

## Henry Charlock

Good morning and thank you for joining us on Independence Day.

Introductions...NICK?

Why we're here.

Prior to Memorial Day our American Legion Post has been putting flags on veteran's graves in East Fishkill cemeteries for many years. In addition to the large cemeteries at St. Denis Church and the Hopewell Cemetery next to the Hopewell Reformed Church we also cover 3 smaller cemeteries: one at Bethel Baptist Church on Shenandoah Road that has 10 or so veterans graves, a small one behind the church at 606 Hortontown Road and this one here at the Stout & Charlock Burial Ground. The only known veteran buried here is Henry Charlock a Revolutionary soldier and his grave has been **marked** with a DAR plaque.

I, personally have been coving these 3 smaller cemeteries for about 15 years with Agnes Nolan and her late husband Marty filling in a couple of times. In 2017 when I visited this cemetery Henry Charlock's monument was intact and sat as it had for over 180 years. When I returned in May of 2018 the monument was tipped over and broken into 6 pieces. How that came to be we don't know. I contemplated for some time how to fix, restore or replace the monument. I started investigating the possibility of repairing the monument but didn't find much useful information on repairing a sandstone monument. I then thought that the Veterans Administration might replace the monument. But upon investigation I found out that the VA might replace damaged monuments but only for Revolutionary soldiers that were part of the Continental Army, not members of local militia! Wow, that's like saying we honor soldiers but not sailors.

Henry was part of the New York Militia which fought and protected local areas, Each of the 13 original states established it's own militia. Militia persons were normally expected to provide their own weapons, equipment, or supplies, although they may later be compensated for losses or expenditures. Many of the states continued to maintain their militia after the American Revolution until after the U.S. Civil War. Today many of the state National Guards trace their roots to the militia from the American Revolution.

I was still trying to figure out how to get a replacement monument when COVID hit and like many things Henry's monument was put on the back burner. In 2022 about the time I was debating on maybe creating a GoFundMe project to raise funds to replace the monument Dutchess County announced that some Veteran Grants would be available for qualifying projects. Post 1758 applied for a grant and included an estimate for replacing a revolutionary solders cemetery monument. Several month's later we were awarded a grant and our Finance Officer, John Call, and I started working with Peter Cassidy of Cassidy Memorials on a replacement headstone. We wanted the new one to contain the same information as the 1833 version and Peter fully supported our efforts. In November of 2023 the new monument was installed on Henry's grave. John and I were told that to read an old monument you might try sprinkling flour over the wording and blowing it of...it works!

I didn't want to just discard the old broken monument so I took the 6 pieces home, reassembled them and mounted them on a piece of plywood. That allows us to keep the original monument

here in back of the new one. Eventually that plywood will disintegrate and someone else will make a decision on what to do with the original monument.

We don't know a lot about Henry Charlock. I think that is probably because he wasn't a military officer but a regular soldier like most of us that served.

I'd like to introduce Nancy Giordano, Melzingah Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution who will tell us a little about Henry.

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We do know from several documents that Henry Charlock served in Colonel Henry Ludington's 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Dutchess County, New York Militia. The Ludington name should be familiar to many of you. We can assume that Henry Charlock was with Ludington during some of the campaigns the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment participated in.

Ludington enlisted in the local military in September 1755, at the age of seventeen. He was with Captain Foote's company of the Second Connecticut Regiment. He served in the French and Indian War from 1755 to 1760 and was in the Battle of Lake George where he witnessed the death of his uncle and cousin. He marched with the British and American troops to Canada and participated in the Battle of Quebec on September 13, 1759. He then proceeded from Boston to Branford, Connecticut, in the spring of 1760 and retired from the military.<sup>[7][2]</sup> He built his home and a grist mill around 1775 in the area known as the hamlet of Ludingtonville; this later became the town of Kent, in Putnam County. He was made Colonel during the American Revolution and was aide-de-camp to George Washington. His 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment fought at White Plains on what is known as Battle Hill. A lone cannon at the Battle of White Plains Park is one of the few remnants of this early Patriot defeat in the Revolutionary War. More than 10,000 soldiers from both sides gathered in White Plains after Gen. George Washington's retreat from New York City.

The 7<sup>th</sup> also defended the Highlands from Peekskill northward while Washington crossed into NJ.

On the eve of April 26, Col. Henry Ludington of Carmel received a tip that the nearby town of Danbury, CT, was under attack. Sybil Ludington, the colonel's 16-year-old daughter, volunteered to alert his troops who were at their respective farms.

Sybil hopped on her horse and galloped through farmland to gather hundreds of soldiers; some historians say she rode for 20-40 miles through dark woods and rain. Though the troops arrived in Danbury too late, Sybil's courageous ride is one for the books. She received widespread recognition as the female Paul Revere.

Unveil the new monument

Musket salute

TAPS