

“THE GOWANUS GAZETTE”

Historical Journal and Newsletter

The Battle of Brooklyn Chapter

Empire State Society

Sons of the American Revolution

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LIBERTAS ET PATRIA

13 Oct 2025

RECENT EVENTS

Founding Fathers Grave Marking

Trinity Churchyard

89 Broadway, Lower Manhattan

17 Aug 2025

One year to the day from the Trinity graving marking project inception on 17 Aug of 2024 until the markers installation and the Patriots honored this year. Last year on the 2nd day of the Bicentennial of the Gen. Lafayette’s historic tour, the Historian General Jeff Thomas and the current Treasurer General T. Brooks Lyles were in town to attend the Lafayette event. Jeff Thomas later toured the Trinity Churchyard and noticed no SAR markers present, the fact of the matter no new markers or plaques either SAR, DAR or other organizations had been been installed in this historic churchyard since the 1940s and they are only a small number, considering the number of prominent patriots interred there. At the urging of Jeff Thomas, T. Brooks Lyles with Robert Meyer, chapter member and national Color Guard Commander making initial contact with Trinity. A committee was formed under the leadership of Gary Lane, which consisted of Jerry and John Meekins, Norm Goben and myself David Peters as chapter historian, with initial help from Tom “Tim” Winant who established contact with the Trinity archivist Kathryn Hurwitz, this would later prove invaluable in documenting the Patriots to be honored.

From this point on a number meetings and walk troughs were held with the committee and Trinity clergy and staff. Trinity agreed to allow us to mark ten graves with SAR Patriot Grave Markers, there are about fifteen known and verified patriots buried in Trinity Churchyard and a number still under research. A list of ten was drawn up and decided on, they are as follows: Founding Fathers; Alexander Hamilton, Francis Lewis and Hugh Williamson with additional patriots Gen. John Morin Scott, Hercules Mulligan, Dr. Charles McKnight, Jr., Rev. Charles McKnight, Sr., Capt. Michael Cresap, Maj. Anthony Bleecker and Sarah Livingston Alexander.(wife Gen. Wm. Alexander,

Lord Stirling). SAR rules stipulate only five can be marked at a time, so Alexander Hamilton, Francis Lewis, Hugh Williamson, Dr. Charles McKnight and John Morin Scott were chosen with the other five patriots to be officially marked at a later date, although their markers are in place and hopefully the additional, next year.

The National and Empire State Society and the Battle of Brooklyn Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution salutes and thanks the Trinity Clergy and Staff for their assistance in making this historic event possible. A Certificate of Appreciation has been sent out to all those involved on behalf of the SAR and Battle of Brooklyn Chapter

We were honored to have the President General Michael J. Elston, Esq to attend and address the event attendees, unfortunately Jeff Thomas was not able to attend, also in attendance was William A. Greenly, Secretary General and T. Brooks Lyles, Treasurer General. Wreathes were presented by the SAR (Tim Middlebrook), DAR(Diane Oliver), CAR (Kate Kessler), Society of Cincinnati(John O'Malley) and the New York Sons of the Revolution(Peter Sherwin). In addition to aforementioned Tim Middlebrook (ESSAR) a number of other SAR State Society Presidents were in attendance, Chris Sands (NJSSAR), Troy Foxwell (DSSAR) and Peter Reinhart (PASSAR).

Norman Goben, Sgt. at Arms, placed the President General's set of flags at the podium, Gen. Washington's Commander-in-Chief's and Virginia State Flags. David Peters, who knew where all the bodies were buried and Trinity maintenance supervisor Alfred Deehan placed the ten markers prior to the event. The Color Guard was commanded by T. Brooks Lyles consisting of Battle of Brooklyn members Chris Sands, Norman Goben, Dave Peters, associate George Tonkin, with the addition of Bruce Wearda of the Kern Co. /Bakersfield Chapter, CASSAR and Andrew Peirce of the Buffalo Chapter, ESSAR.

President General Michael J. Elston meeting our newest and youngest junior member 13 month old Damian White with his parents Sawyer and Jessica. Sawyer and Damian were just inducted into the Battle of Brooklyn Chapter this past May. The President was kind enough to take some time out of hectic day and spend some time with the White family.



I would like to note and thank all the help and support Gary Lane and the Trinity Committee received in making this event a success. Special recognition goes to Leona Lane who set up a wonderful lunch buffet and my wife Robin Peters who assisted her and compatriots Preston and Grayson Lane, Kevin Johnson, Emeric DuMas, Scott Postell, Thom Taylor and other Battle of Brooklyn, 1st NY Continental and Long Island compatriots along Beth Fitzgerald and other DAR members who helped with the setup and breakdown, passing out programs and ushering attendees and a myriad of other small task and all the compatriots nationally that contributed financially to make this event a success.

Color Guard with SAR officers in front of the tomb of Alexander Hamilton T. Taylor Photo



T. Taylor Photo

L to R T. Brooks Lyles (Treasurer General, Color Guard Commander), Chris Sands (NJSSAR Pres.), Bruce Wearda (CASSAR) Michael J. Elston, Esq.(President General), Norm Goben (Battle of Brooklyn Chaplain) Gary Lane (2nd VP Battle of Brooklyn, Trinity Committee Chairman), Joseph Dooley (Past Pres. Gen.), George Tonkin (Battle of Brooklyn Assoc.), Andrew Peirce (ESSSAR) , David Peters (Battle of Brooklyn Historian), Timothy Middlebrook (ESSSAR Pres.), J. P. Vermelean (Metro Region ESSSAR VP), Peter Moller (North Atlantic Region VP Gen.), Scott Postell (1st NY Cont. Treasurer/Sect.) and Bryan Irrang (Long Island Chapter Pres.)



Gary Lane receiving the Aide-de-Camp Pin and presenting the President General Michael J. Alston with custom made plaque commemorating the day.



Unveiling of the Patriot Grave marker of Alexander Hamilton by T. Brooks Lyles



Below Graves of Founding Fathers Alexander Hamilton, Hugh Williamson and Francis Lewis



Scott-McKnight Family Plot

Markers L to R Rev. Charles McKnight, Sr. Dr. Charles McKnight, Jr. and Gen. John Morin Scott (father in-law of Dr. McKnight), also in the plot is a cenotaph for Capt. Richard McKnight, son and brother of McKnight, Sr. and Jr.. Richard was a NJ. Militia Captain POW that died on the prison ships and his body never recovered.



Link to Trinity Grave Marking and Patriot Biographies on the chapter website

[Manhattan | Graves](#)



249th Anniversary of the Battle of Brooklyn
Maryland 400 Memorial
Old Stone House, Brooklyn
23 Aug 2025

The annual Battle of Brooklyn Commemoration and Maryland 400 Memorial this event grows year by year, next years event should prove the penultimate 250th Battle of Brooklyn anniversary. The names of 256 casualties of 1st Maryland Regiment where read by representatives of the various participating orgainzations, the Maryland SAR, DAR, Society of Cincinnati and National Guard, Battle of Brooklyn, ESSAR, DAR, CAR, NYSR, NYC P & R (mangers of the Old Stone House) and the Rawley American Legion Post, wreathes were presented by these organizations.

The Color Guard was commanded by National Color Commander Robert Meyer and was made up of primarily from the Battle of Brooklyn and regional ESSAR and NJSSAR color guardsmen but a number came from as far as Georgia and Virginia to join in the event. A musket squad was commanded by Norman Goben and Robert Buccheri, Capt. of the 5th NY Regt. of reenactors, compatriot Gene Hough, associates Jim Sarlo, Mike Grillo, Jr. and the 3rd NJ Regt. of reenactors. A volley was fired saluting the Maryland 400 by the musket squad and Legionaries from the Rawley Post. Gene Hough brought his giant American Flag, which was unfurled on the athletic field and held in unison by event attendees, this was nice edition this year's event. Mike Grill was on hand portraying Gen. Washington. All photos are from compatriot Jason Short.



Participating Organizations Wreath Presentation

Kim Maier, Director of the OSH, Chris Hardej, Commander of the Rawley American Legion Post, Brian and Michael Ante



Color Guard and Musket Squad



Battle of Brooklyn 249th Anniversary
Maryland 400 Memorial
Banner Unveiling
Rawley American Legion Post 1636
Gowanus, Brooklyn

After the main event at the Old Stone House, a number of us adjourned to the nearby Rawley Post and along with Legionaries to continued honoring the Maryland 400 and unveiling the Battle of Brooklyn banner designed by Norm Goben and donated by the Battle of Brooklyn Chapter to the Legion. This banner is only a precursor to the full sized mural that will be painted the length of the wall (there was Battle of Brooklyn mural previously) in the next year for the 250th Anniversary. Many of may not know this but the original honoring of the Maryland 400 began here, prior to the OSH, the Maryland 400 plaque dates to 1993. A little bit historical background here on the Maryland regiment's retreat from the Old Stone House in 1776 this area was known as Lower Gowanus and was largely swampland, it was here that many of the Maryland troops died. A rumor persisted from many year that a mass grave of the Maryland troops was near the site of the Legion, although recent studies have proved inconclusive. The Legion has done a good job over the years to support the remembrance of the Battle of Brooklyn and the "Maryland 400". Norn Goben, Mike Grillo, guest historian Robert Buccheri and myself all spoke on different aspects of battle. One point I try to get across is that gets overshadowed by the Maryland 400 is the other troops of Stirling's Brigade, primarily Pennsylvania troops that fought with equal resolve. These troops repulsed two assaults on the Old Stone House prior to being relieved by the 1st Maryland, additionally Col. Jedediah Huntington's 17th Connecticut Continentals Regiment were cut off at what is now Battle Hill in Green-Wood Cemetery from Gen. Stirling's delaying retreat they faced equal casualties of the 1st Maryland. This is all noted on the 250th sign installed at the Post back in the Spring

Maryland 400 Plaque Restored by
Dave Peters





L to R Dave Peters, not paying attention as usual, Gary lane, Gene Hough, Norm Goben, Kim Maier, Mike Grillo and Chris Hardej. Post Commander

Restored WW II
Memorial Plaque



Norm with the Banner and presenting Chris with a framed Letter of Appreciation for the Legion Post from Dave Nelson and the chapter in regards to the banner.



Battle of Brooklyn Commemoration
Green-Wood Cemetery
24 Aug 2025

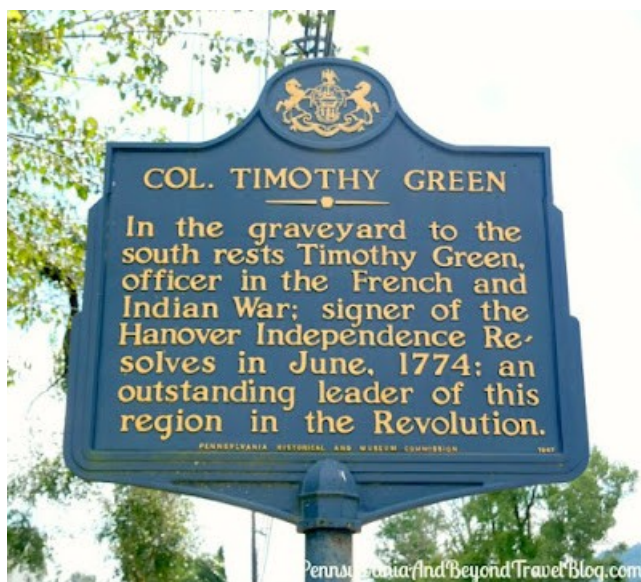
This was the last event at Green-Wood for Jeff Richman the long serving cemetery historian will retired. Jeff has been a great friend to the chapter these past few years and has helped us expedite, research and organize and speak at numerous SAR events, the Ebenezer Stevens grave marking, documenting and biographies of Revolutionary War soldiers for the 250th sign, Liberty Tree and plaque and this last event. The first part of the day was an open house in the lower field with various Revolutionary War reenactment units and other organizations. Norm spoke on the musket and me on the Pennsylvania Rifle and how they were used and their differences. Jeff emceed and also spoke on the Battle of Brooklyn with interludes of Revolutionary War period folk music. There was a good showing of chapter members. After the lower field part the tradition at Green-Wood is everyone grabs one of the historical Revolutionary War flags lining the path leading up to Battle Hill and venture up the hill. For the first time the SAR has served as Color Guard. A wreath was laid at the Liberty Tree and Jeff again spoke on the Battle of Brooklyn in his retirement will be working with the Long Island Chapter in identifying patriot buried on Long Island.

At Battle Hill, George Tonkin, Norm Goben, Bryan Irrgang, Kevin Johnson, Dave Peters, Jerry Meekins. Ted Phillips, Chris Sands, Michael, Brian Ante and Gary Lane



Below me with the flag of the Hanover Associators from Hanover Twp. Lancaster Co. (now Dauphin). I had two patriot ancestors in the Hanover Bn., Nicholas Alberthal and Jacob Fehrling, Jacob Fehrling, Jr.,(uncle) served in Col. James Cunningham's 1st Lancaster Co. Flying Camp, raised primary in Hanover Twp. and neighboring Derry Church(Hershey) the Flying Camp was commanded by Maj. William Hay of Derry Church at the Battle of Brooklyn. At Fort Washington the Hanover Bn.was commanded by Col. Timothy Green. Left, grave maker in the town of Dauphin, near Harrisburg, Salute to Harris Ferry Chapter for marking and maintaining Col. Green's grave and below historic plaque dedicated to Col. Green







“Have Flag Will Travel”

FINIS

I should get one more edition out this year we have a busy few months coming up