

Genealogical Society of Rockland County, Inc.



NEWSLETTER

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HOME PAGE: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nyrockla/GSRC/>

"FREEDOM IS NOT FREE"

by Major Kelly Strong

I watched the flag pass by one day,
it fluttered in the breeze.
A young man in uniform saluted it,
and then he stood at ease.
I looked at him in uniform-
so young, so tall, so proud
With hair cut square and eyes alert,
he'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him
had fallen through the years?
How many died on foreign soil?
How many mothers tears?
How many pilots planes shot down?
How many died at sea?
How many foxholes were soldiers graves?
No, freedom is not free.

I heard the sound of taps one night,
when everything was still.
I listened to the bugler play
and felt a sudden chill.
I wondered just how many times
that taps had meant "Amen"
When a flag had draped a coffin
of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children,
of mothers and of wives.
Of fathers, sons and husbands,
with interrupted lives.
I thought about a graveyard
at the bottom of the sea.
Of unmarked graves in Arlington.
No, freedom is not free.

"VETERANS DAY"

by Father Denis Edward O'Brien, USMC

It is the soldier, not the reporter
Who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the soldier, not the poet
Who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the soldier,
not the campus organizer
Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.
It is the soldier who salutes the flag,
who serves beneath the flag,
and whose coffin is draped by the flag,
Who allows the protester to burn the flag.

These two poems were found in the Ann Landers column in the New York Daily News on Veterans Day, 11 Nov., 2001. They are reproduced here as a tribute to all the men and women of our Armed Forces. This year Veterans Day came exactly two months after the lives of all Americans were so dramatically changed on Sept. 11th. The scurrilous attacks of that day have given us cause for greater thought and introspection. An intense feeling of American pride and patriotism has surely been rekindled, along with an increased reverence and love for "Old Glory." May God Bless our fighting men and women who are risking their lives today to secure and safeguard the very same freedoms and values our ancestors came to this country to embrace.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR



Many thanks to all our members for their many continued contributions. The GSRC Newsletter is greatly enriched by your willingness to share. Without you we cannot continue to put together the kind of newsletter you want and enjoy. All members are

invited to submit material for publication. Original work is desired and encouraged. When sending information from another source, please give proper credit. The Genealogical Society of Rockland County, and its Editor, will assume no responsibility for typographical or factual errors, or for the opinions expressed or implied by its contributors. *All submitted material will be published at the discretion of the Editor, without verification, and as space permits. Submissions may be edited for length, content and accuracy.* Readers comments are welcomed. The Newsletter is published quarterly, at the beginning of September, December, March and June. The deadline for all submitted material is the first of the month preceding the month of publication. Send material, articles and comments to:

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Dues and Membership Annual Society dues are now \$15.00 for both individuals and organizations. The Society dues year is September 1st to August 31st.

DUES FOR THE 2002 YEAR ARE PAYABLE NOW.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Regular meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of every month except July, August, and December, in the all purpose meeting room in the New City Public Library, 220 N. Main St., New City, Rockland Co., NY. (845) 634-4997

All meetings will start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted

For information regarding meeting cancellations due to bad weather, call Marie Koestler, (845) 623-4046 or Sally Dewey, (845) 359-5490

PROGRAMS

December No meeting scheduled.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

January 22, 2002 General Business Meeting

February 26, 2002 General Business Meeting

Remember, meetings are now held at the New City Library

If you have an idea for a program, or know of someone who might do a program, or if you would like to do a program yourself, please contact Douglas Renud, the Program Chair, at (845) 357-6390

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OTHER LOCAL SOCIETIES

Genealogical Society of Bergen County, NJ

PO Box 432, Midland Park, NJ 07432

Meetings: The fourth Monday of the month (except holidays & December) at 7 p.m. sharp at the Ridgewood Public Library Auditorium, N. Maple Ave., Ridgewood, NJ. Visitors welcome. Programs free. For information call (201) 670-8106 or (201) 652-1171. *The Archivist*, the Society newsletter, is published quarterly and mailed to members.

Orange County Genealogical Society is located in the 1841 Court House, 101 Main Street, Goshen NY 10924, where it maintains an ever expanding research room. Dues are \$10.00 annually, from May 1st to April 30th. Meetings are the first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m., usually followed by a speaker at 10:30 a.m. Call for details about speakers (845) 562-2749. Library hours are Monday & Friday, 8:30 a.m. to Noon; 1st & 3rd Tuesday evenings, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 8:30 am to 4:00 p.m.; 1st Saturday of month after speaker, noon to 4:00 p.m.; third Saturday of month 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The program for 2 Feb 2002 will be "*General John Hathorn*," presented by Sue Gardner, Archivist at the Albert Wisner Public Library in Warwick; she will talk mainly about General Hathorn's house.

Westchester County Genealogical Society

PO Box 518, White Plains, NY 10603.

Annual dues are \$20.00 for individuals. Newsletter is printed monthly. Meetings from September through June at the Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 600 Broadway (Route 9) Dobbs Ferry, NY on the second Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. Lectures are given at meetings. The WCGS Research Collection is located at the LDS Family History Library, 801 Kitchawan Road, (Rte 134) Yorktown, NY 10598 (914) 941- 9754 Open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to noon and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on those days. **Web Site:** <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nywcgs>

Jewish Genealogical Society of North Jersey

The Jewish Genealogical Society of North Jersey meets on the third Thursday of every month, at the YM-YWHA of North Jersey, 1 Pike Rd, Wayne, NJ. Programs begin at 8:00 p.m., and are open to all. For information or directions call: Paul, (845) 357-5567, Evan, (973) 595-0100, ext. 236, or Susan (973) 564-8522, or visit their web site at:

Web Site: <http://community.nj.com/cc/jgsnorthjersey>

HOW LEDERLE GOT ITS NAME

by Barbara Guterl, Walker, CA

Clotilda Tillie Bezzosi and my mother, Alfa Gloria Cable were born in 1909 and grew up together in Park Ridge, N.J., my home. Our grandparents came to America from Italy in the early 1900's. Mine came from Turin to Park Ridge; the Bezzosi's from Lake Como to New York City.

Mr. Bezzosi was a journeyman carpenter. When a New York City neighborhood successfully protested a group of doctors experimenting on live monkeys, the doctors contacted Bezzosi to help them relocate. Mr. Bezzosi boarded the N.Y. Central in Jersey City and rode north to Pearl River, N.Y. He then walked the tracks north past Crooked Hill Road until he found a suitable place for their laboratory.

The doctors were pleased with his choice and employed him to do the building. He resettled in the area with his family before tackling the construction. When he finished building the next step was to give it a name. The doctors all wrote their names on slips of paper and put them in Bezzosi's fedora for a drawing. The lucky winner was Dr. Lederle. The cornerstone of the original building was included in a time capsule at the dedication. Lederle Laboratories are in business, today, as a division of Wyeth-Amherst.

Irish Emigrant Bank Records

The Emigrant Savings Bank of New York is now online with the records of Irish emigrants that came to this country and opened an account in New York City. The accounts contain a great deal of information useful for Irish genealogy. They can be found at:

<http://www.genexchange.org.esb>

As found at NYORANGE-L@rootsweb.com by Joan Brooks

GSRC Volunteers

A group of eleven GSRC members do volunteer work at the Rockland County Archives, meeting there on Monday and Thursday mornings. As of 1 October, the volunteers have totaled 1507.5 hours this year. Leading the pack is Marie Koestler with 311 hours, followed by Joan Brooks with 225 hours. Way to go, girls!

AT THE NEW CITY LIBRARY

Recent acquisitions (as of June 1, 2001) at the Rockland Room of the New City Library, 220 N. Main St., New City, NY 10956, compiled by Sally Pellegrini, Local History Librarian. These and other new works can be found on the bookcase against the center wall in the Rockland Room. Please return these books to the shelving cart by the entrance door when you are done with them. Thank You

026. Directory of Genealogical and Historical
973 Libraries, Archives and Collections in the
U. S. & Canada Edited by Dina S. Carson
Dir (Iron Gate Publishing, 2001)
027. A Visitor's Guide to Ulster Libraries:
041 Archives, Museums & Ancestral
Heritage Centers Robert K. O'Neill
One (Ulster Historical Foundation, 1997)
027. Guide to the Archives of Orange and
573 Rockland Counties
Gui NY State Archives
284. Palatines, Liberty, and Property
1 A G. Roeber
Roe (Johns Hopkins Press, 1998)
333. Palisades 100,000 Acres in 100 Years
783 Robert O Binnewies
Bin (Fordham University. 2001)
386. Thomas Cornell and the Cornell Steamboat
2 Company Stuart Murray
Mur (Purple Mountain Press, 2001)
387. Around Manhattan Island and Other
Maritime Tales of New York
109747 Brian J Cudahy
Cud (Fordham University Press, 1997)
574. A Natural History of New York City
97472 John Kieran
Kie (Fordham University Press, 1982)
759. Frederick Church's Olana: Architecture and
13 Landscape as Art
Rya James Anthony Ryan
(Black Dome, 2001)

796. Views From On High: Fire Tower Trails in
51 the Adirondacks and Catskills
Fre John P. Freeman
(Adirondack Mountain Club, 2001)
910. Encyclopedia of American Shipwrecks
453 Bruce D Berman
Ber (Mariners Press, 1972)
929. First Steps in Genealogy
1 Desmond Wals Allen
All (Betterway Books, 1998)
929. In Search of Your Asian Roots
1 Sheau-yueh J. Chao
Cha (Clearfield, 2000)
929. Professional Genealogy
1 Edited by Elizabeth S. Mills
Fro Genealogical Publishing Co, 2001)
929. The ABC's of German-American Migration
1 Charles R. Haller
Hal (Money Tree Imprints, 2000)
929. Discovering Your Jewish Ancestors
1 Barbara Krasner-Khait
Kra (Heritage Quest, 2001)
929. Polish Parish Records of the Roman
1 Catholic Church Gerald A Ortell
Ort (Polish Gen. Society of America, 1979)
929. The Barent Jacobsen Cool Family
2 Richard H. Benson
Ben (Newbury Street Press, 2001)
929. Scots-Irish Links :1525-1725
2 David Dobson
Dob (Clearfield, 1997)
929. Linen Threads and Broom Twines v.2
2 William T. Ruddock
Rud (Heritage Books, 1997)
929. The House of Prayer: Jones Point
3734 (Morehouse Publishing, n.d.)
Can

929. A Diary of the Dutch Reformed Church of
3747 West New Hempstead
Dia (Waldrick Printing, 2000)

929. The Printed Birth and Baptismal
3747 Certificates of the German Americans
Klaus Stopp
Sto (Published by the author, 1998)

929. Index to Budke's Tombstone Inscriptions
5 Association of Blauvelt Descendants, 2001
Bud

973. The Huguenots in America: A Refugee
People in New World Society
088 Jon Butler
Hut (Harvard Press, 1983)

974. Good Old Coney Island
72 Edo McCullough
McC (Fordham University Press, 2000)

974. Images of America: New Paltz
734 Carol Johnson
Joh (Arcadia Press, 2001)

Genealogies

The Rev. Johannes Theodoris Polhemic and Some
of his Descendants.

Barent Jacobson Cool Family

John Joseph Wanamaker, 2 volumes

COFFEY-GALLOWAY CEMETERY

This historic treasure, saved from encroachment by the Woodbury Common, was the family cemetery for the Coffey and Galloway families of Central Valley for nearly two hundred years. Weather and vandalism were taking their toll. Through the efforts of the Woodbury Historical Society, the Town of Woodbury Planning Board, and the developers of Woodbury Common, the restoration of the cemetery was finally commissioned in 1998. Roger King, a cemetery restoration expert and lifelong Monroe resident, was retained to do the work.

King undertook to locate and gently bring to the surface dozens of stones that lay buried or fragmented. Some of the fragments were pried from the stone wall surrounding the cemetery. The iron gate was replaced and the entire area surrounded by an iron fence and locked gate to protect it from further vandalism.

Recovered stones revealed touching epitaphs which appear to be original poetry. They exude warmth and indicate families of education and comfort. A favorite is on the tombstone of Charles Coffey, who died during a cholera epidemic. He was the son of John Coffey Jr., and his wife Rachel.

“There is anguish in the household
it is desolate and lone
for a fondly cherished brother from
his kindred home is gone.

A slender form is missing,
a heart has ceased to beat
and the chain of love lies shattered
at the desolator's feet.

John Coffey Sr. was born in Ireland, became an eminent figure in Lee, Mass., before moving to Orange Co. His wife Experience and their daughter-in-law Rachel Basset were both born in Lee. They may have been inspired by epitaphs frequently found in New England churchyards. John Sr. was a Supervisor of Monroe Township in 1805. John Jr. founded the Southfields Methodist Church. Thomas Fowler Galloway, a son of George Galloway and Mary Coffey, was a charter member of Ramapo Lodge, F & A M in Suffern in 1869.

For more about the Coffey and Galloway families see “Ye Olde Coffey Grounds” by Marjorie Smeltzer-Stevenot (1984). Professor Keith L. Nelson of Irvine, California, has compiled an extensive genealogy of many Galloway branches.

Next time you shop at Woodbury Common pay a visit to the cemetery. It is at the rear of the mall, on the east side. Roger King has more recently worked on the restoration of the Southfields Cemetery in Orange County. What hidden treasures lie in our Rockland cemeteries?

Contributed by M. Smeltzer-Stevenot, Sloatsburg.

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If you'd like to be included in the next directory, or if you have a change in your e-mail address, please send e-mail to the editor at [<repete290@juno.com>](mailto:repete290@juno.com) or to the Membership Chairman at [<Robert.Protzman@Akzo-Nobel.com>](mailto:Robert.Protzman@Akzo-Nobel.com)

GSRC Member William Parker has pointed out that many of the members listed in the "On-line Directory" have not provided information on families that they are researching. [I count nearly one hundred] Bill feels that remote members would find the families of interest useful and beneficial, and urges everyone to submit family names they are researching. Don't be bashful, send us those family names and we'll include them here in the directory. It couldn't hurt! Editor

NEW MEMBERS

S-61 Mr. Joe Sheehan
15 Miller Drive
Stony Point, NY 10980-1208

Surnames: Babcock, Boylan, Burns, Butler, Chesterfield, Close, Cronin, Hanley, Hartwick, Husted, Jones, Knapp, McGovern, Miller, Reynolds, Seabrook, Sigel, Sheehan, Sherwood, Smith, Turner
Special Interests: Colonial America, Germany, Ireland

D-18 Michelle Hull Drain
6301 86th Avenue North
Pinellas Park, FL 33782

N-14 Nyack Library
59 South Broadway
Nyack, NY 10960

H-29 Mrs. Jessie Thompson Huberty
105 Deforest Road
Wilton, CT 06897-1908

V-10 Mr. Felix H. McCabe
240 Demarest Avenue
New Milford, NJ 07646-1838

Surnames: Curran, Farley, McCabe

T-17 Betty Tartas
4402 H Avenue
Anacortes, WA 98221

B-39 Ms. Irene G. Bailey
700 Principio Road
Port Deposit, MD 21904

R-21 Mrs. Joan McCabe Reynolds
2004 Lenape-Unionville Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Surnames: Hines, Hughes, McCabe, Rowan

K-22 Lorraine Kocen
5648 Golden Knoll Court
Westlake, CA 91362

Surnames: Allison, Cosgrove, Jacobus, Palmer, Van Houten,
Wood, Zeluff

P-15 Mrs. Patricia Pittari
1875 Oceanside Lane
Amelia Island, FL 32034-5723

B-37 Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Bisig
229 Obernburg Road
Obernburg, NY 12767

Surnames: Jeslinek, Yonsky, Yonski, Jansky, Janski,
Jhonesky, Zeelinka, Uzelenka
Interests: Rockland Lake, Gethsemene Cemetery,
Knickerbocker Ice Company

M-49 Mrs. Janet McGovern
1957 Slone Blvd.
Melbourne, FL 32935

A-14 Ms. Mallory Allison
R.R. 1 Box 166AA
Troy, PA 16947

B-38 Mrs. Jayne Barber
14 Hickory Road
Sloatsburg, NY 10974

Z-03 Ms. Rachel Sheets Zook
6077 Gale Road SW
Pataskaia, OH 43062-8421

Surnames: Waldron, Weiant

As a result of the unprecedented attacks of
September 11th, Ellis Island has been closed
until further notice. Mail service to the island
has also been cancelled.

Ancenstry Weekly Digest, September 2001

QUERIES

Queries will be published in the newsletter as space permits. It would be helpful if members would submit their queries beginning with the surnames concerned in the query listed alphabetically. Please keep queries clear and concise, and provide identifying data including names, dates and locations whenever possible. Address queries to: Richard Peterson, GSRC Newsletter Editor, 290 S. Middletown Rd, Pearl River, NY 10965, or e-mail to <repete290@juno.com> When answering someone else's query, please send a copy to this editor for our files and for inclusion in future issues.

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT YOUR FULL ADDRESS IS NEEDED, SINCE NOT EVERYONE HAS E-MAIL

***UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, ALL
LOCATIONS ARE IN ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY***

449- I am compiling autographs of deceased residents of Rockland County. Like photos, signatures seem to give us a better feel for who our ancestors were. I hope to make the collection available in Rockland libraries and on-line if someone would like to post it. If you would like to contribute signatures of Rockland residents who have been deceased for at least fifty years, please include the following: the persons name, the signature, the source of the signature, and the date of the source. You can e-mail scanned signatures in jpg, jif, or Word format to bmbel@optonline.net Those without a scanner can mail photocopies of signatures to me at the address below. Check those old letters, wills postcards, land deeds, and pension applications. Thank you.

Brian Belanger
232 Old Willets Path,
Smithtown, NY 11787

450- Williams / Jones- Seek parents of Elizabeth Williams (1820-1898) married Richard Jones Jr., (1825-1890), son of Richard Jones Sr., and Elizabeth ??, of Stony Point or Haverstraw area.

Joan Brooks
157 Washburn Lane
Stony Point, NY 10980

451- Jones- Seek maiden name and parents of Elizabeth ??, (1797-1857) married to Richard Jones Sr., (1793-1848). Both buried at Allison/Jones Burial Ground, Stony Point.

Joan Brooks
157 Washburn Lane
Stony Point, NY 10980

452- Brooks- Seek information on **all** children of Thomas Brooks (1780/90- to before 1840) and Anna ?? (c1787- after 1850) of Stony Point. Daniel, Hannah, John, Robert, Samuel, William, Walter (c1818-1871) m. Dorcas Youmans, and Catherine A. ?? (c1826-1903).

Joan Brooks
157 Washburn Lane
Stony Point, NY 10980

453- Mycek- Seek siblings of George Peter Mycek (1885-1970), b. Poland; emigrated to Madison or Anson, ME, between 1901 & 1908, married 1909 Anna Krainak/Krajuik (1884-1967). Moved to Suffern area, Rockland Co., c1920.

Joan Brooks
157 Washburn Lane
Stony Point, NY 10980

454- General Slocum Disaster Centennial Notebook

Since discovering my own family's connection to the horrendous fire and loss of life (over 1000 souls) aboard the excursion steamboat, the General Slocum, which sank in New York's East River in 1904, I have contacted several individuals and web sites for information. Of course, as we all know, once you put your name on a query some place, the e-mail responses can become overwhelming! Thus was the case with the General Slocum. Then the queries also began to be directed to me, and I have helped as best I could. The upshot of all this is that I have been approached by several people to work on a centennial project to commemorate the victims, rescuers, caregivers and accidental participants in this drama from the viewpoint of the families as told through the family stories handed down to their descendants. But first, those descendants must be identified and contacted. If you are a descendant, or know one, I would appreciate hearing from you. There is a questionnaire I would like to have you fill out, so that certain details, like full name, who was with this person, if they were aboard, etc., can be included in an organized way for everyone. Then I would like to have you tell me in your own words your family's memories, stories, etc., about that terrible day and what happened afterward. If you feel that necessary facts have not been found in your genealogical quest for this person, perhaps I can help you at the same time. Please contact:

Karen Lamberton
18 Bon Aire Circle #603
Suffern, NY 10901
USA
karen.lamberton@spyrall.net

National Genealogical Society Library

In its Sept. 2001 Quarterly, the National Genealogical Society announced that it had formed a partnership with the St. Louis County Library. The focus of the partnership is the consolidation of the entire NGS Circulating Library with that of the St. Louis County Library. The NGS Circulating Library will be available for interlibrary loan to **all** genealogists throughout the country via loan requests to the St. Louis County Library. The SLCL will not charge for book loans through the interlibrary loan system. Requests will be filled five days a week. Information about the St. Louis County Library Special Collections Department can be found at:

www.slcl.lib.mo.us/slcl/sc/scgenpg.htm

Civil War Veterans Buried in the Grand Army of the Republic Plot in Oak Hill Cemetery

Jeremiah Springsteen, d. 7 Aug 1862, at age 21,
Joseph Hoffman, interred 10 April 1870
G.H.C. Meissner, d. 4 May 1875, 55y1m5d, W.Nyack
Jacob Tucker, d. 7 July 1875, age 29, of Nyack
Daniel R. Wood, d. 24 Dec 1876, age 72, Clarksville
Theodore Garrison, d. 21 Oct 1877, 44y4m6d.
of Spring Valley, born Mississippi
James A. Johnson, d. 27 Aug 1878, age 40, of Nyack
George W. Maroney, d. 20 Jul 1880, 35y11m20d Nyack
Henry C. Burd, d. 1880, age 35, of Nyack
Daniel Webster, d. 4 Aug 1888, age 58, of Nyack
Wm. Cornelison, d. 21 Feb 1889, age 67, of S. Nyack
George Hoffman, d. 10 Mar 1890, age 47, of Nyack
John Fritz, d. 22 Aug 1891, age 45, of Nyack
Philip Germond, d. 25 Nov 1892, age 58, of NYC
Albert G. Garabrandt, d. 4 Feb 1896, age 55, UpNyack
Robert C. Walker, d. 22 Jul 1897, age 74, of Nyack
Jacob J. Rose, d.23 Aug 1897, age 74, of Nanuet
Peter Hoffmeister, d. 3 Oct 1898, age 36, Upper Nyack
A.M. Peck, d. 10 Mar 1899, age 67, of Blauvelt
James Young, d. 31 May 1904, age 60y2m, S. Nyack
Aaron Lane Christie, d. 24 Oct 1905, age 58, of Nyack
James P. Babcock, d. 15 Jul 1910, 73y10d, Clarkstown
Edward G. Thompson, d. 6 Dec 1912, 68, of Yonkers
Charles H. Ackerman, d 10 Aug 1913, 74y, Ramapo
Henry Greuter, d. 27 May 1914, 86y, Upper Nyack
Henry C. Albertus, d. 17 Apr 1922, 84y, Sp. Valley
Richard Kelly, d. 8 Oct 1938, 100y5m26d, W.Nyack

Contributed by Mary Ann Smith

Civil War Veterans buried in Nyack Rural Cemetery

Garret L. Rose, born 1823, died 20 Jun 1887, age 64
Co. A, 95th NY Vols.

Alonzo Parkinson, b. 14 Oct 1839, d. 27 Dec 1888
age 49y2m13d, Co. H, 11th NY Cav.

Daniel F. Meisner, born 1845, died 28 May 1898,
age 53, Co. K, 34th NJ Vols.

James Johnson, born 1837, died 10 Jul 1907, age 70
Co. K, 2nd Regt., NY Vols.

John Dailey, born 1841, died 20 Jun 1893
Co. H, 6th NY Heavy Artillery

Peter Bonnet, born 1839
Co. G, 4th US Cavalry

Henry Adams, born 1820, died 15 Jun 1895, age 75
Co. F, 26th US Co. Inf.

James E. Vanderbilt, b. 7 Jan 1845, d. 1 Dec 1936
age 91y11m23d, Co. K, 1st NJ Div.

George W. Maroney, b. 30 Jul 1844, d. 20 Jul 1880
age 35y10m20d, Co. B, 95th NY Inf.

Peter DeBevoise, b. 7 May 1840, died 1910, age 70
95th NY Inf.

Contributed by Mary Ann Smith

OUR DEAD

From the Rockland County Journal, 1862

Nations, like individuals, have their treasures, priceless in their esteem beyond the hoarded wealth of a world. The great national heart, like the heart of the individual, has its especial objects of admiration and love, around which its loftiest affections flow, to which its highest homage bends, and from the sacred memory of which it draws those springs of inspiration which purifies and intensifies it and prepares it for each higher bound towards that perfectness which shall usher the millennial dawn. There are times in the history of nations when all the national interests are hazard in war, and when to certain men are entrusted, not as to other men, not only their highest interests and happiness but

also that of millions of their fellow creatures. For the conscientious and noble discharge of their sacred trust, they richly deserve the amplest reward of gratitude, praise and affection. Great are their dangers, their labors, anxieties and responsibilities; and great are the advantages which their brethren derive from their faithful exertions.

How sacred to every true and loyal heart is the memory of those men who went through the fiery trials of the Revolution; who endured sufferings and privations beyond the power of language to express, fighting and dying to bequeath to us the priceless liberties we enjoy. And now, side by side with them on the eternal muster roll of fame, loved and esteemed not less, are being written down the names of those who fought and fell that the invaluable heritage thus purchased might forever be preserved. Oh, with what grateful hearts shall the coming generations dwell upon those names, the lowliest among them all prouder than the proudest name among kings and emperors. How green their memory shall be preserved by every true and loyal patriot! The very fields on which they fought - the very graves in which they lie, shall become hallowed shrines to inspire a still higher, holier faith in freedom. Nor have the sons of Rockland flinched in the hour of national peril. No truer men have gone forth at their country's call, no braver soldiers have stood upon the battlefield fearlessly meeting death than those who went out from our own green hills and rocky mountains. We know that every part of the loyal North has won undying glory in this struggle, but we challenge any other county of the size of this to show their country such a glorious muster roll of heroes who fell that they might make a place on which Freedom should forever stand. Look, gentle reader, at the record of a few brief months in camp and field; some slain outright in battle, some wasted with disease contracted by exposure and fatigue, but all dying for their country's cause and for the dearest rights of man:

Augustus Singler, of Piermont, 17th Regiment, N.Y.V., died at Washington of Typhoid Fever, Dec. 8, 1861.

Isaac Dean, of Nyack, 17th Regiment, N.Y.V., died at Georgetown of Typhoid Fever, Dec 15, 1861.

James L. Fenton, of Nyack, Mechanics and Engineer Corps, died on shipboard, off Port Royal, Dec. 1861

Lorenzo D. Conklin, of Haverstraw, 95th Regiment, N.Y.V., died at Harlem of Pneumonia, Jan 30, 1862

Benjamin W. Sayres, of Clarkstown, 48th Regiment, N.Y.V., died at Dawfuskie Is., S.C., February 1862.

Abram Blauvelt, of Orangeville, died at Roanoke Isld., of Typhoid Fever, April 13, 1862

Richard Westfall, of Blauveltville, died at Blauveltville, of Consumption, June 15, 1862

Wm. J. Blauvelt, of Middletown [*Pearl River*], of Capt. Mott's Battery, died at Brooklyn, of Typhoid Fever, July 22, 1862.

James Flate, of Sloatsburg, 10th Rhode Island Battery, killed near Trenlytown, August 6, 1862.

Jeremiah Springsteel, of Orangetown, 95th Reg, N.Y.V. died at Acquia Creek, of Typhoid Fever, Aug 7, 1862.

Thomas Hastings, of Haverstraw, 95th Reg., N.Y.V. died at Washington, August 19, 1862.

Capt. James H. Demarest, of Nyack, 17th Reg, N.Y.V., killed at battle of Bull Run, August 30, 1862.

Capt. Isaac D. Blauvelt, of Piermont, 17th Reg, N.Y.V., killed at battle of Bull Run, August 30, 1862.

William Ives, of Nyack, 17th Reg, N.Y.V., killed at the battle of Bull Run, August 30, 1862.

Phillips, of Haverstraw, 17 Reg, N.Y.V., killed at battle of Bull Run, August 30, 1862

D. Dolan, of Haverstraw, 17th Reg., N.Y.V., killed at battle of Bull Run, August 30, 1862

John Campbell, of New City, 95th Reg., N.Y.V., killed at battle of Bull Run, August 30, 1862.

George W. Haeselbarth, of Piermont, Mounted Rocket Battallion, died at Newbern, NC, Sept, 8, 1862.

Ralph Iserman, of Spring Valley, killed at the battle of Fair Oaks.

Towt J. Waldron, of Nyack, 17th Reg., N.Y.V., died at Washington of wounds received at the battle of Bull Run, September 24, 1862.

Andrew Dobbs, of Rockland, N.Y. Zouaves, died at Washington of wounds received in battle, Oct 15, 1862.

A. Peoples, of Piermont, died at Washington, of Typhoid Fever, October, 1862.

Thomas Connor, of Haverstraw, killed near Union Village, VA, in battle, November 2, 1862

Caspar Morphot, of Spring Valley, 9th Reg., N.Y.V., died at Washington of wounds received at Union Village, November 18, 1862.

John N. Wood, of Nyack, 17th Reg., N.Y.V., died at New York of Consumption, November 19, 1862.

J. Bradley Ware, of Nyack, 127th Reg., N.Y.V., died at Upton's Hill of Typhoid Fever, November 19, 1862

Leonard Brooks, of N. Haverstraw, 1st. United States Chasseurs, died at Washington, November 20, 1862.

John Onderdonk, of Rockland Lake, 38th Reg, N.Y.V., killed at battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862.

Contributed by Mary Ann Smith

The story behind "TAPS"

We have all heard the haunting song, "Taps." It's the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually brings tears to our eyes. But do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be pleased to learn of it's humble beginnings.

Reportedly it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of a narrow strip of land. During the night Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his own life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army. The following morning the heartbroken father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full

military burial despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate, but out of respect for the father, they did say that he could have one musician. The Captain chose a bugler, and asked him to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the dead youth's uniform. The wish was granted, and the haunting melody we now know as "Taps", used at military funerals, was born.

Day is done
Gone the sun
From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky,
All is well
Safely rest
God is nigh.

Fading light
Dims the sight
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright,
From afar
Drawing nigh,
Falls the night.

Thanks and praise,
For our days,
Neath the sun, neath the stars,
As we go,
This we know,
God is nigh.

Semper Fidelis

Contributed by Joan Brooks

The History of Flag Day

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. B.J. Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. In numerous magazines & newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', of 'Flag Day'.

On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in NYC, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the N.Y. Society (Empire State Society) of the Sons of the American Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

Following the suggestion of Colonel J. Granville Leach (at the time historian of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the American Revolution), the Penn. Society of Colonial Dames of America, on April 25, 1893, adopted a resolution requesting the Mayor of Philadelphia and all others in authority and all private citizens to display the Flag on June 14th. Leach went on to recommend that thereafter the day be known as "Flag Day," and on that day, school children be assembled for appropriate exercises, with each child being given a small Flag.

Two weeks later, on May 8th, the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the American Revolution unanimously endorsed the action of the Colonial Dames. As a result of the resolution, Dr. Edward Brooks, then Superintendent of Public Schools of Philadelphia, directed that Flag Day exercises be held on June 14, 1893, in Independence Square. School children were assembled, each carrying a small flag, and patriotic songs were sung.

In 1894 the Governor of New York directed that on June 14 the Flag be displayed on all public buildings. With B.J. Cigrand and Leroy VanHorn as the moving spirits, the Illinois organization, known as the American Flag Day Association, was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises. On June 14, 1894, under the auspices of this association, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating.

Inspired by three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially *established* by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as **National Flag Day**.

<http://www.icss.com/usflag/flag.day.html>

WHY IS OUR FLAG THE COLOR IT IS?

From the book "Our Flag" published in 1989 by the House of Representatives...

On July 4th, 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution authorizing a committee to devise a seal for the United States of America. This mission, designed to reflect the Founding Fathers' beliefs, values and sovereignty of the new Nation, did not become a reality until June 20, 1782. In heraldic devices, such as seals, each element has a specific meaning. Even colors have specific meanings. The colors red, white, and blue did not have meanings for the Stars and Stripes when it was adopted in 1777. However, the colors in the Great Seal did have specific meanings. Charles Thompson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, reporting to Congress on the Seal, stated: "The colors of the pales (the vertical stripes) are those used in the Flag of the United States of America; White signifies purity and innocence, Red, hardiness and valour, and Blue, the color of the Chief (the broad band above the stripes) signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice."

Also this from a book about the Flag published in 1977 by the House of Representatives...

"The star is a symbol of the heavens and the divine goal to which man has aspired from time immemorial; the stripe is symbolic of the rays of light emanating from the sun."

Information about the gold fringe on the Flag comes from the book "So Proudly We Hail, The History of the United States Flag," Smithsonian Institute Press 1981, by William R. Furlong and Byron McCandless. "The placing of a fringe on our Flag is optional with the person or organization, and no Act of Congress or Executive Order prohibits the practice, according to the Institute of Heraldry. Fringe is used on indoor flags only, as fringe on outdoor flags would deteriorate rapidly. The fringe on a Flag is considered an 'honorable enrichment only,' and its official use by the US Army dates from 1895.. A 1925 Attorney General's Opinion states: 'the fringe does not appear to be regarded as an integral part of the Flag, and its presence cannot be said to constitute an unauthorized addition to the design prescribed by statute. An external fringe is to be distinguished from letters, words, or emblematic designs printed or superimposed upon the body of the Flag itself. Under law, such additions might be open to objection as unauthorized; but the same is not necessarily true of the fringe.'"

The gold trim is generally used on ceremonial indoor flags that are used for specific services and is believed to have been first used in a military setting. It has no

specific significance, and its use is in compliance with applicable Flag codes and laws.

<http://www.icss.com/usflag/colors.html>

WE ARE THE CHOSEN

We are the chosen. In each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve. Doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but, instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the story tellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called, as it were, by our genes. Those who have gone before us call out to us: Tell our story. So, we do.

In finding them, we somehow find ourselves. How many graves have I stood before now and cried? I have lost count. How many times have I told the ancestors, "You have a wonderful family; you would be proud of us." How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for me? I cannot say.

It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who I am and why do I do the things I do. It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference, and saying I can't let this happen. The bones here are bones of my bone and flesh of my flesh. It goes to doing something about it. It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish. How they contributed to what we are today. It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or giving up, their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family.

It goes to deep pride that the fathers fought, and some died, to make and keep us a Nation. It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us. It is of equal pride and love that our mothers struggled to give us birth, without them we could not exist, and so we love each one, as far back as we can reach.

That we might be born who we are. That we might remember them. So we do. With love and caring and scribing each fact of their existence, because we are they and they are the sum of who we are. So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family. It is up to that one called in the next generation to answer the call and take my place in the long line of family storytellers.

That is why I do my family genealogy, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and restore the memory or greet those whom we had never known before. (Unknown Author)

From Ancestry.com

BERGEN PENSION ABSTRACTS

Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Applications relating to Bergen Co. NJ and Rockland Co. NY. Contributed by Philip O'Leary

Samuel G. Verbruck

Samuel G. Verbruck, Ens., NJ Militia, Revolutionary War Pension # S23049. Rockland Co., NY, Common Pleas Court, 29 Nov 1832, Samuel G. Verrbruck, age 71, a resident of Orange(town), Rockland County, NY; b. 07 mar 1761 Orange(town), Rockland Co., NY. Record at Tappan RDC. Served with Lt. Caterline and Ens. Riker. Enlisted March 1777 under Cpt. John Outwater's regiment at Totoway, now Paterson, NJ. Served 12 days when I was permitted to go home and assist my father to move to a place near Hackensack. My brother and I were captured by the regiment of the noted Refugee, Col. Buskirk(*). Taken to Provost Prison in New York City, which was under the command of Capt. Cunningham. I applied for parole to my fellow prisoner? (sic), W. Skinner, then the Commissary of Prisons. Drafted in 1780 in the Militia commanded by Henry Verbryck (no relationship stated). During the war I resided at (New) Barbados, Bergen Co., NJ; after the war moved to Orange(town), Rockland Co., NY. I have held a seat in the NY State Convention, Assembly, and Senate. Others mentioned in pension: Isaac Blanch, George Onderdonk. Testifying as fellow soldiers in the Revolution, Johannes (John) G. Bogert, age 77, Ralph Verbryck, age 67, of Orange, Daniel VanHorn, of Harrington, Bergen Co., NJ, all as of 29 Nov 1832, John A. Blauvelt, age 71, of NYC, Rev. John Demarest, of NYC, was a Private under Ens. VerBryck, both as of 07 July 1833, Sylvester Marius, age 75, of NYC, as of 20 Nov 1833. (*) Contributors note: Col. Abraham Buskirk, of the 4th Battalion of NJ Loyalists.

Ralph Verbryck

Ralph Verbryck, Private, NJ Militia, Revolutionary War Pension # S23468. Rockland Co., NY, Common Pleas Court, 29 Nov 1832, Ralph Verbryck, age 66, a resident of Orange(town), Rockland Co., NY, b. 25 Feb 1766, Orange, Rockland Co., record at Tappan RDC. Enlisted April 1781 at (New) Barbadoes, Bergen Co, NJ where I resided, in Cpt. John Outwater's Bergen Co, NJ Militia, under Lt. James VanBeuran, and my brother, Ens. Samuel G. Verbryck. British and Tories drove off all my fathers horses and cattle, and took my brother, Bernadus, prisoner. Moved to Orange, Rockland Co.,

NY in spring, 1790. Others mentioned in pension, Rev. John Demarest of NYC, Cornelius Doremus, of Orange, Rockland Co., NY. Letter to pension office dated 14 April 1853, from John S. Verbryck, of Rockland Co., son of Samuel G. Verbryck, who died 3 Oct 1849, mentions that his father was held prisoner in the Provost Prison in NYC, under Capt. Cunningham, Chief of the guards. He also mentions his uncle, Ralph Verbryck, who died 3 Mar 1846, has a daughter named Sarah Mabie. Testifying as fellow soldiers in the Revolution, Samuel G. Verbryck, age 81, of Orange, Rockland Co., as of 19 Aug 1842, who was a Ens., and brother of Ralph Verbryck. Henry Bardan, and Abraham Vanderbeek, both of New Barbadoes, Bergen Co., NJ, as of 14 April 1833.

Peter and Catherine (Burgess) Smith

Peter Smith, Sgt., NY Militia, Rev. War Pension # W 19065, NYC Common Pleas Court, 6 Sept 1837, Catherine Smith, age 81, formerly Burgess, a resident of the 9th Ward, NYC, widow of Peter Smith, who died 18 May 1812, married 18 Dec 1772, by Rev. Samuel Verbryck. Peter Smith served under Capt's. Jacob Onderdonk, Deronde, John Garner, Col. A. Hawkes Hay. Served as guard and scout in Bergen Co., NJ. Others mentioned in pension: Isaac D. Cole, Minister of the Tappan RDC, "there are no marriage records from 1754-1784 at the United Congregation RDC at Tappan and Clarkstown, Rockland Co., NY." 27 June 1837, Elizabeth Lane, age 79, of NYC, sister of Catharine Smith. 30 Aug 1837, Jacob Parnier, of NYC. 6 Jan 1841 Mary Payne, of NYC, dau. of Catharine Smith, who d. 13 July 1839, myself and my brother, James B. Smith, are the only surviving children. 30 Aug 1837, Daniel H. Blauvelt, of Clarkstown, fellow soldier? All testifying as fellow soldiers in the Revolution, 25 Aug 1837, Garret Oblenis, age 77, of Clarkstown, Rockland Co., 13 Oct 1838, Gen. Peter S. VanOrden, age 75, of Ramapo, Rockland Co., 20 Dec 1840, Cornelius Mabie, age 86?, of Orange, Rockland Co., 22 Dec 1840, Henry Cooper, age 79, of Manchester Township, Passaic Co., NJ, November 1836/38, Peter Stevens, of Clarkstown, "In 1781 my father (no name) was in need of a weaver, that Garret Cooper, a good weaver, was serving his term of enlistment in Capt. Andrew Thompson's regiment, I went and served in his place, and Peter Smith was also in the same regiment." 22 Nov 1837, testimony of Judge David Pye of Rockland Co., "I have annexed the testimony of Catherine Vanderbilt, Rachel Polhamus, Clauche Blauvelt, and Harriet Ramsey, who's former

husband (no name) was wounded while serving as an officer in the NJ Continental Line, that positively corroborates Catherine Smith's testimony." Judge Pye's continued testimony on 28 Dec 1837, "the old soldiers, Jacob Lent, Eli Philips, Richard Dydens, Abraham Vanhouten, John Hutton, Paul Seaman and Resolvert Stevens, all served in Capt. John Garners regiment, I called John G. Blauvelt, the only surviving member of Capt. Blauvelt's company."

Martines and Sophia (Christie) Hogenkamp

Martines Hogenkamp, Pvt., NJ Militia, Revolutionary War Pension # W23307. NYC Marine Court, 07 June 1832, Martines Hogenkamp, age 83, a resident of NYC; b. 20 Oct 1749, entered service in summer of 1776 at my residence in Harrington Township, Bergen Co., NJ. I served under Lt. John Hogenkamp (no relationship stated). NYC Marine Court, 27 December 1837, Sophia Hogenkamp, formerly Christie, a resident of 9th Ward, NYC, age 77, b. 15 Nov 1760, m. 28 Apr 1780, widow of Martines Hogenkamp, who d. 22 Mar 1833, age 83y 05m 03d. Children of Martines Hogenkamp and Sophia Christie: 1) John, b. 28 Nov 1781, 2) Catherine, b. 26 Dec 1784, d. 27 May 1789, 3) William, b. 28 Sep 1789, 4) Catherine, b. 08 Apr 1797.

Others mentioned in pension; Arabella Christie, age 78, wife of Peter Christie, of Hackensack, Bergen Co., NJ, was at wedding, as of 6 Nov 1837, John C. Remson, of 9th Ward, NYC as of 22 Dec 1837, Rev. John Demarest & William Shurat. All testifying as fellow soldiers in the Revolution, James J. and Abraham Blauvelt, John F. and John D. Haring (Lt. during the war), Cornelius Quackenbush. Also mentioned in court papers are the pension claims of Henrietta Blanch and Magdalena Oakie(*)?

(*) Contributors note: In the pension record are several typed pages of correspondence from the 1930's, to the pension office from a Miss. Angenette Kempf, who it seems was working on the SAR membership of a Milton Hogenkamp of PA. She "claims" Martines Hogenkamp was born either in Rockland Co., NY or in Preakness, Passaic Co., NJ, that Martines parents were a Martyne Hogenkamp, b. 1714, and Agnatye Everit. Also mentioned are Jan Hogenkamp, b. 1685, & Meyndert H. Hogenkamp, married 1681.

John Storms

John Storms, Pvt., NY Continental Line, Revolutionary War Pension # 26449. Bergen Co., NJ, Common Pleas Court, 13 Oct 1820, John Storms, age 65, a resident of Pompton, Bergen Co., NJ, born NY, enlisted at Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co., NY, 1776. Taken prisoner on 06

Oct 1776. After 9 months was released in a prisoner exchange and returned to duty. Was discharged at Newburgh, NY, was with Gen. Sullivan against the Indians and at siege of Yorktown. I have a lame hand and rupture. In 1828 living at Ramapo, Rockland Co., NY in care of Jacob Slot.

Rockland Co., NY, Common Pleas Court, 22 Oct 1846, Elizabeth Storms, age 75, a resident of Ramapo, Rockland Co., NY, widow of John Storms who died 30 Oct 1845, m. Nov/Dec 1792. Children of John Storms and Elizabeth, (died 10 May 1851 at Ramapo, NY)

1) Elizabeth, b. 23 Dec 1794, wife of James McMan of Monroe, Orange Co., NY. 2) Samuel, b.15 Jul 1797, enlisted at West Point in 1817. 3) Jane, wife of Wlm. Miller in 1851. 4) Mary Ann, b. Jul 1809, widow of John Wilks in 1852. 5) Thomas, b. 1814. 6) William, b. 1817/1818. 7) John, of Ramapo, Rockland Co., in 1852. Others mentioned in pension: Daniel G. Smith, age 85, of Ramapo NY as of 22 Oct 1846, John Titus, 11 Oct 1828, Mary Moncks, 21 Nov 1817, Martha Becraft, b. 13 Mar 1775, wife of John Becraft, of Rockland Co., as of 6 Sep 1847, Thomas Priestly, age 83, 1847, of Ramapo, NY, m. 1787 and residing at Sterling Iron Works, John Storms resided at Long Pond Iron Works. Rev. Benjamin Butler. Mixed in with court papers was mentioned the pension case of Ann Denoyelles, widow of John Denoyelles, formerly the widow of David Bivins, also mentioned was Joseph B. Allison. In 20th century correspondence, John Post Storms, son of John Storms.

CENSUS TALES

The census taker knocked on Miss. Kimball's door. She answered all his questions except one. She refused to tell him her age. "But everyone tells their age to the census taker," he said. "Did Daisy Hill and Loretta Hill tell you their ages?" "Certainly." "Well, I'm the same age as they are," she snapped. "As old as the Hills," he wrote on his form.

Contributed by Joan Brooks

What is a family, after all, except memories? - haphazard and precious as the contents of a catchall drawer in the kitchen.

Joyce Carol Oates, *We Were the Mulvaney's* [Plume] [Readers Digest, July 2001]

THE FORGOTTEN SOLDIER

Letter from North Wardsboro, Vermont, to the
Editor of the Boston Journal, August 12, 1860

There is now living in the town of Stratton, six miles from here, an old revolutionary soldier by the name of Robert Babcock. He has formerly lived in Tuftonboro, NH, and in Dummerston, New Fane, and Dover in this state. This man has reached the great age of 104 years. He is infirm, but is able to go about house and yard with the aid of crutches. His sight is still tolerably good, and his hearing but slightly impaired. His memory of recent events is quite oblivious, but the times of his youth and the stirring scenes of the revolution are yet fresh in his mind. His birthplace was South Kingston, RI. At the age of seven he was kidnapped while playing around the wharf at Greenwich, forcibly detained on board a vessel and carried to the West Indies, where he remained seven years, when his captors returned again to Rhode Island, and restored him to his parents, who had all the while supposed him drowned.

This man on every principle of equity is entitled to county land and a pension, but as yet receives none. He enlisted early under Capt. William Potter. The orderly sergeant bore the name Northrup. He was in battle at the capture and burning of New London, CT, 1781, and bears still the mark of his warfare in the deep life worn scar of a bullet hole made through his left leg, breaking the bone, and which doubtless in part now occasions his lameness. His glorious scar, received in defense of the liberties we now enjoy it was our privilege to behold. Our hero was one of the bold party of a dozen men who went in a small boat between the British vessels lying off Bristol and took General Prescott out of his bed on Connecticut Island and made him the patriots' prisoner. He relates with trembling earnestness the hairbreadth passage at the dead of night betwixt the warship of the enemy- the stealthy surprise at the house- and how a huge Negro entered the bedroom of the sleeping general and throwing himself astride his prostrate form as he lay all unconscious in slumber, exultantly exclaimed, "Ah massa, we hab got you!"

He remembers Washington with evident admiration, and relates the following incident, equally illustrative of his humility and generous forbearance. On one occasion he (*Washington*) was leading a small detachment of the army, Babcock being of the company, across a difficult way where the path was obstructed by a quantity of timber, lying in confusion around, one protruding piece of which, pivoting on it's center, came near tripping the man, and was so much in the way as to make its removal necessary. The quick eye of Washington, who was mounted, soon caught sight of the troublesome stick, and he promptly requested of one of the men to cast it aside. The little man who had been addressed, instead of obeying, proudly stood on his dignity, and pertly replying "that he was a corporal" declined the order. Instantly Washington answered with a low bow, "I beg your pardon, sir," and flinging himself quickly from his horse, he with a strong hand seized the vexed and tilting timber and threw it to one side. His horse, left standing alone, turned to go when Babcock grasped the rein, and as the General came up from his task- our soldier, with some pride, held the stirrup while he remounted; no other rebuke escaping his lips, save to cast a watchful withering look of pity upon the proud little corporal. The latter was quite incensed at Babcock for leaving the ranks to assist the General, and threatened him with vengeance, but the soldiers, who admired the spirit of the act, told him if he laid a hand on him they would run him through.

Babcock remained in the army, he says, till the close of the war in 1783, when he again returned to his father's home in Kingston, upon leaving which in after years to seek his fortune he left his papers behind him and never saw them again.

Attempts have been made to procure for him a pension, but his name cannot be found on the rolls, and the only surviving comrade of his battles, that he can remember, is dead, and for this flaw in the evidence the soldier is forgotten by his country whose freedom he fought and bled to win. He was married to Sarah Peters at Adams, Massachusetts. The officiating clergyman who performed the ceremony was Rev. Peter Worden. His companion is long since dead, and the lonely old man, without property, lives in some penury with his daughter and her husband, Nathaniel Jones, in a poor and

mountainous town, his priceless services all unpaid by the government whose officials- not half to worthy- greedily pocket the peoples money or squander it wastefully. There is something rotten somewhere, or these things would not be. I write this unbeknown to Babcock and if possible for his benefit. Whoever seeks to obtain a pension for him should do it quickly, for though a man of naturally robust constitution, his white face and silver hair will doubtless ere many years be laid in the dust.

As found on: BABCOCK-L@rootsweb.com

GSRC LIBRARY ACCESSIONS

Gifts of Curtis Shuart:

"History of the Minisink Region. Orange Co."
1867, by Charles E. Stickney

"Westchester County, NY, During the American
Revolution," 1886, by Henry B. Dawson

New City Methodist Church. History of the First
150 years, 1983 by Joan Bennett [two copies]

"Orange Co., NY. A Narrative History." 1928
Compiled by Almet S. Moffat

"DeDuyster, Corneles & DeHooges, Eleanora.
Descendants of," 2001 Notebook compiled
by Carol Van Buren

"Westbrook Families," 2001 Notebook compiled
by Carol Van Buren

"Crum Cousins," 2001, compiled by Jane S.
Ten Eyck with Julia Lea Baldwin

"Sons of the American Revolution, National
Society of the. Membership Directory 1997

Gift of the Assoc. of Blauvelt Descendants

"Budke Tombstone Inscriptions Index," 2000

Gift of Susan Schwinn

"New Jersey Archives, Vol. XXXVIII, 1791-1795
Calendar of Wills," 1942

Gift of Joan and Barry Brooks

"Encyclopedia Britannica-World Atlas," 1964

Gift of Florence Anderson

"The Architecture of Bergen Co., NJ. The Colonial
period to the Twentieth Century." by T.
Robbins Brown and Schuyler Warmflash, 2000

Gift of Richard Peterson

"The Life and Times of Washington," 1965

"We the People. The Story of the United States Capitol"
1969 United States Capitol Historical Society

"The White House," 1970 White House Historical
Association & National Geographical Society.

"The Old Mine Trail," 1963, by G.G. Hine

"Along the Old York Road," 1965, by J. & M. Cawley.

"Our Wantage Heritage," 1976, the People of Wantage

"Rock Scenery of the Hudson Highlands & Palisades,"
1971, Adirondack Mountain Club.

"The Hudson Highlands," 1945
New York Chapter of Appalachian Club.

NOTICE

The Society has an extra copy of "Descendants
of Dirck Straatmaker," Straut Family Reunion,
August 2, 1997.

This book is available for a small donation.
Anyone interested may contact the *Editor*.

The law of heredity is that all undesirable
traits come from the other parents.

Anonymous

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