

# **“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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## **RECENT EVENTS**

It was a momentous day this past December the 16<sup>th</sup> for the Battle of Brooklyn Chapter, compatriots from 1<sup>st</sup> Continental and Long Island chapters, associates and friends, Brooklyn DAR, Staten Island Reformed Church and Greenwood Cemetery. I thought it would good idea to publish a supplemental December issue on the recent events. All photos from the Wreathes Across America and the Ebenezer Stevens events are courtesy of compatriot Thomas Taylor.

## **WREATHES ACROSS AMERICA**

16 `Dec 2023

**STATEN ISLAND REFORMED CHURCH**

64 Port Richmond Ave., Staten Island, N.Y.





Color Guard Entrance



Presenting the Colors



Wreath Presentation

Color Guard -Dave Nelson, Norm Goben, and Jim Sarlo





Norm Goben, Karen Quinonnes, Dave Nelson, and Jim Sarlo



DAR Compatriots, Mrs. Q., Nelson, Sarlo and the Dr. Warren MacKenzie  
at the Gravestone of Lt. John Payne



Green Mountain Boys Flag

LT. JOHN PAYNE  
(1751-1825)



Early Life

John Payne was born 13 April 1751 in Coventry, Tolland County, Connecticut to John Payne, Sr, and Jemima (nee Hutchinson) Payne. At some point prior to war he removed to the western region of New Hampshire near Hanover bordering the Hampshire Reserves (now Vermont).

Revolutionary War Service and Warner's Regiment

At Hanover on Jan. of 1776 he enlisted in Col. Seth Warner's Regiment aka Green Mountain Rangers as a Sergeant in Capt. Abner Seeley's Company. Most of this regiment was the remnants of "Green Mountain Boys" formerly commanded by Col. Ethan Allen, now disbanded. Additional recruits like Payne were added and were marched to Quebec, they retreated in the early Summer of 1776 after Canada was lost. On June the 5<sup>th</sup> of 1776, Payne was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, July the 5<sup>th</sup> Warner's Regiment was designated Warner's New Hampshire Additional Continental Regiment. The regiment was disbanded in October of 1780 after taking heavy casualties at the Siege of Ft. George in Sept. of 1780, this was the Ft. George near Ft. William Henry and Ft. Ticonderoga on Lake George but Payne had been discharged by then.

## Saratoga Campaign

The regiment was attached to Gen. Philip Schuyler's Northern Dept. January of 1777 and it was deployed to Mt. Independence on the Vermont side of Lake Champlain near Fort Ticonderoga, throughout the Spring and early Summer Warner's Regiment skirmished with Burgoyne's troops, Loyalist militias and their Indian allies. On the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of July, Gen. St. Clair ordered Mt. Independence and Ft. Ticonderoga surrendered and evacuated. Warner's Regiment fought in The Battle of Hubbardton on July 7<sup>th</sup> of 1777. Warner's Regiment, Col. Nathan Hale's (not the spy) New Hampshire Regiment, and militias from New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts numbering about 3000 engaged about 1030 of Gen. Simon Fraser's British Regulars, Loyalist Militia and Col. Frieher Reidesell's Brunswick Grenadiers. It was more or less a draw. This was the only battle fought in Vermont (Bennington was actually fought in N.Y.) during the Revolutionary War. Massachusetts militia Colonel Ebenezer Francis was killed in the action. Warner's Regiment fought at the Battle of Bennington on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August, 1777. but John Payne was ill and did not fight in the battle, according to his pension application. He resigned his commission on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, 1778, serving a little over two years. His younger brother Lemuel served in Col. Baldwin's Regiment, Capt. House's Company of Hanover, New Hampshire Militia

## Post War, Pension Application and Staten Island

John Payne lived in Vermont and New Hampshire until about 1792 according to census records, he removed with wife Lydia (nee Tisdale) and their children to Cape Breton and later the Magdalen Islands, Nova Scotia. His father John Payne, Sr, was living in New Brenton, it's not clear if he was a Loyalist or not. John Payne seems have been involved in the maritime or ship building trade. About 1814 his wife Lydia died in Canada. In 1819 the Revolutionary War veterans application and reapplication roles opened up. John Payne impoverished at about age 68 was unable to apply being a Canadian resident, so he removed to Salem, Massachusetts to apply, he was granted his pension and collected it in New York until his death on Staten Island in 1825. Later in 1819 he married Ester Van Cleef also spelled Hester Van Cloef of New York, who reapplied for a widow's pension after his death.

[John Payne \(1751-1825\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)

## DR. ISAAC LEDYARD (1754-1803)



### Early Life

Dr. Isaac Ledyard was born on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November, 1754 in Groton, Connecticut to a merchant sea captain involved in the West Indies trade Youngs, Sr. and Mary (nee Avery) Ledyard. According to one source a young Benedict Arnold served as merchant's clerk for Youngs Ledyard, Sr.

### Revolutionary War Service

About the time of the occupation of New York City in November of 1776 Ledyard enlisted as a Surgeon's Mate in McDougall's 1<sup>st</sup> New York Regiment, he held this position until 1780 when he was appointed Assistant Purveyor to the Continent Army Hospital Dept. a post he held until 1782. His brother Benjamin was commissioned Captain in the 1<sup>st</sup> New York in 1775. then Major in the 4<sup>th</sup> New York and later Lt. Colonel. The youngest brother Caleb served as an Ensign on the Continental Navy frigate "Trumbull".

### Battle of Fort Griswold or Groton Heights

Ft. Griswold and Ft. Trumbull were built at the mouth of the Thames River to protect the towns of Groton and New London. Isaac's uncle William the youngest brother of his father and not too much older than Isaac was appointed Lt. Colonel of the local militia and commandant of the two forts. Isaac's brother Youngs, Jr. was appointed Lieutenant then Captain.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of September of 1781 a force of 1700 comprised British Regulars, Hessians and Loyalists in two divisions commanded the recently defected traitor Brig. Gen. Benedict Arnold and Lt. Col. Edmund Eyre along with British naval forces commanded by Admiral John Bazely and his flag ship the H.M.S. Amphion. The Connecticut forces consisted of about 150 soldiers mostly of the 8<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Militia Regiment. Ft. Trumbull was quickly ceded being incomplete and little more than a reinforced redoubt, the company attached there spiked the cannon and rowed across the Thames River to Ft. Griswold a more substantial fort. This small force of militia inflicted substantial casualties of the attackers numbering about 800 commanded by Arnold, killing about 52 and wounding 145, with losing only 6 men and with about 60 wounded. But, the walls were soon breached by the enemy and militiamen surrounded.

#### The Deaths of Lt. Col. William and Capt. Youngs Ledyard

Lt. Col. William Ledyard in an attempt to surrender Ft. Griswold handed his sword to a British officer, some accounts say it was a Loyalist Major named Brumbull but other accounts record different officers. Nevertheless, this officer ran Ledyard through with his own sword. The Connecticut militiamen so enraged at this act of barbarity regrouped and counter-attacked the much larger British force and were soon cut down to a man, 79 were killed, the British giving “no quarter” this included Capt. Youngs Ledyard, this was known as the “Groton Massacre”. Most of New London was fired largely due to the British inadvertently torching a hidden cache of Patriot gunpowder, both the homes of William and Youngs, Jr. Ledyard were fired also.

#### [Battle of Groton Heights - Wikipedia](#)

#### Post War and Death

In 1785 Dr. Isaac Ledyard married Ann McArthur in New York and they had five children. He worked as a physician and health official for the Port of New York and died at the young age of 48 on Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1803 on Staten Island.

#### [Dr Isaac Ledyard \(1754-1803\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)



GEN. EBENEZER STEVENS and 250<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY of the  
BOSTON TEA PARTY COMMEMORATION  
GREENWOOD CEMETERY, BROOKLYN

A consortium of the direct descendants of Ebenezer Stevens, SAR from the Battle of Brooklyn, Long Island, and 1<sup>st</sup> New York Chapters, Brooklyn DAR Chapter, guest speakers, reenactors from the 3<sup>rd</sup> New York Regiment of Long Island, supporters of Greenwood and the general public gathered at the main entrance. I would estimate the number to be about 40 to 50. The group marched to Ebenezer Steven grave marker about 2/3 of a mile through the pathways of Greenwood.

At the vanguard were Fifer Matt Skic and Drummer Sean Kmiolek, the Battle of Brooklyn Color Guard consisting of flag bearers Dave Nelson, Jim Sarlo, Dave Peters, and Liam a friend of Staten Island CAR, and the Meekins brothers John and Jerry, and a musket squad of Norm Goben and from the 3<sup>rd</sup> N.Y. Justin Constantino as detail Sergeant, and Anton. T. Taylor Photos









## COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

Historians spoke; Jeff Richman, the Greenwood historian spoke on Ebenezer Stevens and the history of Greenwood Cemetery and other Revolutionary War and Civil War soldiers buried there and Barnet Schecter on “the Boston Tea Party”. The Boston Tea Party medallion was unveiled by Ebenzer Steven’s direct descendants father and son Byam and Joseph aka Sam Stevens who traveled from the Berkshires Mountains region of western Massachusetts to attend the event. This was followed by musket volley salute to Gen. Stevens.







Byam and Joseph Stevens unveiling the Boston Tea Party Medallion







Joseph and Byam Stevens with the Color Guard and Musket Squad





Stevens Descendants with the Fife and Drum, Matt Skic and Sean Kmiotek

#### Additional Information of Ebenezer Stevens and Isaac Ledyard

It is an interesting twist of irony Steven's second wife was Lucretia nee Ledyard Sands (1756-1846), the widow of Richardson Sands and the daughter of John Ledyard (1700-1771) and Mary Austin (1715-1794), his second wife. Youngs Ledyard, Sr. (1731-1762) and Mary Avery (1730-1777) were the parents of Dr. Isaac Ledyard, Youngs Ledyard was the son John Ledyard and his first wife Deborah Youngs, making Lucretia Ledyard Stevens and Youngs Ledyard half siblings and Lucretia Isaac's aunt, although Isaac was two years older than her. John Ledyard was the father of fifteen children with his two wives Youngs was second eldest and Lucretia the second youngest.

As noted before Steven's country home "Mount Napoleon" aka "the Mount" was located in Astoria, Queens near what is now Vernon Blvd. and 30<sup>th</sup> Rd., near the LIC Costco.

[Stevens House \(Queens\) – Wikipedia](#)

Fort Stevens was a War of 1812 period fort built at Hallet's Point not far from "the Mount" in Astoria.

[Fort Stevens \(5\) - FortWiki Historic U.S. and Canadian Forts](#)

Dec.20th Chapter Meeting and Christmas Party  
Old Stone House, Brooklyn

A little bit of a disappoint, not a big turn out, I would assume some had other commitments or were traveling for the Holidays. All in all it was a good evening though with some good food and conversation. Dave Nelson may still have some sandwiches and Christmas cookies left if you are interested.

New Member Induction and Associates Recognition Award

Brian Ante and his son Michael were inducted into the chapter, along with Michael Morris an attorney by profession, who was appointed chapter Chancellor. Christina Ante was in attendance in support of her husband and son. Associates Jim Sarlo and Luke Boyd were awarded "Certificates of Appreciation" by Dave Nelson and the Chapter. Both Jim and Luke have been a big part the events this past few months at Historic Richmond Town, the Reformed Church, other events on Staten Island and serving in the Color Guard.



N. Goben Photo

New Inductees Mike Morris, Michael and Brian Ante



N. Goben Photo



Jim Sarlo, Luke Boyd with Dave Nelson

### A Few Last Things

Congratulations to an old friend of mine John Porter, whose SAR application was recently approved at the Empire Society Society and is now at national for final approval, he will be a member of the Long Island Chapter where he resides. John is the descendant of Col. Thomas Spencer(1721-1794), Spencer was a Colonel of the Charlotte County Virginia Militia and a member of the Committee of Safety and the father of four Virginia Line and Militia officers, including John's ancestor Lt. Gideon Spencer who was a Lieutenant in Read's Virginia State Light Horse and commanded a company of Charlotte County militia at Yorktown. Special thanks to Rich Rossin for processing John's application.

Additional congratulations to a cousin of mine Stephen Peters of Newport, Pa. who recently applied to the Pennsylvania State Society. Although we share the same patriot ancestor George Michael Peter (Thompson's Rifle Bn./ 1<sup>st</sup> Continentals and York Co. Militia) he applied through a maternal patriot ancestor Jacob Stambaugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Pa. Line, Light Infantry at Stony Point and Corporal, Northampton Co. Militia. His mother is DAR and a

cousin Dale Leppard is SAR through this line. Dale Leppard is a compatriot and chapter officer of the Washingtonburg (Carlisle) Chapter.

It has been an active year, especially since the Old Stone House event in August for the newly invigorated Battle of Brooklyn Chapter and Color Guard. Special recognition and congratulations is deserved for Dave Nelson, Gary Lane, Norm Gobin, Thomas Taylor, Kevin Johnson, Jim Sarlo, Luke Boyd, and all the compatriots and associates for all their commitment and hard work who kept the ball rolling throughout the year.

I hope to publish the January 2024 edition the first week January and a supplemental edition on Pennsylvania, the first in a series on the 13 states at some point thereafter. Happy New Year and to ongoing success throughout 2024- David Peters, "Gowanus Gazette" editor, chapter historian and genealogist.