

“THE GOWANUS GAZETTE”

Historical Journal and Newsletter

The Battle of Brooklyn Chapter

Empire State Society

Sons of the American Revolution

LIBERTAS ET PATRIA

Vol. I Edit. 2

Oct 2023

RECENT EVENTS

10 OCT 2023

COLOR GUARD

Tunnels to Towers Celebrity Golf Tournament

Liberty National Golf Course, Jersey City, New Jersey



Left to Right Williams, Nelson, Meyer, Peters, McCullough, Goben

Photo R. Meyer

The chapter Color Guard of Dave Nelson, Norm Goben, and Dave Peters were joined by N.J. compatriots Roger Williams, NJSSAR Historian, Clark McCullough, Elizabeth Chapter President and Robert Meyer. former chapter President and current NJSSAR President.

We had the honor to join the NYPD, FDNY, PAPD Honor Guard and Bagpipers in representing the Sons of the American Revolution for this charity event. A wonderful rendition of the “The Star Spangled Banner” was sung by FDNY officer Frank Pizarro. WOR radio host Buck Sexton reported 2 million dollars was raised at this event for the Tunnels to Towers Foundation to aid disabled veterans, law enforcement, first responders and widows of the deceased and their dependents.



Photo Courtesy of Tunnels to Towers Foundation Website

247th Anniversary Nathan Hale Day Commemoration

Hosted by Sons of the RevolutionSM
in the State of New York, Inc.

September, 22, 2023

City Hall Park



This is an annual event commemorating the execution Capt. Nathan Hale of Knowlton's Rangers, by the British 22 Sept 1776. It is sponsored by our cousins, the New York Chapter, Sons of the Revolution. A wreath was laid and a proclamation was read by Manhattan Borough Commissioner of Parks Anthony Perez. The Color Guard was the SR Chapter's and New York State Veteran Corps of Artillery. Norman and I have been attending this event over the last few years. Mark it in your calendar for next year. Our chapter could be involved.



Sons of the Revolution and Veteran Corps of Artillery

N. Goben Photo



Norman Goben and Dave Peters

N. Goben Photo

UPCOMING EVENTS

14 and 15 Oct This Coming Weekend

Old Home Weekend at Historic Richmond Town, Staten Island. Try to make it if you can, great event especially for families. Our friend Luke Boyd is the director of the event and a number of chapter members will be on hand as reenactors and living historians. Gary Lane will have items available on site for sale to raise funds for the chapter.

Old Home Day Weekend * — Historic Richmond Town

19th of October

Illustrated Lecture on Alexander Hamilton by George Tonkin

George is a retired NPS ranger and was at Federal Hall for many years and is one of the most knowledge Hamilton historians around. If you can not attend the chapter meeting which is the same evening, come out for George's lecture,

7:30 at the New Utrecht Reformed Church Parish House

1827 84th St, New Utrecht, Brooklyn

For more information email: mail@historicnewutrecht.org or call (718) 256-7173

Battle of Brooklyn Chapter Meeting

White Horse Tavern

25 Bridge St., near Battery Park and the Staten Island Ferry Terminal

Dinner and Drinks 6:00- 7:30, Meeting will start about 7:30

#1 or R/W to South Ferry/Whitehall St. or #5 to Bowling Green

[Home Page - White Horse Tavern \(whitehorsetavernny.com\)](http://whitehorsetavernny.com)

Sunday the 29th of Oct

Jim Sarlo will be giving a lecture on "Port Richmond and the Battle of Staten Island" He is the go to guy concerning the Revolutionary War on Staten Island. Jim also was just appointed to the staff at Historic Richmond Town.

1:00 PM at the Reformed Church of Staten Island

Benefits Historic Port Richmond Preservation Society

Port Richmond during the
**BATTLE OF
STATEN ISLAND**
Lecture

SUNDAY, OCT. 29TH @ 1:00PM

Ticket Info at facebook.com/reformedchurchonsi
Food + Drinks available for purchase at Event!

54 PORT RICHMOND AVE. STATEN ISLAND, NY 10302



Guest speaker
JIM SARLO
Staten Island
Historian

Other Upcoming Events in November

Richard Melnick, book lecture at Fraunces Tavern, Ft Washington, Fort Lee and other Reenactments and Commemorations, Details and dates to following in the November Newsletter.

GENEALOGY CORNER

Ages Of Soldiers

One of the biggest errors I encounter on primarily on Ancestry.com is ascribing Revolutionary War service to men that do not fit within the proper age parameters of a Revolutionary War soldier, most commonly men too old and others too young. I have seen service attributed to men well in their sixties, seventies and even eighties with birth years prior to 1720. In many cases the soldier is often a son, grandson or a younger kinsman of the same name. A general rule of thumb is those born between 1720 and 1765 but there are always exceptions to the rules. Militiamen generally have a larger age range than Continental Line soldiers. Militia service was mandatory for all able bodied men between generally between sixteen and sixty in most states with the exception of Pennsylvania and Delaware which was eighteen to fifty three. Many militiamen were often married men with families in their thirties and forties. Continental Line soldiers generally were younger, mid-teens through their twenties. but men in their thirties, forties and occasionally fifties, often a widower joining his sons can be found. Senior field grade officers and even company grade officers, could be often over fifty, many veterans of the French & Indian War. Gen. Israel "Old Put" Putnam took command at age 57, born in 1718 or some field grade officers could be surprisingly young, Matthias Ogden was a full Colonel at 22, Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr were Lt. Colonels at about the same age.

In the case of younger soldiers the general rule was young man under eighteen could not enlist without a parent or a legal guardian's consent but soldiers as young as fifteen to seventeen were not uncommon, such as Joseph Plumb Martin who enlisted in Connecticut at fifteen with his grandfather's permission. Older boys as young as ten have been documented in the ranks. There are a number reasons why this occurred, probably the prime reason was they were following along with relatives such as fathers, uncles, and older brothers. Another reason was if a person of business or trade was drafted or called up by the militia he could send his apprentice, clerk, or indentured servant as a substitute, this could also applied to enslaved African men. Another reason was they may have been orphans or separated from their families. Older boys or younger teens, ten to fifteen in the ranks occurred but it was not the general rule. They were also often given duties that matched their physical abilities musicians and waiters to the officers staff were the most common. It really came down if they could physically do the job of soldiering, some teen boys are as strong as any man, others are not.

Some the youngest documented soldier I've come across are the following. Elijah Callaway (b. 1769) a grand nephew of Daniel Boone is found on the muster roll of Col.

Benjamin Cleveland's Regiment at the Battle of King's Mountain in 1780, "a stout boy of eleven" accompanied his uncles to the battle. Elijah Callaway was also a source for Lyman Draper on the Battle of King's Mountain and the genealogy and history of the Boone and Callaway families. John Piatt (b.1766) was enrolled as a fifer at age ten in his father Capt. Daniel Piatt's Company of the 1st Regiment, N. J. Line, he served four years. Samuel DeWees, Jr.(b.1762) was enlisted at fifteen with his older brothers by his father Samuel DeWees, Sr. a recruiting sergeant. He initially served as a waiter to Col. Humpton and fifer in the 10th Pa. but served most of the war as a private. Jeremiah Levering (b. about 1766) enlisting at about age twelve in Proctor's 4th Continental Artillery Regiment, after three years he was discharged to quote from the records of Col. Proctor, "but not taught to beat the drum or blow the fife and being of small stature and weakly habits", he was discharged. The youngest officer I have found was Captain James Bulloch (1765-1849) the maternal great-grandfather of President Theodore Roosevelt but this was a special circumstance, James' father Archibald Bulloch (1730-1777), for whom TR's third son "Archie" was named for. Bulloch was a man of some historical importance in Revolutionary War Georgia as a delegate to the Continental Congress. He returned to Georgia to organize the war effort and did not sign the Declaration of Independence, he fought in a number battles in Georgia as an officer under Gen. Lachlan McIntosh and was elected President of the Georgia Provisional Congress and President and Commander -in-Chief (provisional Governor) of Georgia, he died in 1777 under mysterious circumstances, some think he was poisoned by Loyalist or by his political enemies (the McIntosh-Gwinnett feud) but this is unproven. Nevertheless, his widow was left with four young boys to raise. James being the eldest was sent to a family friend a Colonel of a Garrison in Virginia. James Bulloch served under him as a staff officer at the rank of Captain at about age 13 or 14.

The oldest soldier would have been Samuel Whittmore, age 78 although not officially enrolled in the militia. Many may be familiar with his story. Whittmore was born in 1696, a veteran of King George's War and the French & Indian War and Pontiac's Rebellion as a Massachusetts militiaman and officer. When a British company of Grenadiers marched near his farm on their way to reinforce their retreating comrades from Lexington and Concord. Whittmore loaded his musket, his brace of pistols, and strapped on his sword the when out to confront the Grenadiers. He ambushed them from behind a stone fence, killing two instantly with his musket and pistol, and mortally wounding a third with his second pistol, he then drew his sword and attacked and was shot in the face and bayoneted numerous times and left for dead. Awhile later patriot militiamen found him trying to reload is his musket, they took him to Dr. Cotton Tufts who lived nearby, Dr. Tufts pronounced he had

little chance of recovery, but the tough old Sam Whittmore did indeed recover and lived another eighteen years dying at age 96 of natural causes.

With older soldiers it was usually up the discretion of the commanding officers who marched out with the regiment or company. Older men were often tasked with less demanding duties, such as garrison duty or guarding prisoners of war.

Captain Johannes Frederick Hummel, Sr, (1726-1779) was dismissed from the militia as a private about age 50 and then promoted to Captain and Chief Armorer of the Lancaster Co. Militia. John Henry Hein (1727-1795) a Berks County militiaman at age 53 so incensed at Benedict Arnold's treason attempted to enlist in the Continental Line with Col. Daniel Brodhead who was recruiting in Berks County. Brodhead turned him away but took two of his sons. Hein's brother in-law was Harmon Greathouse (1717-1795) about age 65 marched to Sandusky, Ohio with Crawford's Expedition in 1782, he escaped as did his 2nd youngest son Harmon Jr. the massacre and lived to tell the tale. Indecently, Harmon Greathouse (Groethausen) was also the father Jonathan, Daniel, and Jacob Greathouse the Maryland militiamen under Capt. Michael Cresap who sparked Dunmores's War in 1774 by massacring the family of Mingo Chief Logan at Yellow Creek.

PATRIOT GRAVEYARDS

BIG SPRING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHYARD

Newville, Cumberland Co. Pennsylvania

Newville is small rural town in the north central part of the county about midway between Carlisle and Shippensburg. The congregation was founded in 1737 by early Scots-Irish settlers. An early pastor was the Rev. George Duffield future Chaplain of the Continental Congress. There about twenty six Revolutionary War soldiers buried here. Compatriot Clark McCullough and I got to comparing notes one evening, as it turns out two of our patriot ancestors are buried half a stone's throw from each other at Big Spring. There is a DAR plaque noting the soldiers buried there, but after a little digging I found a few more not on the plaque and as usual a number of the ranks are incorrect. All soldiers are Cumberland Co. Militia unless specified.

LT. COLONELS- Samuel Irvine and William Howard McFarlane.

CAPTAINS – William Peebles, Miler's 1st State Regt, Thomas Buchanan, 1st Regt. Pa. Line, William McCracken, Sgt. Miles' State Regt, Lt. and Capt 13th Regt. Pa. Line, William Lusk 7th and 2nd Regt., Pa. Line, Samuel Fenton, Thomas Kennedy, and Robert Shannon.

LIEUTENANTS- William Denning, Sgt, and 2nd Lt., Col. Flower's Regt. of Artillery Artificers, Pa. Line, Matthew Thompson, and Adam Bratton.

SERGEANTS- John McCullough/McCulloch and Andrew McIlvaine

PRIVATES- Peter Tritt, Thompson's Rifle Bn. and York Co. Flying Camp, William Ferguson, Artificer, John Brown, John McKeegan, Benjamin McKeegan, Paul Martin, Robert Mickey, James Oliver, Samuel Weakley, John Huston, Gabriel Glenn and last but not least my 6th great grand-pappy Patrick Buchanan McFarlane.

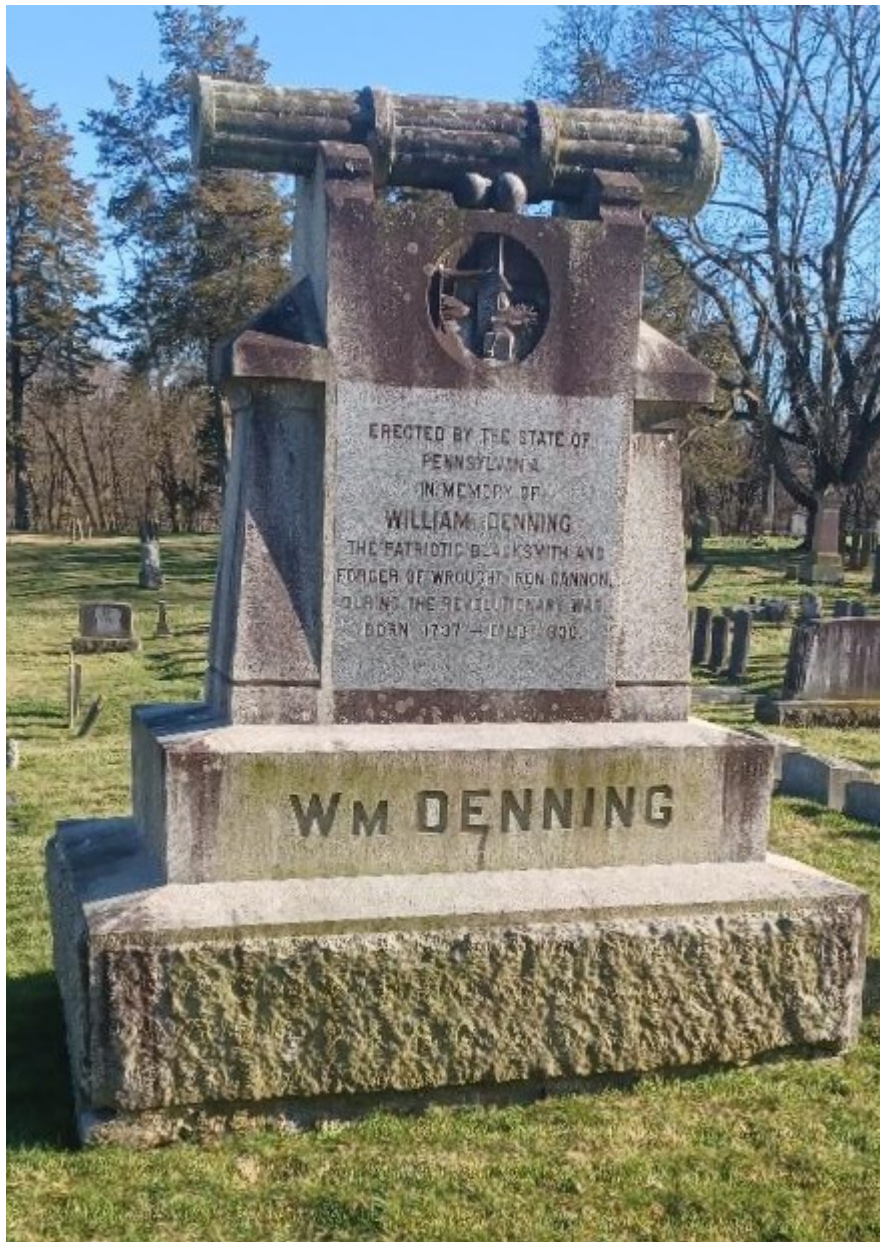
“Battle of Brooklyn, Story of Two Friends”

Captains William Peebles and William McCracken are both buried in Big Spring. Peebles commanded a company in Col. Samuel Miles's 1st Pa. State Rifle Regt. at the Battle of Brooklyn and was wounded near Bedford and Jamaica Pass where most of the regiment was positioned and taken as a prisoner of war to the Hessian encampment at Flatbush, where he succumbed to his wounds and died about a week after the battle. His friend Sgt. William McCracken of his company returned to Cumberland Co. to inform his wife Elizabeth Finley Peebles, now a widow with five young children to raise the news of Capt. Peebles' death. To cut to the chase, Sgt. William McCracken and Betsy Finley Peebles were married a short while later, they had an additional three children. In 1777 McCracken returned to duty and was promoted to Lieutenant and Captain in the 13th Pa. Regt., under Col. Walter Stewart, a reorganization of Miles' Rifle Regiment and Atlee's Musketry Battalion. After William McCracken's death in 1803, his widow Betsy married Capt. William Rippey, 7th Regt. Pa. Line. McCracken was grist mill operator and barrel cooper in Newville after the war for many years.

The Denning Cannon

The largest and most usual of the grave markers in the churchyard is that of Lt. William Denning. Denning, born in 1737, Chester Co. He fought at Trenton and Princeton. Denning was an artificer in Col. Benjamin Flower's Continental Regiment of Artillery Artificers. A blacksmith by trade he was tasked with building six wrought iron 6 lb. cannons using welded rods or strips known as gads, the idea was a cannon that was lighter and less prone to cracking like the standard cast iron ones of the day, these welded gad strips can be seen in his monument. They were built at the Washingtonburg

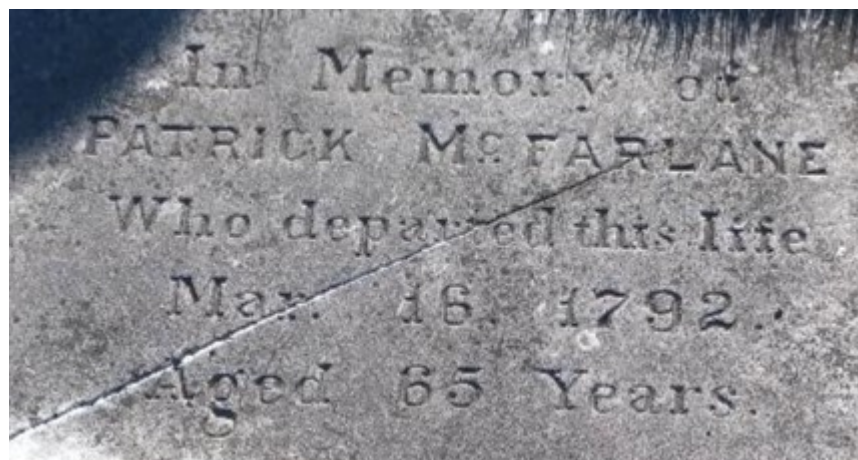
Forge near the Carlisle Barracks. Pvt. William Ferguson also buried in Big Spring was the carpenter that built the carriages. What happened to the guns is unknown but one is believed to be in the collection at the Army War College at Carlisle and another is said to have been captured and taken to England. He died in Newville in 1830.





Grave marker of Sgt. John McCulloch, patriot ancestor of compatriot Clark McCullough. Clark had this replacement marker from the Veterans Administration installed about twenty years and recently cleaned it this summer with his grandson. McCulloch's brother in-law John Huston a Cumberland Co. Militiaman is buried here also. The McCullough family descendants lived many generations in the Newville area and there are many buried in Big Spring.

Lt. Col William McFarlane
and Capt.
Thomas Buchanan.



Patrick Buchanan McFarlane (1727-1792) is my 6th great-grandfather he was born in Pequea now Lancaster County and married Rosanna Howard the granddaughter of the Indian trader Gordon Howard in 1750 and removed to Cumberland Co. about that time. He was likely a veteran of the French and Indian War with his brothers James and Alexander. His brother James early in the war operated a trading post at Kittanning where he guarded stores of military supplies, earlier in 1775 he had been imprisoned as a Pennsylvania magistrate by Lord Dunmore in Virginia over the border dispute with Virginia and their claims on Pennsylvania land. He served as an independent militia officer under Gen. John Armstrong and Col. Joseph Armstrong and a 1st Lt., 8th Pa. Regt. Capt. James McFarlane contracted "camp fever" after Monmouth and died in 1777 at Philadelphia. Andrew was a Captain in the 1st Bn. of Cumberland Co. Militia, Patrick and another brother William were both privates in the Militia. Of Patrick and Rosanna's sons William is buried in Big Spring was a Lt. Col. and Major of the 2nd Bn, Cumberland Co. James, was a Lieutenant, Quartermaster and Adjutant to Col. James Chambers, 1st Pa. Regt. and Lt. Col. of Cumberland Co. Militia late in the war, 1783, he is buried in Mifflin Co. Two of his sons-in-law are also buried in Big Spring, Lt. Matthew Thompson(my 5th GG) and Capt. Thomas Kennedy. Capt. Thomas Buchanan and Sgt. Andrew McIlvaine are also kinsmen.

FEATURED PATRIOT ANCESTOR

In upcoming editions of the “Gowanus Gazette” I would like to publish the gravestones and a brief biography of the chapter members and other SAR compatriots patriot ancestors, so if you are interested in your ancestor or a collateral ancestor that has an interesting story being featured please forward to me an account and records of their service, photos of their grave stones or a Find-a-Grave link. This addition will feature the patriot ancestor of our chapter Sergeant at Arms Norman Goblen.



Wm. GOBLEN 8 REGT. PA. LINE REV. WAR service fr:1776 1779 under Col Mackey / 1783 ensign under Col Mabra Evans
1758 1842 buried Otisco Indiana

ENSIGN WILLIAM “BILLY” GOBLEN (1758-1842)

William Goblen was born in 1758 in Northumberland Co. or possibly Berks Co. Pennsylvania to Joseph and Lydia Carson Goblen, the eldest of seven children. Sometime between the French and Indian War and the American Revolution the family removed to Westmoreland County on the western Pennsylvania frontier. Joseph and Lydia were likely born in Northern Ireland but Wales is also given for Joseph.

Revolutionary War Service

At age 18 William Goben enlisted Col. Aeneas Mackay's independent militia regiment in July of 1776. Known also as the Westmoreland Defense Battalion and the Kittanning Regiment, but usually as Mackay's Battalion. It was recruited around the Ft. Pitt, Kittanning and Hannastown area of Westmoreland County, he was in Capt. James Montgomery's company. In the winter of late 1776 and early 1777 the regiment marched about 350 miles from the Pennsylvania frontier to Quibbletown, N.J. to join the main Continental Army, along the march and at Quibbletown about fifty soldiers died of disease and exposure including Col. Mackay and the second in command Lt. Col. George Wilson. Major Richard Butler, the armorer at Fort Pitt was promoted to Lt. Col. and Lt. Col. Daniel Brodhead was transferred in and promoted to full Colonel Brodhead commanded the regiment most of the war (more on Butler and Brodhead later) until it was merged with the 2nd Regt. and ceased to exist in 1781. Mackays Bn. was designated the 8th Pennsylvania Regiment in the 1777 organization.

He would have fought in all the engagements of the 8th until his discharge in 1779. The Forage War, Bound Brook, Brandywine, Paoli, Germantown and ranger duty at Fort Laurens on the Ohio frontier. He was discharged in September of 1779 at Fort Pitt, it is unclear if he took part in the Sullivan Campaign in Summer and Fall of 1779. His name begins to appear in 1781 on the muster rolls of Washington Co., Pa. Militia in various battalions and companies, Capt. Samuel Cunningham's 1st Co.^t of Col. George Vanlandingham's 2nd Bn., Ensign Wilson's Party, Capt. Shockey's Ranger, Co. he was promoted to Ensign in 1783. His father Joseph and younger brother John also served in the Washington Co. Militia, his cousin Charles was a militia Captian in Berks Co.

Post War

William Goben resided in Washington County and sometime after 1786 he removed to Shelby County, Kentucky with his first wife Rebecca Braudy/Brodie, they had nine children, all of his sons William, Jr., James, Joseph and John were veterans of the War of 1812. Rebecca died in 1812. He removed to Clark Co. Indiana after her death and married Unis "Nisey" Durham, about thirty two years his junior and had an additional eight children, a total of seventeen. He as a pensioner and received bounty land. Willam Goben died in 1842 at age 84 and is buried in Otisco, Clark Co., Indiana and is buried in the Goben family burial ground.

FINIS

Upcoming the Pennsylvania Special Edition, the first in a supplementary editions on the 13 states and other topics .