

## SAR and Local Scouts Team up to Restore Revolutionary War Cemetery in Their Community

On Saturday August 28<sup>th</sup> several members of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), along with members of Boy Scout Troop 56 based in Lawyersville, NY participated in a joint venture.



**The cemetery before work began**

The project coordinated by Life Scout Cameron Nichols of Cobleskill, NY involved restoration of the Warner Cemetery located in Warnerville, NY. A year ago Cameron was approached by the SAR to see if he would be interested in the project. He eagerly accepted the challenge, and felt that it might serve as a good Eagle Scout project. Eagle is the BSA's highest rank. In addition to the numerous merit badges required to earn the rank of eagle, a scout is required to perform a community service project which must meet the approval of their local council. In Cameron's case, the project would need to meet the approval of the Otschodela Council. Fortunately, the project was approved on its first submission which is not always the case. The council saw this project as the perfect opportunity.



**Auguring holes for the new fence**

With word of the Council approval, and permission granted from the landowner, Cameron had all he needed to proceed with the project. The group worked together and augured holes for the new fence, arranged removal of the old fencing from the site to a local scrap metal collector, raked the entire interior of the cemetery to prepare for seeding, and installed a new cedar split rail fence. The cemetery the group worked on is believed to be located near the site of the Battle of Cobleskill. Prior to the work the cemetery appeared un-kept from years of neglect, so the project required vast improvements to the landscaping. Prior to the massive work day on the 28<sup>th</sup> the old barbed wire fence and all the overgrown vegetation was removed. Vegetation at the site prior to work included mostly Poison Ivy and Virginia creeper. The cemetery was also seeded with a low maintenance seed mixture and mulched with straw to protect the seed.



**Pictured are: Back Row from L to R, Scott Barton- Troop 56 Committee Chair, Jonathon DiCesare-Boy Scout, Joel Briggs- SAR, Pete Nichols, John Foster- Troop 56 Scout Master Crouching from L to R, Cameron Nichols- Eagle Scout Candidate, Bryan Braun- SAR (Several participants are not pictured)**

George Warner Sr. who was laid to rest at the cemetery in 1815 at the age of 94, is the focus of the effort due to his involvement in the Revolutionary War. It has been documented in several pension applications that Mr. Warner's house served as a source of cover during a rear guard action during the battle. This resulted in 5 men holding up in his house thus allowing residents of the Village of Cobleskill much needed time to flee to Schoharie. His house was subsequently burned by the Tories and Indians with 2 men left inside it. George Warner Sr. was also an active militia man and a member of the Committee of Safety. Mr. Warner was held captive in Canada by the Tories and Indian Allies for 11 months.



**The finished product**

The last component of the project involves installation of a replacement headstone for George Warner, which will be procured through a grant application submitted from the Veterans Association (VA). Upon receipt and installation of the new stone, the local chapter of the SAR will be contacted by Cameron to schedule a dedication ceremony possibly as soon as fall 2010.



**SAR marker discovered during grass seeding.  
Date on the back is 1895**