

Oaks Chapter, MISSAR



The Acorn

Volume 4

November/December, 2009

No. 6

Mission Statement

Promote in our youth and community a sense of commitment to the ideals of American patriotism, encourage participation in political processes and maintain camaraderie of the membership.

From the President

First of all I want to wish all Compatriots, and their families, a “Safe and Happy Holiday Season.” Fall 2009 is about over and we are entering into the coldest time of the year in Michigan: also, in my opinion, a very beautiful time of the year. I enjoy looking out my front window and seeing the snow on the pine trees. I must admit though, I also enjoy not having to get out in it and drive fifty miles one-way every weekday to work.

The Oaks Chapter Board of governors met on November 12, 2009 and discussed a number of exciting projects that Oaks Chapter is involved with. The most exciting news is from Gary Grout. The Chapter has raised enough money to adopt one of Michigan’s Civil War flags. We will be discussing which one at the next member meeting which is being held on December 10th at Red Knapp’s on Oxford beginning at 6:30 P.M. Map Quest says it will take one hour

to drive there from my home. I am planning on leaving Two Hours early to make sure I arrive on time!!

Another major project to be discussed at the December membership meeting is the MISSAR fundraising raffle to be conducted between now and the annual meeting in April to fund our youth awards programs. I will be attending a meeting in Lansing along with other fundraising committee members on Saturday December 5th. We will present our fundraising plan to MISSAR President Conger and other interested Board of Managers members. I plan on reporting the results of that meeting to the membership at the meeting on December 10th.

I would like to welcome the new Secretary of the Oaks Chapter, Lawrence Myers. He has graciously agreed to work on the Board of Governors with us and is a welcome addition.

Looking forward to seeing as many Oaks Chapter members as possible at the December 10th meeting. Until then,

Bernie W. Wagers

President Oaks Chapter

Civil War Flag Restoration Program

The Oaks Chapter MISSAR has committed to funding the restoration of one of the Michigan regimental flags at the state capitol. Compatriot Gary Grout is spearheading this effort, and will be showing a program at our December 10th meeting about the flags and about the 24th Michigan Infantry. We will take a vote at that meeting to decide which of the six existing flags of the 24th we will adopt. Your attendance at the meeting will assure that you have input on this decision.

My Patriot Ancestor by Laurie Herman

Ephraim Starkweather was born on 24 May 1757.¹ He was the son of

Samuel **Starkweather** and Sarah **Purple**.

EPHRAIM STARKWEATHER, was born. in Preston, Conn., 24 May, 1757; m. in Preston, Conn., 13 June, 1780. He was a fifth generation American.

He married Rachel Clark, daughter. of Ebenezer and Eunice [Calkins]Clark. She was b. in [6 AUG 1760 in Preston, New London, CT](#) and d. in Genoa, N. Y., 8 Feb., 1846. He died 10 May, 1840.

Ephraim first volunteered in the war of the Revolution in July, 1775 at Preston, Conn., serving for four months and during that time was present at Stonington Point when Captain James Wallace made an attack upon it on 30 July 1775;. He enlisted again on Feb., 1776, at Preston, Conn., and served for nine months under Capt. Edward Mott, being stationed at Groton, Fort Griswold and White Plains; Ephraim enlisted a third time on Dec., 1777 and served two months in Col. Jno. Douglass's regiment and they marched to Providence, East Greenwich and Boston Neck. In Sept., 1777, he enlisted a fourth time in Capt. Ledgard's company and served two months, serving at Fort Griswold and Groton. In January, 1778, Ephraim enlisted a fifth time at Exeter, R. I., in Ezekiel Cornell's brigade and marched to Bristol, R. I., to Tivertown and was in Major General John Sullivan's expedition of Rhode Island and was honorably discharged 16 March, 1779.

Ephraim Starkweather made application for a pension 13 Sept., 1832, and was then seventy-five years of age. At that time he lived in the town of Ledyard, Cayuga county, N. Y. His claim was granted and he drew a pension of \$80 per annum from 25 July, 1833, till his death in 1840. His widow applied for a pension 4 July, 1843, she was then a resident of Genoa, in Cayuga county, N. Y. and was 82 years of age. She was granted a pension of \$80 per annum from 10 May, 1840, until her death in [February 1846](#).

Ephraim drew his pension as a private in Capt. Mott's company, Connecticut. Volunteers., under Col. Erastus Wolcott.

The children of Ephraim and Rachel Starkweather were:--

1. Rachel, was born 25 FEB 1782 in Preston, New London, CT, and died 23 Aug 1853 in La Salle, La Salle, IL. She married Lemuel

- Peabody. He was born 20 Dec 1778 in N Stonington, New London, CT, He died 12 Oct 1842 in Abingdon, Knox, IL..
2. Henry was born 11 MAY 1785 in Preston, New London, CT.
 3. **Rhoda, was born. 8 July, 1787 in Preston, New London CT. She married Harry Hakes the son of Richard Hakes another Revolutionary Patriot.. Rhoda Hakes died on 4 May 1868 in Woodstock, McHenry, IL. Rhoda Hakes was my Great³ Grandmother**
 4. Eunice, was born 26 MAY 1791 in Preston, New London, CT.
 5. Sarah, was born 26 JAN 1794 in Preston, New London, CT..
 6. Elisha. was born 28 MAR 1796 in Preston, New London, CT. He married Elizabeth Fitch 1 SEP 1822 in Windham, Windham, CT.
 7. Betsey was born 26 FEB 1798 in Preston, New London, CT. She married Elijah Edwards.

George Washington: President & Beer Lover

(Excerpted from *Brewed In America* by Stanley Baron, 1962.)

The progress of the American brewing industry following the War of Independence has been summed up in the following terms by Victor S. Clark in his *History of Manufactures in the United States*:

"When the Constitution was adopted many housewives still brewed small beer for their families, and for fifty years thereafter numerous village breweries continued in operation with an equipment and a volume of business hardly exceeding those of a village bakery. . . . Until 1850, however, America manufactured more spirituous than fermented beverages, and it was not until ten years later that malt liquors gained the definite ascendancy they afterwards maintained."

Various factors were responsible for holding back the growth of the industry. One of these was the general lack of industrial progress in the chaotic years between the end of the war and the ratification of the Constitution, years when the country simply coasted along without any real government in control. But even after the Constitution had been accepted by the states, even after Washington had assumed the Presidency in New York and the Federalist principle had won out, industry was a long time getting started. There was not enough money for large-scale investment; the whole financial system of the country needed overhauling; the pattern of international trade had been distorted by the rupture with Great Britain.

In the course of all this, the question of the manufacture of malt liquors held a curious prominence; statements about its progress, value and future were made by a surprising number of important men of the period.

The President himself, as usual, was indulging his taste for good beer. On the day when New York was finally evacuated in 1783, General Washington had stopped at the old Bull's Head Tavern (located on the street which later became the Bowery) for a draught of ale. His headquarters when he was in New York City had been at the inn kept by Samuel Fraunces, whom he appointed his household steward when he later assumed the Presidency. As a President should, he set the tone for a "Buy American" policy; in a letter from Mount Vernon, on 29 January 1789, he wrote to the Marquis de Lafayette:

"We have already been too long subject to British prejudices. I use no porter or cheese in my family, but such as is made in America; both these articles may now be purchased of an excellent quality."

Once, of course, he had bought his beer from English suppliers, but no longer. His wife also seemed to have learned the same lesson. In May 1789, en route from Mount Vernon to join the President in New York, Martha Washington stopped off in Philadelphia and entertained some distinguished guests, among them the brewer Robert Hare. A list of what the guests drank follows:

"10 bottles of Madeira, one bottle of champagne, 2 bottles of claret, 45 bowls of punch, 10 bottles of American porter, one bottle of Taunton Ale, 2 bottles of crab cider."

The "10 bottles of American porter" are reassuring, but what is one to make of the "Taunton ale"? Was there one particularly eccentric guest whose taste had to be propitiated?

In the years preceding his assumption of the Presidency, Washington was a steady customer of Robert Hare. Son of a porter brewer in Lime-house, Hare had emigrated to Philadelphia in 1773 with a gift from his father of £1500. He chose first to do some traveling, in order to get the measure of the colonies, and then sometime in 1774 he started (in partnership with J. Warren, also of London) brewing porter -- probably the first ever made in this country. Hare's son, Robert, Jr., took some part in the brewing business, but left it for a career of his own; in fact, he became one of the well-known scientists of the early nineteenth century.

The elder Hare died in 1810, and the business was afterward conducted by people unconnected with the family.

The brewers, as mentioned before, had their share in the ratification festivities in 1788. The one which took place in Baltimore on 1 May was among the first. "As soon as it was known in town that the constitution for the United States of America was ratified, and our convention dissolved, the joy of the people was extreme." The grand procession included a group of Baltimore brewers and distillers, preceded by Messrs. Peters and Johonnot.

Most of the cities and towns had Fourth of July processions that year, since in many cases that date coincided with ratification. This happened in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Winchester, Virginia, among others. Philadelphia managed also to have its procession on that date, and it turned out to be an elaborate, lively affair. As for the brewers, they were "ten in number, headed by Reuben Haines, with ten ears of barley in their hats, and fashes [fasces] of hop vines, carrying malt shovels and mashing-oars, . . . a standard carried by Luke Morris, decorated with the brewers arms, and the motto, 'Home brew'd is best.'"

Because the New York delegates to their state constitutional convention in Poughkeepsie delayed so long in agreeing to ratify, the celebrations there were held up until 28 July. On that day, though, New York had a memorable parade which "exceeded all previous demonstrations in the country."

One of the brewers' flags bore this message: "May he be choaked with the grains, or drowned in hot ale whose business it is to brew mischief." There were twenty brewers and maltsters in all who took part in the procession. The motto of the brewers was "Ale, proper drink for Americans."

"I beg you will send me," Washington wrote to Clement Biddle on 20 July 1788, "a gross of Mr. Hairs best bottled Porter if the price is not much enhanced by the copius droughts you took of it at the late Procession." Robert Hare's prices apparently did not go up as a result of the Philadelphia procession, and so Washington wrote again to Clement Biddle on 4 August 1788:

"As the price of Porter according to your Account has not been enhanced and is good in quality, I beg if this letter gets to hand in time, that you would add another gross to the one ordered in my former letter."

Even in 1790, when Washington was in residence at Federal Hall in Wall Street, his secretary Tobias Lear was writing to Philadelphia on his behalf:

"Will you be so good as to desire Mr. Hare to have if he continues to make the best Porter in Philadelphia 3 gross of his best put up for Mount Vernon? as the President means to visit that place in the recess of Congress and it is probable there will be a large demand for Porter at that time."

"The best Porter in Philadelphia" -- surely a recommendation Hare could have used to good effect, if it had come into his hands. Washington certainly appears to have favored Hare's product; sometime before November 1790 the brewery was destroyed by fire, and Washington wrote from Mount Vernon that he was sorry "on public as well as private accts., to hear of Mr. Hares loss." At the same time he judiciously instructed Tobias Lear, "You wd. do well to lay in a pretty good Stock of his, or some other Porter."

It is interesting to notice that Hare's porter was ordered not directly from his brewery, but through a middleman, Clement Biddle. The latter, an experienced importer and merchant, would have all the facilities for shipping such merchandise out of Philadelphia. Clearly, the brewer at that period, even a successful brewer like Hare, concentrated on producing the beer, and left the delivery or shipment of it to an agent. He probably had his own round of calls to neighborhood customers and taverns; in the nineteenth century, brewers maintained large stables of horses for just this reason. But the shipping of beer outside the city in which it was brewed was almost always undertaken by a commission agent of some sort -- a scheme which gradually developed into the modern system of delivery by distributors.

Robert Hare was no longer mentioned by name in 1796 when Washington was making arrangements for leaving the Presidency and returning to his beloved Mount Vernon:

"Before we leave this, we shall send several other matters round, but whenever they are shipped you shall have notice thereof that they may be taken from Alexandria so soon as they arrive there; at which time procure a groce of good Porter to be taken down along with them. In the meantime, have a few Bottles of Porter there, and some wine for particular company, who may be particularly recommended to you by myself."

Washington was procuring his porter during the early 1790s from another brewer in Philadelphia, Benjamin Wistar Morris. One of the many brewer descendants of Anthony Morris, Benjamin advertised as early as June 1788 that he bottled and sold "Philadelphia Porter, Beer and Cyder . . . at the corner of Dock and Pear sts." This must have been the brewery built in 1745 by Anthony Morris IV -- the location chosen because of springs which were found on the property.

**Please send articles and information for the next newsletter to:
Editor, Raye Klopfenstein rayeklop@comcast.net
Thank you for supporting the Oaks Chapter**

**We have a location Change!
Same Day, Different Location
Oaks Chapter, MISSAR**

**Our December meeting will be held
Thursday December 10th at Red Knapp's
Grill, 2 N Washington Street (M-24)Oxford,
MI@ 6:30 PM.**

(Just north of the traffic light on East Side of M-24)

PLEASE JOIN US THERE

**A Reminder that the 2010 Dues Statements
were sent in October – Deadline for Dues
Payment is November 30th**