

Men from Malta in the War of 1812

The War of 1812 is often called the forgotten war but we should not forget the men from Malta who served in that conflict. It might have been less forgotten if a British invasion from Canada had not been stopped at Plattsburg. This army planned on using the same route as Gen. Burgoyne followed in 1777. Not wanting to fight the second Battle of Saratoga in their back yard, these Men of Malta marched off to defend the borders of their young Country.

At least 16 men, and probably more whose names we may never know, enlisted to serve. One, Dow Thurber, died at the Battle of Williamsburg. Two Malta men, Samuel Clark and John Dunning were Generals and one, Norman Shumway, was a surgeon.

In addition to their military service, this group of men later served our community as Supervisors, Town and School District Clerks, Highway Commissioners and School Commissioners. They raised families, carved farms out of the forest, started some of the first businesses in town and helped created our government and schools.

Their names and resting places should not be forgotten. To date I have located 12 of the 16 known veterans who are buried in Malta and Tim Farnum has marked the grave sites with special "War of 1812" flag holders and American flags. It should be noted that Tim has marked the graves of all veterans in Town for Memorial Day for over 20 years.

The names of the veterans are:

Gen Samuel Clark	James Slocum
John VanAernem	John Story
Eli Dunning	Seneca Hall
Edward Dunning	Gould Morehouse
Daniel Tompkins	Thomas Collamer
Peter Dunn	General John Dunning
Henry Pell	Danforth Shumway Dow
Thurber	Barnabas Vail

Recently, a Malta family, kindly shared some valuable family papers with me. They are four letters written by a great-great grandfather to his wife from September to November, 1812 while he served in Sackets Harbor, NY. This was the site of two famous battles during the War. The letters are similar to those from all wars: he talks of the weather, his sore feet, and rumors of upcoming battles and of how the politicians had messed up. Most importantly he tells his wife how much he misses her and his family. He lived in Waterford and was a Captain in the Saratoga County Militia, and so served with many Malta men. Few of us have 200 year old letters in our attics but we do have pieces of history. If they are connected to the story of Malta, I would love to know about them.

Paul Perreault
Town of Malta Historian



Gould
Morehouse
died
March 12, 1866.
Aged 85 Years.

