

Member of 1812 Society in Virginia Conducts Grave Marking in Ohio

Dennis C. Peterson, a member of the Society of the War of 1812 in The Commonwealth of Virginia, marked the grave of his 4th Great Grandfather Alden Hewitt during a ceremony at Gaffield Cemetery in Licking County, Ohio on April 30, 2016.

Since his own induction as a Virginia 1812 Society member last year, Peterson planned to place a new stone with medallion attached to insure the everlasting recognition of his ancestor's service in America's "Second War of Independence." The inscription on the granite marker itself reads "Sanford's BN NY Militia War of 1812." The 1812 Society medallion was affixed to the stone by the Grappone Monument Company of Richmond using drill and special bonding agent.

Reuben Sanford's Battalion of Militiamen distinguished itself at the Battle of Plattsburgh in upstate New York by defeating British forces attempting to control the Hudson River all the way downstate to New York City. They suffered many casualties in fierce fighting.

As a result of his research, Peterson's ancestor will now be listed in the data base of Licking County, Ohio War Service Members. Doug Stout, head of the project for the Licking County Public Library System, told the audience they had been unaware of Alden Hewitt's military service despite his later community activism. Hewitt died in 1856.

Also unaware was the Ohio Society of the United States Daughters of the War of 1812. whose Vice President Sharon Myers announced her organization will add Hewitt to their impressive Index of 1812 service vets too

The ceremony was a joint program with Ohio War of 1812 Society and the initiative of Peterson and the Virginia 1812 Society. Peterson labored to identify Alden Hewitt descendants who witnessed the ceremony on a blustery spring morning in mid-state Ohio. About 45 persons attended including a combined 1812/SAR Color Guard who fired their muskets in salute.

Alden Hewitt descendants from Florida, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky watched as Peterson, Ohio 1812 Society President Craig Fisher and Hewitt's 4th Great Granddaughter Julie Kirscht unveiled the stone marker which has been covered by a replica New York 1812 Militia battle flag.

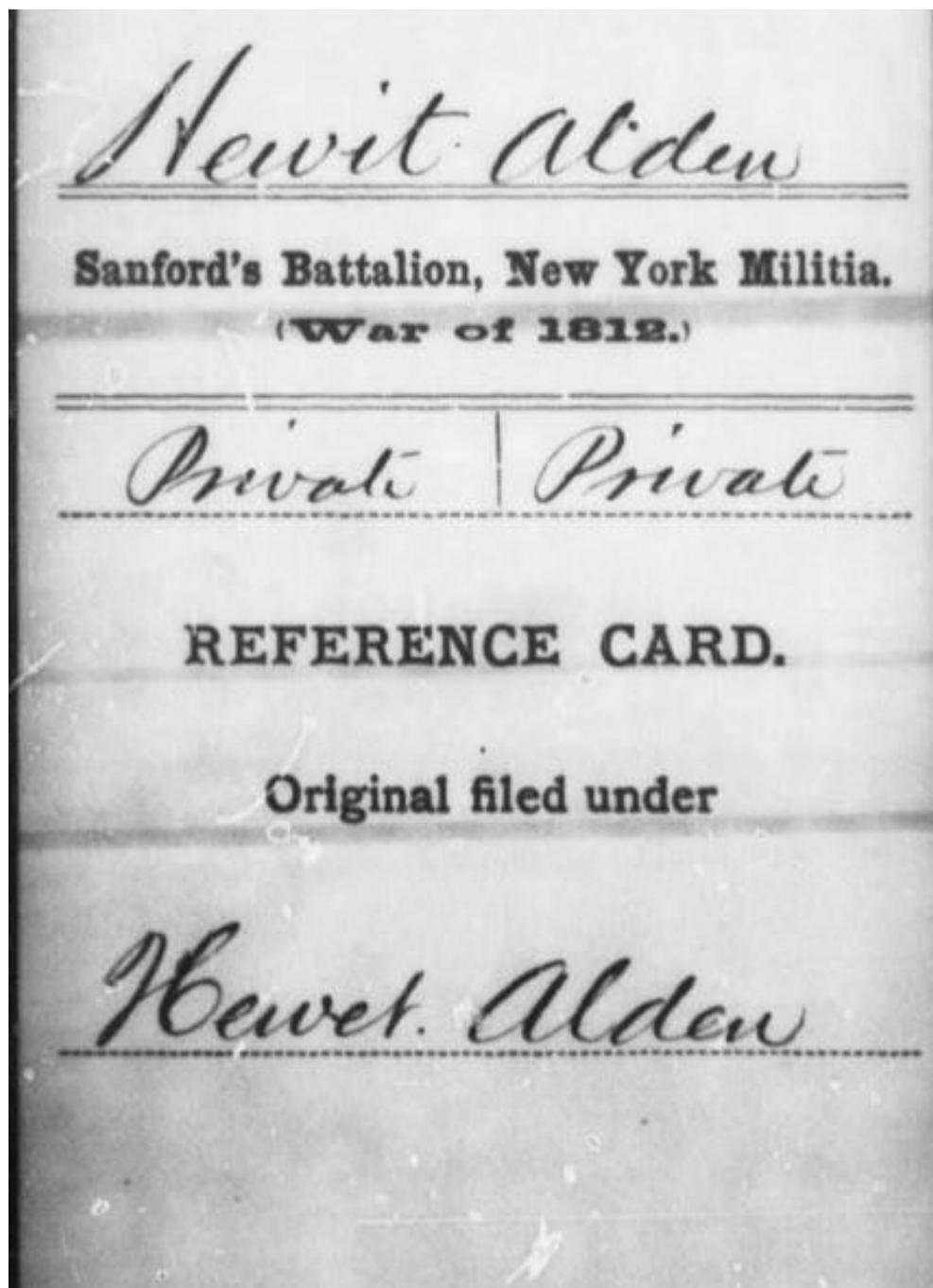
"This ceremony is a great example of how our research to identify War of 1812 veterans should not stop at a state line.. Alden Hewitt's service could have been lost to history had not one member of the Virginia 1812 Society taken the time and effort to place this impressive stone at the head of his ancestor's grave hundreds of miles away in Ohio." Dennis Peterson-member of the Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Summary of War of 1812 military service for Alden Hewitt, NY Militia

Alden Hewitt, born 1790 in Essex County, New York served two enlistments with New York militia units.

He answered a call up of volunteers as a Private under Reuben Sanford, Major of the New York Militia and Commander of Sanford's Battalion which distinguished itself at the Battle of Plattsburgh, NY at a high cost of life and casualties. Private Hewitt also served in the NY Militia 3rd Battalion under Commandeer Roberts. Years after the War he relocated to Licking County, Ohio near present day Columbus, where he died in 1856. Alden Hewitt's service credentials are found in the National Archives

and published in their "Index of Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812." Copies of Muster Records and the National Archives Catalog listing are attached.



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Some photos at the Ceremony follow:





