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Remembering the Patriots

BY JOHN HART JR. AND ZACHARY FINN

With the semiquincentennial anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence upon us, it is important to take time to reflect on those who heeded the call and came together to fight in local militias or to serve in the fledgling United States Army and Navy to uphold the values laid out in our founding document.

Honoring these individuals today is central to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation's Patriot Burials Marker Grant Program, which provides Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) state societies with the opportunity to apply for markers to be placed at locations where Revolutionary War Patriots are buried. As of early 2026, the Pomeroy Foundation and the Empire State Society SAR have partnered on over 180 historical markers. Nationally, the Foundation has provided grants to state partners for over 240 markers since the program's inception.



Stillwater Union Cemetery in Saratoga County is the final resting place of many of the area's early residents, with burials dating to 1784. Additionally, those interred in the nearby former Bemis Heights Cemetery were reinterred here around 1877. Among those buried here are at least fourteen Revolutionary War veterans.

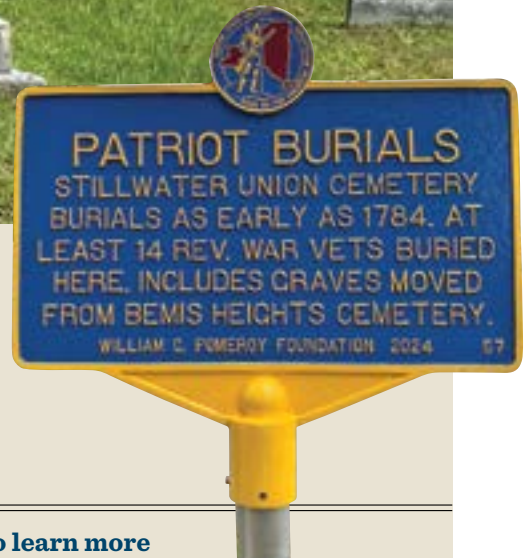
Many of those interred in the cemetery fought with New York regiments, including Weynant/Wynant W. Vandenberg, Gideon Moore Jr., Reuben Wright, Simeon Boler, Peter Davenport, Cornelius Vandenberg, Richard Livingston, Abraham Livingston, John Livingston, Samuel Bacon, Ezra Buell, and John Rowley. Rial Newland is believed to have also served in a New York regiment and is believed to be buried in the cemetery, but as of 2023, his service and burial had not been definitively verified.

Following the end of the war, many veterans from New York and other colonies moved to the Stillwater area and were also buried in the Stillwater Union Cemetery, including John D. Bull (Steven's Corp of Artillery, Continental Army) and David Blood (Continental Army and Massachusetts militia).

Edward Wilcox is believed to be buried in the cemetery and to have served in Topham's Regiment of the Rhode Island State Troops.

Colonists from all walks of life and geography joined up to defend liberty. After the cannons and muskets fell silent, many were laid to rest together. We hope to pay tribute to them through this marker program. ■

John Hart Jr. and **Zachary Finn** are staff members of the William G. Pomeroy Foundation.



In 2006, the William G. Pomeroy Foundation® established its New York State Historical Marker Grant Program to help communities celebrate local history. Since then, the Foundation has funded more than 1,200 markers across all sixty-two New York counties and more than 3,000 markers nationwide. Its programs include Patriot Burials®, launched in 2019, which now works with eleven state partners, including the Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Pomeroy Marker grants are available at no cost to local, state, and federal government entities; nonprofit academic institutions; and 501(c)(3) organizations, covering the full cost of a marker, pole, and shipping. The Foundation also leads National Historic Marker Weekend, an all-volunteer, family-friendly community service event held each April that brings people together to care for historical markers. To learn more, apply for a marker, or sign up to volunteer, visit wgpfoundation.org.

To learn more about how to apply for a marker through the Patriot Burials Program, click or scan here: