

CHARLES GRATIOT CORRESPONDENCE
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
BLUE WATER CHAPTER
OF THE
MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF THE
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



#14 – 10/01/2022

OFFICERS

Nathan Smith
President

Don Raymo
Secretary

Robert Zimmer
Treasurer

Robert Eager
Registrar/Genealogist

Dennis Holland
Chaplain

Robert Eager
Trustee

Trivia Question:

Where was the only battle fought in Michigan during the American Revolution? What two countries were involved?

(See Trivia Question Answer in this newsletter.)



Treasurer Bob Zimmer (left) and President Nathan Smith (right) welcome new member Don Raymo during our May 17th meeting at the Knowlton Ice Museum.

Don Raymo Inducted at May Meeting

Don Raymo grew up in Lexington, Michigan. He lived around the state and overseas for several years before returning to the Blue Water Area. He enjoys the outdoors, archery, and traveling as much as possible. Don is the 5th great-grandchild of Patriot Jonathan Barron.

Jonathan Barron was born in Reading, Massachusetts on June 30, 1760. He was the son of Captain Timothy Barron. He married Thankful Minor and was the father of William, George, and Liela Barron. He first enlisted under his father, a captain of the New Hampshire militia. He was present at the battle of Bennington, Vt., Aug. 16, 1777. After the war, in 1813, he moved to Michigan and farmed. His grave was located and marked in St. Clair, Michigan.

Don Raymo's induction ceremony was held during the May 17th meeting held at the Knowlton Ice Museum in downtown Port Huron. He will now assume the office of secretary of the chapter.

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Lloyd Stephens' Supplemental Approved

It was a 1779 controversy over the use of the smallpox vaccine that provided the missing clue for Lloyd Stephens' supplemental application. The process had taken several years, but finally, on June 26th, Lloyd received his SAR certificate for the service of his 5th great-grandfather, Elias Stephens.

Lloyd initially joined SAR in 2015 by proving his connection to Lt. David Fellows, who served in a Connecticut regiment between 1776 and 1779. However, it had always been a goal for him and his family to be able prove an application based on his direct male ancestor in the Stephens' line.



Registrar Bob Eager presents a supplemental certificate to Lloyd Stephens III in recognition of his 5th great-grandfather, Elias Stephens', service in the American Revolution.

It was a difficult line to prove. Chapter Registrar Bob Eager and MISSAR State Genealogist Dennis VanWormer spent over a year examining the evidence and discussing strategies. Handwritten Bible records from two different families were used to prove Lloyd's connection to the Elias Stephens who was born in Canaan, CT. Then, proving that he was one of the three Elias Stephens who served in the Connecticut Militia proved to be another, more difficult, challenge.

In echoes of controversies surrounding vaccine use today, the clinching proof was found in a Connecticut record of public proceedings. It is known that General Washington required troops at Valley Forge to get vaccinated against smallpox. Less well known, perhaps, was that some communities actually made vaccination illegal. In an official proceeding, Elias Stephens from Canaan, CT, who had been prosecuted for taking the smallpox vaccine, had the charges dropped because he had enlisted as a minuteman in the regiment of Roger Enos. That official record tied together all the various pieces. Lloyd's application was submitted in June, 2021, and a year later it was approved by the genealogists at NSSAR headquarters in Lexington, KY.

Upcoming Meetings

October 18th: Fort Gratiot Lighthouse Tour: We will meet at 6:00 in the hospital museum for a short chapter meeting and then tour the facilities. Climbing the 96 steps to the top of the lighthouse is optional.

November 15th: We are hoping to continue in-person meetings. The board is compiling a list of venues that can accommodate us. Stay tuned...

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Visit to the Port Huron Knowlton Ice Museum

After serving in WWII, Norman “Mickey” Knowlton came home to Port Huron and became a milkman. By the 1950’s he owned his own Twin Pines distributorship with multiple routes and drivers.

In time, with the advent of supermarkets, people stopped having their milk delivered to their homes. In 1967, Mickey started Party Time Ice, and it eventually developed into the largest manufacturer and distributor of ice in the state. In 2004, at age 85, he sold the business to Arctic Glacier.

During his career he developed a passion for the unique history of the ice industry and became an avid collector of artifacts and memorabilia. That collection is now housed at the Knowlton Ice Museum of North



Chapter members, family, and guests learn about tools used in the ice trade from the Knowlton Museum tour guide.

America in downtown Port Huron. It contains over 3,000 items used in the cutting, harvesting, storing, selling and use of natural ice from one of the largest industries in the United States around 1900.



Above: Members watch an interesting video with historical footage of ice harvesting and processing operations.



Below: The museum contains over 3,000 items used in the cutting, harvesting, and processing of ice.

The Knowlton Ice Museum was host to the Blue Water Chapter for our May 17th meeting. They opened their doors especially for us at 6:00 p.m., and we held a brief meeting in their lobby area. Then, we were led on a tour by their professional staff members. This was the first in-person meeting that we have held since the John Myers Grave Marking Ceremony in June of 2021. The Board wanted to combine our meeting with an activity that would be of historical interest to members. Family members and guests were invited as well.



Treasurer Bob Zimmer asks questions about an early device used to keep food cool.

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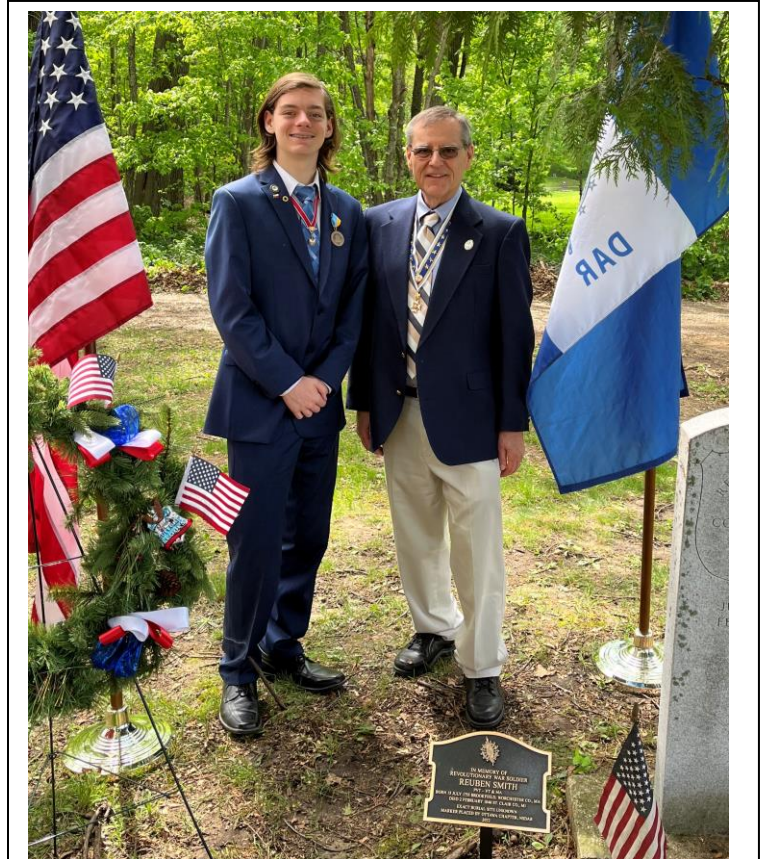
Chapter Members Assist DAR Grave Marking

Reuben Smith served as a Private in the Continental Line during the American Revolution. Born in Massachusetts, he was a resident of Vermont at the time. He later moved to western New York and then on to Michigan. It was there that he passed away in February, 1840 at the age of 84.

He was laid to rest in a family plot now known as Smith's Cemetery. It is a quiet little country cemetery a few miles west of Marine City, and on Saturday, May 21st, it was the scene of a solemn ceremony to mark his grave and remember his service.

The DAR Ottawa Chapter placed a bronze marker at the gravesite. Blue Water Chapter member Jeremy Mathieu was there representing the CAR as this year's State President. BWC Registrar Bob Eager was asked to give greetings from the Michigan Society SAR. Chaplain Dennis Holland was also on hand, serving with the St. Clair County Honor Guard.

Reuben Smith is the patriot ancestor of Blue Water Chapter member Ed Bickley.



Blue Water Members Jeremy Mathieu and Bob Eager were speakers at the Ottawa Chapter grave marking ceremony for Pvt. Reuben Smith.

Trivia Question Answer: Following a decisive loss in the French and Indian War, Louis XV ceded New Orleans and the lands west of the Mississippi to his Bourbon cousins in Spain before the Paris Peace Conference in 1763. The Spanish were no friends of the British, and during the American Revolution, they supplied the colonists with arms and ammunition, food, and money from New Orleans. The British thought they had an opportunity to take the vulnerable settlement at St. Louis, but the Spanish were able to repulse the attack. Then, in response, the Spanish in 1781 attacked and took the British fort at St. Joseph, Michigan. Apart from minor skirmishes, it was the only battle fought in Michigan during the Revolution.

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Algonac Senior Awarded SAR Bronze JROTC Medal

The Algonac High School JROTC Program held its annual awards banquet at Zuccaro's in Chesterfield Township on Saturday, April 30th, and Blue Water Chapter Registrar Bob Eager was on hand to present Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Albrecht the SAR Bronze JROTC Medal.

Cadet Albrecht served as Cadet Corps Commander for the first semester of this year and was the Kitty Hawk Air Society Commander during the second semester. He has been with the Junior ROTC program for 5 years and, according to his advisor, Stephen Quintana, SMSgt, USAF (Retired), has been a dedicated member during the entire time. Albrecht led the cadets in numerous events such as the National Wreaths Across America, the local Goodfellows Newspaper Sales, and multiple school Color Guards. Quintana added, "His dedication to the program has ensured its success and made it possible to meet the many commitments within the community."



Algonac High School senior Thomas Albrecht is presented the SAR Bronze JROTC Medal by Bob Eager.

The SAR ROTC Medal is presented in recognition of outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing, and excellence, thus exemplifying the high ideals and principles which motivated and sustained our patriotic ancestors.



MISSAR Support for America 250

We are entering the period when our nation will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the America Revolution. The SAR considers that to be from 2023 to 2033 or from the Boston Tea Party until the Evacuation of New York by the British Army. The MISSAR already has a committee, and they have been making plans.

They have committed to developing a variety of educational presentations that chapters can use to interact with our local communities, as well as sponsoring events and developing public programming to raise awareness of the SAR across the state. There will also be 250th Anniversary resources available for Scout Troops and Councils.

The NSSAR has developed a toolkit filled with resources that state societies and local chapters can use, and more are being developed all the time. Visit www.sar.org and select America 250 from the menu bar to learn more.

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Please Note: Some of our meetings are being held remotely using Zoom. Look for notification before each meeting.

Tuesday Oct. 18 6:00 pm – Fort Gratiot Lighthouse Meeting and Tour.
Tuesday Nov. 15 TBA
Saturday Feb. 18 12:30 pm – Use email invitation to Zoom.



Blue Water Chapter

MISSAR
253 Lamotte St
Sandusky MI
48471-1247

Place
Stamp
Here

To:

Regular Meeting Place

The Dorsey House

6008 Beard Rd
North Street, MI 48049



During the Covid Crisis we will be avoiding dinner meetings or holding them remotely using Zoom.

