

Revolution Marker Victim of Neglect

By BOB VIVIAN

A headstone marking a common burial for American Continentals, British and Indians who died in the Battle of Newtown will be checked by the Finger Lakes State Parks Commission.

The commission is interested in determining what specific historical value the marker has and whether it should be moved to the Newtown Battlefield Reservation (Sullivan's Monument), a state park.

The marker is located south of Rt. 17 and north of the Chemung River near the Wellsburg-Lowman crossover road in the Town of Ashland. The stone, apparently granite, measures about three feet high, two feet wide and three inches thick.

On one side of the weathered stone is the inscription: "Erected by Company E, S.V.R." Listed underneath are five names. The other side of the monument reads: "Our Foe, Redmen and British who Fell, Aug. 29, 1779, Lie Here."

The gravestone date refers to the major battle of the expedition of Maj. Gen. John Sullivan which took place at Lowman. About 4,500 men engaged in the fight which pitted Sullivan's American Continentals against the British Red Coats and Royal Greens and the Six Nations Indians. Sullivan commanded about 3,200 soldiers. The British had about 275 and the Indians, more than 1,000.

Historians say that four Americans were killed and 35 wounded. Of the British and Indians, 12 were found dead on the field and an undetermined number of wounded.

The headstone is now on the property of Ralph W. Jilson of Lowman. He said he purchased the land a number of years ago from the late Abner Wright. Wright told Jilson that the headstone, and presumably the bodies, had been moved from another location.

The monument is now in an area close to a private dump. Jilson said that some unidentified persons have been shooting at it with rifles and it is badly chipped.

He suggested that it should be moved to a private cemetery of the Waterman Baldwin family which is on another section of his property. He pledged his cooperation.



Historic gravestone of Battle of Newtown is located near a private dumping area in the Town of Ashland.

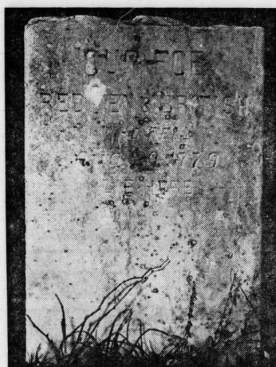
Other area residents, concerned with the destruction of a historic marker, have suggested that it be moved to the state park atop the hill.

Donald E. Ryan of Trumansburg RD 3, regional parks manager for the Finger Lakes State Parks Commission said the commission would investigate to determine the historical significance of the marker.

"I can see some merit in moving it to the Newtown Battlefield Reservation," he said Saturday.

Ryan noted that the state Legislature had established a New York State Historic Trust which investigates items and sites to determine if they should be acquired by the state. The trust would work with the parks commission in this matter, Ryan explained.

"We certainly would be glad to look into it," he added.



Marker honors Americans, British and Indians who died in the battle. Bullet holes pit the marker's surface.

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Sullivan Re-Elected Fire Chief

George D. Sullivan of 326 Gardner Road, Horseheads, was elected to his fifteenth term as Horseheads fire chief Friday night in a meeting held at the fire station.

Other officers elected were: Ray C. Margeson Jr., first assistant chief; Harold Decker, second assistant; Donald Boyd, third assistant, and two fire commissioners, Arthur Sullivan and Marion Jansen.

All are one-year terms.

Honduras Missionary Will Speak

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