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The Jersey Blues

An Address

By

John Brewster Wight

Governor

of the

New Jersey Society

of the Order of the

Founders and Patriots of America

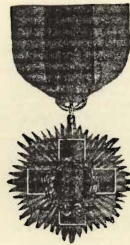
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The New Jersey Society
of the Order of the
Founders and Patriots of America

Chartered April 24th, 1896



“Steadfast for God and Country”

The New Jersey Society
of the Order of the
Founders and Patriots of America

Officers

1916-1917

Governor

John Brewer Wight

Deputy Governor

Charles Francis Stone, Jr.

Chaplain

Rev. Joseph Fulford Folsom

Secretary

Archie Harwood Loomis

Treasurer

Jonathan Henry Huntington, Jr.

States Attorney

Sidney Schieffelin Schuyler

Registrar

Daniel Hand Scranton

Genealogist

Captain Graham Bradford McGregor

Historian

Merritt Greenwood Perkins

Councilors

1914-1917

John Barnes Pratt

W. J. Lincoln Adams

Hiram Edmund Beets

1915-1918

Prof. William Tibbey

Winthrop Waite

Harnham Hardley

1916-1919

Walter Chandler

James Cornelius Flus, Jr.

Samuel Stickney Hall

The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America

EXTRACTS FROM THE CONSTITUTION

Preamble

RECOGNIZING Almighty God as guiding our ancestors to this land, to establish, through their descendants, not a colony, but an independent sovereign Christian nation, destined by Him to occupy a commanding place among the nations of the earth and to protect and defend Liberty in all the Western Hemisphere; and, recognizing that the foundations of the nation were laid, in the perils and hardships of the first half century, by our ancestor settlers of that period, rather than in the years that followed; and, recognizing that, necessary to the end for which our ancestors came, was a patriot progeny, in the time of the Revolutionary struggle, out of which our country came to be independent and our nation came into being—for ourselves, and those who may associate with us, we have formed an association, founded on Descent from such ancestry and their patriot descendants.

Objects

The objects of the Order are:

1. To bring together and associate men whose ancestors struggled together for life and liberty, home and happiness, in this land, when it was a new and unknown country, and whose line of descent from them comes through patriots who sustained the colonies in the struggle for independence in the Revolutionary War.
2. To teach reverent regard for the names and history, character and perseverance, deeds and heroism, of the founders of this country and their patriot descendants.
3. To inculcate patriotism in the Associates and their descendants.
4. To discover, collect and preserve records, documents, manuscripts, monuments and history relating to the first colonists, their ancestors and descendants.
5. To commemorate and celebrate events in the history of the colonies and the republic.
6. Other historical and patriotic purposes.



Presentation of the Tablet commemorating the Services of the Jersey Blues by John Brewster Might, Governor of the New Jersey Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, to Mayor Thomas W. Raymond, on behalf of the City of Newark.

Military Park, June 14, 1916

IN MEMORY OF
THE GALLANT JERSEY BLUES
WHO WERE LARGELY RECRUITED IN AND
NEAR NEWARK FOR FIVE CAMPAIGNS
OF THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WARS
1746 - 1759
AND AS A TRIBUTE TO THEIR LEADER
COLONEL PETER SCHUYLER
WHO GAVE THE BEST THERE WAS IN HIM
TO THE SERVICE OF
THE COLONY OF NEW JERSEY
IN A TIME OF GREAT NEED
A SPIRITED OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN
OF WHOM IT WAS SAID
"WHAT HE SEEMED TO BE HE WAS"

ERECTED BY
THE NEW JERSEY SOCIETY OF THE ORDER
OF THE FOUNDERS AND PATRIOTS OF AMERICA
JUNE, 1916

The Inscription on the Tablet

Foreword

The desire of the Society to present some lasting memorial as its contribution to the 250th anniversary of the settlement of Newark, celebrated during the summer of 1916, took form on February 9, 1916, when, at a meeting of the Council of the Society, presided over by the then Governor, Walter Chandler, a committee, consisting of Associates William Frederick Dix, Graham Bradford McGregor and John Lenord Merrill, was appointed to arrange for a suitable tablet to commemorate some New Jersey historical event or personage. Governor Chandler was a member of the committee, *ex-officio*.

The committee took immediate steps to carry out the suggestions of the Council by investigating memorials and tablets already presented or contemplated by other organizations, by studying the merits of various events and individuals connected with the early history of Newark, and by correspondence with and personal calls on different municipal and civic bodies having authority over the streets and public places of the city. The committee reported the result of its findings to the Council at a meeting held on April 10th and, on the recommendation of Chairman Dix, the Council voted in favor of a tablet to be attached to a boulder to be placed in Military Park, the tablet to be suitably inscribed as commemorating the services of the Jersey Blues.

A permit for the location of the boulder in the park was obtained from the Shade Tree Commission and the boulder, of granite and weighing about two tons, was brought down from the South Mountain Reservation in the vicinity of Milburn. The tablet is of bronze,

measuring about 16 x 16 inches and is fastened to the sloping face of the stone.

The unveiling and presentation of the tablet took place on the afternoon of June 14th, 1916 (Flag Day), when the officers and members of the Society and the invited guests gathered at the new Robert Treat Hotel, opposite the park and, preceded by the flags, marched to the scene of the exercises. His Excellency, Governor John Brewer Wight, made the presentation speech, as herewith printed, and the gift was accepted on behalf of the municipality by his Honor, Thomas L. Raymond, Mayor of the City of Newark. Moving pictures of the scene were taken to be kept among the archives as a historical event worthy of preservation for future generations of patriots and historians and, at the close of the exercises, a dinner was given at the hotel, at which the Society had as its guests representatives of other State ancestral patriotic societies. Members of the Society were accompanied by the ladies.

The Jersey Blues

A Historical Address

By

John Brewster Wight

THE New Jersey Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America count it a privilege that this afternoon they may present to the City of Newark a tablet which sets forth in enduring bronze a memorial to the "Jersey Blues" and Col. Peter Schuyler, who 170 years ago did splendid service for the State of New Jersey and for their country.

It was in 1746 that the King of England asked the assistance of the Colonial Governors to help drive the French and Indians out of Canada. In answer to the call of the Governor of the Colony of New Jersey for 500 men, 650 presented themselves, and this was the first body of troops organized in this country uniformed and sent out for service outside of their own home district. They were placed under the command of Col. Peter Schuyler, and divided into five companies. He marched them thru New York State by way of Fort Saratoga to the northern boundary of the State, where they remained all thru the Winter and the following year waiting patiently for orders to proceed into Canada; but the King of England, notwithstanding repeated demands for action, paid no attention to this movement, and the troops finally returned home much disgusted and

Jersey Blues

embittered because they had received no pay at all for their services or expenses.

On January 1st, 1755, President Burr of Princeton College preached a fiery sermon denouncing the outrages of the French and Indians and referred to disturbances and insults, which sermon was broadly circulated, and aroused the indignation of the people of our State. Col. Schuyler requested permission to raise and equip at his own expense a company of four hundred men, but his request was denied and the Legislature called for an enlistment of 1,000 men, and 2,000 responded; they were furnished with arms from the Colony of Virginia and marched to the fort at Oswego where they remained in inactivity for some time, and were finally overpowered by a force of 5,000 French and Indians, and imprisoned in the fort together with Col. Schuyler. This capture produced a tremendous effect in the colonies and the fate of Col. Schuyler was almost as much lamented as the fate of all the others put together, for he was held in the highest esteem not only in New Jersey but throughout the Colonies, and also in England. The release of all these men was finally effected, and they returned to their homes.

On other occasions these men responded promptly when their country called them, and they were always under the command of Col. Schuyler. The name "Jersey Blue" is evidently a nickname and is due to the fact that blue was the predominant color in their uniform; it was not an official title.

There is no record of their having engaged in much of actual warfare, but it can be said with all credit to these men that "they also serve who only stand and

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wait," and all unconsciously they were preparing themselves for the splendid heroes they proved to be twenty years later—at Monmouth, Springfield, Princeton, Trenton and Valley Forge.

Of Col. Peter Schuyler no praise can be too high, no eulogy too flattering; in many respects he resembled General George Washington. He was born wealthy and enjoyed a beautiful home and an extensive acquaintance of admiring friends, but neither the luxury of home nor the enjoyment of his wealth ever kept him from responding to his country's call—in fact he made use of his money to aid his country in a most generous manner; when the first company of 650 men of which I have spoken, returned to their homes without having been paid, Col. Schuyler himself out of his private fortune paid the entire expenses amounting to several thousand pounds. When he and his troops were imprisoned at Fort Oswego, his release was provided on parole with the understanding that a French officer of equal rank should be released from the American troops; Col. Schuyler returned to his home midst much rejoicing but soon received word that no French officer had been released and that he must return to prison. His friends and neighbors urged him not to return, claiming that France had not kept her treaties or promises and he was not obliged to go back, but he said he was a soldier and proved himself to be a gentleman by keeping his word of honor and returned to the fort much to the delight of the men imprisoned there, where he proved to be a veritable angel of mercy, relieving their distresses, providing for their comforts and giving them much encouragement and cheer, all of which he paid for out of his pri-

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vate fortune, he having arranged for letters of credit for this purpose before his return.

Col. Schuyler's home was in what was then called Newark; his father was the possessor of a large tract of land where Arlington, Kearny and Belleville are now located, and it was on this land that the copper mines were discovered long known as the "Belleville Copper Mine." Upon the death of Mr. Schuyler, his son, Peter, did not inherit the copper mines, but did inherit other valuable property and was rated as one of the wealthiest men in New Jersey. He had a beautiful home which he called "Petersborough," located about where Kearny Castle now stands.

There is abundant evidence that he was most highly esteemed by all who knew him, that he was of sterling integrity, that he was a soldier possessed of much military ability, that he was thoroughly unselfish and that he was filled with the spirit of patriotism and desire to save his country. No hardship was too great and no fatigue too severe to dampen his ardor or deter him in the performance of his duty.

On one occasion returning home he received a most enthusiastic ovation and one young lady of Princetown, as it was then called, wrote a poem concluding with these words:

"Ev'n future ages shall enroll thy name
In sacred annals of immortal Fame."

She took a chance, but this afternoon our Society has gallantly come to her rescue and fulfilled her prophesy by inscribing his name upon this tablet. Historians state that he was easily the most striking and inspiring character in New Jersey history after the

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founders, Robert Treat and Rev. Abraham Pierson, and it was said of him that he did honor to his country and gave a noble example to others, and it will be allowed by all who knew him that he was a sincere friend, humane, beneficent and just to all mankind.

Worn out by the fatigue and hardships of his various campaigns Col. Schuyler died in his home in March, 1762.

Samuel Smith, New Jersey's first historian, wrote of him as follows, in 1765:

"He had qualities that greatly recommended him to his acquaintance, being of frank, open behavior and unwearied in his endeavors to accomplish whatever appeared of service for his country.

"As to person, he was of a tall, hardy make, rather rough at first view, yet a better acquaintance discovered a bottom of security, and that he was ready to every kind of office in his power.

"In conversation, he was without artifice or the common traffic of forms, yet seemed to enjoy friendship with its true relish, and in all relations,—what he seemed to be, he was."

* * * * *

Is it not proper that these men should be honored, and that after having gone so long without public recognition this tablet should be erected in this Military Park, so full of historical interest as a training ground where no doubt these men assembled at their country's call, and is it not a privilege that the New Jersey Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America may honor itself in honoring them?

Printed under the direction of
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