

Louisa St. Clair & Stoney Creek Chapters, NSDAR Marker Dedication for Private Moses Porter September 24, 2016

Louisa St. Clair and Stoney Creek Chapters marked the grave of Revolutionary War soldier Private Moses Porter on September 24, 2016 at the Metamora Cemetery in Metamora, Michigan.

Louisa St. Clair Chapter member Jane Turnbull, who spends part of the winter in Arizona, was approached at a DAR meeting there by a member, Annie Vaughn, who had recently had Moses Porter verified on a supplemental application. Knowing that Jane lived in Michigan, and that her ancestor was buried in Michigan, Annie inquired if Jane's chapter would be willing to help have his grave officially marked by the DAR. Jane did some research when she returned to Michigan and found that Moses Porter's grave had been originally marked by the Stoney Creek Chapter, formerly known as the General Richardson Chapter, back on October 28, 1907. That marker unfortunately had disappeared. The Louisa St. Clair Chapter asked the Stoney Creek Chapter if they would like to jointly work on placing a new marker on this patriot's grave. The Stoney Creek Chapter agreed, and the process was begun!

The application was sent to the Historian General's office in January of 2016, with the hope that we could hold the marking ceremony that summer. A scouting trip to the Metamora Cemetery in February revealed that Moses Porter's headstone had come detached from its base and that his and his wife Euzubia's graves had been adversely affected by the freeze and thaws of our Michigan winters and were not at all stable. Besides the two newer headstones seen in the photo on the right, there were two older headstones in desperate need of cleaning. A local monument company was contacted and we soon had a contract with them to reset, restore and clean the four headstones and to provide

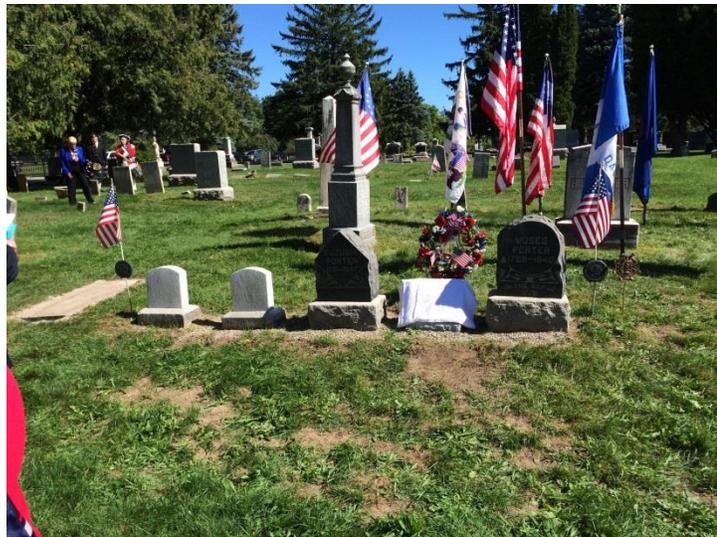


a new 14" x 10" x 12" gray granite slanted memorial to mount the bronze marker on.

In order to pay for the unexpected additional cost of the repairs and cleaning, Louisa St. Clair Chapter awarded their annual chapter Historical Preservation Grant to Stoney Creek Chapter. Blessed with finances, but without a historical site of their own, Louisa St. Clair Chapter generously supports the efforts of their sister DAR of Michigan chapters!

The date of Saturday, September 24, 2016 was decided on for the event and a "Save the Date" flyer was sent to all DAR chapters in Michigan and to the State Board. Information about the event was sent to the Lapeer County Press, who published it in their Upcoming Events section. The Village of Metamora also posted the event on their website.

The day of the marker dedication was a perfect Michigan fall day, warm and clear. Various organizations were included in this event. The Michigan Society Sons of the American Revolution provided the Color Guard and a bagpiper. The American Legion Lapeer Post 16 provided a 21 gun salute and a bugler who played taps. Members of



two chapters of the Michigan Society Children of the American Revolution, the Mark and Henry Scholl Society and the Elias Cady Society, attended and led the assembly in the singing of the National Anthem and God Bless America.

We were honored to have DAR of Michigan State Regent, Diane Schrift, in attendance, as well as other state officers and chairmen and members of other DAR chapters. Total attendance was 75 persons!

The marker dedication ceremony was very moving. Regent Peggy King Scully of Louisa St. Clair Chapter and Regent Debbie Blaske of Stoney Creek Chapter were assisted by DAR of Michigan State Chaplain Jane Turnbull. After the opening ritual and introduction of guests, Regent Blaske read the biography of Moses Porter:

“Moses Porter was born about 1758 or 1759 in Hartford County, Connecticut to David Porter and Margaret Olmstead. He was baptized there on July 14, 1759. He was first married in 1785 to Mercy Deming. They moved to Bristol in Ontario County, New York, where Moses was elected Commissioner of Highways in 1797. Moses and Mercy had as many as nine children, some of which were still young when Mercy died in 1811. Moses was married again in 1815 to Euzubia Chamberlain Perkins, a young widow, 23 years younger than him. Together they had five children.



From his application for a Revolutionary War pension made in 1818 while living in Ontario County, New York, and from military records, we know that Moses was a young man of about 18 years when he enlisted in the service of the United States and served for one year. Four months later, in April of 1777, he enlisted again and served another six years as a

Private in Captain William’s Company, Colonels Samuel B. Webb’s and Ebenezer Huntington’s Connecticut Infantry Regiments, until he was discharged on June 7, 1783. His regiment first saw action at the Battle of Setauket in August of 1777. They spent that winter at West Point, where they assisted with the construction of fortifications. Other battles that Moses Porter would have participated in include the Battle of Rhode Island in August of 1778 and the Battle of Springfield in June of 1870.

Moses and Euzubia moved to the new state of Michigan in 1838 to live with their children. Moses died on May 8, 1840, age 82.”



The ceremony continued with the dedication and unveiling of the marker. The Michigan Society Sons of the American Revolution performed a sword salute and the American Legion Lapeer Post 16 honored the patriot with a 21 gun salute.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held at the historic Old Town Hall in Metamora. Cookies, lemonade and iced tea were provided and served by members of Louisa St. Clair and Stoney Creek Chapters.

