

# **“THE GOWANUS GAZETTE”**

Historical Journal and Newsletter

The Battle of Brooklyn Chapter

Empire State Society

Sons of the American Revolution

**LIBERTAS ET PATRIA**

Vol. II Edit. 7 #11 I

16 Jan 2025

## **RECENT EVENTS**

Narrative of the Kings Co. Militia 1775-1776

2 Oct 2024

Presentation and Lecture by David Peters

Society of Old Brooklynites, Borough Hall

I was invited by Ted General to give a lecture at Society's monthly meeting. Compatriots Norm Goben, Scott Postell, and John Porter of the Long Island Chapter his wife Leigh attended. I will reprise the same presentation on the 9 Nov at joint SAR/DAR meeting at the Old Stone House



Above, Gary, Preston and Grayson Lane, Brian and Michael Ante and Dave Nelson are joined by ESSSAR President Dave Powell in Philadelphia.

250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event in Philadelphia.  
1<sup>st</sup> Continental Congress Commemoration  
Sect. Charles Thomson's Grave Marking  
12 Oct 2024

The grave of Founding Father, Signer of the Declaration of Independence and Secretary of the Continental Congress(1774-1789) Charles Thomson, whom John Adams deemed the "Samuel Adams of Philadelphia" grave was marked at the Laurel Hill Cemetery by large cadre of Color Guard. I would suggest reading up on Charles Thomson, his name may not be known to some and is often overlooked but he was a man of prime importance in the founding days.

Certificate of Appreciation Awarded to the Chapter by the  
Historian General Jeffery Thomas



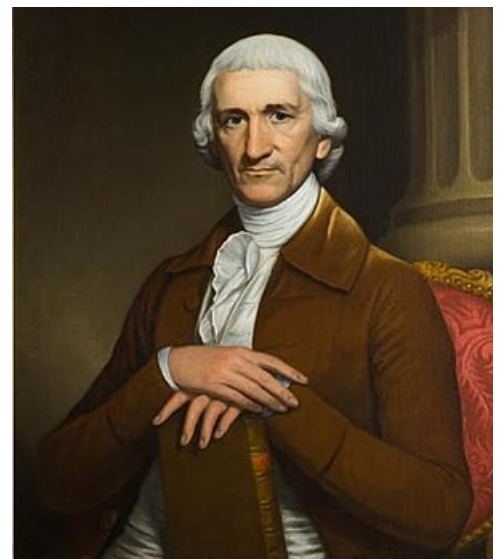




C. Sands Photo

National Multi-Chapter Color Guard at Sect.  
Thomson's Grave

[Charles Thomson – Wikipedia](#)





Historic Richmond Town  
Old Home Week Fall Festival  
19 Oct 2024

We had a booth at the festival, along with the Richmond Co. DAR and CAR. “BIG KUDOS” to Grayson Lane who raised about \$150.00 for CAR by selling Halloween crafts, Gary additionally sold merchandise to raise money for the chapter. Norm’s photo cutout “Continental Soldier” was a big hit. John Meekins also stopped by for a bit. I brought some of my collection of antique Revolutionary War prints to display, most with some historical relevance to Staten Island. Norm and I also laid out a display of Revolutionary War soldier’s accouterments and secondary weapons. I also had information and literature available for anyone interested in joining the SAR, one festival attendee whom I spoke with contacted me later and began the application process

Norm, Gary, and Dave at the Booth

N. Goben Photo





Loyalist Militia in New Jersey  
Union College  
Cranford, N.J.  
22 Oct 2024



N. Goben Photo

Dr. Michel Rotunda, Frank Floria (3rd NJ), Dr. Phil Papas, Jim Sarlo (Loyalist) and Norm Goben (Pa. Light Infantry)

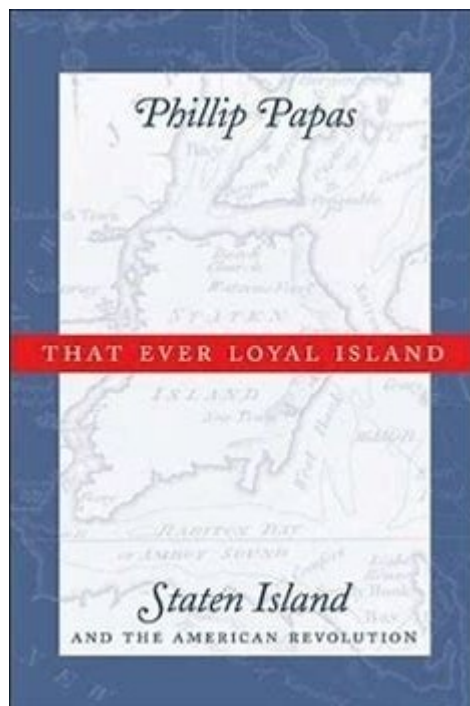
Dr. Papas and Dr. Rotunda, history professors at Union College hosted a forum for the students at the college on the Loyalist Militia in New Jersey. Norm and Jim spoke on the various aspects of the subject. Norm hopes to make some inroads this coming year into speaking to students of all ages on the history of the American Revolution.





N. Goben Photo

Norman presenting a hand colored antique replica map he made to Dr. Papas  
 Dr. Philip Papas has written on the Loyalist on Staten Island and has also published a bio on Gen. Charles Lee.





250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event  
Tracing the Steps of the Philadelphia Light Horse  
Escorting Gen. Washington to Boston, Summer of 1775  
25 Oct 2024

Compatriot Gene Hough of the Philadelphia Continental Chapter is retracing the steps of the Philadelphia Light Horse Troop from Philadelphia to the Siege of Boston, Summer of 1775, a trek of a little over 300 miles. We met at Fraunces Tavern with Scott Jeffery of the NY Sons of the Revolution and took a few photos, quick tour of the museum and an early lunch at the tavern. Gene, Gary and Grayson Lane, Dave Nelson and I then proceeded out to the Staten Island Reformed Church. We then met with Dr. Warren McKenzie where Gene Hough gave a consultation on the gravestone and plaque restoration at the church, he operates the Legacy Marker Programs, which specializes in the restoration of historic grave markers and plaques, he will be returning to S. I. Reformed at some point to work on the church yard with the chapter, in the Spring, date TBA

S. Jeffery Photo



Above Gene Hough with Gary and Grayson lane, Dave Peters and Dave Nelson



D. Peters Photo

Dave Nelson, Grayson Lane, Gene Hough, w/ Scott Jeffery of the NYSR

Link to Gene's Organization [Legacy Marker Program](#)

Battle of Brooklyn Chapter  
26 Oct 2024

Fall "Sons of Liberty" and Revolutionary War  
Walking Tour with David Peters

It went well, with a nice turnout of compatriots and friends Ken Stevens, Bryan Irrgang, his wife Diane and a friend, Kevin Johnson, Mike Morris and prospective members Emeric DuMas, Dan and Frank McDonald joined in the 2 hr. tour. We started at the Municipal Building at Chambers St. and worked our way down ending at Fraunces Tavern and adjourning to the White Horse



for lunch and drinks. I hope to have another in the Spring/Summer. See the attached PDF for the itinerary

Emeric Du Mas, Bryan Irrgang (L. I. Pres) and wife Diane, Kevin Johnson (B of B VP), Dave Peters, Dan and Frank McDonald and Ken Stevens (Regional VP)



### [Walking Tour 2.pdf](#)

Joint SAR and DAR Meeting

9 Nov 2024

Old Stone House

Power Point Lecture, David Peters on the Kings Co. Militia

Much to our surprise our friend Kim Maier and the OSH staff installed our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Old Stone House Sign. Kevin Johnson and Brooklyn DAR, Regent Kathy Fontaine led the meeting which consisted primarily of my power point lecture on the Kings Co. Militia 1775-1776 and the induction of



a new DAR member Pam Foster (a distant cousin). After the meeting Kevin, Gary Lane, Pete Fountaine and I discussed a little chapter business, we were joined by Emeric Du Mas and Dan McDonaald.

Outline of Narrative of the Kings County Militia

[Kings Co. Militia Notes GG.pdf](#)



D. Peters Photo



103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Flag Service  
of the Historical and Genealogical Societies of New York  
10 Nov 2024

St. Thomas' Church, Manhattan

Thom Taylor (SAR), Scott Postell (1<sup>st</sup> NY Cont.), Norm Goben (Battle of Brooklyn) and Dave Peters (1<sup>st</sup> Pa. Continentals) served as flag bearers, representing the two respective NYC SAR Chapters. This thing is a big deal, among those represented are four of oldest societies in the USA and New York, the St. Andrew's Society (1756), St. George's (1770), Friendly Sons of St. Patrick (1771) and the Society of Cincinnati (1783),. Ninety Eight societies were listed on the program, maybe half that amount participated. Some represented were the DAR, which has a nice turn out from a number of local chapters, the New York Sons of the Revolution, Sons of Union Veterans. We hope participate next year. Veterans Corp of Artillery served as Honor Guard. Photo taken by our friend Peter Hein of the NYSR.







D. Peters Photo

Steve Gross, Evan Cummings, and Thom Taylor at Fraunces Tavern

EVACUATION DAY OBSERVANCES and EVENTS

23 and 25 Nov 2024

New Utrecht Reformed Church and Cemetery

Evacuation Plaza and Fraunces Tavern

Federal Hall



The New York City Evacuation Day observance was held this year on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> instead of the usual 25<sup>th</sup>. This was also the day of the DAR historic plaque dedication at the New Utrecht Reformed Church Cemetery in which the Color Guard was slated to participate, so we did double duty. Thom Taylor, Evan Cummings, Steve Gross and I attended the New York event and the Color Guard attended the New Utrecht event, the DAR marker dedication at the church cemetery and an Evacuation Day observance was also held at the Liberty Pole the last thing the British saw as they sailed out of New York Bay in 1783

N. Goben Photo





Above, Dave Nelson, Andy Frling, Michael and Brian Ante, George Tonkin and Norm Goben, Color Guard at New Utrecht, DAR Plaque Dedication and Evacuation Day Observance

FEDERAL HALL  
EVACUATION DAY PRESENTATION  
25 Nov 2025

Norman Goben gave a talk and presentation to the general public with his display of Revolutionary War maps and flags, he was joined by Jim Sarlo and Mike Grillo, Mike also had on display a wonderful Hopkinson's flag, hand sewn by him, I stopped by for a visit, just enough to annoy everyone.



N, Goben Photo

Jim Sarlo, Norm Goben and Mike Grillo at Federal Hall



Hopkinson Flag

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA  
250<sup>th</sup> SIGN INSTALLATION and DEDICATION  
MERSEREAU BROTHERS GRAVE MARKER INSTALLATION  
PORT RICHMOND REFORMED CHURCH  
14 DEC 2024

It was a trifecta event at the Port Richmond Reformed Church. The first event up was the National Wreaths Across America, SAR members participated in the event by sponsoring and laying the wreaths. Dr. Warren McKenzie, conducted the veterans memorial and wreath service. The Battle of Brooklyn Color Guard posted the colors, also participating in the honoring of the colors were the Richmond Co. DAR, CAR and the Boy Scouts. Many were on hand to honor the veterans, with representatives from the five branches of the Armed Forces, Rolling Thunder, the Marine Corp League and other veterans and civic groups, as well as private citizens. Our friend Karen Quinones aka Mrs. Q and her husband Eddie made the trip in from Pennsylvania as did the event coordinator DAR member Kathy Langdon and the event was filmed by Vinnie Langdon, Kathy's son, a filmmaker. The day before the event compatriots Gary Lane and Norm Goben installed the 250<sup>th</sup> sign at the church, which was burned by the British in 1777, during the Sullivan Raid. The Color Guard and chapter members dedicated the marker the next day. SAR and DAR members assisted but primarily Rolling Thunder members placed new grave markers for the patriot Mersereau brothers who operated one of the most effective spy rings in occupied New York, three of



the five brothers are buried in the Port Richmond Reformed Churchyard, there is also a plaque honoring them at the church.

250<sup>th</sup> Sign Dedication, Brian Ante, Gene Hough (PSSAR), Norm Goben, Jim Sarlo, Gary Lane, Liam Ferguson and David Peters.



T. Taylor Photo

### Find-a Graves Links for the Mersereau Brothers

[Jacob “Col” Mersereau \(1730-1804\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)

[Maj Joshua Mersereau \(1728-1804\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)

[CPT John Daniel Mersereau \(1731-1820\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)

[Corneilus “Patriot” Mersereau \(1739-1814\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)

[SR Paul “Patriot” Mersereau Sr. \(1741-1823\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)





T. Taylor Photo

SEA CADET AWARD CEREMONY  
GERARD CARTER CENTER  
STATEN ISLAND  
15 DEC 2024

Maj. Kevin Johnson awarded the SAR Youth Program final award of 2024, it went to US Naval Sea Cadet Vasilois Hernandez, who received the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate. In all 12 medals and certificates were awarded this past year to JROTC Cadets. Great work Kevin and all that were involved.





Cadets Liam Ferguson and Vasilois Hernandez with Kevin Johnson. Photo courtesy of Flynn Ferguson

## FINIS FOR 2024

Please see the additional volume of the Gowanus Gazette Part II on the year in review and looking forward to 2025 for the Battle of Brooklyn and 1<sup>st</sup> NY Continental chapters. Time head into winter camp- David Peters, editor



Snoopy Cartoon Courtesy of George Tonkin