

“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. 4

6 Dec.2023

RECENT EVENTS

Battle of Ft. Washington Commemoration and Reenactment

Ft. Tryon Park

18 Nov. 2023

This event has not taken place in a few years. A number of reenactors were on hand, the 3rd N.Y of Long Island as Militia, British 23rd Regt. of Foot, New Jersey Fife and Drum, Michael Grillo and family as Gen. Washington, a blacksmith and a few others.

Compatriot Norm Goblen led the reenactors in a live fire musket demonstration and field maneuvers, additionally his map collection of the "Battle of Ft. Washington" were on display for the general public and Norm, George Tonkin, Karen Q. and I fielded question.

Atlee's Musketry Battalion at Ft. Washington

As a follow up to last months article on "Prisoner of War Survivors". A company size detachment, commanded by Capt. Abraham DeHuff of Lancaster Co. was left behind from Atlee's Musketry Battalion at Ft. Washington. Given the casualties and those taken as prisoners of war at Brooklyn in August Atlee's regiment numbers were diminished. The company officers were Captain DeHuff, Lieutenants -Weidman, Caldwell, Ward and Ensign Whitebread, these men were all from different companies and were patched together to form a company with enlisted men being the remnants of DeHuff's Co. and "orphans" from other companies. Another prison of war survivor besides Lt. Matthias Weidman, Norm's ancestor was Pvt. John Eppley, an ancestor of compatriot Clark McCullough.

3rd New York of Long Island,
the N. J. Fife and Drum, and
British 23rd





Top-23rd
British Regt.
of Foot with
Norm Goben
Bottom-
British Camp
Followers





British Landing at the Palisades Image courtesy of N. Goben

EVACUATION DAY PARADE and COMMEMORATION

25 Nov. 2023

Bowling Green Park

John Trumbull's Evacuation Day 1783



A number of people I spoke with commented how this was the largest turn out in recent memory for the Evacuation Day celebration. The groups represented were the Battle of Brooklyn and 1st N.Y. Continental Chapters SAR, Brooklyn and Manhattan Chapters DAR, N.Y. Sons of the Revolution, the host organization, the Hercules Mulligan Awareness Society and the Lower Manhattan Historical Assoc. The Veteran Corp of Artillery and Gold's 1660 Connecticut Dragoons served as Color Guard.

Everyone gathered at Fraunces Tavern and marched over to Bowling Green, now officially designated "Evacuation Day Plaza". A number of people spoke but the most impressive was a young lady a high school student who spoke of her love and study of history. The British Union Jack was lowered by the Corp of Artillery and given to the Dragoon's, troop commander John Conlin, a former British Army officer, representing the British Crown and the American Flag was then raised.

Unfortunately John Van Arsdale could not be with us today but he was in spirit. On the first Evacuation Day in 1783 he was the young sailor that shimmied up the flag pole the British had greased and tore down the Union Jack nailed to the pole, he and his son for many years after raised the American flag on the Evacuation Day celebrations. The Veteran Corp of Artillery placed a historical plaque honoring him on the Bowling Green flagpole in 2015



Hercules Mulligan Awareness Society

S. Cunningham Photo

Hercules Mulligan Society turned out in good numbers about 15 members, they rallied at Pace Univ. on Park Row for a "Footsteps of Washington Walk" to Fraunces Tavern.



Procession to Bowling Green

P. Hein Photo

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 16 Dec. 2023

Greenwood Cemetery

On Saturday the 16th there will be two events "Wreathes Across America at Noon and at 3:00, the 250th Annivesary of the Boston Tea Party and the honoring of Gen. Ebenezer Stevens, the only Boston Tea Party participant interred in New York.

WREATHES ACROSS AMERICA

12:00 NOON

Wreathes Across America is a national event and organization, the SAR, DAR, and other veterans and patriotic organizations will be placing Christmas wreathes on veterans graves in Greenwood. Contact Gary Lane for additional information

[Home - Wreaths Across America](#)

BOSTON TEA PARTY and GEN. EBENEZER STEVENS COMMEMORATION

3:00 PM

Greenwood Cemetery At Gen. Steven's Grave Site

The Battle of Brooklyn Color Guard will muster at the Main Gate, 25th St. and 5th Ave. at 2:30/45 and march up to the grave at 3:00, about 2/3 of a mile, some up hill. Feel free to met us here, period dress and flags are welcomed.

3:20

Who was Ebenezer Stevens? by Greenwood Historian Jeffery I. Richmond

3:30

The Boston Tea Party: It's Importance to the American Revolution by Barnet Schecter, Revolutionary War historian and author

3:45

Unveiling of the Boston Tea Party Medallion and a Patriot Medallion at the Graveside

Accompanied by Salutes and Musket Volleys

[GEN Ebenezer Stevens \(1751-1823\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)

BATTLE OF BROOKLYN CHAPTER

NEW MEMBERS INDUCTION, CHRISTMAS PARTY, AND MEETING

Wednesday Dec. 20th 6:00-9:00 PM

OLD STONE HOUSE

336 3rd St. 4th and 5th Ave.

Six new members will be inducted, Brian Ante and his son Michael descended from Capt. Richard Rapier, James Pinkley and his two son Emmett and James, descended from Nathaniel Hart and Thomas Wiant descended from Abraham Cole.

Food and refreshments, will be casual, probably hor d'oeuvres and party heroes from the deli, but can you BYOB or bring potluck dishes or deserts if you like.

Capt. Richard James Rapier(1744-1817) was a Lieutenant and later Captain in Col. Jeremiah Jordan's Upper Battalion of the St. Mary's County, Maryland Militia. This county was predominantly Roman Catholic. After the war a number of St. Mary's families removed to the Bardstown area of Kentucky, where they established a Roman Catholic community in Kentucky. Capt. Rapier died here in 1817.

Abraham Cole (1736-1815) Was born on Staten Island and was living there during the early British occupation. Like many Staten Islanders who supported the patriot cause fled to New Jersey and enlisted in New Jersey Regiments. Cole in Col. David Chambers 3rd Regiment of the Hunterdon County Militia, like most of the New Jersey militia, the Hunterdon County Regiments were involved in early battles of the New Jersey Campaign and the Defense of Philadelphia. After the war he returned to Staten Island where he died in 1815 and is buried in the Woodrow United Methodist Churchyard, Woodrow is the oldest Methodist congregation on Staten Island and among the oldest in America.

[Abraham Cole \(1739-1815\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)

PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

Major General Ebenezer Stevens (1751-1823)

Ebenezer Stevens like Col. Christian Febiger and Forrest Gump they all seem pop up during key historical events. Ebenezer Stevens was born 11 Aug 1751 in Boston to Ebenezer and Elizabeth (nee Weld) Stevens.

Stevens as a young man was enlisted in Paddock's Artillery Co. of the Massachusetts Militia with Paul Revere and other early members of the Boston Sons of Liberty. He participated in the Boston Tea Party under the leadership of Jabez Hatch.

Service in the American Revolution

Soon after the Boston Tea Party he removed to Rhode Island. When the news of the Battle of Lexington and Concord reached him he volunteered and was commissioned 1st Lieutenant of the Company of Rhode Island Artillery in May of 1775. He fought at Bunker Hill under Nathanael Greene. Then promoted to Captain in Knox's Regiment of Continental Artillery 10 Dec 1775 and Major of Steven's Independent Artillery Corp, 9 Nov 1776. Brevet Major Continental Army 27th May 1777, his battalion was annexed to Col. John Cranes 3rd Continental Artillery in the Fall of 1778. Brevet Lt. Colonel

Continental Army 2 April 1778. For the duration of the war Lt. Colonel in Col. John Lamb's New York 2nd Continental Artillery. 24th Nov, 1778 through June of 1783 when he was discharged at West Point. Stevens was engaged in most of the major battles of the Northern Department and the 2nd and 3rd Continental Artillery Regiments from Bunker Hill through to Yorktown, including Quebec, the New Jersey Campaign, the Defense of Philadelphia and Saratoga Campaign and the surrender of Burgoyne, he served under Generals Schuyler, Greene and Lafayette.

Post War, Military Service and Family

After the war Ebenezer Stevens settled in New York City and became a merchant, fleet owner and liquor importer, he operated primarily out his offices at 222 Front St. in the current South St. Seaport historic district, between Beekman St. and Pecks Slp.

During the War of 1812 Stevens served in the New York Militia at the rank of Maj. General

He married twice, his first wife was Rebecca Hodgden of Providence, Rhode Island in 1774 and after her death in 1783 he married the widow of Richard Sands, Lucretia nee Leyard Sands in 1784.

From his first marriage he had four children born between 1775 and 1782:

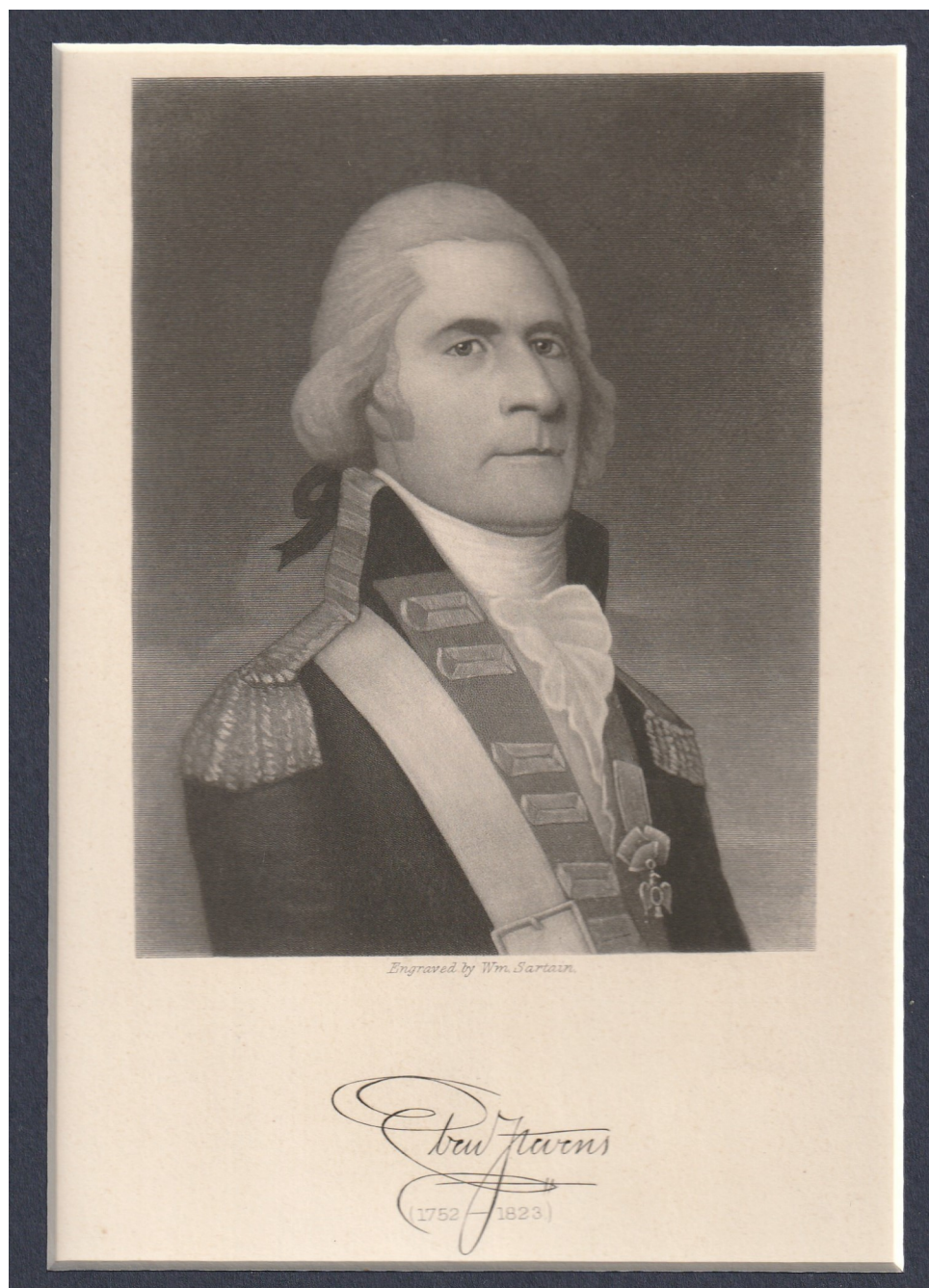
- Elizabeth, died in childhood
- Horatio Gates, married Eliza Lucille Rhinelander, Maj. Gen. N.Y Militia.
- Rebecca Hodgden, married John Peter Schermerhorn
- George Alexander died unmarried, lost at sea age 25.

From his second marriage he had seven children born between 1785 and 1798,

- Samuel, a prominent attorney.
- William,
- Alexander Hodgden, a surgeon, married three times, Mary Jane Bayard, Catherine Morris, the granddaughter of Lewis Morris, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and Phoebe Coles Lloyd,
- Byam Kerby, married Frances Gallatin the daughter of Albert Gallatin, 4th Sect.of the Treasury and Ambassador to France and Great Britain.
- John Austin, a banker, married Abigail Perkins Weld,
- Henry Hawgill, married Catherine Clarkson Crosby
- Mary Lucretia married Frederic Rhinelander

Ebenezer Stevens died 2 Sept 1823 at Rockaway, Queens, N.Y. and is interred at Greenwood Cemetery. He likely was buried elsewhere initially and re-interred at Greenwood when it opened in 1838.

Sources for Ebenezer Stevens: Primarily Heitman's Register of Continental Officers



Antique Print of Ebenezer Stevens

Courtesy of D. Peters

WEAPONS of the REVOLUTIONARY WAR

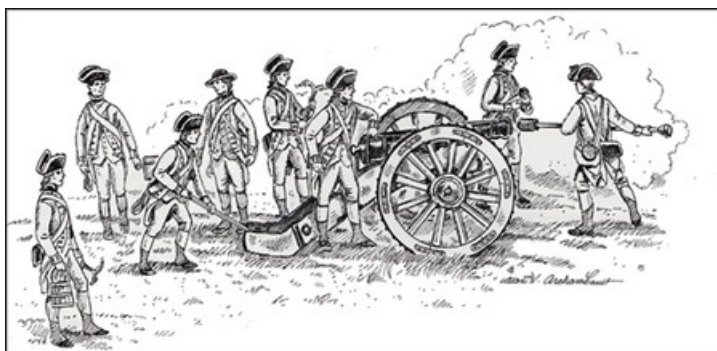
The Wall Gun: Originally used in wall fortifications, it is basically an over sized smooth bore musket, about 6' in length or longer, weighting about 35 to 40 lbs., it fired a ball larger than the .75 (3/4") cal. Brown Bess about 1" or about 100 cal. They fill the gap between the musket and the less mobile swivel guns and smaller artillery pieces. The wall gun was fired from a sling or tripod by a two man crew and it was primarily used to take out artillery personal and placements or in naval warfare. Chris Diaman of the "Jersey Blues" owns one and does a fire demonstration at reenactment events.

GENEALOGY CORNER

Artillery Ranks and Designations

These are a few obsolete or obscure ranks or terms you may encounter in your research pertaining to ancestors that may have served in artillery units.

- **Corp**-This term was used for specialized units, such as Artillery, Cavalry, the Continental Marines or as in the case of Morgan's Rifle Corp, It was battalion sized and was usually commanded by a Lt. Colonel or Major. The larger designation in the cavalry was Legion, which was the equivalent of a Regiment, commanded by a Colonel. The terms Battalions and Regiments are often interchanged during the Revolutionary War but a battalion was the smaller designation, The term Corp later and currently denotes a much larger unit, during the Civil War a Corp was two to five divisions and was commanded by a senior Maj. General.
- **Artificer**-An Artificer was a skilled tradesman or mechanic under the command of the Chief Engineer of the Quartermaster's Dept., usually attached to an Artillery Regiment or Company, they could be a blacksmith, wheelwright, cooper, farrier, carpenter, wagon maker, saddler or any other type of tradesman whose skill was needed in maintaining an army, artillery pieces or in building fortification. A artificers unit could be regiment sized as in Col. Benjamin Flower's Pennsylvania Regiment of Artificers, attached to the main Continental Army or company sized.
- **Bombardier**-Was a non-commissioned officer's rank, equivalent to a Corporal or a current Marine Corp Lance Corporal. His prime responsibility was to maintain the artillery ordnance making sure it was packed, stored, and loaded properly, and the vent hole was clear on the field piece. Usually two to four per company depending on the number of cannons
- **Gunner**- Similar rank designation as a Bombardier, Self explanatory, he aimed and fired the artillery piece.
- **Matross**- Equivalent to a private. A matross swabbed, assisted in loading, maintaining and positioning the gun, humping ordnance, and guarding the ordnance caissons and supply train wagons, forty to fifty per company.



A FEW MORE THINGS

Here are a few things that may be of interest

THE NEW WINDSOR CANTONMENT

Located near New Windsor in Orange County at few miles south of Newburgh and about 2 hours north of NYC. A nice family day trip. About 7,500 Continental troops encamped here late in the war 1782-1783, the original style bunk cabins and buildings have been recreated and there is a small museum there with an excellent collection of period American, British, and French artillery pieces. The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor Museum is also nearby.

[New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site \(ny.gov\)](http://www.ny.gov)

[National Purple Heart Hall of Honor \(thepurpleheart.org\)](http://thepurpleheart.org)



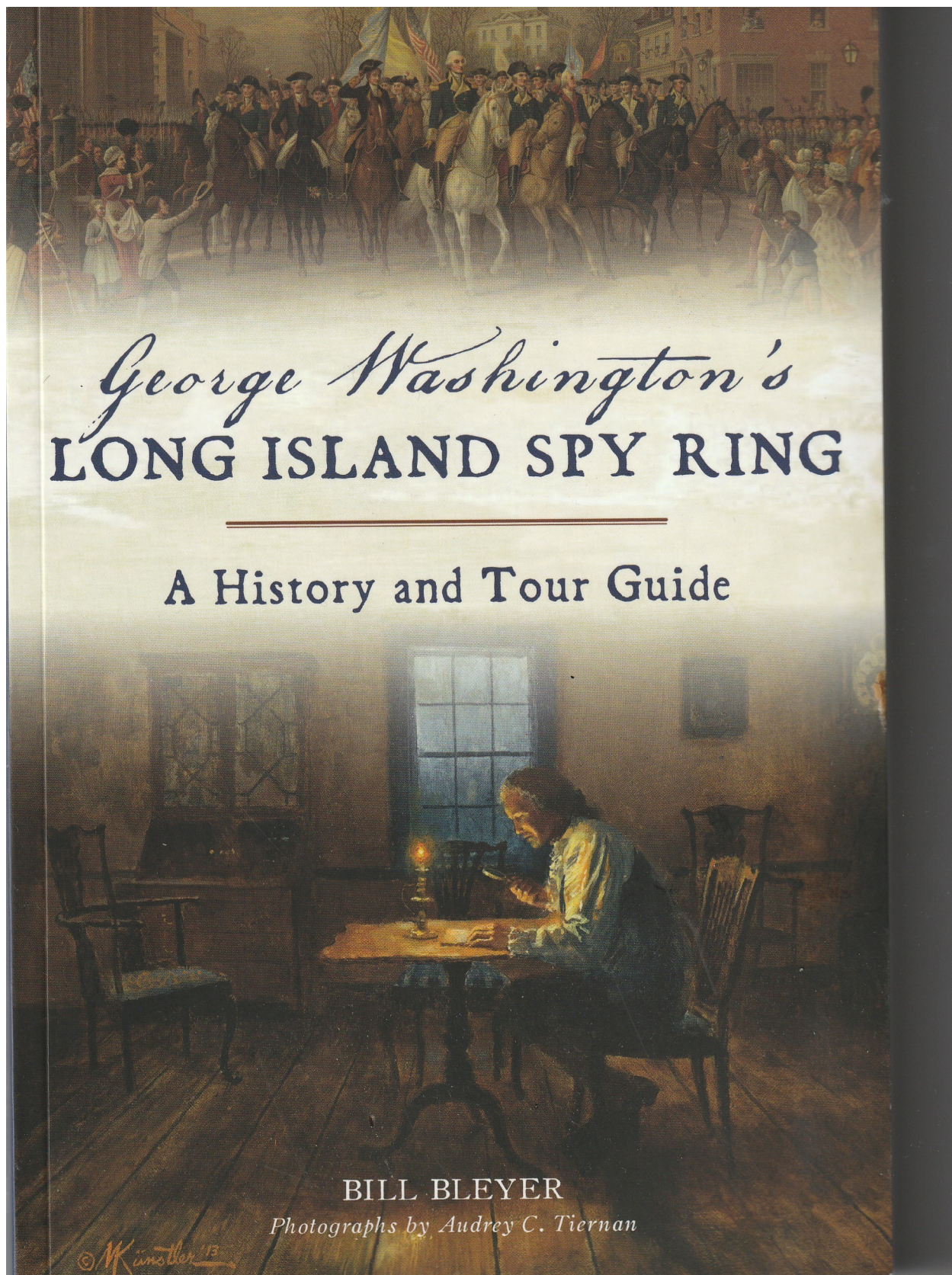
New Windsor Museum

D. Peters Photo

NEW BOOK

“George Washington’s Long Island Spy Ring” by Bill Bleyer

Bill Bleyer is a Long Island based historian and journalist, who recently published this excellent book on “the Culper Spy Ring”. It is well a documented book and it also serves as a tour guide to the various “Culper” historic sites on Long Island. Bill may give book talk to the chapter after the New Year.





Jim Sarlo at Historic Richmond Tow

Photo Courtesy of HRT staff photographer and Luke Boyd

Honoring those that Crossed the Delaware with Gen. Washington and Defeated the Hessian Garrison at Trenton 26 Dec 1776 and those that Fought in the Last Battles of 1777 during the Defenses Philadelphia at White Marsh on the 5th and 6th and Matson's Ford on the 11th of December. Before the Continental Army went into Winter Quarters at Valley Forge after a year of hard fighting.



See everyone on 16th at GREENWOOD and the 20th at the OLD STONE HOUSE
It has been a good and active year for the Battle of Brooklyn Chapter and a salute to all that have made it happen, let's continue throughout 2024.-David Peters, Editor

FREHLICHER GRISTDAAG un HALLISCHES NEI YAAHR
(Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for you non Pa. German speakers)

LIBERTAS ET PATRIA



