

Newsletter

Friends of the Bennington Battlefield

Summer 2017



Issue #2

"...a fair compliment for Hubbardton." Gen. John Stark, 1777

240th Anniversary
of the Battle

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

FRIENDS OF THE BENNINGTON BATTLEFIELD PROGRESSING IN ACHIEVING NON-PROFIT STATUS

From the inception of the new Friends of the Bennington Battlefield, a major objective was to gain non-profit status (501.c.3) under the law. As a non-profit, the Friends will have more access to available grants for planning and projects, be exempt from certain taxes, and solidify the organization and procedures under the structure of 501.c.3 law.

The process is a lengthy one, involving a great deal of paperwork and patience. The first step is to be granted incorporation status by the New York State Board of Regents. The Friends was recently informed that incorporation has been recognized and that formal documents to that effect will be arriving shortly.

Having incorporation status now enables the Friends to proceed with the next phase of moving to non-profit status, in which the IRS has to receive the application and relevant documents to confer the tax-exempt status as per the law regarding non-profits. It is expected that this step will proceed more quickly.

The Friends, with the help of member Jonah Spivak, have set up a preliminary website, benningtonbattlefield.org. It is a mobile-responsive site (can be accessed via smartphone), and is also linked to Bennington240.com, which contains information about the upcoming re-enactment on August 12th and 13th at the Battlefield.

FRIENDS OF THE BATTLEFIELD JOIN THE HISTORIC HOOSICK-HUDSON PARTNERSHIP

The Historic Hudson-Hoosick Partnership, originally named the Saratoga Washington on the Hudson, was created by the New York State Legislature in 2007. The Partnership's mission is to preserve, enhance and develop the historic, agricultural, scenic, natural and recreational resources and the significant waterways within the Partnership region, which encompasses a wide area stretching along the Hudson from Hoosick Falls to South Glens Falls. The organization's aim is multi-fold, encompassing tourism development and revitalization of main streets, recreational development, protection of natural and cultural heritage, and protection of agriculture and open space, according to the Legislature's bill.

It was suggested at the Friends' May meeting that the group join the Partnership, since new bylaws have created a Board of Directors, who were looking to secure more participation from Rensselaer County. Peter Schaaphok, President of the Friends, agreed to attend the April 24 meeting of HHHP, and request permission for the Friends to become part of the group. The HHHP granted membership to the Friends at their June meeting, with unanimous approval.

As part of the HHHP, the Friends will have another avenue through which cooperative ventures in historic preservation, interpretation, and environmental conservation can be initiated. A new Visitors' Center is currently being built in Schuylerville, and area towns, including Hoosick Falls, will have exhibits there. The HHHP can also be helpful in writing grant proposals for projects the Friends may wish to undertake.

FRIENDS OF THE BENNINGTON BATTLEFIELD OFFICERS & OPRHP CONTACTS

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240th Anniversary Reenactment Schedule of Events

August 12 & 13, 2017

Encampments will be open to the public at 10 am both days. On Saturday, August 12th, at 2:30 visitors may observe the attack on the Dragoon Redoubt. On Sunday, August 13th there will be an attack on the Tory fort at 1:30 pm.

Parking will be available near the Barnett House, 30 Caretakers Road, Hoosick Falls, NY Transportation will be offered on August 12th between the parking area and the Dragoon Redoubt. Some walking will be required to observe the action on August 13th with closer parking being reserved for those unable to make the walk.

Robert Selig will also deliver a presentation, “Aftermath of the Battle of Bennington” at 7:30 pm on Saturday the 12th between the encampments near 30 Caretaker Road, Hoosick Falls, NY. On the 17th of August, 1777, dozens of corpses littered the countryside from North Hoosick to the river-flats where Col. Baum had made his stand. Disposing of them, or not, sooner or sometimes later, fell mostly to the civilian population, as was usually the case during the American War for Independence. Focusing on the disposal of the casualties of the Battle of Bennington, this talk addresses a rarely covered and at times gory aspect of battles.

Call David Pitlyk for more details, 518-860-9094, or visit www.bennington240.com.

Scenes from past Battle of Bennington re-enactments



Wednesday, August 16, 2017 – Annual Remembrance Ceremony- 6PM

The Friends, in cooperation with NYS Parks and area SAR and DAR chapters, present a short Battle commemoration ceremony, with speakers, cannon salute, and placing of wreaths on the marker at the top of the hill (“Hessian Hill”). Free and open to the public.



2nd Continental Artillery at the Commemoration Ceremony

READERS' CORNER



Suggestions from Friends' members

Book reviews

Corbett, Theodore. *No Turning Point: The Saratoga Campaign in Perspective*.

Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2014

by David Pitlyk

Theodore Corbett's *No Turning Point* challenges the notion that the Battles of Saratoga mark the turning point of the American War of Independence. The support for this contention is weighty. However, *No Turning Point* is not an unalloyed success.

The thesis is a strong one and clearly stated. Corbett points out that "civil war continued unabated, and a much reduced Continental Army could not confront the British in the region." The combined military and civil conflict continued for the rest of the war, and the British were consistently victorious, maintaining dominance of strategic Lakes Champlain and George. In the Hudson-Champlain valley, therefore, it is difficult to regard the Battles of Saratoga as a turning point." Corbett spends parts I-IV of his book rehashing the Saratoga Campaign. His work here is very serviceable and is laudable for the character sketches of major figures that are interwoven with the narrative. It is only toward the end of the book, however, that he tackles the aftermath of Burgoyne's disastrous invasion and advances his argument. This front-loaded approach might have been reversed if his primary intent was to put the Saratoga Campaign "in perspective."

Chapter 10 of *No Turning Point*, "Foray to the Waloomsac" deserves careful examination. Many of the citations included in this chapter are exactly what one would expect of any good study of the battle and are employed to good effect. He seems to take pleasure in a little Baum bashing by suggesting that the lieutenant colonel was instructed not to engage a superior force and that by not retreating he was "taking on more than Burgoyne or Riedesel had ever imagined. . . [this] was Baum's first mistake." While it is true that Riedesel never conceived of the detachment as an assault force per se, he did not order it to retreat before an opposing force. The original orders provided that "In case of the enemy combining against Lieutenant Colonel Baum in too great force, General Burgoyne will not fail to send him the most prompt succor, and will make such a movement that the enemy will find himself between two fires." Burgoyne's edited orders went further, stating that should the enemy "be able to collect in great force, and post themselves advantageously, it is left to your discretion to attack them or not, always bearing in mind that your corps is too valuable to let any considerable loss be hazarded on the occasion." Clearly he was ordered to be circumspect, but if either commander wanted to forbid an engagement, their orders, in draft and effect, failed to communicate this.

His account of Gregg's skirmish at Sancoick Mill is strangely sourced. He cites only Mary Beacock Fryer, who provides vague details of the action. It is probable that he read Stark's post-battle letter of the 18th, Wasmus's journal entry for the 14th and Baum's letter to Burgoyne of the same day but a novice studying Bennington would have no clue of this upon inspection of his citations. Corbett strangely asserts that posts along the river flats were abandoned as indefensible. An examination of the Bach map suggests that these positions were not ignored, but hosted house posts, a cannon emplacement, a forge and even Baum's own tent. He goes on to write that both cannon were placed on the hilltop. In fact, both cannon were placed nearer the bridge, with one being diverted to the hilltop later. His set up for the battle is deeply confusing.

His chronology of the battle is also murky. He claims that the Widow Whipple's home was burned after the assault on the Tory redoubt. It would have been a feat of questionable strategic value for Baum to have carried off any assault behind Stark's lines after his encirclement was well underway. The entry in the Wasmus journal that is commonly understood to reference the burning is given on the 14th, a day of skirmishing two days prior to the battle of the 16th. Corbett's treatment of the second engagement is adequate, but focuses narrowly on the arrival of Safford and the Green Mountain Boys.

Corbett takes the position that loyalists were not ill-treated by their captors. While the jury is still out, there is some circumstantial evidence of executions. The oft-quoted Thomas Mellen suggests that he saw 13 Tories being buried, the majority shot through the head. This could have been the result of crack shots.

Readers are cautioned to seek accounts of the Battle of Bennington elsewhere and are encouraged to start with Ketchum who provides basic details on the action as well as participants, other factors (such as lack of ammunition) and players (like Major Rand). This review must also stand as a correction. One line of inquiry on the topic of the acoustics of the Battle of Bennington was sparked by Corbett. A detailed analysis of the passage offered in evidence yielded a source that was misconstrued. It was asserted that the sounds of the battle carried all the way to the Weir house

Considered as a whole, *No Turning Point* is a valuable contribution to the history of the Saratoga Campaign. Corbett is right to challenge a mindset that celebrates a crucial victory but can impede consideration of subsequent events. Very little immediately changed in New York and the Grants.

(Sources on following page)

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

Unique topics in American History

Philip Skene & the Battle of Bennington: “Victory was at our Command”

By David Pitlyk



Philip Skene

Philip Skene was an integral part of Lt. Col. Friedrich Baum’s expedition to Bennington. He was directed to Canada in 1777 by the Crown and accompanied Burgoyne’s invading army. Given his past service in the British army and position in pre-revolutionary government, he was appointed Chief Commissary of Oaths which placed him in a role of civil leadership for the detachment as it interacted with inhabitants of the countryside. He was also made Chief Commissioner of Supplies, a role that required him to “regulate... matters relative to the supplies and assistances that shall be required from the country or voluntarily brought in.” He was so well known at the time that some Americans identified him as the commander of the Crown Forces in place of Baum, yet his perspective of the battle is rarely considered in modern histories. At least three letters exist that provide his

version of events. A fragmentary letter and a letter written to Lord Dartmouth, former secretary of state for the American Department, provide a vivid account of the second engagement when taken together and beg analysis.

Skene’s writing on the battle has not been widely reproduced and is therefore not often consulted. Ketchum’s book on Saratoga gives it prominence in his treatment of Bennington, but his work is the exception rather than the rule. Ketchum primarily leans on his letter as an indication of his incompetence and excuse-making.

Traditionally relegated to a position of secondary importance, his writing suggests Skene was knowledgeable to some degree about the military operations of Baum’s detachment. He gives the strength of the detachment as it set out at 556 though that number was probably closer to 760. He displays an awareness of Baum’s communications, detailing the chain of correspondence that led to Burgoyne sending Lt. Col. Breymann to his aid, suggesting that he was consulted or at least informed of the decisions as they were made. He does however go on to write that he “had no Military Command but shall have [his] share of censure for what should be, as well as what was not.” He did not delude himself into thinking his role was greater than it was but at the same time was aware of his responsibility.

The Dartmouth letter notes that Skene sent back carriages and horses to Breymann to hurry him along, but when von Barner arrived he “begged he would be Cool and wait for the detachment.” At the time of their arrival it is likely the first engagement was already over, but one cannot help but wonder what might have been if Skene had not intervened to keep Breymann’s vanguard from immediately jumping into battle.

Skene defends this delay by relating information from a loyalist and Capt. Campbell who both reported that Baum was under attack but had not yet been overwhelmed. It should be remembered that Skene was not with Baum at the time the attack commenced but rather was to the rear “on business.” This is remarkable considering that they were well apprised of the numbers of militia at Stark’s command. It may suggest a lack of respect for the ability of American militia.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

Philip Skene (cont.)

Breymann provided his own account of the action. He wrote that “at 1/2 past 4 O’clock in the afternoon, I reached the Mill, & found the advanced Guard in possession of it, & all quiet. I must positively declare, that neither during the march, not even after I reached the Mill, did I hear a Single Shot fired either from Small arms or Canon. . . . At this time I knew nothing of his engagement being over. *If Col. Skene knew it, I cannot conceive what his reasons were for concealing it from me* [emphasis added].” But Skene must have known from the messengers cited in his letter that Baum was besieged, and writes “I own I wanted faith to believe [the messengers].” One of these men would seem to be dissembling. Acoustic shadows or not, Skene knew the battle was on and he chose to proceed anyway.

Breymann and Skene advanced a short distance and then found “Rebells at the end of a Worms fence ascending to the Eastward while we were marching on the road due South.” Skene inquired if they were loyalists and was met with a volley that hit his horse but missed his person. He implies that Americans and Tories alike wore white feathers or paper in their hats. Later he admits that a good many Americans that he must have offered protection to turned out to be spies.

This version of events is challenged by Major General Friedrich Adolf Riedesel. He writes that “Governor Skene assured him that this force were not rebels; but Breymann, not satisfied with this assurance, sent ahead a patrol toward the eminence, who were immediately received with a volley of musketry.” While a secondary source, one may assume Riedesel received reports of the battle with great interest.

With this, the second engagement had begun. The fragmentary letter offers slightly more detail on this phase of the battle. Von Barner’s Brunswick Light Infantry pushed back the scattered American militia on the left of Breymann’s column, hugging the hillside. Skene writes that “L^t Col Brymer [sic] behaved very Bravely and always advanced in front to show his men an Example.” This élan probably accounts for his injury in the battle. The Brunswickers crossed a rail fence, perhaps the same fence the Americans posted behind when they fired on Skene, and “would have flanked the Rebels, but unluckily the German Grenadiers did not close with the Enemy but continued in a Line firing away their Ammunition at too great a Distance. . . .” Skene claims that, with the 6-pdr.’s raining grapeshot on the Americans, Breymann advanced for an hour and a half covering two miles. He points out that for the first mile and a half the left was thinly wooded with a modest slope suggesting this transitioned to more rugged terrain as Breymann’s men chased the Americans back. Skene tried to be of use and would have his reader believe that he risked his own person to do so. He brought up the ammunition cart to the Brunswickers who “wanted small Arms Ammunition.” Turning back to the Dartmouth letter, when Skene returned with it he found the column in full retreat and Breymann was nowhere to be found. He apparently assumed command, halting only when the column arrived at Sancoick Mill. Breymann returned last of all, no doubt making a last ditch effort to save the 6-pdr.’s. Skene notes with pride that he “brought off all the wounded, and Baggage even to all the knapsacks.” Clearly he believed he did his duty and did not see himself as one of the parties responsible for defeat.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

Philip Skene (cont.)

Skene opined that “Victory was at our Command had the Grenadiers been Quick in their March, or not wasted their Ammunition at too great A Distance...” He left feeling certain the Americans had suffered heavy losses. He spends a few lines critiquing Baum’s decisions. He apparently approved of the post (not a popular opinion) but wrote “I find that he detached from his Party and therefore weekend his post, that should have been on the defensive until the reinforcement arrived.” Extraordinarily, he was under the impression that Baum was the attacker.

This opinion may have its basis in an abortive attempt by the Native Americans to drive back the assault just as the encirclement began. Claude de Lorimier noted that he asked for and obtained permission from Baum to make such an attack, but after advancing 600 yards from “some high ground” was driven back and opted instead to seek out Breymann’s relief column. Upon finding the column, Lorimier notes that his Native Americans “had hardly gone 400 yards along the base of a very high crag when we received a terrible volley of musket fire from some traitors who, two hours earlier, had come into our entrenchments as friends on Major Skene’s recommendation.” De Lorimier was probably not appreciative of Skene’s contributions that day.

Thomas Mellen of New Hampshire gives us one of the best accounts from the American perspective. For a moment it appeared that the American flank would be turned. Breymann placed his artillery front and center to good effect. At this crucial moment (or more specifically, five minutes later) Warner’s Extra-Continental Regiment of Green Mountain Boys arrived to stiffen the faltering militiamen. Mellen recalls, “[I saw a man] waving his sword to the artillerymen, I fired at him twice. The horse fell. He cut the traces of an artillery horse, mounted him, and rode off. I afterwards heard that officer was Major Skene.” If his identification is accurate, it is possible that Skene lost his nerve and rather than fighting to bring the 6-pounders off the field, contributed to their loss. Morton argues that this eyewitness probably viewed him making way to the ammunition cart and misinterpreted what was in reality an act of bravery.

Skene was slow to accept the defeat of Burgoyne’s army. In an undated letter, he describes how he was “of the opinion the Army might have made good their retreat to Canada quitting their Baggage and Artillery and I remonstrated against the Convention of Saratoga...” With the formal surrender, he then “took the Character of a poor follower of the British Army” (i.e. not a soldier, though this distinction was of little value by the terms of Article VIII of the Convention) and was permitted by General Gates to make his way to Boston. He bemoans the fact that he had two horses shot out from under him, lending credibility to Mellen’s account.

The peace was as challenging for Skene as the war. He lived as a British subject outside the newly created United States. A letter written to Governor Clinton in 1784 may be taken as a measure of his desperation as Skene tried unsuccessfully to reenter American life with his tail between his legs. Apparently one in a series of letters that were largely ignored, he wished “to obtain the privilege of becoming a Faithful Citizen” and “enter as heartily into the interest of America as a good subject can be wished for.”

Skene is an enigmatic figure. His story of the second engagement is compelling, but occasionally challenged by other accounts. It is telling that the most notable work on his life, while laudable, is the product of an amateur researcher written nearly 60 years ago. Prior to the war, he stood on a par in terms of wealth and influence with many other influential landholders. He corresponded with men in high positions of both governments. Contemporary New Yorkers knew him well. In the 21st century however, he is afforded only a supporting role in the story of the American War of Independence.

BOOK REVIEW (cont.)

References for No Turning Point: The Saratoga Campaign in Perspective, review by David Pitlyk:

Richard M. Ketchum, *Saratoga: Turning Point of America's Revolutionary War*, (New York: Holt Paperbacks, 1997) 316-319.

David Pitlyk, "Acoustic Shadows and the Battle of Bennington" in Friends of the Bennington Battlefield Newsletter, Vol 1, Winter 2017, n.p.

Audrey M. Wallace, "The American Revolution in Cambridge," in *Old Cambridge (1788-1988): A Collection of historical essays and family histories commemorating the 200th anniversary of the forming of Old Cambridge District, 1788*, ed. Robert Clay et al (Cambridge, NY, 1988), 102.

James Davie Butler and George Frederick Houghton, *Addresses on the Battle of Bennington, and The Life and Services of Col. Seth Warner*; Delivered before the Legislature of Vermont in Montpelier, October 20, 1848, (Burlington: Free Press Office, 1849), 29.

Michael P. Gabriel, *The Battle of Bennington: Soldiers & Civilians* (Charleston: The History Press, 2012), 37. Thomas Allen refers to "the king's troops commanded by governor Skene."

SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUNG READERS

Compiled by Phyllis Chapman

By midsummer, parents begin preparing kids for the next school year- back-to-school shopping for notebooks, pencils and pens, backpacks, clothes and sneakers, and...perhaps, books for enjoyment that spark a student's interests. If you have a young history buff, here are a few suggested titles on the Revolutionary period and early America.

George Washington: A Picture Book Biography- by James Cross Giblin, illustrated by Michael Dooling, Scholastic, 1992- With Washington's prominence in the Revolutionary War and as first President, a biography of this remarkable man is a good introduction to the topic. In 40 beautifully illustrated pages, you learn of his role in the founding of our country, as well what he felt and believed. Excellent appendix of supporting information.

If You Lived at the Time of the American Revolution- by Kay Moore, Illustrated by Daniel O'Leary, Scholastic, 1997- One of a series the "If You Lived..." books, it is a comprehensive look at the lives of ordinary Americans of the time, and how the events of the Revolution impacted their lives. Features a question-and-answer format, so sections can be read independently. Illustrations are a bit awkward, neither caricatures or realistic, but plentiful.

George vs. George- The American Revolution as Seen from Both Sides- by Rosalyn Schanzer, National Geographic, 2004- A lively and brightly illustrated comparison of the lives of George Washington, and King George III of England, and the Revolution that made them adversaries. The even-handed treatment of both men demonstrates very well that history is not simply black vs. white.

How to be a Revolutionary Soldier, by Thomas Ratliff, illustrated by John James, National Geographic, 2006; and ***The Revolutionary Soldier, 1775-1783***, by Keith Wilbur, Globe Pequot Press, 1993- Two good books that delve into the details and experiences of the average American soldier. Ratliff's book approaches the subject as a "training manual", which finishes with a set of "interview" questions asking the reader if he/she has the qualifications for the job. Wilbur's book features type and illustrations in an 18th century style, and describes everything from cartridges to epaulettes. Both great choices for readers fascinated with the life of the soldier.

Patience Wright- America's First Sculptor and Revolutionary Spy- by Pegi Deitz Shea, illustrated by Bethanne Andersen, Henry Holt & Co., 2007- A charming picture book about the Quaker wax sculptor Patience Wright, who lived in England during the Revolution and spied for the Americans, sending information of the British government's plans via the hollow wax heads of sculptures she sent to America. Text also contains interesting information about the techniques involved in wax sculpting, and of famed painter Benjamin West's assistance in introducing her to English royalty and statesmen.

George Washington, Spymaster- by Thomas B. Allen, National Geographic, 2004- Speaking of spies, this book reveals the broad network of spies and spy rings that Washington utilized to keep informed of the enemy and to plan strategy. Explanations of materials and techniques, from invisible ink and letter "masks" to codes and ruses used by men and women alike to gather and deliver information are sure to spark the reader's interest.

Let's not forget the littlest of "readers"! ***Good Night America***, by Adam Gamble, illustrated by Suwin Chan- Our World of Books, 2006 – From the series that includes ***Good Night Moon***, this little board book takes toddlers across our country as they say good night to fields of grain, the Statue of Liberty, Washington, DC, and the Grand Canyon, among others. Appealing illustrations of places, people and animals with the overriding sentiment of the beauty of our nation.



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

Exploring the Unique Topics of History

A LIVING MEMORIAL AT THE BATTLEFIELD

by Phyllis Chapman

Visitors and even local residents, driving up the winding driveway to the top of the Bennington Battlefield, generally don't see the trees for the forest. Along with the leafy forest that lines the road, are special trees, planted specifically as a living memorial to Hoosick area men who gave their lives in World War II.

Thirty-three men from Hoosick died in the service of their country during the Second World War. In September, 1947, the Town of Hoosick Historical Society, and the Hoosick Post American Legion, in cooperation with the Battlefield Park Commission, dedicated a unique memorial to those men in the form of an "Avenue of Trees", planted along the drive leading up to the top of the hill, where markers commemorating the Battle of Bennington had been placed in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

The event was marked with a simple and dignified ceremony, which included a speech by the notable Dr. Albert B Corey, New York State Historian at the time. Capt. Douglas J. Eighmey served as the Head of Ceremonies, with Rev. Jerrold C. Potts, rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church offering the Invocation and Rev. John B. Martin, O.S.A, from Immaculate Conception Church closing with the Benediction. In addition to the singing of "America", the program included "Taps" played by James Michie, bugler for Company C, Second Regiment. Family members of the fallen veterans, people of the community, and Town of Hoosick officials were present.

In the intervening years, some of the trees died, and in 1983, the Saratoga-Capital District State Park and Recreation Department received a federal grant to replace them. Baker's Nursery was awarded the contract to plant 19 sugar maple trees. Living memorials require constant upkeep, and there are currently more that need to be replaced.

A plaque on one of the stone pillars at the entrance of the Park bears the inscription, "In grateful memory, this avenue of trees is dedicated to all the brave men of the Town of Hoosick who served the victorious forces of the United States during the Second World War" and lists the names of the men for whom the trees were planted.

Take note of the Avenue of Trees the next time you visit the Battlefield; they are easily distinguishable from the naturally growing trees in the area. Knowing the purpose for which they were planted makes the Battlefield a double memorial for men from two different centuries who fought and died that others may be free from tyranny and oppression. Their names are listed below.

Ray Armitage
Merritt Fuller
Walter Gavin
Howard Hunt
James Kenneth Hall
Clifford Lang
Harold McLucas
Edward Nowik
Stanley Urban
Leon Wilcox
Bernard Zilinskas

Richard Albergine
Sylvester Fosegan
Lester Goodermote
Kenneth Hoffman
Edward Kalinowski
Joseph Lucey
C. Edward Manning
Frank O'Neil
Charles Whipple
Andrew Williams

Francis Curtis
Thomas Fosegan
William Hayes
Sherman Hoffman
William Kipp
William McCracken
Earl Niles
Walter Sluzas
Harold Wilson
John Yavaniski

The flag in the upper left corner of the heading is a Service Flag families who had members serving in WWII hung in their windows. The American Gold Star Mothers, a non-profit organization, had been created in 1928, after WWI. In recognition of families with active service members, the Service Flag was established. The stars sewed on them indicated the number of servicemen/women in the family. Blue stars were changed to gold stars in the event of the death of one of the service members. The Gold Star Mothers offer emotional support for grieving families, volunteering for veterans' causes and in veterans' hospitals, and foster a spirit of patriotism for our country. The group still exists and is active today, and many families with members in the Armed Forces display Service Flags.