



Museum Docents host Elementary and Middle School Students

Every year, our Museum Docents, who volunteer their time to the Military Museum, step up and host visits from our local public schools.

This spring was no different from the past, with the following schools participating:

St. Coleman's, Greenville, Stillwater. Maple Avenue Middle Schools, Schuylerville, Queensbury and Lake Avenue Middle School. These young students came from either Third, Fourth, Fifth or Seventh grades.. Visits usually take place during the morning, and many times the students bring a bag lunch before they leave for their return to school that day. This year over 500 students participated in these annual spring visits. Each visit includes a specially designed tour of our World War I, World War II, Revolutionary War, Vietnam war, and Civil War exhibits, with a docent to explain the highlights of each exhibit.

One of our more significant visits was with the Maple Avenue AP Honors 7th Grade history class. Their interest was the Civil War, and Kylan Clark, had a special visual presentation for them on Gettysburg, with a John Kelly and Howard Young's presentation and Mike Carney's tour of the Civil War exhibit.

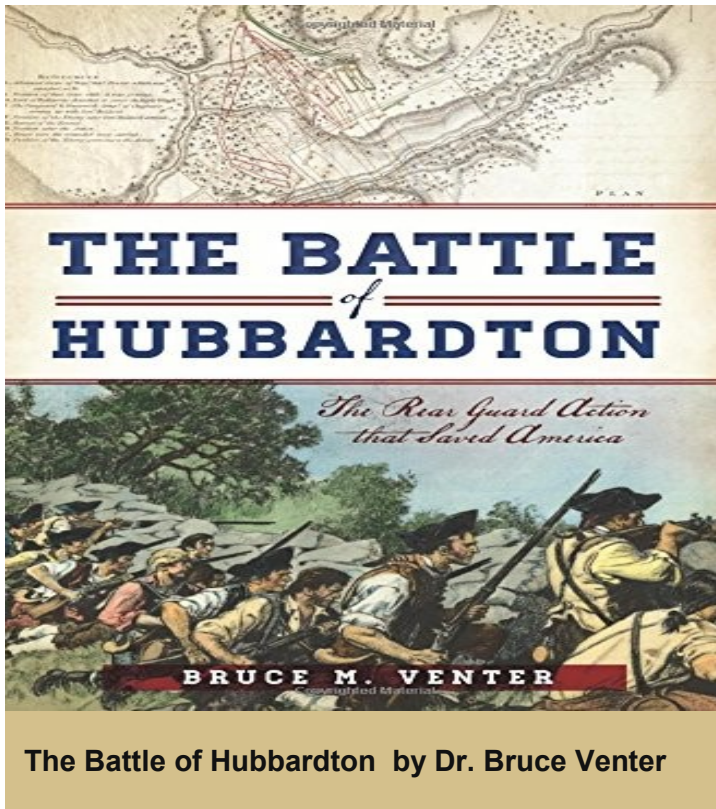
Many thanks go to the following docents for their help with these visits: Bill Watkins, Hady Finch, Howard Young, Jim Brown, John Kelly, Kylan Clark, Len Wasserman, Lou Schneider, Mark Lawton, Michael Carney, Andrew Menzie and Robert Kazalski.



Participants from our previous Trivia Night, November 2015.

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Saturday, September 10th, 2PM at the Military Museum

The battle of Hubbardton was perhaps the loss that saved the war for the patriots. British and German troops ran into stubborn rebel resistance at Hubbardton, Vermont, on July 7, 1777. After easily capturing Fort Ticonderoga, Lt. Gen. John Burgoyne pursued a retreating Continental army under Maj. Gen. Arthur St. Clair. In the fields and hills around Hubbardton, a tenacious American rear guard of about 1,200 derailed the British general's plan for a quick march to Albany .

Trivia Night, Friday, Nov. 4th

3rd Annual Trivia Night Fundraiser

Friday, November 4th, at 5:30pm

Located at the New York State Military Museum, 61 Lake Avenue Saratoga Springs NY

Looking for teams of 6 people at \$50 per/person or \$300 per team.

Dinner put on by Panza's Restaurant including desert and a cash bar. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners

More details to follow. Join us for this fun night, and support this important fundraiser for the Museum.

Veteran of the Year, Saturday, November 12th at 1PM.

Join us as we honor a distinguished veteran of Saratoga County this day. We will have a special presentation and guest speakers. Please plan on attending. More details will follow.

MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

(Closed Sunday & Monday)

RESEARCH CENTER HOURS

Appointments are required.

Tuesday – Friday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

The museum is closed on all New York State & Federal Holidays.

61 Lake Avenue
Saratoga Springs, NY
12866
(518) 581-5100

Museum Store
(518) 226-0490

John S. Edwards

Obituary

The Friends of the New York State Military Museum would not exist except for its dedicated volunteers.

One of these was John Edwards, charter member and founder of the Military Heritage Institute, the predecessor of the Friends of the New York State Military Museum.

All of us here at the Friends of the New York State Military Museum mourn his passing, and honor him with this remembrance.

John S. Edwards, founding member, New York State Military Heritage Institute (forerunner of the Friends of the NY State Military Museum)

Obituary

John S. Edwards, 90, passed peacefully and naturally at home in Niskayuna, NY on Monday, April 11, 2016. Born October 21, 1925, in Oakham, Massachusetts. The son of a World War I veteran, he was a career military officer, retiring in 1972 with the rank of Colonel. John was a graduate of Barre High School in Barre, MA and earned a BA from the University of Nebraska and a master's degree from Boston University. During his distinguished military career, John was the recipient of 40 United States and foreign decorations and awards, including The Legion of Merit, The Daughters of the American Revolution Medal of Honor, and a [Purple Heart](#). He faithfully served his country in [WWII](#), The Korean and The Vietnam War. His service included participation in eleven major battle campaigns, the 1952 Nevada Atomic Tests and a Pentagon posting in Washington, DC. During WWII John was shot down on his 24th mission over Germany and was taken Prisoner of War (POW). He was liberated by General George Patton's 14th Armored Division in May 1945. John's POW experience forged his lasting faith, love of family, love of freedom, and respect for food (the four "F's" as he would frequently say). To those who knew him, his military service, life experiences, and core values define 'Americas Greatest Generation.' John's post military career included his role as the Executive Director for the NYS Interdepartmental Fuel and Energy Committee and Director of Contingency Planning for the NYS Energy Office. He retired from NYS leadership in 1994. Forever active in veterans support activities, John was the First Commander of the NY Chapter of Ex-POWs and served as National Commander from 1989 to 1990. John is the also the past President of the Northeast Chapter of the Korean War Veterans and was the National Committee Chairman to establish the National POW Museum at Andersonville, GA. John was also the founder and Chapter President of the NYS Military History and Military Heritage Institute in Saratoga, NY. John proudly displayed the NYS license plate "Former Prisoner of War #1" which was issued specifically to him. John loved our military men and women. Survivors include his beloved wife, Helga Edwards and many relatives that loved and adored him deeply. John was the loving father of John S. Edwards Jr. and his wife Jocelyn Edwards of Hopkinton, MA, and Laura Edwards Bach and her husband Adam Bach of Niskayuna, NY. He was the especially proud 'Papa' to Emma Edwards (15), Jurgen Bach (14), Henry Edwards (13), Tristan Bach (11) and Hagan Bach (6). Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Mass of Christian Burial which will be celebrated Saturday, April 16 at 11 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church, Schenectady. Calling hours will be Friday from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Gleason Funeral Home. John will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC at a later date.



From the Presidents Desk

The Friends have been busy this year with various fund raising events and social activities. Special thanks, as always, goes out to our Board members for their hard work in putting together these events.

In April, our group sponsored the annual Brewseum event in conjunction with the Saratoga Springs Lions. Once again it was a huge success both socially and financially for both organizations. Over \$7,200.00 was raised for the Friends of the New York State Military Museum and we have earmarked those funds for new exhibits at the museum to include the upcoming Korean War/Vietnam War exhibit.

A fundraiser was held May 28th at the Saratoga Springs City Center in the form of a Mixed Martial Arts sporting event. \$500 was raised to help support the Friends. A special thank you goes to “Kaged Kom-bat” for their fundraising efforts on our behalf. July 16th saw our members involved in a motorcycle run, “Ride with Pride”, with kudos going to Board Member Michelle Taylor for her efforts in pulling this off. The amount donated to the Friends of the New York State Military Museum as a result of this event was \$1,400.00.

Members of the Friends participated in the NYRA Military Appreciation Day at the Race Track on August 3rd.

Our 3rd Annual Andrew Panza Trivia Night will be held **on Friday, November 4th** at the museum starting at **5:30PM**. This sit down dinner will be catered by Tony Panza once again as he has in previous years. This is one of our big fundraisers of the year, and provides a big boost to our fundraising efforts. Each year, we have over twenty tables filled with participants from different organizations and businesses, that come join us for a fun night, participating in our trivia night contest. Prizes are awarded, with trophies, and it's always enjoyable for those that attend. As a member of the Friends, we are asking you to consider supporting this event. Tables for six go for \$300.00 with dinner provided, and a cash bar, plus participation in our trivia night contest. Won't you consider attending? Talk to your partners at work or friends at home, and please see if you can put a table together.

The Veteran of the Year ceremony will take place again this year at the museum at **1PM on Saturday, November 12th**. The selection committee is busy working on selecting this year's nominee. This always, is a popular event, and well attended. Finally, an appeal to our members, to remember to renew your yearly membership dues if you haven't done so already. Our membership income provides an important source of revenue and helps us to sponsor our special events, and new exhibits that we will be unveiling in the coming months.

Thank you again for all you do, as always, we appreciate your support.



Dave Wallingford, President, Board of Trustees

Meet Our Docents—Walt Blair

Walter Blair celebrated his 92nd birthday this month, only a few weeks after joining the Military Museum as a docent. Walt was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, one of three brothers in his family, and graduated from North East High School and then a few semesters at Temple University before being drafted into the Army in 1943. Walter then had basic and advanced infantry training at Camp Polk, Louisiana, and became part of the 49th Armored Infantry. While at Camp Polk, Walter joined one of the baseball teams on Base as a short-stop. Walter was promoted to SSgt, and became Infantryman of the Year at Camp Polk. In December 1944, Walter, part of the 8th Armored Division, deployed to Tidworth, England, and by the first week of January 1945, arrived at Bastogne, as replacement for those lost during the Battle of the Bulge. Eventually Walter became a platoon leader, in April 1945, and at the armistice, found himself at Uslar, Germany. Later on, after Buchenwald Concentration Camp was liberated, Walter was one of the soldiers from his platoon that was selected to travel to Buchenwald. Not being aware of the history of concentration camps in World War II, Walter said he was stunned, and dumbfounded, as to what he saw there. While he was at Buchenwald, some of the victims of the concentration camp were being re-buried, and several of the detainees were still at the camp, because they were still too ill to be moved.

In August 1945, Walter was re-assigned to England, and again was leading team sports, but requested to be transferred to the Pacific Theater, but before he was to deploy, the atomic bomb was dropped over Hiroshima, and his deployment was cancelled. Eventually, Walter deployed home for discharge on the Queen Mary, arriving home on Thanksgiving Day 1945.

After discharge, Walter earned a Bachelor's Degree at Westchester State College, and a Masters Degree in Physical Education at Temple University. That began a long career as Professor, and football coach at several Universities, and with his wife, raising five daughters. Walter retired in 1994, and presently, resides at Prestwick Chase in Saratoga Springs.



Recent comments on the web— from visitors to our Military Museum:

“My family & I ended up visiting this museum because it was a first night location and I was pleasantly surprised with how interesting and informative this museum was. I probably wouldn't have gone here otherwise, but I'm glad I did. I thoroughly enjoyed reading the exhibits and the history they told”.

“This is a great Museum for anyone who has served in the military, because they have exhibits from most of the wars we have been involved in. They have recently finished the Vietnam exhibit, that is very interesting, especially if you served in Viet Nam. They have exhibits from the revolution thru Vietnam. A place to really see the conflicts we faced over the last 230 years. They have just added a new outside permanent exhibit, a Sherman Tank”.

“I ran into this place by accident when I was driving around and noticed the Sherman tank parked in the front. So glad I went in, tailored towards military history in NY, learned a lot, excellent experience for military/history buffs”.

““We stopped-by here while downtown for lunch, and were highly impressed by the quality and historical range of the museum. It is definitely worth an hour or so visit”.

“Exhibits show a comprehensive history of New Yorkers' participation in America's wars from the Revolution to Iraq. Many genuine artifacts and informative displays. Highly enlightening and informative, both for the casual history fan and the serious military scholar.”

Farewell to Bill Glidden

William “Bill” Glidden, a frequent contributor to our newsletters and a long-standing member of the Advisory Council of the Friends of the New York State Military Museum, passed away on Monday, January 11, 2016.

Bill contributed many historical articles over the years to our newsletter, and several have appeared on our web site over the years. He was a veteran, served in the New York Army National Guard for 23 years prior to retiring in 1985, with the rank of Major. He was active in military history and civic organizations, including the Kiwanis Breakfast Club, Sons of the American Revolution, our New York State Military Museum, and the Clinton County Historical Association, plus he served as Assistant Historian of the town of Plattsburgh. We will always remember Bill for his dedication and knowledge of military history, especially as it relates to the North Country and the Saratoga Region. He covered the Revolutionary War, Civil War, and World War II with many of his wonderful, insightful articles for our newsletters. He is truly missed.