



Capitol Area Patriot Newsletter

Springfield IL SAR Chapter

ILLINOIS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
SPRINGFIELD CHAPTER Established February 22, 1897 October 2015

Chapter Officers

President: **Dick Chamblin**
Vice President: **Drew Robinson**
Recording Secretary: **Cletis Underwood**
Treasurer: **Stephen Bradley**
Registrars: **Karl Reed/Lou Myers**
Chaplain: **Stephen Bradley**
Past President: **Dan Hrenko**
Past President: **Toby Chamberlain**
Past President: **Lou Myers**
Chapter Newsletter: **Toby Chamberlain**

Emeritus: Members

Lou Myers
Cletis Underwood

Chapter web site: www.springfieldsar.org

Upcoming Events

October 10, 2015 Family Day Picnic 3:00 p.m. at Compatriot **Bob Dennison's** farm in Dawson, IL.

October 30 & 31, 2015 Great Lakes District SAR Annual Meeting, Lisle, IL, Hyatt Hotel, \$109.00 plus tax. Call 888-591-1234 for reservations.

November 6 & 7, 2015 ILSSAR Board of Managers Meeting, Peoria Marriott Hotel, \$124.00 plus tax includes breakfast for two. Call 800-338-9200 and ask for the Sons of the American Revolution (not SAR) rate. Room discount rate cut off date is October 16th.

November 21, 2015 Chapter meeting, 11:30 a.m. at MCL Cafeteria, 2151 Wabash Ave.

December 19, 2015 Chapter Holiday Dinner, 6:00 p.m., at Panther Creek Country Club, Springfield.

February 27, 2016 Outstanding Citizenship Award Luncheon, 11:00 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, Chatham.

Deadline November 15, 2015

Please notify **Toby Chamberlain**, email saichamb@comcast.net or call 217-483-6267 (home), 217-299-1966 (cell) of any Springfield Chapter news and events you would like included in the December 2015 Springfield Chapter Newsletter not later than November 15th.

Family Day Picnic

The Springfield Chapter's annual Family Day Picnic is scheduled to take place on October 10th at 3:00 p.m. You are ask to bring a dish or desert to pass. Everything else will be furnished by the chapter.

Compatriot **Bob Dennison** will again host the event at his farm located at 429 Clear Creek Road in Dawson.

Based on previous years, you do not want to miss this event.

Spouses, significant others, children and guests are invited to both events and encouraged to attend.

Activities this year include hayrack wagon rides for both children and adults. If you want, you will have the opportunity to fire a Brown Bess Musket or Flintlock Rife at targets.

Directions – From Springfield, take I-72 east. Take the first exit on 72, exit 105. At the stop sign, turn right onto Mechanicsburg Road. Continue on the blacktop for 5.2 miles. Turn left onto Clear Creek Road and travel 4 tenths of a mile. Just as you reach the crest of a short hill look to the left for 429 Clear Creek Road.

If you are coming from Decatur, take I-72 west. Take exit 105. At the stop sign turn left and cross the interstate. The remainder of the directions is the same as the above paragraph.

If you have problems, Bob's phone number is 381-2044.

State Fair Parades

Seven Springfield Chapter members joined with the combined Illinois Society Color Guard in the August 13th Thursday night Illinois State Fair Twilight Parade. It is estimated that over 4,000 spectators lined the parade route. Chapter members who participated were **Dick Chamblin, Dan Hrenko, Lou Myers, Karl Reed, Drew Robinson, George Tinkham** and **Toby Chamberlain**.

Leading the combined color guard and carrying the Illinois Society SAR Banner were **Sadie and Cora Brillhart**, the granddaughters of Springfield Chapter Past President **Dan Hrenko**.

On Sunday August 16th the chapter also participated in the Veterans Day Parade. Chapter members **Dick Chamblin, Lou Myers, Toby Chamberlain** and **George Tinkham** along with DAR members **Polly Myers** and **Sue Chamberlain** rode on a float **Lou** and **Polly** had decorated for the parade.



Pictured are participants who represented the Illinois Society in the Illinois State Fair Twilight Parade.



Pictured left to right are Dick Chamblin and Sue Chamberlain at the Illinois State Fair Veterans Day Parade.

Service to Veterans Medal



Springfield Chapter Compatriot George Selby (left) was presented the SAR Service to Veterans Medal and Certificate by Toby Chamberlain. Compatriot Selby is very active in service to veterans. Each year he participates in 15 to 20 veteran funerals and places over 200 flags on veteran's graves for Memorial Day.

Springfield Chapter Donations

Thanks to the following Springfield Chapter compatriots who donated to chapter programs.

Stephen Bradley, Stephen Bradley II, Toby Chamberlain, Bob Dennison, Fred Garrott, Gary Hodge, George Selby, Eric Smith, Mark Smith, Cletis Underwood and **Randall Witten**

If you would like to participate in our 2015 donation program, a donation form is included with this newsletter.

Graveyard Marking Project

The Springfield Chapter's first graveyard marking project will soon become a reality. However, we are still short of funds (about \$400.00) to complete the project.

We will be placing a permanent marker at the entrance to Oak Ridge Cemetery. Oak Ridge is the second most visited cemetery in the United States behind Arlington Cemetery.

The Oak Ridge sign will identify three Revolutionary War Patriots (Moses Broadwell, Henry Owsley and Thomas Owsley) who are buried there and give a brief history of their service.

If you would like to help with funding of this project, a donation form is included with this newsletter.

Stephen "Baldy" Austin

Editor's note: The Stephen "Baldy" Austin story was originally published in the Springfield Chapter newsletter about eight years ago and is included in this issue in the hope new members will submit stories about their Revolutionary War Patriot.

Compatriot Cletis Underwood has furnished us with the following biography of his Patriot ancestor. I hope you enjoy leaning about Stephen Austin and his family as much as I have. I plan on having this be a regular feature of the newsletter.

Who will volunteer for the next issue? Editor
Stephen "Baldy" Austin, great, great, great Grandfather of Cletis Underwood, was born in Pittsylvania, Virginia in 1755. At the age of two, his parents moved to Grayson County, Virginia, very close to the North Carolina line. At age twenty-one when the Revolutionary War began, he enlisted in the cavalry of Captain William Armstrong, Col. Washington in the Light Horse Dragoons, and General Green's Division in Surry County, North Carolina. He knew General Sumter, General Rutherford, and General Luck. The militia to which he belonged "voted

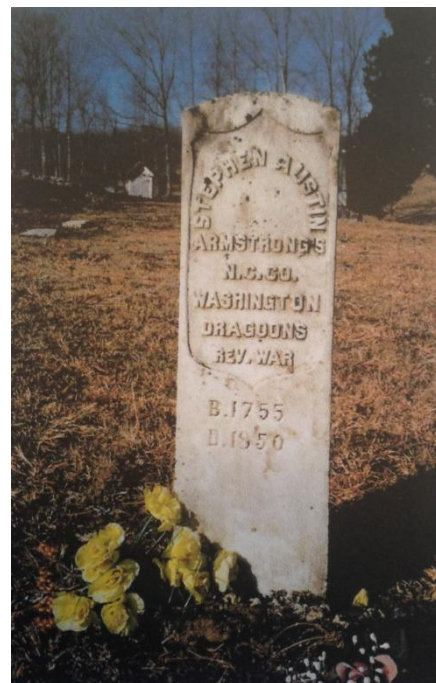
in" those who were to serve instead of drafting them. He was unanimously "voted in" which began his five year military career (democracy in action).

He belonged to the light horse and was posted outside of the lines to guard the flank. He marched through North Carolina into South Carolina as far as Ninety-six by the Hanging Rock and Camden. He was marched intensively and was in the Battle of Guilford County Court House in South Carolina. His principal services were to guard and secure the counties and to protect foraging parties.

He belonged to a cavalry company during the entirety of his service. He was attached to various troops, sometimes to regular and sometimes to the militia, as circumstances required. He hired a substitute who served in his place during the last two years of his service.

He received an honorable discharge from Major William Armstrong, who had received a promotion since Stephen was inducted into the Army.

Following the War, he returned to Virginia where he lived for twenty years before moving to



Warren, Giles, Wayne, and Hardin Counties in

Tennessee, and Alabama. He died in 1850 in Hardin County and was buried in the Old Met Cemetery on Holland's Creek in Hardin County, near the Shiloh Battle Ground and close to Savannah, Tennessee, where Cletis' Mother was born.

The Battle of Cooch's Bridge

On September 3, 1777, the Battle of Cooch's Bridge would be the only battle of the American Revolution to take place in Delaware. It is also the first battle during which the American Colonial 13 Stars and Stripes flag was flown over the colonies.

British General William Howe landed 17,000 troops at Head of Elk, Maryland on August 25th, 1777, with the goal of capturing Philadelphia, the capital of the rebel Continental Congress. Over the next few days, while Howe unloaded troops and supplies, George Washington and the Continental Army reconnoitered the British army to gauge its strength and intentions.

Washington's main force was camped near Wilmington, Delaware. Washington himself traveled to the nearby hills overlooking Head of Elk to spy on the British troops. The Commander of the Continental Army placed sentries and small groups of troops at various roads and bridges to watch for British movements and advances, since it was not known which way Howe would try to approach Philadelphia.

About 1,000 Pennsylvania and Delaware troops were placed under the command of Brigadier General William Maxwell, who had them divided between Iron Hill, the tallest hill in Delaware, near modern day Newark, and the nearby Cooch's Bridge.

On September 2, British and German troops under the command of Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis took over Aiken's Tavern about 5 miles east of Head of Elk and 3 miles south of Cooch's Bridge. In the morning, an advance company of Hessian dragoons scouting the road north of the tavern were fired on by Maxwell's light infantry. This brought a rush by a German Jagers, (light infantry) unit who engaged the continental militia.

Maxwell held for some time, but a German bayonet charge forced him to retreat. The Jagers

chased Maxwell back to Cooch's Bridge where they made a heroic stand. Eventually, the colonists ran out of ammunition and another bayonet charge forced Maxwell to retreat to General Washington's camp at White Clay Creek. The Germans pursued them for a few miles, but turned back to shore up their gains.

The Battle of Cooch's Bridge would be the only engagement of the American Revolution fought in Delaware. After driving off Maxwell's troops, General Cornwallis occupied Cooch's Bridge and Iron Hill, while General Howe made his headquarters at Aiken's Tavern for the next week. The Battle of Cooch's Bridge also has the distinction, according to many historians, of being the first engagement during which the new American flag was flown. The flag was created on June 14, 1777 by the Flag Act of 1777. The act stated that the flag would have "thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field.

Reprinted from the National Society SAR Officers Mail List

Delaware Militia Flag



Betsy Ross Flag

