



Marker #13

You have to look sharp on the winding curve of Route 397 on its southbound turn off the Western Turnpike, but George Wagner's blue and gold marker is there by the farm land he once tilled.

You have to look sharp in history records as well to find a small mention of him, but it is there. George Wagner's appointment to the rank of ensign by Governor William Tryon in 1773 is duly noted.

"By his Excellency William Tryon, Esquire and Captain General and Governor in Chief over the Province of New York and the territories depending thereon in America:

"To George Waganer (Wagner) — Gentleman of the County of Albany, Greeting."

The official document goes on to inform Wagner that he has been appointed ensign of Captain Jacob VanAernam's company of foot in the First Battalion in the Regiment of Militia of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck proper.

George Wagner was born about 1745, according to an aged record book kept by his descendants. He was an elder in the Dutch Church of Guilderland, married and had seven children.

This Revolutionary soldier and his soldier brother, Captain John Wagner, are buried in the family cemetery close by the historic sign that bears his name. Their gravestone markers, made of common brown field stone and unscripted, remain standing.

It takes no more than the brief governor's dispatch in the history records to inform us of George Wagner's valuable contribution to the American cause during the Revolutionary War. It takes the small blue and gold marker to keep his contribution in mind.