

# “THE GOWANUS GAZETTE”

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

Vol. II Edit. 9 #15 I

LIBERTAS ET PATRIA

21 Dec 2025

## IN MEMORIAM

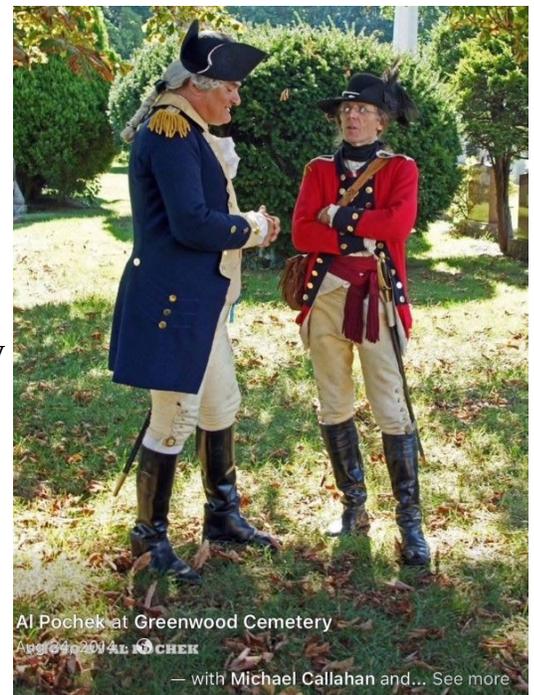
Michael Callahan  
(1956-2025)

Michael Callahan was born in Queens, NY on 19 Nov 1956 in 1979 he enlisted in the United States Army, he served in the Artillery and as an Intelligence Officer and Ranger. he was stationed in Germany, the Middle East and was a veteran of Desert Storm. after serving twenty years in the Army from 1979 to 1999 he retired at the rank of Captain and entered the National Park Service as a park ranger from about 1999 to his retirement in 2024

Michael was a lead ranger, safety officer and union representative and was posted at Castle Clinton, Federal Hall, Theodore Roosevelt’s Birthplace, Gen. Grant’s National Memorial, the Hamilton Grange and St. Paul’s Chapel and worked with associate George Tonkin, also a retired NPS ranger

As a military historian, he was conversant not only on Revolutionary War history but other periods such as WW II. As a NPS ranger and historical interpreter he was active in revitalizing and a driving force behind many of the events we now participate in. In 2008 for 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Evacuation Day he was instrumental for bringing back this bygone holiday back to life, other events to his credit include the Battle of Brooklyn Commemoration at the Old Stone House and the reenactment at Green-Wood, Washington’s Inauguration at Federal Hall, Battle of Fort Washington Reenactment Events at the Hamilton Grange, St Paul’s Chapel, Trinity Church and other national historic sites. He was often in attendance at the Old Stone House, Historic Richmond Town or Green-Wood wearing his British officer’s uniform.

Michael Grillo and Michael Callahan at Green-Wood  
Photo Courtesy of Michael Grillo



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Old Home Day  
Historic Richmond Town  
Oct 18<sup>th</sup>.

Gary Lane and I manned the booth and were joined for a good bit of the day by Keith MacDonald. Richmond County DAR and CAR had neighboring booths. Gary and his sons sold fund raising merchandise and I made contact with one woman who has started an application for her husband.



Keith MacDonald, Dave Peters and Gary Lane with his sons at the booth. Below, Jim Sarlo, Keith, a cut out of Norman Goben and I having a conversation about Charleville muskets. Photo by Leona Lane



Friend of Historic New Utrecht Lecture Series  
October 18<sup>th</sup> and Nov.15th

Norman Goben and I gave power point lectures, Norman on “A Celebration of Brooklyn, 1776 Plaques and me on “The 1<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Continentals at New Utrecht this lecture series and cemetery tours are on going at New Utrecht. For further information contact the Friends of Historic New Utrecht. We hope to kick this lecture series up a few notches in 2026. Contact: FHNU [info@historicnewutrecht.org](mailto:info@historicnewutrecht.org)

Honor our Veterans  
Michael J. Petrides School

7 Nov 2025 Staten Island

The Battle of Brooklyn was invited to attend the annual “Honor Our Veterans Day by faculty member John Cucuzza the students honor our veterans with a parade and celebration on the campus. This year Gary Lane and Norman Goben attended. In addition to his duties at the school John is board member of the “The Island of Heroes Project” which documents Staten Island service members that have given their lives since the Revolutionary War. There is a proposal to honor the Revolutionary War soldiers with a memorial.



Gary Lane with some veterans and the JROTC

N. Goben Photo

## 23 New Battle of Brooklyn Chapter Members for 2025

Preston and Grayson Lane: Hendrick Garrison, Patriotic Service, NY/NJ,

John Fitzpatrick: Ens. James Clark, MA Militia

Sawyer and Damian White: Pvt. Simms Brown, Scout, SC Militia

Mason Hoffman: Pvt. Joseph Rowe, MA Militia,

Emeric du Mas de Paysac, Pvt. Johannes Knickerbocker, Jr. NY Militia

Robert Jordan: Sgt. Adam Arbogast, Indian Spy, VA. Militia

Gavin Erickson: Pvt. David Brown, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment SC Line

Evan and Paul Gottlieb: Pvt. Daniel Provost, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Regiments CT. Line

Robert Martin: Pvt. David Fogelsanger, Lancaster Co., PA Militia

Ernest Huttel: Pvt. Gershom Gard, Morris Co., NJ Militia

Matthew and Aaron Lewis: Marshall Newton, MA Militia

Patrick and Ian McDonald: Pvt. Matthias Hulsart, Monmouth Co. NJ Militia

Richard Petosa and Kolton Holway: Moses Allen, CT Civil and Patriotic Service

Zachary and David Blackston, John White, Pvt. and Orderly Sgt, CT Line

Christian E Montegut, patriot not indexed in the PRS but probably Maj. Benjamin Ledyard, NY Line, brother of Dr. Isaac Ledyard

Tyler Nelson, Dave's cousin, Ens. Lemme Bartholomew, Charlotte Co. NY. Militia, POW

Registrars Report and Membership-We have passed 1<sup>st</sup> NY Continentals in total numbers with 79 members to date, As noted 23 new members have been approved for membership in the SAR and the Battle of Brooklyn Chapter his year. Currently there currently are 2 applications at National and 5 at State for approval and 3 out for signatures are being sent in this week these should all be approved for the calendar year of 2026 and at least 5 in progress. If chapter compatriots have friends or relatives that are interested in SAR membership or need help with their applications or genealogy do not hesitate to contact me. David Peters, Chapter Genealogist and Asst. Registrar

[peters1stpa.rr@yahoo.com](mailto:peters1stpa.rr@yahoo.com)

# 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Historical and Genealogical Societies of New York'

## Flag Service at St. Thomas Church

Sunday, 9 Nov, 2025

This year Scott Postell represented the National SAR Society, Thomas Taylor and I our respective chapters, 1st NY Continentals and Battle of Brooklyn. This a grand event with about 44 Societies participating. Let's try to get more SAR representation for next year and the 250<sup>th</sup>, DAR always has a nice turn out

See the below You Tube link for the video of the service.

[Choral Evensong with Act of Remembrance – Saint Thomas Church](#)

Flag Procession starts at about 16.10 minutes



Battle of Fort Washington Reenactment,  
Commemoration and Encampment

16 Nov 2025

Fort Tryon Park, NYC

Good turn out this year of BAR reenactors and the general public. Norman Goben led the skirmish line and was the keynote speaker along with Mike Grillo. George Tonkin, Norman and I manned the table of battle maps and spoke with general public on the Battle of Fort Washington. Lindsey Mullholand and members of Benjamin Tallmadge Chapter, laid a wreath on behalf of the DAR. Brian Ante and his family were in attendance, Michael Ante got a little musket training from Norman and other BAR members. I had a nice conversation with Fordam University history professor Dr. Robb Haberman who is soon to publish, this May. James Selkirk, Revolutionary War: Memoir of a Continental Sergeant. Selkirk was a Scottish born soldier that served in the New York Line. SAR # P-287026





Reenactment Skirmish Line, note the “redcoats” of the musicians. Historically in 18<sup>th</sup> century through the early 19<sup>th</sup> all armies observed the practice of reversing the colors. Typically an American Continental musician wore a red coat with a blue facing or British musicians would wear white or yellow with red facing, depending on the uniform of their regiment. Most of these are from the BAR or Brigade of the American Revolution, the largest national reenactment organization, many of these reenactors have joined us before at the Old Stone House, Historic Richmond Town and other venues.

Veterans Christmas Wreath Service  
Staten Island Reformed Church  
Port Richmond, Staten Island  
23 Nov 2025

Dr. Warren McKenzie presided this year’s service in years past with we have been part the National Wreaths Across America program but opted to do it separately this year. Wreaths were laid at the altar by veterans and lineage organizations representing veterans that fought in all of American wars from the American Revolutionary War through to current day and the War on Terrorism. The color guard was commanded by Jim Sarlo and consisted of a friend in “Dough Boy” uniform representing WW I and compatriots Chris Sands, David Peters, Brian and Michael Ante. Additionally flag and wreaths marked the graves from the American Revolution, War of 1812 and Civil War in the churchyard. There are six verified Revolution Patriots interred in the churchyard and a few others under review. Dr. Isaac Ledyard, Surgeon 1<sup>st</sup> NY, Capt. William Gifford, NJ Line and Lt. John Payne, NH Line and three of the five Mersereau brothers, Col. Jacob, Cornelius and Paul with Maj. Joshua and Capt. John interred in Broome County where they removed to after the war.





Photos: Lt. John Payne NH Line, NJSSAR President Lt. Col. Chris Sands (U. S. Army, Ret.) saluting a veteran, Dave Peters looks on, Color Guard exiting the service, Col. Jacob Mersereau, Taps being played by a Legionnaire. Photos by Thom Taylor, Gary Lane and Dave Peters

## Wrap Up for 2025

### Looking Forward to the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of American Independence

We had our final combined Battle of Brooklyn and 1st NY Continental Chapters meeting and Christmas Party at the Old Stone House. We had nice turn out for the evening and were joined by a number of ladies from the DAR. The meeting chaired by Gary Lane was abbreviated but there were a number things we discussed.

- 250<sup>th</sup> Planning and Events, after the Holidays the chapter officers and 250<sup>th</sup> committee members will met and plan for the year, among the big events for the year will be the four day National Event over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Philadelphia, the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Brooklyn which will at least a 3 day event at the Old Stone House, Prospect Park and Green-Wood Cemetery and Martyrs Monument Memorial, which will be a yearly event
- Norman Goben updated us on the Fort Hamilton Liberty Tree planting, which will probably be this coming winter or early spring, date TBA. We got the green light from Fort Hamilton, Norman and Gene Hough did the required Federal Government's required GPR scan,
- Kevin Johnson and Kim Maier discussed replica redoubts being built at Prospect Park for Battle of Brooklyn 250<sup>th</sup>
- Historian Report, David Peters discussed the submitting the following for national consideration Americanism, Historic Preservation, Stark (veterans) Awards. Ideas for the 250<sup>th</sup> and Chapter's Registrars report for 2025 summary further up the page from Rich Rossin.
- Gary Lane recapped the major events and accomplishments of 2025: Installation of 5 Historic 250<sup>th</sup> Signs, Liberty Tree at Green-Wood, 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Revere's Ride, Lexington and Concord. Summer Parades on Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Flag Day, the two day anniversary of the Battle of Brooklyn at the Old Stone House, Rawley Legion and Green-Wood and mostly importantly the Trinity Church Founding Fathers Grave Marking and the Prison Ships Martyrs Monument Memorial.

Compatriot Gene Hough, looks he mowing the grass right, actually he's operating the GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar) to look for obstructions in the Liberty Tree Planting at Ft. Hamilton. Salute to Gene and Norman for their hard work and getting the job done for this project.



“Have Charleville Will Travel “  
Jim Sarlo Musket Salute to the Veterans and the Year 2025

FINIS Part I  
PART II Upcoming Prison Martyrs Monument Special Edition

Please See Forwarded Letter Below from Compatriot Norman Goben,  
regarding the possible closure of the Harbor Defense Museum at Fort Hamilton

[Harbor Defense Museum at Fort Hamilton - Home](#)



The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

re: **Closure of Ft Hamilton Brooklyn**

**December 19<sup>th</sup> 2025**

To Whom It May Concern:

I write on behalf of Battle of Brooklyn Son's of the American Revolution, The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), is a federally chartered patriotic organization. The National Society, a nonprofit corporation was formed in New York City on April 30, 1889. Its objectives are to maintain and extend "the institutions of American freedom, an appreciation for true patriotism, a respect for our national symbols, the value of American citizenship, [and] the unifying force of 'e pluribus unum' that has created, from the people of many nations, one nation and one people."

The official recognition of Constitution Day, Flag Day, and Bill of Rights Day were established through its efforts. a venerable organization started in the 1860s and incorporated in 1880 by a mayor of the great city of Brooklyn, John Hunter. Our mission is to talk Brooklyn to Brooklyn and to speak up in the interest of Brooklyn where appropriate.

Our organization is very concerned about the possible closure of the Fort Hamilton NY Harbor Museum, which may close in 2026 or so. This is a wonderful museum that includes exhibits on the Battle of Brooklyn (August 27, 1776), also called the Battle of Long Island. The Battle of Brooklyn started at the Fort Hamilton waterfront. The Museum to visitors from all over that come to Bay Ridge.

Please do everything possible to keep the Harbor Defense Museum open. It is the ONLY publicly accessible military history museum in South Brooklyn, as you know. It is perhaps one of the ONLY student friendly military history museums in Brooklyn and possibly in the New York City area! The BBCSAR loves it! We hope you love it too and do your best to keep it open! How can this happen during the celebration of our nations 250th anniversary?

Sincerely,

Norman Goben

Battle of Brooklyn Chapter SAR, Historian  
212 470 4750

Norman Goben  
411 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street 1rg  
New York, New York 10009

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## PART II

### PRISON MARTYRS MONUMENT MEMORIAL

22 Nov 2025

Fort Greene Park, Brooklyn, NY  
Empire State National Event

#### Historic Background

Throughout the duration of the Revolutionary War American soldiers, sailors and allied French, Spanish and Dutch prisoners of war were sent the British prison ships anchored off Brooklyn in Wallabout Bay. About 11,500 died on the ships of disease, neglect and starvation, the bodies often were thrown overboard and buried along the shore in mass graves with bones washing up on the Brooklyn shoreline well into the 1800s and others unearthed as late as 1873 during construction excavations at the Navy Yard, these bones are encrypted in a number of vaults under the Prison Martyrs Monument in Fort Greene Park, Brooklyn. The memorial went a number of changes throughout 1800s with the final Stanford White designed monument dedicated in 1907

The SAR paid homage to these “Prison Martyrs” and honored their sacrifice with this memorial. The Empire State Society and the Battle of Brooklyn Chapter hosted this national 250<sup>th</sup> memorial event.

#### Wreath Laying Ceremony



## Memorial Event

SAR President General Michael J. Elston, Esq., addressed an audience of more than 150 attendees, including SAR chapters, foreign dignitaries, partner organizations, and members of the general public. The Color Guard, led by National Color Guard Commander Robert Meyer, featured members from the Empire State and New Jersey Societies. Brooklyn Parks Commissioner Martin Maher was awarded the Silver Henry Knox Medal by Empire State Society President Tim Middlebrook, in recognition of his years of support for the ESSAR.

ESSAR President Tim Middlebrook awarding Brooklyn Parks Commissioner Martin Maher the Silver Henry Knox Medal without Commissioner Maher's help this event could not have been possible.



President Genral Michael J. Elston welcomes the event attendees



President General Elston also laid a wreath on behalf of the SAR. Wreaths were similarly laid by diplomatic representatives from France, Spain, and Ireland, as well as organizations such as the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Children of the American Revolution, the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, the New York Society of the Cincinnati, the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, the National League of POW-MIA Families, the American Society of Le Souvenir Français and the French Reserve Officers in the USA. The ceremony concluded with the induction of eight new members into the Battle of Brooklyn Chapter by President General Elston, followed by a luncheon hosted by the Battle of Brooklyn Chapter and the Empire State Society at the Michael J. Rawley “Maryland 400” American Legion Post 1636

National Color Guard  
Commander  
Robert Meyer  
leading the  
ESSSAR and  
NJSSAR, multi-  
chapter Color  
Guard



Induction of  
eight new  
members  
into the  
Battle of  
Brooklyn  
Chapter by  
President  
General  
Elston



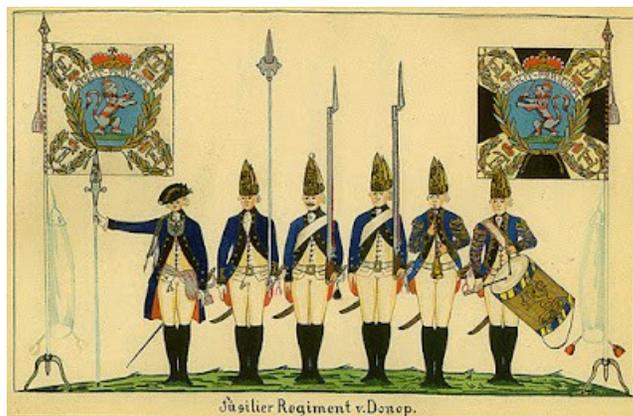
## TRINITY SOLDIERS MONUMENT

### Inscription on the Monument

“ those brave and good Men who died  
whilst imprisoned in this City, for their devotion to the cause of  
**American Independence”**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of Nov 1852 the wardens and vestry of Trinity Church decided to erect this monument to unknown Revolutionary War soldiers, prisoners of war which died in the Van Cortlandt Sugar House and are buried in or near Trinity Churchyard. There were three sugar houses in Lower Manhattan where American prisoners of war were held in the Van Cortlandt, which was located on the northeast corner of the Trinity Churchyard at Pine St., Livingston's on Crown St, now near 28 Liberty St.(One Chase Plaza) at Nassau St. and the Rhinelander at Rose and Duane Streets, now One Police Plaza, one of the original windows from the Rhinelander is on display on 1 PP. About 5,000 POWs died in the Sugar Houses in addition 11,500 on the prison ship. Additional prisoners of war were also held in neighboring non-Anglican Churches, Middle Dutch, Brick Presbyterian and Old Huguenot all a few blocks from Trinity. High priority prisoner such as officers and scouts privy to intelligence and suspected spies were held at the Provost Marshal's Jail at the "Commons "(City Hall Park). Higher ranking officers were afforded more courtesy than lower ranking officers, non-commissioned officers and enlisted men. They were held under house arrest with, a number where held in the town of New Utrecht (Brooklyn). Not only were prisoners of war from the larger New York City and Northeast battles sent to ships and sugar houses, but also many small groups of Continentals and militiamen were taken in smaller skirmishes or captured while on patrol by British troops or Loyalist militia.





### Hessian Prisoners of War

At the Battle of Trenton on 26 Dec 1776 about 896 soldiers of Col. Rall's Hessian Regiment were taken as prisoners of war, these soldiers were marched to the Lancaster barracks. About 400 were hired out as indentured skilled trade or unskilled farm labor. Throughout the duration of the war Hessian prisoners of war were housed in Lancaster, Reading, Ft. Frederick, Md. and Dumfries, Va. At Saratoga the prisoners of war were known as "Convention Prisoners" about 2,022 or a little less than half were Hessian and other German Auxiliaries were marched to Charlottesville, Va. Col. Francis Taylor, a cousin of James Madison was commandant and his brother Ambrose Madison was Major. In 1781 many of the Convention prisoners were sent to Camp Security in York, Pa., where a number of Hessian prisoners defected and enlisted in Armand's Legion.

It is important to note of the majority of the Pennsylvania militiamen that marched the Hessian troops to Lancaster, guarded or hired them as indentured labor were Pennsylvania Germans, many from Hesse and the neighboring Rhineland provinces. This interaction I think this fact caused many to desert or stay behind after the war. These young soldiers simply saw a better life for themselves. About 1,200 Hessian soldiers died in battle, 6,000 of disease, 17,000 returned to Germany and 5000 to 6000 remained behind in America.

Here are stories of some Hessian Auxiliaries that remained behind:

Johannes Frederic Tohn aka John Tone was born in 1752 in Kassel-Heese was conscripted into one of Hessian Regiments, little is known about his service but he deserted in late 1780. In 1781 he enlisted in Col. Charles Webb's 2<sup>nd</sup> Connecticut Regiment. On 3 July of 1781 he was wounded in a skirmish with Hessian troops at Kingsbridge, Lower Westchester (Bronx) Tone was then again wounded at Yorktown, He was discharged from West Point, October of 1782. He received a disability pension and bounty land in New Hampshire. Tone married Sarah Wales and had at least five children. He died in 6 July 1830 in Sullivan Co., New Hampshire.

Johann Nicholas Bahner was born in 1754 in Bergstrasse, Hesse. He was a private in Lt. Col. Kohler's Grenadier Battalion of Col. Rall's Regiment. He fought at Brooklyn, White Plains and was taken as a prisoner of war at Trenton and sent to Lancaster. Hired out as indentured labor this is where he is believed he met his future wife. August of

1778 he was exchanged and reentered British service. Bahner was sent to Georgia but deserts with two other Hessian soldiers near Savannah. He then makes his way back to Lebanon, Pa, and marries Margretha Staeger in 1780 and the couple moved north to Mahanoy Twp. in Northumberland County and had at least eight children He enlisted in the Northumberland Co.Militia as a frontier ranger near the end of the war. Johann Nicholas Bahner died 5 Feb 1824 in Dalmatia, Northumberland Co.

Dr. Marcus Mueke aka Muckey was born about in 1742 probably in Silesia, Prussia. He was left behind as a young boy with an aunt when his widower Moravian Brethren father migrated to the Moravian settlement in Bethlehem, Pa. in the 1740s after his first wife died. He was conscripted into the Hessian Auxiliaries. Dr. Mueke as take as prisoner of war at Trenton and sent to Lancaster. While awaiting an officers exchange he became familiar the American argument for independence and he found he agreed and declined to be exchanged. He deserted and made his way to the Schoharie Valley of New York, where he married Catherine Allen and had a number of sons, he adopted the anglicized variant Muckey. He died in Schoharie after 1810.

Johannes Bingemann was born in1752, Schwalm-Eder-Kreis, Hesse. He was a Grenadier in Col. Von Donop's Regiment and fought at Brooklyn, Kip's Bay, Harlem Heights. At 2<sup>nd</sup> Trenton, Assunpink Creek on 2 Jan 1777 he was taken as a prisoner of war and send to Reading. In 1778 he deserted during a prisoner exchange and made his way to Northumberland County where he settled in Mahanoy Twp.and married Anna Catarina Kerstetter, they had six known children. There is no found record of him serving in militia but he is on militia muster rolls after 1783, Bingeman likely would known Nicholas Bahner if not a friend, they lived same township Mahanoy and are both buried Zion Lutheran and Reformed Cemetery at Hickory Corners in Mahanoy Twp.

Arnold Haupt was born in 1749. Roemersberg, Hesse-Kassel, He was a Grenadier in Col. Von Donop's Regimnet and fought at Brooklyn, Fort Washington, Brandywine. Germntown and Springfield. He deserted in June of 1778 somewhere near Philadelphia and settled along Tohickson Creek in Bucks County, he married Katherina Elizabeth Garman in 1783 and had a rather large family about thirteen children, About 1795 he relocated to Union Twp. Huntington County in the north central part of the state, where he died in 1834, age 85

Conrad Grein a was born in 1749, Allendorf, Hesse-Kassel. He arrived on Staten Island on 12 Aug 1776 prior to the Battle of Brooklyn and was a fusilier(light infantry) serving under Generals von Knyphausen and de Heister, He fought in the Battles of Brooklyn, White Plains and Fort Washington. In Rall's regiment at Trenton he was taken as a prisoners of war and sent to Lancaster, where he was hired out as an indentured labor. In the late summer of 1779 he exchanged and sent to New York where he boarded the British ship "Triton" bound for Quebec,.The ship was blown off course in a storm and

captured as a 'prize' by an American privateer off the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Grein was returned Lancaster where he remained through the duration of the war. After the war he made his way down the "Great Wagon Road" and settled in Pittsylvania, Virginia where he married Maria Elisabeth (unk) , they had about eight children, Conrad Grein died in Aug of 1818 at age 69 in Pittsylvania.



"SEMPER VIGILANS" (Ever Vigilant)  
Compatriot Gene Hough  
Prison Martyrs Monument  
FINIS for 2025  
EXCELSIOR

See you all next year for the 250<sup>th</sup> – David Peters, Editor "Gowanus Gazette"