

“THE GOWANUS GAZETTE”

Historical Journal and Newsletter

The Battle of Brooklyn Chapter

Empire State Society

Sons of the American Revolution

Vol. II Edit. 8 #14 I

LIBERTAS ET PATRIA

12 Oct 2025

RECENT EVENTS

NYC Annual Flag Day Parade

13 Jun 2025

Lower Manhattan

Members of the Battle of Brooklyn and 1st Continental New York marched in the annual Flag Day Parade, we were awarded the place of honor by the parade sponsors the NY Sons of the Revolution, marching also were the Descendants of the Signers of Declaration of Independence, Society of Cincinnati, DAR and the Sons of Union Veterans, A lunch buffet and refreshments were generously provided by the NYSR for the marchers at Fraunces Tavern.



Dave Peters, Dave Nelson, Thom Taylor, Norm Goben and Gary Lane were among those that marched

Staten Island BSA Flag Retirement Ceremony
Camp Pouch
Staten Island

Every year the Boy Scouts on Staten Island gather worn flags to be retired, following the proper protocol cotton ones are burned and on synthetic ones the field is cut off. Gary Lane was emcee of the event for the Scouts and a Color Guard was provided by the Battle of Brooklyn, consisting of Jim Sarlo, Dave Nelson, Brian Ante and Dave Peters. Preston Lane and another Scout had the honor of raising the new flag at Camp Pouch. There was another BSA flag retirement on a different day at Camp Pouch and was attended by compatriot Thom Taylor who had a flag that was to be retired



Photos courtesy of Flynn Ferguson, whose son Liam participated with the BSA

250th Anniversary Reenactment of the Battle of Bunker Hill
Stage Fork Park, Gloucester, Massachusetts
17 June 2025

Compatriot Norm Goben traveled to Massachusetts to participate in this event, hosted by the Massachusetts 250 organization. Norm has been involved the reenactment community for over twenty years said “it was the best reenactment event he has ever attended” The site in Gloucester was chosen to better accommodate the reenactment, rather the original battle site in Charlestown.



Minute Man Goben firing when he “Saw the Whites of their Eyes”

Brooklyn Knights of Columbus 4th of July Parade
 Bay Ridge and Sunset Park Brooklyn
 29 June 2025

Chapter associate Mike Grillo, who portrays Gen. Washington and Norm Goben had the honor as being chosen as Grand Marshals. Lunch and refreshments were generously provided by the Knights of Columbus. Color Guard, Brian and Michael Ante, Dave Nelson and Dave Peters. Also marching Gary, Preston and Grayson Lane, Scott Postell, Emeric Du Mas, Steve Gross, CAR and the Greater NY DAR





[PHOTOS: Brooklyn breaks out the red, white and blue for the 118th annual American Independence Day Parade • Brooklyn Paper](#) Norm and Mike as Grand Marshals

Annual NYC 4th of July Parade
Lower Manhattan
4 July 2025

This annual event kick-offed from Castle Clinton in Battery Park we were joined this year by SAR Treasurer General T. Brooks Lyles who was representing the “The American Friends of Lafayette”, celebrating the Bicentennial Tour of Gen Lafayette, Michael Schneider who impersonates the General at Colonial Williamsburg was on hand, marched in the parade and addressed the crowd at Castle Clinton, where Gen. Lafayette arrived from Staten Island on the 2nd day of his tour in 1824. Compatriots Bryan Irrgang and Matt Moshen made the trip in from Long Island marched representing the Long Island Chapter.



L to R Evan Cummings, Thom Taylor, Michael and Brian Ante, Dave Nelson, T. Brooks Lyles, Vince Katinas, Matt Moshen and Bryan Irrgang 3 area chapters are represented here 1st NY Continental, Battle of Brooklyn and Long Island



Mark
Schneider
as Gen.
Lafayette
with the
American
Friends of
Lafayette



Bryan Irrgang and Matt Moshen with T. Brooks Lyles





Color Guard Dave Nelson, Norm Goben, Michael and Brian Ante and poster contest winner Teddy Oh next to Dave Nelson with Kevin Johnson and Emeric Du Mas getting the business from Norm for not being in place with the banner.

5th Grader Ted Oh receiving his prize check from Dave Nelson for placing first in the 1st NY Continentals Americanism Poster Contest.

Fireworks from my balcony on the East River.



4th of July Open House
Port Richmond Reformed Church
Norm Goblen's Portrayal of a "Black Robe Regiment Preacher"
7 July 2025



"The Black Robe Regiment"

The Black Robe Regiment was a 5th Column during the Revolutionary War. Ministers of the Gospel were very influential members of the community they served. Many especially among the Calvinist sects (Presbyterian, Huguenot, Congregationalist, German and Dutch Reformed) they were outspoken and ardent pro-independence Whigs and let everyone know it from the pulpit. Many congregation members went out and enlisted in the patriot cause after hearing a fiery sermon by their minister.

The prime example was the example Rev. Peter Muhlenberg a Lutheran minister sent to Virginia to minister to the Germans that removed from Pennsylvania, he was re-

ordained in Anglican Church because Virginia did not allow non-Anglicans to preach. After preaching on Ecclesiastes Chap.3 "a time for everything" at verse 8 "a time for war" he removed his clerical robe under which was the uniform of a Continental Army Colonel, his congregation members formed the core of the 8th Virginia Regiment. He served with distinction throughout the war at the rank of Brigadier and Major General. His younger brother Frederick was more neutral in his stance initially but after his church "Old Swamp" Lutheran in New York City was burned to the ground in the "Great Fire of 1776" he was now firmly in the patriot camp. The church was located where Pace University now stands at Park Row and Frankfort St. in Lower Manhattan, near City Hall., he later would be the 1st Speaker of the House.

The British Army had little regard for the non-Anglican churches because they did not accept the King as both head of the State and Church, they were used as barracks, stables and the pews often broken up for firewood and in the case of Middle Dutch and Old Huguenot in lower New York they were used to house prisoners of war. They also would punitively burn them to the ground.

Rev. James Caldwell, minister of the 1st Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth, church was burned in 1780 by a Loyalist militia led by Capt. Cornelius Hatfield, Jr. who conducted raids in New Jersey from his base on Staten Island, what was most insidious on the part

of Hatfield in the burning of 1st Presbyterian is he attended the church as a boy and his parents and other Hatfield, Ogden and Dayton kinsmen were prominent members of the congregation. Caldwell was best known as “the Fighting Parson”. As a Chaplain of New Jersey troops he was not afraid to pick up a musket and fight alongside his flock, at the Battle of Springfield he famously said when the troops ran out of wadding, he urged them removed pages from the hymnals of a neighboring church and “give ‘em Watts boys”. His wife Hannah nee Ogden was killed at the Battle of Connecticut Farms at her home “baby in arms” by a British soldier, whether her shooting was intentional or accidental is unknown but it was certainly used for propaganda purposes. An interesting aside on the Hatfield family of the famous Hatfield-McCoy feud were descendants the New Jersey Hatfield family, “Devil Anse” Hatfield patriarch of the Hatfield clan was descendant of Joseph Hatfield, who served as a frontier scout in the Virginia Militia under Col. William Campbell (King’s Mountain).

We recently honored the Rev. Charles McKnight, Sr. at Trinity Church with a grave marking. Rev. McKnight was a Chaplain to New Jersey troops at the Battle of Princeton and was severely wounded with saber blows believe to be intended for Gen., Hugh Mercer, who was killed in the battle, McKnight was in close proximity to Mercer. In 1777 his church and home in Monmouth County, NJ was burned by Loyalist and he was taken as a prisoner of war and confined probably either on the prison ships or in the sugar houses, he died of diminished health from his imprisonment in 1778 soon after his release at age about age 60.

Rev. Samuel Suther the minister of Brick German Reformed Church, near Guilford Courthouse and Greensboro, N.C. farm and home were burned by the British, when the battles were fought nearby in 1781 at Guilford Courthouse, Whitesell (Weitzel) and Clapp’s Mill. The men of his congregation made up the “Brick Church Company” commanded by Capt. Henry Whitesell (owner of the mill) in the Guilford County Militia regiments under the command of Cols. Peasley and Martin, A number of Norman’s ancestors served in this company.

Other ministers of the note from the “Black Robe Regiment, were Presbyterians Rev. Samuel Blair, Chaplain of the Thompson’s Rifle Battalion, 1st Pa. Continentals., the Pa. Artillery Brigade and the Continental Congress and his brother in-laws Rev. George Duffield, Chaplain of the Continental Congress and Pennsylvania Militia and Rev. William Linn, Chaplain of Magaw’s 5th Pa. Regiment and later the first Chaplain of the US Congress, William Linn’s son John also a Presbyterian minister read law under Alexander Hamilton and was author and editor along with William Egle of “the Pa. Archives” in multiple volumes which is the Bible for the most part of Pennsylvania Revolutionary War records. Linn and Duffield both were also pastors at Big Spring Presbyterian Church in Newville, Cumberland Co., Pa. where compatriot Clark McCullough’s patriot ancestor Sgt. John McCullough is buried.

Nathan Hale Day Commemoration
22 Sep 20225
NY Sons of the Revolution
City Hall Park

The Annual Nathan Hale Day Commemoration is held every year on the anniversary of his execution on 22 Sept 1776 at the Park of Artillery near the Dove Tavern (E. 66th and 3rd Ave), The SR has been sponsoring this event for many years and on the 250th we hope be part of it. A proclamation is read every year by a NYC government official, I attended this year with my wife Robin and Kathy Fontaine, Regent Brooklyn DAR, who now works for the Fraunces Tavern. One of Dave Nelson's patriot ancestors Jephtha Bartholomew served in the same regiment as Hale, Webb's 19th Continentals aka 7th Connecticut Provincials, Hale also served in Knowlton's Rangers

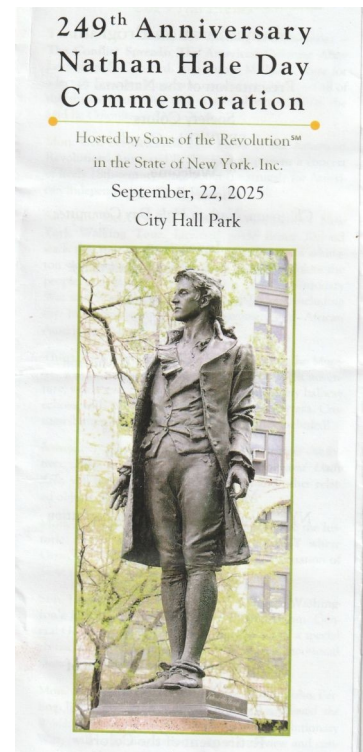


K. Fontaine P]hoto

NYSR members, Jamaane Williams and myself, second on the right

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY

As the 250th Anniversary of American Independence draws nigh. In the upcoming year there will be more Memorials, Commemoration, Grave Markings and Historic Events will take place, more that all we can realistically participate in. By the end of the year the 250th Committee will put forth a tentative agenda. We have about 140 members between the two chapters but like any organization only a dozen or so participate on regular basis in SAR activities, serve in the Color Guard and man the various committees, as Dave Nelson call them the "Usual Suspect", although is good to see a number of newer members participating recently. The two chapter would like to have anyone participate as much as possible during this historic upcoming year



Chapter Meeting
Battle of Brooklyn and 1st NY Continentals
22 Sept 2025
White Horse Tavern

President Dave Nelson chaired this productive meeting, two new members were inducted and medals were awarded. The North Atlantic VP General Peter Moller was also in attendance, he has recently joined the chapter.

Some topics covered:

- Americanism Award, we placed 7th of 152 participating in the small chapters category, not bad for our first time out, our point total this year so far will exceeds last years total. VP Moller spoke on it and is interested in seeing our chapter and Americanism Awards as a whole succeed. The Long Island is also submitting a report this year for the first time.
- Registrar Report so far this year 8 applications have been approved and 12 are pending at National, Evan Gottlieb and his son Paul's has been approved. My adopted son Benjamin's application has just been just submitted to State.
- Organizing and looking forward to the 250th
- Finishing up Trinity, we have to still go back and officially mark the five remaining patriots

New Member Inductions and Medals

Below, two new members were inducted Michael Gibbons and Davis O. Richardson , Scott Postell and Norm Gobern were awarded the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal (the highest medal awarded at the chapter level} Brain Ante the War Service Medal for his Army service in the Middle East. Patrick Sanders of the 1st NY Continental Chapter received a Supplemental Patriot Ancestor Certificate.



Dave Nelson,
Davis O.
Richardson
and wife, VP
Peter Moller
and Michael
Gibbons

Norman Goben and Scott Postell receiving the Chapter Distinguished Service Medal and Brian Ante receiving the War Service Medal from Dave Nelson and Peter Moller.



Patrick Sanders receiving a Supplemental Patriot Ancestor Certificate from Peter Moller and Dave Nelson



Patriot Ancestors of New Members and Supplemental Patriot

Davis O. Richardson

- Pvt. William Guy (1752-1824) Virginia Continental Line, Colonels William Russell, 5th, Daniel Morgan 11th and Abraham Buford, 15th Regiments, Maj. Gustavus Wallace, Capt. Thomas Wills

Michael Gibbons

- Pvt. William Reddick (1760-1831) Col. John Patton's Additional Continental Regt.(PA/NJ) Captains John Doyle and Lawrence Keene. John Doyle of Lancaster was a light infantry Captain of note, his independent rifle company was merged in to the 1st Pa. Cont. Regt. which included noted ranger and Indian spy Sam Brady(1st and 8th Pa.) Doyle would later command a light infantry company in the vanguard of the assault on the fortifications at Yorktown.

Patrick Sanders

- Howell Jarrett(1756-1813) Patriotic Service Virginia

Benjamin Peters, to be inducted within the next few months

- Jonathan Lawrence (1720-1808) Commissioner of Fort Constitution, across the Hudson River from West Point under Gen. Clinton, among the proofs of service are letters written by Gen. Washington and John Hancock to Lawrence. His son Jonathan, Jr. was a Continental Line Captain(Malcolm's) whose company captured the notorious Tory spy James Moody in New Jersey. Jonathan Lawrence, Sr. is also a 1st cousin of the patriot Lawrence brothers of Newtown, Queens

[Constitution Island - Wikipedia](#)

Evan and Paul Gottlieb, their application has finally been approved and national number issued as of Oct, 10th

- Daniel Provost (1753-1832) Served the duration of the war from 1776 through 1783 He in enlisted in Col. Charles Webb's 7 Connecticut/19thContinetal's (see Nathan Hale Day) and was transferred to the 8th CT. Regt, under Chandler. Joseph Plumb Martins served in this regiment about the time as Provost and the 5th CT. under Hoyt. He was wounded in the hip and suffered from consumption and transferred to the Invalid Corp late in the war, Provost received a divisibility invalid pension at an early date1789.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 18th Three Events

Old Home Day

11:00 AM-4:00 PM

Historic Richmond Town

441 Clarke Ave, Staten Island

Gary Lane and Dave Peters are manning a booth to promote the SAR, Come on out if you are on S. I. Gary and I could use an extra hand at the booth, great family oriented event. DAR and CAR will also set up with us. Historic Crafts, Trades and Music.

Norm Goben's Power Point Lecture

"A Celebration of Brooklyn 1776 Plaques"

New Utrecht Reformed Church Parish House

2:00 to 4:00

(see below schedule)\

14th Annual Commemoration of the Victory at Saratoga and Yorktown

New York Sons of the Revolution

St. Paul's Chapel

209 Broadway, NYC

This a great event sponsored by our compatriot cousins the NYSR. Scott Postell will be attending. If you are attending blue blazer, khaki/gray slacks, white shirt and society tie or business suit is the preferred dress du jour. RSVP from the link on Dave Nelson's recent email. Contact Scott or Dave Nelson if you want to be part of the Color Guard

Friends of New Utrecht Fall Scheldule of Eventts

Church Parish House

1827 84th St., Brooklyn

Saturday Oct 18th	2-4 PM	Lecture PowerPoint –Norman Goben 1776 "A Celebration of Brooklyn 1776 Plaques"
Saturday Nov 1 st	2-4 PM	Cemetery Tour – Larry Forni
Saturday Nov 15 th	2-4 PM	Lecture PowerPoint - David Peters "The 1st Continental/Pa. at New Utrecht
Saturday Nov 22 nd	2-4 PM	Cemetery Tour – Geroerge Tonkin (Weather Permitting)
Saturday Dec 13 th	2- 4 PM	Lecture PowerPoint - Keith Muchowski "Varicks and Van Varicks: One Dutch family's journey from Holland, Malacca, Brooklyn, and Beyond"

Contact: George Tonkin for more information,, the FNU website is down

104th Lineage Society Flag Service,
St Thomas' Church
1 W. 53rd St.

Sunday, 9 Nov 2025

New York area lineage and historic societies SOC, SAR, DAR, NYSR , SUVCW, Mayflower, St Georges and St. Andrews and many other societies will participate in this annual service. Last year the SAR was represented by Thom Taylor, Norm Goben, Scott Postell and myself. I would urge everyone to attend this is a great event. Muster time TBA

Dave Peters Power Point Lecture
Hand's 1st Pa. Continentals at New Utrecht,1776
New Utrecht Parish House
15 Nov 2025
2-4 PM

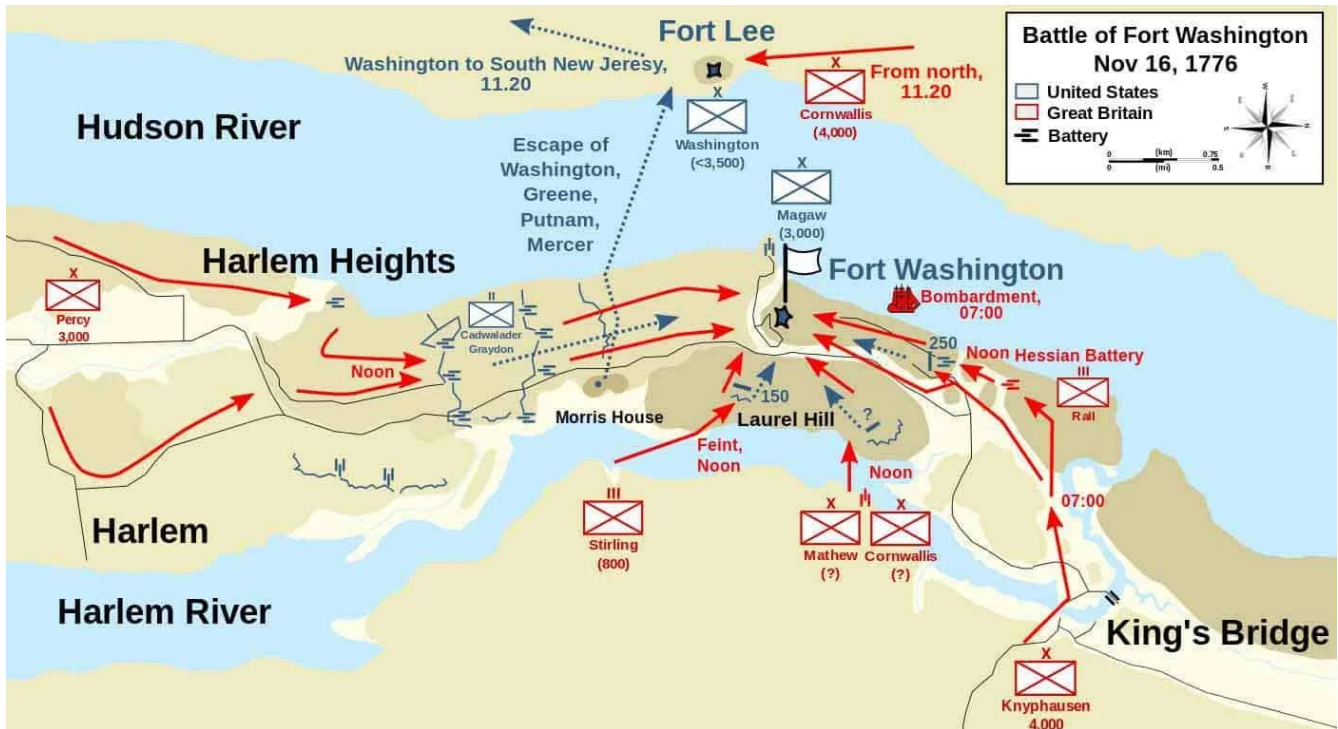
The 1st Continentals were posted at New Utrecht prior to the Battle of Brooklyn to scout for British troops movements, after the British crossing from Staten Island and landing at Gravesend, they skirmished with Hessians in the days leading up to battle and burned the farms supplying the British on their retreat back to the American Lines. Below, British landing at Gravesend 22 Aug 1776



Battle of Fort Washington Reenactment and Commemoration

Fort Tryon Park, Upper Manhattan

Sunday.16 Nov 2025 Hours TBA, Probably 11:00/Noon to 4:00 Annual Battle of Fort Washington Commemoration, Open House. Join Norm Goben and myself at this event, Norm will run his musket drills. We'll have table set up promoting the SAR and recruiting new members. Display of maps and accouterments. Learn about Ft. Washington, this is great family outing.



Prison Ship Martyrs Monument Memorial

Fort Greene Park, Brooklyn

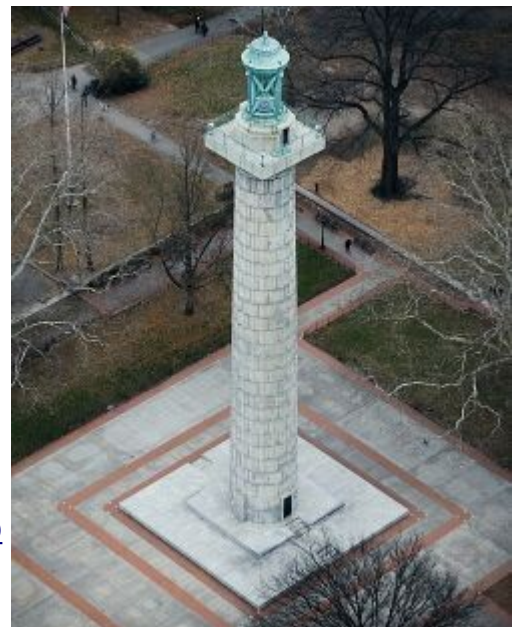
22 Nov 2025

12:00 Noon

Gary Lane has hammered out the details with NYCP&R. This will be a National SAR event with the President General Michael J. Elston in attendance. The Dutch, Spanish and French embassies will be invited, a large number of the deaths on the prison ships were allied sailors from these countries. This should prove to be a large event. Color Guard muster 11:00 AM or a little earlier, TBA

[Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument - Wikipedia](#) [American Prisoners of the Revolution](#)

[Names of 8000 Men Aboard the Old Jersey Prison ship](#)



Over eleven thousand prisoner of war soldiers and sailors died of malnutrition, neglect, untreated wounds and disease on the British prison ship moored at Wallabout Bay, near the current Brooklyn Navy Yard and Fort Greene Park, the prime one being the “Jersey” an additional five thousand dying in sugar houses in Lower Manhattan.

Evacuation Day
Parade and Commemoration
22 Nov 2025

Most of us will be at the Prison Martyrs event but if you can't make you can join Sons of the Revolution, Lower Manhattan Historical Assoc, Veterans Corp of Artillery and Gold's 1660 Dragoons for this annual event. Muster is at Fraunces Tavern 11:30 to march over to Evacuation Plaza, Contact the SR for updates and information

At the first evacuation a sailor named John Van Arsdale donned climbing cleats and shimmied up the greased flag pole and torn down the nailed Union Jack and attached the Stars and Stripes, this story like Timothy Murphy's “Shot at Saratoga” and Sybil Luddington's “Ride” lack strong documentation but are probably true, for many years after 1783 at Evacuation Day Van Arsdale then his son raised the flag



Other Events in the Docket
Dates and Times TBA

2nd Trinity Grave Marking
Before the End of the Year

The chapter will mark the five additional patriots buried in Trinity not allowed in the first marking, this requires a Chaplain, Emcee, at least one Compatriot in uniform and a few warm bodies. This will be a small event but anyone that wishes to attend is free to do so.

Wreathes Across America

We will have our own event this year and not be part of the national WAA organization like the last few years. We will lay wreathes or plant flags at the patriot graves at Port Richmond Reformed Church and possibly other cemeteries on Staten Island and in Brooklyn, this will likely happen in conjunction with Veterans Day.

Dedication of 250th Sign
St. Andrew's Church

Richmond Town, Staten Island

The sign has been installed and presented to the church, this will be a small event of Color Guard, chapter member and representatives and clergy from St. Andrew's, probably on the same day as the Wreath event at S.I. Reformed Norm and Dave after the sign installation, burned through a 1/2 dozen masonry bits drilling into the old field stone



Shearith Israel Grave Marking
Chinatown, NYC

Compatriot Matthew Moshen of the Long Island chapter and I are working on a patriot grave marking at Shearith Israel cemetery, this an oldest Jewish cemetery in New York with over twelve Jewish soldiers and patriots buried there, Matthew is in contact with the congregation on the Upper West Side for scheduling.

Liberty Tree Planting
Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn

Norm Goben has been working with the base commander's staff and it had been approved. Planting and dedication TBA.

Battle of Brooklyn Trivia Contest
250th Fundraiser

Probably January of 2026

Either at the White Horse or T. J. Byrnes

Participants to organize in teams of 3 to 5

Open to SAR, DAR, other organizations and the general public, anyone that can field a team of know-it-alls. Details TBA announced. I may also try to organize fundraising "Sons of Liberty Revolutionary War tour, like last October

Stay Tuned For # 14 Part II "the Big Trinity and Battle of Brooklyn Special Edition"

