

“THE GOWANUS GAZETTE”

Historical Journal and Newsletter

The Battle of Brooklyn Chapter

Empire State Society

Sons of the American Revolution

LIBERTAS ET PATRIA

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There is a bit of a lull this early Winter in the Recent and Upcoming Events Section with the exception of this recent event compatriot Norm Goben participated in with the American Legion. Holding true to the SAR mission statement “This organization, shall strive to Honor, Respect and Support the Sacrifice of our Veterans”

6 Jan. 2024

Michael A. Rawley

American Legion

Post 1636

Gownaus, Brooklyn

Norm Goben with American
Legion members



All Photos Courtesy of N. Goben

American Legion Post 59 of Morristown, N. J. paid tribute at some local monuments here in Brooklyn. The host American Legion Michael A. Rawley Post 1636 on 9th St. was the final stop. The day started with a monument stop at The Prison Ship Martyrs Monument in Ft. Greene Park with a talk by the park's ranger. The next stop was a tribute to the fallen "the Maryland 400" with a wreath laying ceremony in front of Post 1636. Followed by a musket salute fired by Norman Goblen. Enhancing the day a retirement to the fountain of Guinness and a map display & talk with Goblen as well.

Article Contributed by Norman Goblen.



Jack Haren
post 59
N.J.

Chris Hardej
post 1636
Brooklyn



“The Irish Sweater Brigade

IN MEMORIAM

I have been informed our newly accepted compatriot James Stuart Pinkley (1971-2023) has passed away on the 9th of Dec., 2023. James with his sons James O. (12) and Emmett (10) were to be inducted into the Battle of Brooklyn Chapter on December the 20th of 2023 at our last chapter meeting. His brother Robert and his sons Nicholas, and Luke were also accepted under their mutual patriot ancestor Captain Nathaniel Hart (1734-1782). Robert and his sons will take part in the SAR in the Greenville, SC. area where they reside. Our heartfelt condolence to the Pinkley family from the Battle of Brooklyn Chapter especially to his widow Eva and their sons.

CAPTAIN NATHANIEL HART

Nathaniel Hart, patriot ancestor of the Pinkley family. Was born in 1734, Hanover Co., Va. and was early settler in North Carolina and what is now Kentucky. he was a member of the Transylvania Land Co. In 1775 Hart and Richard Henderson negotiated a land deal with the Cherokee at Cross Creek, NC.,(Fayetteville), this deal ceded about 20 million acres of land in current Tennessee and Kentucky but the Continental Congress declared the purchase “null and void.” Hart was a friend and associate of Daniel Boone and his brother Squire Boone, Jr., and settled near Boonesborough, Kentucky. He was a Captain in the Kentucky County of the Virginia Militia during the Revolutionary War and would have been engaged in the numerous battles and skirmishes with British allied Native American tribes, British Provincial Militia and Loyalist like Simon Girty and Alexander McKee, along the Kentucky frontier and Ohio River Valley. Nathaniel Hart was killed by Indians on 11 Aug 1782 near Boonesborough and Blue Licks, Kentucky, his death occurred about a week before the Battle of Blue Licks on the 19th of Aug. 1782, one of the last battles of the American Revolution

[Hart, Nathaniel | NCpedia](#)

NEW DAR MEMBER

Congratulations to Beth Fitzgerald who was recently inducted into the Brooklyn Chapter of the DAR on 6 Feb 2024 at their chapter meeting at the Old Stone House. She is the life partner of Norman Goben. Her patriot ancestor is William Presbrey (1747-1832) He served as a Corporal in the Taunton Companies of the Bristol County, Massachusetts Militia, under Colonels George Miller and Josiah Whitney. He was called up to active duty numerous times to march to Rhode Island and may have fought at the battle of Quaker Hill, Rhode Island.

Taunton Militia Flag



THE PORT RICHMOND HOTEL, LAST DAYS OF AARON BURR



AARON BURR.

On a recent trip to Florida I met up with compatriot Thomas Wiant, we had a discussion over dinner on a large range of topics, one being the old Port Richmond Hotel and the death of Aaron Burr at the hotel on 14 Sept. 1836. He produced a print out article with an account on the last days Burr, an exert from Lippincott Magazine, Vol. 29, Jan.-June, 1882., I have attached the article in PDF form. The article primarily focuses on the Wiant sisters, daughters of Daniel Wiant the hotel's proprietor and their recollections of Aaron Burr. Where the hotel stood was at the intersection of Port Richmond Ave, and Richmond Terrace but the configuration and names of the streets has changed over the years

Isaac Decker's Ferry and the Revolutionary War

The property where the hotel later stood was initially owned by a Loyalist Militia Captain named Isaac Decker. Decker (1719-aft. 1793) was born in Kingston, Ulster Co.,NY. but removed to Staten Island prior to the war. He operated a ferry across the Kill van Kull to New Jersey also kept a tavern and farmed the property.

Early in the war prior to the British occupation, Decker was arrested twice by the Whig Committee of Safety, but the charges were dropped. He was appointed Captain of a Loyalist troop of Light Horse and raised about 500 volunteer Loyalist Militia troops. When the British sailed into Staten Island in the Spring of 1776, it was Decker who piloted many of the British war ships to their moorings, being a mariner that knew the local waters.

Battle of Staten Island, 22 Aug 1777 and Stirling's Raid of Jan 14-15, 1780

During Gen. Sullivan's raid on Staten Island of 1777. Troops under Col. William Smallwood were ordered to destroy the Loyalist boats hidden in Palmer's Run, near Decker's Ferry. The American troops happened to encounter Isaac Decker on Morningstar Rd.(Port Richmond Ave), feigning loyalty to the patriot cause Decker volunteered to act as guide to Palmer's Run, instead lead the American troops straight into an enemy strong point and ambush at Decker's stone home which has been converted into a fortified

blockhouse. Jim Sarlo does a great job explaining this whole scenario during his recent lecture at the Reformed Church of S.I., see attached video.

On the 14th and 15th of Jan.1780 troops under Gen. William “Lord Stirling” Alexander launched a raid onto Staten Island. New York troops under Lt. Col Marinus Willet put Decker’s home, crops and boats to the torch and humiliated his wife by stripping her to her petticoats. I can’t help to think this razing the farm and the humiliation of his wife was retaliatory for Decker’s previous actions in 1777. After the destruction of Decker’s farm the British built redoubts and a small fort to protect the Kill van Kull. At the end of the war and the British occupation in 1783 Isaac Decker removes to Nova Scotia with about 12,000 other Staten Island Loyalist, where he dies about 1793.

THE MERSEREAU MANSION and PORT RICHMOND HOTEL

In 1790 Judge David Mersereau (1769-1835) built one of the finest homes on Staten Island on the site of the old Decker homestead. Although much younger he was the 1st cousin to Joshua and John Mersereau who operated the spy ring on Staten Island during the war. About 1820 the mansion was purchased by Daniel Wiant who operated it as a hotel until to some point after Burr’s death there in 1836, the hotel was renamed “the Continental” and finally the “the St. James” later in the 1800s. The structure was torn down in 1947 and is a childhood memory of compatriot Tom Wiant, who grew up nearby.

2040 Richmond Terrace
early 20th century Photo
courtesy of T. Wiant



[Port
Richmond Aaron Burr.pdf](#)

[St. James Hotel Historical Marker \(hmdb.org\)](http://hmdb.org)

[Staten Island Raid 1777 \(rumble.com\)](http://rumble.com)

GENEALOGY CORNER

Service in Multiple States

Some confusion may occur when researching a patriot ancestor and his name appears on the muster rolls or records in more than one state this usually occurs when a soldier lived in an area whose state borders were under dispute or not clearly defined or for a number of other reasons such service in Additional and Extra Continental Regiments, living near a state border , reenlisting in other regiments soon after discharge or released as a POW, enlisting while away home traveling. I recently came across a Sgt. Peter Stillwaggon that served under Anthony Wayne in the 5th Pa. Regt. and reelected in the Mommouth County, NJ Militia under BG David Forman with his brother Jacob but another brother Frederick served under Col. Richard Butler in the 9th Pa. Regt.

New York and Vermont

Jeptha Bartholomew a patriot ancestor of Dave Nelson enlisted in Webb's 19th Continentals in Connecticut, fought at Brooklyn, Trenton and most the major engagements of the early New York and New Jersey Campaign, he was discharged in early 1777. His family had removed from Connecticut to Charlotte County, New York. This was an area of disputed borders with Vermont, it was located east of Saratoga. Bartholomew enlisted in Col. Harrick's Regiment of Vermont Militia Rangers. Many of these Vermont militias were formerly attached to Col. Ethan Allen's "Green Mountain Boys" but were now under the overall Continental command of Col. Seth Warner, who succeeded Allen. He then served in the Charlotte County, New York Militia with his father Lemuel and brother Lemme or Lemuel, Jr. Lemme as an Ensign at the end of war after spending a few years in Indian captivity, Charlotte County was renamed Washington County in 1784

The Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland Frontier

Virginia claimed a large portion western Pennsylvania known as the West Augusta District it was formed in 1776 and was comprised of three counties Yohogania, Monongalia and Ohio, it covered a good portion of western Pennsylvania, a good portion of current West Virginia and some of eastern Ohio, the Pennsylvania Counties of Westmoreland and Bedford disputed Virginia claims. Parts of the new Pennsylvania County of Washington were ceded by Virginia in 1781. A number of years before in the early 1760s the border of Maryland and Pennsylvania was settled by the marking of the Mason-Dixon Line due to a feud between Thomas Cresap(f/o Capt. Michael Cresap), Pennsylvanai settlers and Benjamin Chambers (f/o of Col. James Chambers), So, it was not uncommon that soldiers in this region served in more that one state, a good example is Col. John Minor.

Col. John Minor (1747-1833) Born in Winchester, Va. and died in Greene Co., Pa. He served in the early eastern campaigns, first as an enlisted man than a junior officer in the Virginia Line, then the New Jersey Line. He returned to Virginia and was appointed Colonel in the Virginia Militia and appointed Captain then Colonel in the Pennsylvania Militia, so he held dual state commissions. He was a superintendent and commandant of forts along the Pennsylvania and Virginia frontier in current southwestern Pennsylvania. John Minor's wives also prove the point, his first wife Cassandra Williams was the sister of Maryland Line Brig. Gen. Otho Holland Williams and his second was Jane Wilson the daughter of Lt. Col George Wilson a Virginian and the first Lt. Colonel of the 8th Pennsylvania Regt.

Connecticut and Pennsylvania

Connecticut laid claim the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania, near current Scranton, and named it Westmoreland. Pennsylvania and the county of Northumberland disputed Connecticut's claim, this resulted in a series of three militia skirmishes known as the Pennamite-Yankee Wars, 1768-1771 when Connecticut laid claim, 1774-1775 and 1784 when the Continental Congress overruled Connecticut claim, there were only three casualties two

Connecticut men and Pennsylvanian Jesse Lukens, the son the Deputy Surveyor General of Pennsylvania John Lukens. Lukens had marched to Boston with Capt. Lowdon's Co. of Thompson's Battalion as a volunteer but returned to Northumberland. Connecticut raised a militia regiment designated the 24th Connecticut Militia Regiment, most of this regiment was killed in the Wyoming Valley Massacre of 3 July 1778, among those killed was Capt. Lazarus Stewart of Hanover Twp., Lancaster (Dauphin) Co. Stewart was a Captain in the 24th and formerly one the leaders of the "Paxton Boys" involved of the 1763 massacre of the Conestoga Indians in Lancaster County

ADDITIONAL, EXTRA and PROVISIONAL REGIMENTS

Additional Continental Regiments

These were regiments raised with companies from more than two states to fill the state's quotas and were known by the name of their commanding Colonel. Most of these early Additional Regiments were merged and then finally dissolved with companies returning to the Continental Line regiments with their home states. An aside many Delaware men served in southeastern Pennsylvania Line regiments to fill Delaware's quota of levies.

David Forman -Southern New Jersey and Maryland

Nathaniel Gist -Virginia and Maryland, a cousin of Gen. Mordecai Gist

William Grayson- Northern Virginia, Delaware, and Maryland

Thomas Hartley- Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware

David Henley-Massachusetts and New Hampshire

Henry Jackson – Mostly Massachusetts, redesignated the 16th Mass.

William R. Lee-Mostly Massachusetts., merged with Jackson

William Malcolm-New York and Pennsylvania,.Aaron Burr was Lt. Colonel of this regiment early in the war

John Patton-Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware

Abraham Sheppard- Mostly North Carolina, redesignated the 10th N.C.

Oliver Spencer- Northern Counties of New Jersey and Orange Co., NY., known also as the 5th N.J.

Charles Thruston -Mostly Northern Virginia

Samuel Webb - Mostly Connecticut, some Massachusetts, designated the 9th Conn.. not to be confused with Charles Webb's 19th Cont./2nd Conn.

Extra and Provisional Continental Regiments

These were similar in purpose and organization to the Additional Regiments, but often with a more specific purpose such as light infantry

Maryland and Virginia Rifle Battalion, Commanded first by Col. Hugh Stephenson, then Lt. Col. Moses Rawlings. Formed from three of the four original rifle companies Cresap's, Stephenson's and Price's that marched Boston. Daniel Morgan's company marched to Quebec with Arnold.

Warner's New Hampshire Regiment. Commanded by Col. Seth Warner, Lt. Colonel of the Green Mountain Boys" under Ethan Allen. New Hampshire, Vermont and eastern New York counties like Charlotte which bordered Vermont

Congress's Own, the Canadian Regiments, Col. James Livingston's 1st Canadian and Col. Moses Hazen 2nd Canadian, these regiments were merged as the 2nd Canadian Regiment under Hazen, Initially recruited in Canada which included a large number of French Canadians and Northern New York. The 2nd Canadian had the unique distinction of having men from every state with the exception Georgia, a lot of Virginians and Pennsylvanians

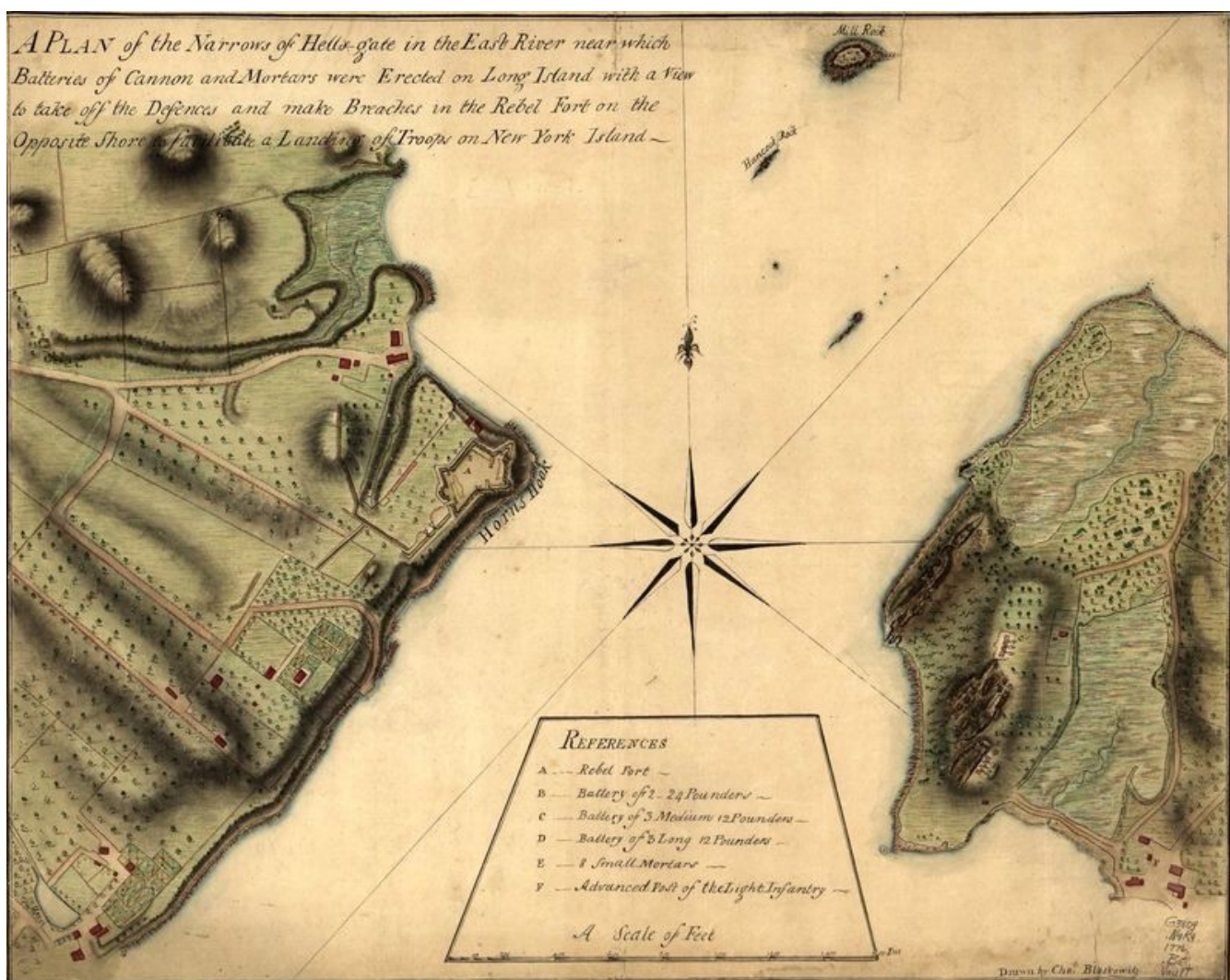


German Regiment or Battalion aka the 8th Maryland, Nine companies were raised in the German settlements, five from Pennsylvania and four from Maryland, Nicholas Haussegger was appointed Colonel, Haussegger was taken as a POW at Assunpink Creek and defected to the British, a professional soldier from the Prussian Army, Henry Leonard d'Arendt, was appointed Colonel

Col. Daniel Morgan's Provisional Rifle Corp, The best marksmen throughout the Continental Army were recruited for this elite unit, but many were culled from Morgan's 11th Va., Rawling's Maryland and Virginia Bn., the 1st and 8th Pa. and Miles/Stewart's 1st Pa. State Rifle Regt./13th Pa.

Aramand's Legion was commanded by Col. Charles Armand Tuffin a French professional soldier and former member of the elite "Garde de Corps"(the Kings Guard). Armand injured the King's cousin in a duel and was forced to flee to America., This was a dragoon regiment(mounted and dismounted) primarily recruited from European volunteers, it also a had a number of Pa. Germans and a number of Hessian POWS from Camp Security in York, who defected and enlisted in the Legion, it was merged with Pulaski's Legion.

NEW YORK BAY AND DEFENSE 1776



British Map C. 1776 of Hell's Gate and the America Battery at Horn's Hook and British Batteries at Long Island City.

Come out and hear Norm's Presentation if you missed Staten Island

Society of Old Brooklynites

presents:

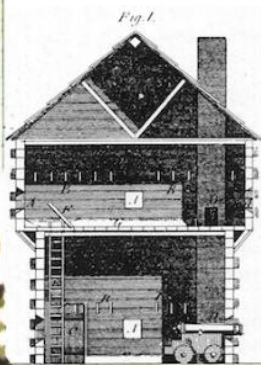
New York Bay and Defense 1776

Join Norman Goben, SAR member for a Power Point presentation ,discussion and map of the bay during the hot month of August 1776. Make new friends and old acquaintances with this dive into a small slice of our founding.

Wednesday March 6th 6:30

**BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL
209 Joralemon Street**

Free to Society Members and the Public



Fortification:
..an isolated work forming a complete enclosure
of any form, used to defend a prominent point
..an independent earthwork built within a permanent
fortification to reinforce it
..any safe and secure place or situation; refuge; stronghold:..

(videos from Mr Goben Rumble: search Revman1775)

