

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



**#15 – 09/06/2023**

***OFFICERS***

*Nathan Smith*  
**President**

*Don Raymo*  
**Vice President**

*David Yanik*  
**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.)

**Blue Water Welcomes David Yanik**



Chaplain Dennis Holland, David Yanik, Registrar Bob Eager, and Secretary Don Raymo are pictured during the induction ceremony at the First Baptist Church in Port Huron.

The First Baptist Church in Port Huron, where Chaplain Dennis Holland is Pastor, was the scene of the January 22<sup>nd</sup> induction of David Yanik.

David has been interested in history and family genealogy for as long as he can remember. "My grandfather, who passed away before I was born, was a veteran of the Second World War.", said David. "I was always interested in his service, and from a young age would ask my mother and other family members to recount stories he had shared." David's great-aunt was the family historian and a member of the D.A.R. It was through her influence and research that he learned that their shared ancestor, Israel Eastwood, fought in the American Revolution.

David majored in history at Grand Valley State University. Since then, he has undertaken graduate studies in American history and hopes to one day contribute his own scholarship to the history of the American Revolution.

David says, "The Sons of the American Revolution offers me a unique opportunity to interact with like-minded members of the community who share my passion for history and genealogy. Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, it allows me to take an active role in preserving and honoring my ancestor's sacrifice, as well as countless others who took part in America's War for Independence." David was elected secretary for the Blue Water Chapter in February.

# CHARLES GRATIOT CORRESPONDENCE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
BLUE WATER CHAPTER



## An Informative Night at Fort Gratiot Lighthouse Museums

*Story by Bob Zimmer*

We proud, we cold, we wet members and guests attended the well-received and presented Tuesday, October 18th tour of the Fort Gratiot Post Hospital, Lighthouse fog signal, Keeper's Quarters, and the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse itself. We were fortunate that our docent, Lauren Nelson, knew her subject so well. Her presentation was very specific, informative, and pleasant.

We first learned the Fort Gratiot Hospital was, when in service, located in the fort just south of the Blue Water Bridge. It was built in 1830 but by the later 1800s was relocated a few blocks west, onto St. Clair Street and split into two residences. In the 1900s refurbishment of one of them revealed its historic beams and construction methods called post and beam method dating it to the earlier 1800s. Further research revealed a second nearby residence of similar size, measurement, possibly similar age, and a mirror layout. They then confirmed the two buildings were in fact the old hospital, having been split in two in 1879. In 2000-02 the Museum bought the two and relocated them to their present site where renovation back to historic detail commenced and is still underway. The original construction method is visible as one wall is cut away to reveal beams from a local sawmill as well as the build method itself. The Museum is excited that new funds are coming in such that finishing it up will be accelerated, with plans for a new exhibit to present local military history and medical accomplishments of local doctors, from inventions to services.



The Fort Gratiot Lighthouse complex was the site of the Blue Water Chapter October Meeting.



Blue Water Chapter members Don Raymo, Jeremy Mathieu, Nathan Smith, Bob Zimmer, and Robert Stoughton hold October meeting at the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse.

From there, we went to the Lighthouse fog signal building. The old steam machinery is no longer there, having long ago been removed. It contains exhibits on the history of both the Lighthouse Lens and the whistles. Lenses started as oil lamps in a type of multiple lamp, multi-level candelabra; then, oil lamps magnified via glass prisms; then, electric rotating lens with a green flash, currently green lights with a flash every six seconds. Whistles started as pure steam generation with huge machinery and inconsistent pressures. Today no steam, no huge equipment needs.

Thereafter, on to the Lighthouse Keeper's residence. It is restored to 1938 using, where they could, a couple 1938

photographs they have found. It's a nice presentation complete with historic kitchen equipment -- Frigidaire, stove, sink with running water, and a mystery floor door to their underfloor area. Fruit cellar? Access? No one knows for sure but it's top has wood planks that match exactly the floor, so somebody had a specific use indeed.

# CHARLES GRATIOT CORRESPONDENCE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**BLUE WATER CHAPTER**



## Brad Roff Joins the Blue Water Chapter

Standing in front of the gravestone of Revolutionary War Soldier John Myers, Brad Roff became the Blue Water Chapter's newest member during the Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting held at the Memphis Cemetery. It was a workday for the chapter as members spent time cleaning headstones, including that of John Myers who was buried there in 1848 at the age of 96.

Brad Roff retired from the Sanilac County Sheriff's Office in 2020 after serving in law enforcement for 30 years. He was Undersheriff for 12 years. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Executive Leadership and is a member of the St. Andrews Society of Detroit, a Scottish benevolence society. Brad resides in the Sandusky area with his wife of thirty-three years, Tina, and has 4 children and 7 grandchildren. Brad is the 5th great-grandchild of Peleg Eddy who served in 1783 as the drummer for Captain Thomas Lee's Independent Company in Rutland County, VT.



Front Row: Past MI SAR State President Gerald Burkland (left) performs the induction ceremony for Brad Roff (right). Back Row: SAR Patriot Grave Specialist John Raya, Blue Water Chapter President Nathan Smith, and Secretary David Yanik assist.



PO2 Jacob Rhude (center) receives the SAR Good Citizenship Medal from Blue Water Chapter members David Yanik (left) and Registrar Bob Eager (right).

## PO2 Jacob Rhude Receives SAR Medal

The Tomcat Squadron of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps held its annual awards ceremony at the American Legion Post 4 in Mt. Clemens on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Blue Water Chapter members David Yanik and Bob Eager were on hand to present Petty Officer Second Class Jacob Rhude with the SAR Good Citizenship Medal.

The medal was originally approved by SAR in 1895 as a recognition for those persons who are noteworthy in their school, community, state, or country. The inscription reads, "Our inspiration is from the past. Our duty is in the present. Our hope is in the future."

Rhude currently serves as the unit's Assistant Leading Petty Officer. He was recognized for his outstanding leadership qualities and initiative.

His unit commander said, "PO2 Rhude is a dependable cadet who demonstrates patriotism and sets a good example for those cadets under his charge."

# CHARLES GRATIOT CORRESPONDENCE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**BLUE WATER CHAPTER**



## Blue Water Chapter Recognizes Assistance from Ottawa Chapter DAR Members

SAR has had a long-overlooked program in place to recognize assistance from DAR members who help to recruit new members when a DAR Finder Form is submitted with their application. At the April 1<sup>st</sup> Board of Managers meeting, the Michigan Society adopted a policy to formally state how that assistance should be recognized.



Ottawa Chapter Past Regents Randi Mathieu and Jean Raymo receive awards from Blue Water Chapter Registrar Bob Eager.

Blue Water Registrar Bob Eager attended the DAR Ottawa Chapter's May meeting at the Port Sanilac Museum to explain the new program. Bob stressed to the DAR members there how much the Blue Water Chapter has appreciated the assistance from and the cordial relationship with the Ottawa Chapter. He took the opportunity, while there, to recognize two of the Ottawa members for assistance they have given in the past. Former chapter regents Randi Mathieu and Jean Raymo both assisted with applications for their sons, Jeremy Mathieu and Don Raymo. Under the new program, adopted in April, they would be eligible for certificates of appreciation from the SAR chapter. Even though Jeremy and Don joined before this program went into effect, the Blue Water Chapter leadership decided to present the awards anyway.

The SAR has three medals that can be awarded to women for service to the SAR, and the new policy sets guidelines for awarding them for assisting with new members. If a DAR member assists with three applications, they are eligible for an SAR Martha Washington Medal. The SAR Medal of Appreciation and the Daughters of Liberty Medal are to be presented for assisting with five and ten new applicants respectively.

Those medals are presented to DAR members for various other types of service to the SAR as well. Randi Mathieu, in addition to arranging for her son to join SAR, has attended many Blue Water Chapter meetings over the years. In her roles of Ottawa Regent and CAR Senior Leader she has made efforts to include the Blue Water Chapter in several of their activities. Because of all her help over the years, the Blue Water Chapter took the opportunity that day to present her with the SAR Martha Washington Medal. This is the first time that the Chapter has presented that medal.

### Upcoming Meetings

- September 19th: The Dorsey House:** The meeting will start at 6:00. Arrive early for social time from 5:30 to 6:00. We will be meeting in the main dining room. Look for our group at the long table on the east end.
- October 27-28:** This will be the weekend for the Great Lakes District and the MISSAR Board of Managers meetings. Contact Bob Eager for details if you would like to attend.

# CHARLES GRATIOT CORRESPONDENCE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**BLUE WATER CHAPTER**



## SAR Teams Up with DAR for Blue Water Fest

*Story by David Yanik*

Those from the Blue Water Area are, no doubt, familiar with the Port Huron to Mackinac Boat Race, which has taken place annually since 1925. Also known as the Bayview Mackinac Race, this yearly nautical event causes Port Huron to come alive with activity, dubbed the Blue Water Festival, which has established itself as a week-long summer fixture in the Blue Water Area. As part of Blue Water Fest, Operation Transformation, a local faith-based non-profit organization has organized "Family Night" for the last several years.



**Blue Water SAR chapter vice president, Don Raymo, and chapter secretary, David Yanik, represent their chapter at Family Night on July 13, 2023, in collaboration with the Ottawa chapter of the DAR.**

As its name implies, Family Night, held the Thursday evening of Blue Water Fest, is a family-friendly community outreach event, complete with live music, food, games and fun for all ages. According to Operation Transformation, Family Night's stated purpose is "To collaborate with churches, businesses and civic organizations to provide positive, free, family entertainment during Mackinac Weekend." This year, the Blue Water chapter of the SAR was proud to take part in Family Night on July 13th in Downtown Port Huron, in collaboration with the Ottawa chapter of the DAR. Chapter officers Don Raymo and David Yanik represented the Blue Water Chapter at the event. Their efforts included handing out informational pamphlets along with a Revolutionary War word-search puzzle for children, as well as answering various questions about the SAR from interested members of the public. The DAR provided patriotic wreath crafts which were also a huge hit! The event was a major success and the Blue Water SAR would like to thank the Ottawa DAR for their kind invitation to take part in the event. It is through efforts such as this that the Blue Water SAR will continue to grow while reaching its goals of advancing awareness of history, education, and patriotism within the greater Blue Water community.

## 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 250<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.sar.org) and select America 250 from the menu bar to learn more.



**CHARLES GRATIOT CORRESPONDENCE**  
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**BLUE WATER CHAPTER**



## Blue Water Welcomes New Member Josh Mischler

Josh was born in 1982, to Carl and Rosa Mischler of Washington, Indiana. He attended Washington High School and went on to get a degree in Computer Networking from Vincennes University.

Josh has two children, Holly, 16, and Conner, 19. He and his family reside in Harbor Beach, where he works as a Senior Systems Engineer for a company that does government contracting. Josh is the 5th great-grandson of Patriot Edmund Archer.



President Nathan Smith (left) welcomes new member Josh Mischler joined by wife, Heather, during our May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting at The Dorsey House.



Josh's wife, Heather, places his rosette following the induction ceremony.

Beginning in 1777, Edmund Archer served four separate tours of duty with the Virginia Militia under the charge of various generals. His unit was attached to General Washinton at White Marsh. Later, he was at the Battle of Petersburg and then placed under the command of General Lafayette at Richmond City. Finally, in September, 1781, his unit was ordered to Williamsburg, VA. After extensive maneuvering, they participated in the Siege of Yorktown and remained there until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis.

Josh Mischler's induction ceremony was held during the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting held at The Dorsey House.

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. If you noticed that this was the same trivia question from our last newsletter, contact Bob Eager at bob\_eager@sbglobal.net and let him know that you would like him to do better.

# CHARLES GRATIOT CORRESPONDENCE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**BLUE WATER CHAPTER**



## June Meeting Becomes a Workday at Memphis Cemetery

In what may become a Blue Water tradition, the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting was set up to be a workday at the Memphis Cemetery. In 2021, the Blue Water Chapter dedicated an SAR gravestone marker to Revolutionary War Veteran John Myers who is buried in the Memphis Cemetery. This summer we came back to do some cleanup work on that marker and several others.

Chapter President Nathan Smith demonstrated to the group how to use D/2 cleaner to restore the look of weathered headstones. The process only took a few minutes and produced impressive results. D/2 Biological Solution is a biodegradable liquid that removes stains from mold, algae, mildew, lichens and air pollutants. It is designed to not harm the grave markers.



**Chapter President Nathan Smith points out the John Myers gravestone to new member Brad Roff and shows how the weathered stone is in need of a cleaning.**

While that was happening, Registrar Bob Eager got together with several MISSAR patriot grave experts who had arranged to meet to research the possibility of finding another patriot buried there. They reviewed information with local Memphis historian Tom Cairns. Oaks Chapter member John Raya had collected volumes of information that included several leads that Hugh (or Henry) Mansfield, a possible patriot, may have been buried at Memphis. There is no headstone, but his son, David Mansfield, and family have a plot there. David's wife, Charity, was the daughter of Revolutionary War Soldier John Myers who was buried nearby.



**Past MISSAR President Gerry Burkland and Patriot Grave Specialist John Raya go over details for Henry Mansfield with Tom Cairns of the Memphis Historical Society.**

and welcome our new member, Brad Roff. Brad had been inducted earlier in the evening at the cemetery. Also on hand was our member from Texas, Keith Hines. Keith comes back to Michigan in the summer and usually isn't available to join us, but this June meeting was held later than usual. The group also had a chance to hear from patriot grave expert John Raya. John shared some of the research he has done into locating a grave for Hugh Mansfield and gave members some insight into the behind the scenes work that members like he and Gerry Burkland do before we can hold a patriot grave marking ceremony.

After the work was completed at the cemetery, the group adjourned to Mr. Z's, a restaurant north of town. There, they had the opportunity to socialize



**Chapter President Nathan Smith (right) demonstrates the use of D/2 cleaner to BWC members Keith Hines, Brad Roff, and John Vanderlaan.**

**CHARLES GRATIOT CORRESPONDENCE**  
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**BLUE WATER CHAPTER**



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

Tuesday	Sep. 19	6:00 pm – The Dorsey House (5:30 Social Time)
Tuesday	Oct. 17	Blue Water Chapter Meeting – Location TBA
Friday	Oct. 27	Great Lakes District Meeting – Bay City
Saturday	Oct. 28	MISSAR Board of Managers - Bay City
Tuesday	Nov. 21	Blue Water Chapter Meeting – Location TBA
Saturday	Feb. 17	12:30 pm – Use email invitation to Zoom.



**Blue Water Chapter**  
**MISSAR**  
253 Lamotte St  
Sandusky MI  
48471-1247

Place  
Stamp  
Here

**To:**

**Our Blue Water  
Regular Meeting  
Place**

***The Dorsey House***  
*6008 Beard Rd*  
*North Street, MI 48049*

