

## Reporting Meeting of May 22, 2017

### Calendar of Events

**Last Week:** 5/22 "War on the Middleline:" James Richmond

**This Week:** 5/29: Memorial Day – No Meeting

**Next Week:** 6/5: Work Night at the Charlton Cemetery

**Coming Up:** 6/10: Pennington Golf Tournament

**Attendance:** Rotarians: 25 Guests: 9

**Invocation:** Dan Stec

**Note:** Regular meetings are held Monday Evenings at 6:00 PM in the William E. Sewell Memorial Room at the Ballston Town Hall.

*Please give suggestions for future programs to Jon Costolo.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President Peter led the Pledge, Bob Y. the National Anthem and Dan Stec provided a thoughtful invocation.
- Laura Lee thanked all contributors to the 4H Walk-a-Thon.
- Laura and Silas Schrader represented Rotary at the event.
- Beth Brownell solicited program suggestions for the coming Rotary Year.
- Walter Grattidge and President Peter described the presentation of the Bartlett Award at SCCC.
- Paul Lewandowski noted that sponsor letters have been sent for the Apple Run, and thanked Mary Anderson and Tom Brownell for their help.



**Service Above Self**

- With humor, and fun-loving commentary, Mike Brewster collected contributions to Happy Dollars.

**RIP**  
**Rev. George Bailey**  
**John Gay**  
**"You will never be forgotten"**

## "War on the Middleline" The War Revolution Comes to Ballston By James Richmond



Retired GE Executive and history buff James Richmond provided us an outstanding visual and oral overview of his recently completed book. His comprehensive and detailed presentation described the creation of and issues involved in the Kayaderosseras Patent; the mosaic of how Patriots and British Loyalists were interwoven throughout the local area; the creation, organization and duties of the Albany County Militia; the exact names, backgrounds, and home locations of residents on Middleline Road at the time of the October 16, 1780 British raid, the events surrounding the raid, and what happened to the families effected, and the prisoners taken.

Clearly Mr. Richmond did a great deal of research. Probably the highlight of the book was the intimate detail he provided

about the people involved. Middleline Road was described in detail between Charlton and Geyser Road. James provided resident names and home locations for each family. We learned that most residents came from the CT River area and Long Island; that most of their parents were pioneers so most possessed that same spirit; and that many of their fathers had fought locally in the French and Indian Wars so that the families were familiar with our area. He also noted that land along Middleline was about three times cheaper than other areas.

James described the approach to Middleline Road and night attack of the British raiding party. They first went after militia leaders and captured Captain Collins, the most senior officer on the road. Homes north of Rt. 67 were burned. Families were uprooted and women and children were forced to move. 26 Patriots were captured and taken to Canada. James noted that Officers were treated well in captivity, but the enlisted troops experienced extreme conditions. Some escaped and returned home, and the rest were repatriated two weeks later after the British lost at the Battle of Yorktown.

It is difficult to do justice in three paragraphs to the scope and detail Mr. Richmond's provide us in describing his book. To learn about the hard-scrabble conditions endured, and the courage, and sacrifice displayed by local residents, and to hear it in such intimate detail, was something we will all remember.

*Reported by Steve Caine*

**June Set Up: Mike Brewster, Gregg Schorr, Tom Brownell, Ray Callanan Clean Up: Beth Brownell, Bob Youmans, Mary Anderson**



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