Day Parade
11 April 2026
Midtown Manhattan, NYC

We had a nice showing of SAR, DAR and CAR for this annual parade and everyone had a great time marching. The Grand Marshal was Scottish actor Sam Heughan who portrays Col. Jamie Frazier (NC Militia) in the time travel historical TV drama “Outlander”, I looked him up in PRS and he’s not there, must be an oversight. The Color Guard of Dave Nelson, Dave Peters, Michael and Brian Ante led out rather sizable assembly



Dave Campbell Nelson
Representing Clan Campbell



MG Wm. Alexander, Lord Stirling



BG Hugh Mercer

Many Scots and Scots-Irish served with distinction throughout the Revolutionary War and made up substantial part of the Continental Army providing a good part of the leadership, such as William Lord Stirling Alexander, Hugh Mercer, Henry Knox, John Paul Jones, Alexander McDougall, Alexander Hamilton, Lachlan McIntosh, Richard Montgomery, John Morin Scott, Arthur St. Clair, George Rogers Clark, John Campbell and many of our Founding Fathers, George Ross, James Witherspoon, James Wilson, James McHenry and many others

Liberty Tree Dedication
22 April 2026
Liberty Hall, Kean College
Elizabeth, NJ

Compatriot Norman Goben facilitated the planting of a Liberty Tree at historic Liberty Hall in conjunction with NJSSAR serving as Color Guard. Liberty Hall was the home of Founding Father Gov. William Livingston, his son Justice and Lt. Col. Brockholst Livingston and other members of the extended Livingston family. Among it's visitors were George and Martha Washington, Alexander Hamilton, Elias Boudinot and John Jay



Elizabeth and Union town officials NJ State Color Guard and Norman. (N. Goben photo)

Links to Liberty Hall: [Home - Liberty Hall Museum](#) [Liberty Hall \(New Jersey\) - Wikipedia](#)

Liberty Tree Planting
Ft. Hamilton
Brooklyn

Norman planting a Liberty Tree at Fort Hamilton this project has been quite a slog, for everyone involved, but the tree is in ground and we hope to install the plaque and a dedication at some point this summer, details TBA

america250sar.org/libertytree/



Gen. U. S. Grant Birthday Observance
250th Recognition
26 April 2026
Grant's Tomb, Riverside Dr., NYC

Battle of Brooklyn compatriots attended Gen. Grant's 204th Birthday Celebration hosted by of the Sons of Union Veterans, Civil War and was led by compatriot and Commander George Weinmann, both Chris and I are also members of the SUVCW. I spoke on the patriot ancestors (see PRS link) of Gen. Grant who was awarded posthumously SAR membership and his son Gen. Frederick Grant and grandson U.S. Grant III both early SAR members. A little plug for our chapter associate, friend and Civil War historian Al Nolfi who recently published a book on Frederick Grant and how he accompanied his father during the Civil War as a boy.

Above, Scott Postell, Dave Peters, Chris Sands and George Weinmann. Right, Dave Peters with George W. and John Gregor

[Display Patriot – P-169151](#)
[- Noah GRANT](#)
[Display Patriot - P-290313 - John SIMPSON](#)



[Amazon.com: Fred Grant at Vicksburg: A Boy's Memoir at His Father's Side During the American Civil War eBook : Nofi, Albert A.: Kindle Store](#)

Youth Awards and Programs

Video Contest Winners 2/10/2026

- * 1st Place, “Thomas Paine” by Brina Lin and Stella Vrap, Tottenville H.S.
- * 2nd Place, “Battle of Saratoga” by Jeff Zheng, Tottenville H.S.
- * 3rd Place, Tottenville H.S., “Col. John Rall & the Battle of Trenton” by Joseph Geraldi, St. Joseph’s by the Sea H.S.
- * Honorable Mention, “Long Shot Across the Hudson” by our own Michael Ante, Xavier H.S.

Gary Lane awarding 1st winners Brina Lin and Stella Vrap a check and certificate. Joined by Jim Sarlo (Loyalist), Norman Goben (Militia) and Frank Florio (Continental Line) who all spoke to assembly on different perspectives of the American Revolution, Gary also spoke on Patriotic and Civic Duty



Team effort here at St. Joseph’s by the Sea, led by student council president Joseph Geraldi, wasn’t too much left in kitty to award all the students involved so Gary Lane and Dave Nelson treated everybody to a “Pizza Party”



Father Michael Reilly, Principal of St. Joseph's by Sea receiving a "Flag Certificate" from Dave Nelson from his patriotic displays at the school



April 15th Kevin Johnson awarding Ft. Hamilton H.S. Cadets Richard Chen and Ryab Deng the Bronze JROTC Medal

On April 16th and 17th Norman Goben served as a greeter and explained a little bit of American Revolutionary War history to the over 300 students that attended the two day workshop at St. Paul's Church in Eastchester, BX. This a NPS historic land marked site and served as a hospital after the Battle of Brooklyn



[St. Paul's Church, New York: A Revolutionary War Site - Journal of the American Revolution](#)

[Saint Paul's Church National Historic Site \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)



Medals Awarded at Recent BOM Meeting



March 14th Gary Lane receiving the District Henry Knox Medal for his work at the Trinity grave marking



May 3rd, Leona Lane receiving the Silver Lydia Darragh Medal from the ESSAR

Congratulations!

ESSAR Gray Cup for Membership Retention awarded by ESSAR Pres. Tim Middlebrook, 1st Pl. Long Island, Bryan Irrgang, 2nd Place, Battle of Brooklyn, Dave Nelson 3rd Westchester /Putnam, Ken Stevens



Camp Pouch BSA Camporee
3 May 2026
Staten Island

Norman Goben, Jim Sarlo, Dave Peters, Brian and Michael Ante served as Color Guard for the opening this weekend's Staten Island BSA and Scouting America Council Camporee at Camp Pouch. Norman and Jim did their signature musket salute. We also set up a table with Revolutionary War weapons and accouterments. As well as a tri-fold board with information on earning the American Heritage merit badge, SAR membership and a Time Line of the Revolutionary War on Staten Island and a list of Historic Sites. We also fielded the scouts questions

Raising of the new colors at Pouch by the Scouts



American Heritage Merit Badge

Col Jacob and Capt. Henry F. Blackwell
Gravestone Unveiling and Wreath Laying
9 May 2026
St. George's Episcopal Churchyard
Astoria, Queens

Battle of Brooklyn joined our Long Island Compatriots who sponsored and organized the event. The gravestones were installed earlier for Queens County Militia Colonel Jacob Blackwell and his great-grandson Civil War Captain Henry F. Blackwell. The dedication ceremony was lead by the Rector of St. George's Rev. Spencer Cantrell, Long Island Pres.



Bryan Irrgang and compatriots Wayne Haddock and Matt Mosen as well as representatives of the Moses Baldwin Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans, Civil War. Other organizations represented were the Increase Carpenter Chapter DAR, Children of the American Revolution, Co K 67th NY Volunteers Assoc., the 14th Brooklyn "Red Legs", NYSM who fired the musket salute volley, JROTC Color Guard and the Greater Astoria Historical Society.



Charles Bevington, Gary Lane, Matt Mosen, Scott Postell, Long Island Compatriot, Dave Peters, John Porter, Bryan Irrgang and Wayne Haddock. K. Kotary Photo



Bryan Irrgang, L. I. Pres., Chloe Pollock NYS CAR Pres.,
and Gary Lane, Battle of Brooklyn V.P.



Rev. Cantrell with 14th NY "Reg Legs"

Colonel Jacob Blackwell (1717-1780)

Jacob Blackwell served early as Colonel of the Newtown Regiment of the Queens County Militia, a position he held since the French & Indian War this regiment was attached to Gen. Nathaniel Woodhull's Long Island Militia Brigade during the battle of Brooklyn, commanded by Col. Jeromus Remsen. He served on the Newtown Committee of Correspondence, other patriotic committees and in the 3rd and 4th New York Provincial Congresses. After the Battle of Brooklyn and British occupation of Queens his home overlooking the East River and Blackwell's (Roosevelt) Island was confiscated and marked with the "Kings Broad Arrow" aka "Crow's Foot". Col. Blackwell fled Queens and British tyranny rather than swear the "Oath of Allegiance to King George". He sought refuge with his friend and kinsman John "Honest John" Hart, Signer of the Defalcation of Independence in Hopewell, NJ. He was granted amnesty and return home to find his home despoiled by the British, he died a short while later. His son Rev. Robert Blackwell was Chaplain of the 1st Pennsylvania Brigade and Surgeon at Valley Forge.



Our friend and historian Richard Melnick found the door of his home in the warehouse of Brooklyn Museum and had it donated and transported to Greater Astoria Historical Society, note the above photo with "Crow's Foot" on the middle left panel. See links below

[BEHIND THE GRAY DOOR: historic relic at Greater Astoria - Forgotten New York](#)
[Long Island City in 1776: The Revolution Comes to Queens - Journal of the American Revolution](#)

Past Events in the Next Edition of the Gowanus Gazette

- * Chapter Meeting, 5/14, Inductions and Awards
- * Memorial Day Parades, Staten Island and Brooklyn
- * Joseph Palmer Grave Marking 5/30, Staten Island
- * Liberty Weekend at New Utrecht 5/30
- * JORTC Awards 6/2
- * Channel 12 Interview at the Old Stone House 6/2

Upcoming Summer/Fall Events Details TBA

- * President General Michael Elston, Esq. Patriot Ancestor Grave Marking and Battle of Springfield Commemoration, Union, NJ 6/14
- * Flag Day Parade, Lower Manhattan, 6/12
- * BSA Flag Retirement, Camp Pouch, Staten Island 6/12
- * Green-Wood 6 Patriots Grave Marking, 6/27
- * Brooklyn 4th of July Parade
- * NYC 4th of July Parade and other 250th Events
- * 250th New York Reading of the Declaration of Independence, White Horse Tavern, City Hall Park, Bowling Green 7/9
- * National 250th Battle of Brooklyn/MD 400 Commemoration, Old Stone House, 8/22
- * Founding Father Gov. Wm Livingston and Family Grave Marking, Green-Wood 8/23
- * 250th Commemoration Battles of the New York Campaign, Sept/Oct, TBA
- * 250th Turtle's Attack on the HMS Eagle, early Sept. Battery Park/Gov. Island/Monitor Museum, TBA
- * Von Steuben Day Parade, Upper East Side 9/19
- * 250th Memorial for Gen. Nathaniel Woodhull DeSille House/New Utrecht Reformed Church, 9/20
- * 250th Battle of Fort Washington and Washington's Retreat to Ft. Lee Mid Nov.

FINIS

Hope to see you all this Summer you got the POINT-Dave Peters, Editor



