

A Revolutionary War Parade and Family Reunion

SCHUYLERVILLE — It has been 240 years since the turning point of the American Revolution at the Saratoga Battlegrounds, and yet the blood stains of a wounded enemy soldier are still quite visible on the floor of the only remaining structural witness to those great battles—the Marshall House in Schuylerville.

This weekend, “Saving a Witness to History – the Marshall House” is the theme of a family reunion that will coincide with Schuylerville’s annual Turning Point Parade and Festival.

The large and popular celebration, on August 5 and 6, commemorates the surrender of the British Army to American forces in 1777 as a result of their defeat at the Saratoga Battlegrounds, now preserved as a National Park. The full schedule of events can be found on the website www.turningpointparade.com.

Family descendants will gather at the Marshall House for a reunion. But more importantly, they will be there to develop a plan to help preserve the structure and the history it embodies. For the appreciation of future generations, they will ensure its survival for the study of the home itself, the battles and the Revolutionary War.

The British occupied the Marshall House, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, during the closing days of the Battles of Saratoga. It served as a refuge for the women and children accompanying the British army. It soon became a shelter for



Photos by Thomas Dimopoulos.

its wounded officers and men.

Not knowing its use, the Americans believed it to be British headquarters and rained cannon fire on the house. Three of the 11 cannon balls known to have struck the Marshall House are today on display inside that very same home, now occupied by current owners David Bullard and his wife Dr. Hilary Tann.

As the cannon fire exploded through the home the fear and panic experienced by its unfortunate inhabitants are famously described by the Baroness Frederika Riedesel in her diary, “War of the American Revolution and the Capture of the German Troops at Saratoga.” Riedesel was the wife of Major General Friedrich Adolf Riedesel, commander of the German mercenaries who formed a part of British forces.

For many years Bullard and Tann have generously welcomed Revolutionary War buffs, historians and other interested visitors who are shown the historic home,

the blood stains and the many artifacts from that period, including the stone cellar where the baroness, her three very young daughters, and a throng of wounded men sought shelter from the death and devastation occurring overhead.

At the reunion, and as part of the Turning Point Parade and Festival, the baroness will be colorfully impersonated as she recounts her adventures. Her diary is one of the few contemporary and very detailed accounts of that historic battle.

The exclusive performance for the Marshall family, by Debbie Bailey of Greenwich, will be held at the home at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

More details and information about “Saving a Witness to History – the Marshall House” are posted on the website <http://themarshallhouse.org>.



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