

“THE GOWANUS GAZETTE”

Historical Journal and Newsletter

The Battle of Brooklyn Chapter

Empire State Society

Sons of the American Revolution

Vol. II Edit. 8 #12

LIBERTAS ET PATRIA

6/8/2025

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENT

Battle of Brooklyn and 1st NY Continental Meeting

11 March 2025

Inductions and Awards

Rodd Cyrus, Battle of Brooklyn and John MacAvoy, 1st Continental New York, although John has been a member for awhile both were inducted and Bill Caccese received his certificate. Norman Goben and David Peters were awarded the Bronze Meritorious Service Medal.

Dave Peters and Norm Goben receiving the ‘Bronze Meritorious Service’ medal and certificate from Dave Nelson

Rodd Cyrus with his girlfriend Stella Everett and John McAvoy receiving their certificates, from Dave Nelson and Kevin Johnson





The Main Topics of Discussion

1. Americanism and U.S.S. Stark Awards spreadsheet submission to the National Society. According state level officers this the first time an ESSSAR chapter has submitted their work for the National Americanism Awards. Cumulative points are awarded for all the various events and programs we are involved with over the year; lectures, parades, color guard, commemorations and memorials, grave markings, youth program awards, DAR and CAR support, membership growth and many other areas. Additionally Scott Postell submitted our points for the U.S.S. Stark Award, which awarded for supporting veterans
2. The Treasurer's quandary has been resolved with the appointment as treasurers of Scott Postell, 1st NY Continentals, Bill Caccese, Battle of Brooklyn with Peter LaFontaine as Asst. Treasurer. Long serving compatriot Wesley Oler has stepped down due primarily to health concerns, we wish Wesley the best
3. 250th Anniversary sign, marker and plaque installations, over the past few months we have installed four historic 250th signs and one plaque, at the Old Stone House(last stand of Stirling's Brigade), S. I. Reformed Church (burned by the British), Rawley American Legion Post(retreat path of Stirling's Brigade), Greenwood Cemetery (prime site of the Battle of Brooklyn), additionally a Liberty Tree was planted and a bronze plaque installed at Battle Hill (last stand of the 17th Continentals) in Green-Wood CemeteryTrinity
4. Gary Lane has secured permission at Trinity Church in Manhattan to mark ten patriot graves in their historical churchyard this summer, this a good stroke of

fortune, this will be a major National 250th Event with the President General and Historian General are likely to be in attendance, as it stands now this will take place this August the 17th. Three preeminent Founding Fathers are being honored are Alexander Hamilton, Francis Lewis and Hugh Williamson (see complete list of patriots to be honored in GG #13)

Boy Scout Eagle Scout Awards

Scouts of Troop 37 Leonardo Staiano, Lucas Rodriquez and Jarod Carp receive a Certificate of Recognition from Gary Lane and the Chapter, Mar 1, Additional Certificates were awarded to Boy Scouts, Christopher Pfulher, Sandum and Sanka Perera and Quentin Tuthill on May 3rd and Liam Ferguson on May 16th who is active in the Boy Scouts, Sea Cadets and our Color Guard





Dave Nelson and Gary Lane with Leona Lane who was awarded the Martha



Washington Medal, Preston and Grayson Lane are inducted as Junior members at the Cossackie ESSAR Board of Mangers Meeting, March 8th 2025. Photos by Gary Lane .

Interesting historical stuff >>>> [The Cossackie Declaration](#)

St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Celebration
Rawley American Legion Post 1636, 14th Mar 2025

Norm Goben, Kevin and Dianne Johnson, Beth Fitzgerald, Louise Lane, (her sister Lois couldn't make it) Gary Lane, Chris Weicha with Dave Peters taking the photo.



Below, NYS CAR Conference at Saratoga, March 21st and 22ⁿ



Arthur M. and Berdena King Eagle Scout Essay Contest Winner
March 24th, 2025



Eagle Scout Markos Zaranis, Troop 27, 1st Place in both the Battle of Brooklyn Chapter and Empire State essay contests. He as awarded \$800.00 from ESSAR and \$100.00 from the Chapter. Gary Lane presenting Markos with a check.

GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY
RAWLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 1636
250th HISTORIC SIGN, LIBERTY TREE and PLAQUE DEDICATION
APRIL 12th, 2025 BROOKLYN

The Battle of Brooklyn Chapter hosted this major 250th Anniversary event we were joined the 1st New York Continental Chapter, National and Regional officers, about twenty compatriots in all. Green-Wood Cemetery the final resting place of over sixty Revolutionary War soldiers and patriots and American Legion Post 1636 are both within the heart of the site of the Battle of Brooklyn.(See GG #13 for additional information on the installation and historical background on this event.)

First, a 250th marker was unveiled by Joe Vermaelen, NSSAR VP General-North Atlantic, Dave Nelson and Green-Wood Historian Jeff Richman. The Color Guard was

commanded by Robert Meyer, NSSAR Vice Color Guard Commander, which consisted of Battle of Brooklyn compatriots, Dave Nelson, Norm Goben, Brian Ante, Gene Hough. David Peters, associates Mike Grillo Sr. and Jr., Jim Sarlo, George Tonkin and the Boy Scouts of Troop 237 and the JROTC of Ft. Hamilton HS. The Color Guard led the crowd numbering nearly one hundred to the cemetery Chapel. The program was led by chapter Pres. David Nelson and invocation and closing prayers by Chaplain Rev. Evan Cummings.

- Wreathes were laid by state and local ESSSAR officers, DAR, CAR, New York Sons of the Revolution, American Legion, and the Knights of Columbus, also represented was the Society of Old Brooklynites.
- New member: Devin Mas-Sheilds was inducted into the Battle of Brooklyn Chapter
- The Martha Washington Medal was awarded to Kathy LaFontaine. Regent of the Brooklyn DAR Chapter and the Bronze Color Guard Medals were awarded to Norm Goben and David Peters
- Below, certificates awarded to Brian Ante, Scott Postell, Jerry Meekins, Bill Caccese and Jeff Richman by Dave Nelson and Gary Lane

The Color Guard and participants made their way up 'Battle Hill' where a 250th Liberty Elm Tree and bronze plaque was dedicated. From there we traveled to Rawley American Legion Post 1636 in Gowanus where we dedicated a second 250th sign. Lunch and refreshments were generously provided by the Legionnaires. The whole event was organized chapter by David Nelson and 2nd V.P. Gary



Photos by Thom Taylor and Gary Lane



SAR Color Guard and Compatriots with the Boy Scouts, JROTC Cadets, the Knights of Columbus and the American Legion

250th Green-Wood Cemetery and Battle of Brooklyn Historical Commemoration Marker





Liberty Tree and Plaque Dedication at Battle Hill, Green-Wood Cemetery



Above, Dedication of the “Rear Guard” Marker at the Rawley Legion Post in Gowanus. Historic marker which notes the sacrifice and bravery of “Rear Guard” who engaged the fighting retreat which allowed the rest of the Army to safely retreat to Brooklyn Heights. These troops were part of Gen. Stirling’s Brigade, Smallwood’s Maryland 400, Haslet’s Delaware Bn, Mile’s and Atlee’s Pennsylvania State Rifle Regt, the Pennsylvania Flying Camp and Militia Bns. of Lancaster, Berks and Northampton Counties and Huntington’s 17th Connecticut Continentals of Parson’s Brigade who were cut off from the retreat at Battle Hill, taken as POWs at the site of the Liberty Tree planting.



250th Anniversary, 18 April 1775-2025
Paul Revere's Ride and the Battle of Lexington and Concord
Staten Island Reformed Church

The Battle of Brooklyn Chapter commemorated the 250th Anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride and the Battle of Lexington and Concord, the beginning of the American Revolutionary War, we were joined by the DAR and Friends of the Reformed Church. This "Two Lights" event was a national event with many SAR and DAR chapters involved. Dave Nelson spoke on the historical background of Revere's Ride and read from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's classic poem and I spoke on the Penobscot Expedition where Longfellow's grandfather Brig. Gen. Peleg Wadsworth was Revere's commanding officer, Revere was a Lt. Colonel of Massachusetts Militia Artillery. Colors and Wreaths were presented



Dave Nelson and Liam Ferguson "Lighting Two Lanterns" symbolizing Revere's Ride

JROTC AWARDS

Bronze JROTC medals were awarded Cadets Sam Jones and Aron Szegenyak of Fort Hamilton HS (Army) on 23 April (right) and on 2 May (below) to Cadet Edison Para of Aviation HS (Air Force) by Maj. Kevin Johnson (USAF, ret.)



President and General U. S. Grant's Birthday Memorial 25 April 2025

Grant's Tomb, W.122nd St, and Riverside Dr.,NPS
Sons of Union Veterans, Civil War

We were invited by compatriot George Weinmann, Commander of Oliver Tilden Post, SUVCW and charter member of the Battle of Brooklyn Chapter to participate this event as part of the Color Guard, Dave Peters, Brian and Michael Ante obliged, Thom Taylor and Bill Caccese also attended. Battle of Brooklyn member Cory Way and I were also inducted into the SUVCW together. U.S. Grant's son Maj. Gen. Frederick D. Grant and grandson Col. U.S. Grant III were both early SAR members. President Grant traces his ancestral Revolutionary lineage to grandfathers Capt. Noah Grant of Connecticut (Line and Militia) and John Simpson a private in Philadelphia (Montgomery) Co. Pa. Militia, additionally U.S. Grant's wife Julia Dent's grandfather Lt. George Dent served in the Maryland Continental Line.



Induction of Cory Way and Dave Peters into the SUVCW by National Commander-in-Chief Kevin Martin and Tilden Camp Commander George Weinmann



Combined SAR and SUVCW on the steps of Grant's Tomb



Masons and New York Sons of the Revolution
George Washington's Inauguration Reenactment
30 April 2025
Federal Hall



Norm Goben and Dave Peters with the New York Sons of Revolution Color Guard,



Closing Events of this Edition

- 9 May, Richmond Co, DAR, Annual Student Essay Awards, S.I. Reformed Church.
- Remsen Cemetery Clean Up with Increase Carpenter Chapter DAR
- 10 May, DAR Big Apple Honor, LaGuardia Airport
- 11 May 250th Historic Marker Installation, St. Andrew's Church, Staten Island
- 20 May, SAR Student Video Contest Winner, Jocelyn Fecci, Tottenville HS
- 26 May Staten Island and Brooklyn Memorial Day Parades
- 31 May, Friends of New Utrecht Reformed Church, "Liberty Weekend"



G. Lane Photo

DAR Student Essay Contest Winners, 2025 with DAR presenters and Battle of Brooklyn Color Guard, Jim Sarlo, Dave Nelson, Dave Peters and Brian Ante



Big Apple Honor Flight, Preston and Leona Lane with the Richmond Co. DAR



Norm Goben, Beth Fitzgerald and Increase Carpenter Chapter DAR, Remsen Family Cemetery, Queens.

Gary Lane and Norm Goben presenting the Rev. Terrance Buckley and a church elder of the Church of St. Andrew a Historic 250th Marker, St. Andrew's was used as a fortification for British troops in a sharp skirmish with American troops under Gen. Hugh Mercer in the Raid of 15 Oct 1776.



Dave Nelson and Gary Lane presenting a certificate to SAR Video Contest Winner, Tottenville HS student Jocelyn Fecci. Congratulations, Jocelyn



Norm Goben and Dave Peters waiting to step off, at the Brooklyn Memorial Day Parade, we marched with our friends from the “Society of Old Brooklynites” and served as their Color Guard



Staten Island Memorial Day Parade, DAR and CAR with Battle of Brooklyn



Battle of Brooklyn Color
Dave Nelson, Michael and
Brian Ante, Luke Boyd and
Jim Sarlo.



D. Nelson Photos



Liberty Day Weekend
31 May 2025
New Utrecht Reformed Church

This annual event this year was somewhat somber this year with the passing of our friend Dave Elliger, longer serving president of the Friends of New Utrecht (see memorium in GG #13). This event honors the New Utrecht Liberty Pole, the last thing the British saw when they evacuated in 1783. Michael Grillo, Norm Goben, George Tonkin and I assisted in raising “the Betsy Ross”. The event was attended also by Mike’s wife Maria, son Michael Jr., compatriots Brian Ante and Matthew Moshen (Long Island Chapter)., our friend Vince Katinas and the Friends of New Utrecht. Norman also set up his display of Battle of Brooklyn maps

Below, Tonkin (Glover’s Marbleheaders) Norm Goben (Washington’s Life Guard) and Mike Grillo, Jr with event attendees and Mike Grillo (Gen. Washington) Mike and Norm after raising the flag



FINIS
STAY TUNED FOR GOWANUS GAZETTE #13
It will be posted soon

Hope to see you all at the
Flag Day Parade on the
13th

New Utrecht Liberty Pole
“Betsy Ross”

