

Revolution hero honored in Cumberland



Alice Page Alcorn of Newport is an ancestor of Capt. David Page.

Marker placed at captain's grave site

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Staff Writer

DOWNE TOWNSHIP — Rain fell on a sparse crowd of 13 people Wednesday morning as a Revolutionary War captain finally received his proper recognition.

Capt. David Page, who served with the Cumberland County New Jersey Militia during the Revolutionary War, was honored during brief services at the Dividing Creek Cemetery, in front of a small gathering that included an ancestor and war veterans. A permanent government marker was placed in front of Page's headstone.

The ceremony — which was led by Rev. Norman H. Thomas, president of the Col. Richard Somers Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution — was made possible largely due to the efforts of Lee and Peggy Swift of Orlean, Va.

Lee Swift, who also has five ancestors of the American Revolution, went to college with Garner James Cline, an ancestor of Capt. Page. He carried out his friend's wishes to have the grave marked after "Jim" Cline died in 1990 from the effects of Lou Gehrig's Disease, also known as ALS.

"He was here with me (at the cemetery) five years ago and asked me if I thought we could ever get the grave marked," Swift said. "He died shortly thereafter. I know he had a son who lived in Texas. But really I would have felt remiss if I had not done it for him."

Swift read a small history of the Cumberland County Militia during the services.

"Capt. David Page served in the Revolutionary War as a captain and company commander in the Cumberland County Militia and in Col. Enos Seelye's Battalion of State Troops," Swift read to the small crowd. "Because of the exposed condition of the state of New Jersey, the militia was called out at times for short



Arthur Eaton, left, of Linwood, and the Rev. Norman H. Thomas of Northfield, members of the Col. Richard Somers Chapter of the Sons of The American Revolution, take part in Wednesday's ceremony.

terms and were usually designated as State Troops."

The Cumberland Militia participated in the Battle at Brandywine, the battle at Quinton's Bridge and also participated when it was determined that the British were going to attempt to occupy Philadelphia.

"Considering what Capt. Page had accomplished, he would think nothing of being in the rain," Rev. Thomas quipped, in part to keep the small crowd from thinking of the rain and the gnats that pestered visitors at the ceremony.

Also at the ceremony was Alice Page Alcorn of Newport, a seventh-generation descendant of Capt. Page.

"It was an honor to be here despite the rain," Alcorn said. "It was well worth it."

The Maltese Cross, which was placed in front of the grave site, gave notice to Capt. Page for his service and for the efforts of members of the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, Garner James Cline and his Lafayette College classmate (1951), Lee W. Swift Jr.

Swift's wife, Peggy, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was also commended at the ceremony for helping to gather the research on Capt. Page.



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