

“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. 3

5 Nov. 2023

RECENT EVENTS

Oct. 19th Chapter Meeting

Whitehorse Tavern

We had a good turn out of about 20 compatriots, sisters from the DAR and invited guest, the Hercules Mulligan Awareness Society. New members Brian Ante and son Michael and original chapter member Sean Burkley were in attendance. Congratulations to Gary Lane for receiving the District Distinguished Service Medal, presented by Chapter President Dave Nelson and Kevin Johnson. Steve Cunningham of the Hercules Mulligan Awareness Society spoke about his organization and they will be joining us in future events. If you are interested in joining (no dues) the society and being placed on their email list. Contact Steve at herculesmulligansoc@gmail.com. A big salute goes out to Tina the bartender and Whitehorse staff who kept the food and drinks coming



Dave Nelson presenting Gary Lane the Distinguished Service Medal D. Peters Photo

14th and 15th of October
Old Home Weekend

Historic Richmond Town, Staten Island

This was a two day event, unfortunately the weather was not in our favor on Saturday, it rained most of the day, so we packed up early. The weather was better for Sunday. Gary Lane represented our chapter with a booth, selling items to raise funds, Leona Lane and the Staten Island DAR and CAR was were also in attendance. A number of reenactors, 18th century craftsmen, musicians and others were also on hand. Drew Shutar-Rayvis and a friend representing the Pocomoke tribe of Maryland were encamped on site and were dressed in 18th Century Native American attire.



Would you coffee mug from this guy? Gary at the chapter booth.

N. Goben Photo



Jim Sarlo at the Christopher House dressed as a Loyalist Militiaman N. Goben Photo

The “Spontoon or Half Pike” similar to the one Jim is holding were carried by Sergeants and Company Grade Officers as a symbol of authority and to signal orders to the soldiers in battle, they were also placed in front of troops to keep “fire lines” straight. Spontoons were also used as weapons when muskets were not available. Glover’s Marbleheaders were masters of the spontoon, being whalers and fishermen by trade. They were used through the 18th century and the early 19th century and the Napoleonic Wars

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday Nov. 7th @ 7:00 PM

Old Stone House, Brooklyn 336 3rd St, Brooklyn

Dr. Benjamin Carp will be giving a free lecture commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party. This event is sponsored by the Brooklyn Chapter of the DAR. Dr. Carp is a professor at Brooklyn College, Revolutionary War Historian and Author, he has written on the “Boston Tea Party” and the “Great Fire of 1776”

Wednesday Nov. 8th @ 7:30

New York's Role in the Ratification of the U.S. Constitution

Lecture and Web Cast

Historical Society of the New York Courts

140 Grand St., White Plains, NY.

See link for more info [Home - Historical Society of the New York Courts \(nycourts.gov\)](http://Home - Historical Society of the New York Courts (nycourts.gov))

Saturday Nov. 11th

Veterans Day Parade

23rd St and 5th Ave 11:00

We are not marching as a group



Military Service in the
American Revolution

Sunday November 12th

Come join Norman and I at Fort Tryon Park, we have been attending this events for many years

Commemoration of the Battle of Fort Washington



Photo by Tom Hilton

Sunday, November 12 | 12:00pm-3:00pm
Fort Tryon Park | Café Lawn

Enter the park at the northern end of Fort Washington Avenue at Margaret Corbin Circle. Enter at the stone pillars & turn right.

This year marks the 247th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Washington, a key event during the Revolutionary War. Be transported back in time and celebrate your local history.

Come watch a blacksmith demonstration and American troops perform and lead military drills! Listen to live 18th-century music, make arts and crafts and play games from the revolutionary period. Meet General George Washington and tour the battle scene with heroine Margaret Corbin! Costumes encouraged!



@forttryonparktrust

212.795.1388 | info@FortTryonParkTrust.org

FortTryonParkTrust.org



NYC Parks



Sunday Nov. 12th
Remembrance Day Flag Service
St. Thomas Church 1 W. 53rd St.

This event is sponsored by the Historical and Genealogical Societies of New York, Numerous lineage societies will be attendance DAR, Sons of the Revolution, Society of Cincinnati, Union Veterans, Mayflower and others. More details to follow

Thursday November 16th
Fraunces Tavern Museum 6:30-7:30

Our friend Richard Melnick will be giving a talk on his recently published book “Long Island City in 1776” on the British occupation of Queens. A few of us attended his lecture at the Queens Historical Society last month and I have read the book, it’s quite interesting and a forgotten piece of the American Revolution in New York, Richard does a great job in bringing this out. For further information link to the Fraunces Tavern website: [Calendar of Events — Fraunces Tavern® Museum \(frauncestavernmuseum.org\)](https://www.frauncestavernmuseum.org)

New Utrecht Reformed Church Parish House
84th St. and 18th Ave, Brooklyn 7:30

Friends of New Historic New Utrecht are sponsoring this free event an illustrated lecture on the “History of Ft. Hamilton” by Justin M. Batt. Call 718-258-7173 or email mail@historicnewutrecht.org for more info.

Monday Nov. 20th
Sons of the Revolution Annual Evacuation Day Dinner and Toast
Fraunces Tavern

Contact the SR at for information and tickets: [Evacuation Day Dinner — Sons of the Revolution](#)

Evacuation Day
Nov 25th

We will rally with the Hercules Mulligan Society at the Ben Franklin statue at Pace Univ., entrance to the Brooklyn Bridge on Park Row, near City Hall and march to Bowling Green for a commemoration and flag service ceremony, we will be joined by the Sons of the Revolution, the Continental Chapter and the Lower Manhattan Historical Assoc. Details TBA once we coordinate with all parties involved.

Our compatriot George Hiddleston has invited us to his home chapters annual luncheon
Westchester-Putnam Chapter SAR
FALL 2023 LUNCHEON
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023
NOON – CASH BAR

1PM – LUNCHEON

Le Fontane, 137 Somerstown Turnpike (Route 100), Katonah, NY 10536

(914) 232-9619

Special Guest Susan Seal

President, Friends of Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters

Cost: \$48 per person. Menu: Appetizer, Choice of Rigatoni Shrimp and Baby Scallops, Linguine Pescatore, Butternut Squash Lasagna, Chicken or Capri, Grilled Salmon with Sauteed mix Vegetables or Beef Scaloppine, Coffee & Dessert

----- please cut here -----

Reservations accompanied by a check made out to WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM

CHAPTER SAR should be received by Tuesday, November 28, 2023

I am enclosing my check for \$ ____ for ____ lunches @ \$48 per person

Name(s) _____

PLEASE MAIL TO: John Ludlum, 3 Cedar Lane Terrace, Ossining, New York 10562

BATTLE OF FORT WASHINGTON

16 November 1776

What happened at Fort Washington was quite simple, Gen Washington split his army consisting of about 6,500 soldiers, leaving about 3,000 at Fort Washington under the command of Col. Robert Magaw of the 5th Pa. in a last ditch attempt to hold on to New York. The remaining troops under Gen. Washington, about 3,500 crossed over the Hudson River at Fort Lee on November the 10th and marched south. On the night of Nov. 2nd a traitor Col. Magaw's Adjutant Ensign William Demont deserted to Lord Percy's camp at McGowan's Pass (E.102 St and 5th Ave.in Central Park) and gave detailed plans on the fort's fortifications and troop strength to the British. The British surrounded the fort, crossing the Harlem River, with the Hessian approaching from the north. Magaw surrounded surrendered after initially having the upper hand and just under 2800 were taken as prisoners of war, of whom about ¾ of these died in the sugarhouses and the prison ships before exchange.

American Order of Battle

Col. Robert Magaws, 5th Pa. Bn, After Ft. Washington this regiment was re-recruited and some exchanged prisoners of war rejoined the regiment. It was designated the 6th Pa. Regt. in 1777

Col. John Shee's 3rd Pa.Bn., about half the battalion was under the command of Lt. Col. Lambert Calwalder. In 1777 it was designated the 4th Pa. These two battalions were stationed in this area guarding the northern approach in Mifflin's Brigade during the Battle of Brooklyn.

Lt. Col. Moses Rawling's Maryland and Virginia Rifle Battalion

Col. Wm. Baxter's and companies from Watts' and Swope's Pennsylvania Flying Camps

Knowlton's Rangers. Lt. Col. Thomas Knowlton was killed in action at the Battle of Harlem Heights.

Proctor's Pennsylvania Artillery, Margaret Corbin took her husband's place as a matross at the guns after he had fallen.

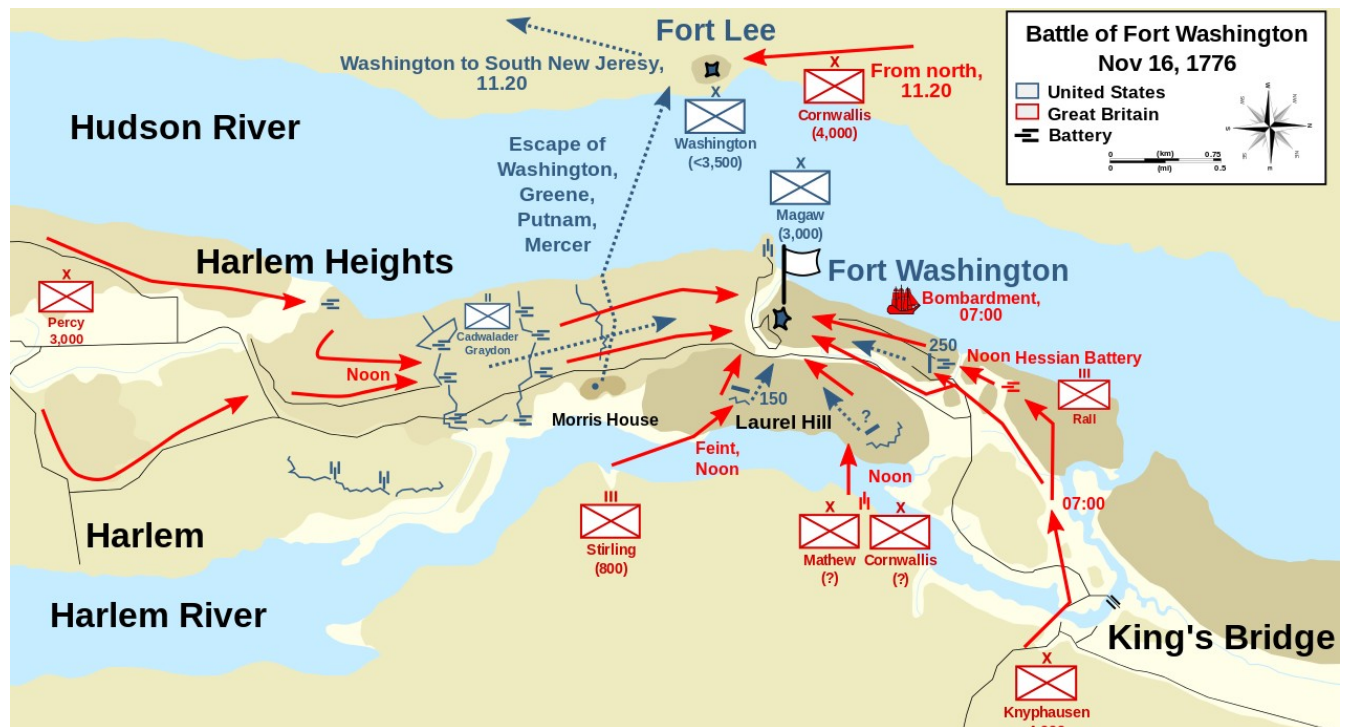
Companies of Atlee's Musketry Bn. Pennsylvania, New York, and New England Militia

Inscription on Baxter's Bucks County Flying Camp Memorial Marker
W. 193rd and Audubon Ave. at George Washington High School, Ft. George

IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF
THE PATRIOT VOLUNTEERS OF
THE PENNSYLVANIA FLYING CAMP
LED BY
COLONEL WILLIAM BAXTER
OF BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
WHO WITH MANY OF MEN FELL
WHILE DEFENDING THIS HEIGHT
16 NOVEMBER 1776

THIS ROCK
STOOD WITHIN THE LINES OF
FORT GEORGE
THE PRINCIPAL WORK CONSTRUCTED BY
THE BRITISH AND HESSIAN FORCES
WHO OCCUPIED LAUREL HILL
1776-1783

THE MANHATTAN CHAPTER
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
PLACED THIS MARKER 23 JUNE 1923



GENEALOGY CORNER

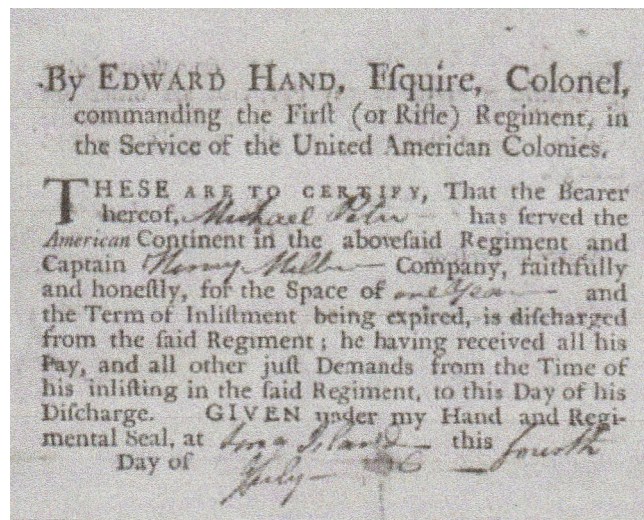
Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files

These files records are the richest source for personal detail and service of Revolutionary War soldiers. After the war in the late 1700s Revolutionary War soldiers began to receive their pensions for service during the war, the general rule was 6 months active duty Continental Line or Militia service to receive a pension, unless wounded and disabled. The problems were threefold when the British burned Washington, D. C. during the War of 1812 many records were destroyed, with some pensioners fraud was involved or others their service was not well documented especially among militia soldiers, whose service was often a month, a few weeks or days here or there and many of the soldiers were dying off and the pensions needed to be transferred to their widows and heirs.

In the early 19th century a need to clean up the pensioners rolls was realized, many of these files start in 1818 and go through the 1830s and 1840s, really up to about 1900. Most pensioners who were quite elderly by this time, they or their widows, heirs or proxies were required to travel often quite a distance to a hearing before a judge. Written statement or affidavits was transcribed, this would include where they lived currently and at time of enlistment and anywhere in between. Family, parents, wives, and children. Statements from witnesses, soldier and officers with whom they served, other veterans, relatives or friends that knew of their service, also character witnesses such as clergyman and men of some prominence. But, most importantly it was a detailed

account of their service; enlistment, discharge, promotion, and regimental transfer dates, commanding officers, battles they fought in, duty postings, dates of where they marched to and from, and anytime as a prisoner of war. If the veteran was lucky if he still had his original discharge papers or other documentation such as pay vouchers and receipts but many of these were often not issued or lost over the years, also the memory of aged veterans began to fail and many details were vague, it was hard for an elderly veteran well into his 70s or 80s to member details from over fifty years prior.

These files could be anywhere from a few pages to often twenty or thirty pages in length and they are also often supplemented with queries and correspondence, often typewritten from earlier in the 20th century, primarily requests for documentation and information for DAR/SAR applications. Because they are handwritten the penmanship can really vary, but they are generally reasonably legible because they were written by professional scriveners or clerks and you can usually glean what you need. They are available on Fold 3 and Ancestry and at [Southern Campaigns Revolutionary War Pension Applications & Rosters \(revwarapps.org\)](http://SouthernCampaignsRevolutionaryWarPensionApplications&Rosters(revwarapps.org)) . This website has several hundred transcribed pension files, primarily Southern soldiers but pensioners from other states can be found, especially if they removed to South after the war and received their pension there.



A page from my patriot ancestor George Michael Peter's file, discharge paper from the 1st Contitnetals signed by Col. Edward Hand, dated 4 July 1776, Long Island



Guilford Courthouse Battle Flag

PATRIOT GRAVEYARDS

On the anniversary of the Battle of Fort Washington we will commemorate two soldiers both prisoners of war at Ft. Washington, who survived the British prison ships or sugarhouses. If these two had not survived neither Norman Goben and I would not be here today. These soldiers are Lt. Matthias Weidman and Pvt. William Van Horn. Please send me information on your patriots if you want me to feature them in upcoming issues.



Brick Reformed Church and Graveyard, Burlington, N. C. N. Goben Photo

This graveyard has many patriots buried here mostly Guilford County militiamen, they include many from the Clapp family, Capt. Jacob Clapp, Lt. John Ludwig Clapp, Jr., George Valentine Clapp, Jr., and John Barnhardt “Barney” Clapp,

Lt. Matthias Weidman

Matthias Weidman (Matthew Whiteman) (1755-1816) Norm Goblen's 5h great-grandfather, was born in Lancaster County, Pa. and enlisted in Col. Samuel Atlee's Pa. Musketry Battalion and was commissioned a Lieutenant in Capt. Joseph Howell's Company. Weidman fought at the Battle of Long Island and was taken as a prisoner of war at Ft. Washington. it is unclear where he was held but he was exchanged 26 Aug 1778. After his exchange he made his way to Guilford County, North Carolina. His name appears on the muster rolls of Col. John Peasley's Guilford Co. Militia Regiment in 1780 in Capt. Henry Whitesell's (Weitzel) Co., he fought at Camden, S.C., Guilford Courthouse, Clapp's and Whitesell's Mills.

Incidentally Matthias's brother John a Lieutenant and Adjutant to Lt. Col. Weltner in the German Regiment survived the prison ships at Wallabout Bay, he remained in Pennsylvania after the war and was a founding member of the Society of Cincinnati.

Burial and Brick Church

Matthias Weidman married Margaret Low (1761-1851) in 1784 after the war and raised a large family. He is buried in the Brick Church Reformed Churchyard, Burlington, N.C. Burlington is about 30 miles east of Greensboro and Guilford Courthouse. Norman and I were unable to locate his marker but it is likely near the Low or Clapp family plots. This congregation was founded prior to the French & Indian War in 1748 by Germans, led by the Klapp brothers George Valentine and John Ludwig who migrated from Lancaster and Berks County. The pastor the Rev. Samuel Suther was an ardent Whig and outspoken advocate for independence, attacks from the Loyalist drove him from his home and his farm was put to the torch.

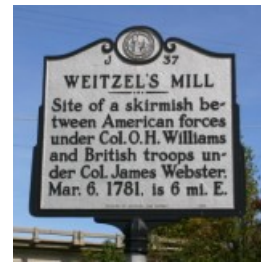
The Brick Church Company of Militia, Clapp's and Weitzel's Mill

Most of able bodied men of the congregation served in Capt. Henry Whitesell's (Weitzel) Company of Col. John Peasley's Regiment of Guilford County Militia, this company was known as the "Brick Church Company". Capt. Whitesell served also under Col. James Martin of Guilford and fought in many engagements in the Carolinas. Two battles that occurred in March of 1781 just prior to Guilford Courthouse near Brick Church were Weitzel or Whitesell's Mill, (many other variant spellings) which was owned by Capt. Henry Whitesell and Clapp's Mill on Beaver Creek, which was maybe owned by George Valentine Clapp, Jr.. A number of these "Brick Church" militiamen also fought in the War of Regulation (1766-1771) and the Battle of the Alamance which was nearby, including George Valentine Clapp, Jr..

The skirmish at Clapps's Mill occurred 2 March 1781 between troops commanded by Lt. Col. Henry "Lighthorse Harry" Lee., they consisted of Lee's Legion, Light Infantry from Col. Otho Holland Williams Maryland Brigade, some allied Catawba Indians and North Carolina and Virginia Militia. The British forces were led by Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton,

consisting of his Cavalry Legion, Light Infantry and Loyalist Militia. In the initial volley the American line broke and they retreated, Tarleton choose not to pursue because he feared running into a larger force of Greene's army

Four days later on the 6th many of these same troops met again at Weitzel's Mill, additionally Col. Otho Holland Williams was in command, supported by Lee's Legion and additional dragoons under Lt. Col. William Washington command, about 700 American vs. about 1200 British Regulars, Calvary and Loyalist commanded by Col. James Webster and Tarleton, they fought to a draw and both side withdrew, many of these troops would meet again on the 15th a week later at Guilford Courthouse.



William Van Horn

William Van Horn (1757-1843) my 5th great-grandfather was born in Newtown, Bucks Co, Pa. He initially enlisted in Col. Kirkbrides's Bucks Co Associator Battalion and then Col. William Baxter's, Capt. McKissicks's Co., Bucks Co. Flying Camp. Like the rest of Baxter's Battalion he was taken as prisoner of war at Ft. Washington, it is unknown where he was held but he was exchanged and released sometime before the Fall of 1777. He returned home and reenlisted in the Bucks Co. Militia and fought at the Battle of Germantown. His cousin Isaac Van Horn, a Captain in Magaw's 5th Bn. also survived as a prisoner of war and afterward serving the duration of the war, he was a founding member of the Society of Cincinnati and later Adjutant General of the Ohio State Militia during the War of 1812.

Ironically Joseph Plumb Martin in memoir relates a story of Lieutenant also named Joseph Martin of Baxter's Flying Camps and how he was captured at Ft. Washington and believed to be lost by his family, his father Joseph Martin.Sr. and mother Hannah tavern owners of Chester Co. were Joseph Plumb Martin stayed during the Philadelphia Campaign. While researching this story I found Lt. Joseph Martin did indeed survive his imprisonment and returned home.

Back to William Van Horn, after the war he removed to Hepburn Twp., Lycoming County, Pa. and received a pension and land grant. He and his wife Hannah Davis practiced the Quaker faith, where he is buried is unknown, possibly at the Quaker Hill Cemetery where a number of his descendants are buried. His daughter Margaret(1787-1837) married Henry Southard III (1786-1869), Henry was the son a Revolutionary War veteran Henry Southard, Jr (1752-1842) he served in the Brinckerhoff's Dutchess Co., N.Y. Militia, Pawling's Levies and the 2nd Regiment N. Y. Line, he removed from Dutchess Co., to Lycoming Co. after the war.

FINIS

