

The Pennsylvania Minuteman Newsletter

A Publication of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the American Revolution



Volume XLVIII

2nd Quarter 2023



(Cover story)

Molly Pitcher

Did you know that there were two different women who were known as ‘Molly Pitcher’?

Mary Ludwig married William Hays. He enlisted as a gunner for the Pennsylvania Artillery and she went along with his unit, like many other soldiers’ wives. These camp followers would provide services for their husbands and others such as carrying water to cool the barrels of the cannon when they overheated from extensive use. Mary Hays carried water from nearby sources onto the battlefield to assist her husband’s gun crew. She thereby was nicknamed ‘Molly Pitcher’. It is said that during the Battle of Monmouth on 28 June 1778 an enemy cannonball flew through Mary’s petticoats between her legs.

The stalwart woman depicted in the cover image was known as ‘Molly Pitcher’, but she was not Mary Hays. Rather, this woman was Margaret Cochran who was the wife of John Corbin, and who, like Hays, was a camp follower along with her husband. During the Battle of Fort Washington on 16 November 1776, Margaret’s husband was killed. Margaret grabbed up the rammer and took his place at the cannon to ram the ball deep into the cannon’s barrel.

Molly Pitcher / Margaret Corbin was herself wounded during the Battle of Fort Washington, having one arm nearly torn off and one of her breasts lacerated. She became the first woman to receive a pension from Congress for service in the War. According to the *Journals of the Continental Congress* (Vol. XIV, page 805): “*That Margaret Corbin, who was wounded in the attack on Fort Washington, whilst she heroically filled the post of her husband, who was killed by her side serving a piece of artillery, do receive, during her natural life, or the continuance of the said disability, the one-half of the monthly pay drawn by a soldier in the service of these states...*”

Art Source: Molly Pitcher at th Battle of Monmouth, unknown artist.

The Pennsylvania Minuteman Newsletter

ISSN: 18990
(USPS 907-020)

News of the Pennsylvania Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution
Published Quarterly
Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter
By

**Pennsylvania Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution**

Michael E. Seibert, passar.president@passar.org

**Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the American
Revolution, Publisher**

[Larry D. Smith, Editor](#)

All articles are written by the Editor unless otherwise noted.

Please send news and press releases to:

The Pennsylvania Minuteman Newsletter

ATTN: Larry D. Smith, Editor

966 Johnstown Rd
East Freedom, PA 16637
Or

schmitt1775@proton.me

Yearly Subscription to Pennsylvania Minuteman
Member \$2.00 Others: \$ 4.00 Single Copy: \$1.00

POSTMASTER: Send Address changes to:

Russell L. Mills
255 Ulricktown RD
Littlestown, PA 17340

The Pennsylvania Minuteman Newsletter

Publication Deadlines

	Due by	To be printed by	BOM
1st Quarter (Winter)	Feb 15	Mar. 01	May
2nd Quarter (Spring)	May 15	May 30	Aug
3rd Quarter (Summer)	Aug 15	Aug. 30	Nov
4th Quarter (Autumn)	Nov 15	Nov. 30	Feb

Basic Submission Guidelines:

- **Pictures to be 300 dpi (High Resolution)**
- **Font: 12 pt (Times New Roman)**
- **Identify writer, photographer as well as those pictured in the photograph, place, and occasion**



President's Remarks

Eric H. Troutman, President



Fellow Compatriots,

I was installed as your president six days ago during PASSAR's Annual BOM Meeting at Gettysburg. I am sure that those who attended enjoyed the events held that day which was hosted by the Continental Congress Chapter. Job well done. On that note, I invite all of you to attend if your calendar is free, August 4 & 5 the Summer BOM Meeting in State College, which will be hosted by the Centre County Chapter. When you attend you will get a chance to see the inner workings of PASSAR and see the way we work together to grow our society in the hope of gaining more and younger members.

I have been thinking about all that has happened in the last nine years since I served in this position for the 1st time in 2014. A lot has happened! To name a few, most certainly there has been political unrest in the country and patriotism has taken a back seat. Our standing in the world as a leader of the free world has slipped. And I would say the worst was the three years we lived with COVID. As we come out of COVID there is lots to be thankful for as we strive to return to normalcy.

In the area of Pennsylvania where I live, northwestern Berks County, three hundred years ago some of my German ancestors traveled from central New York down the Susquehanna River to the Tulpehocken "Land of the Turtles" area at that time "a wilderness." What a time in history they lived through. Coming to America from Europe in 1709, traveling to Pennsylvania in 1723 and enduring the French & Indian War on the frontier in the mid 1750's. Then along comes the Revolutionary War, our war for independence 1776-1783. They went through a lot and helped found our nation.

It is now our time to do the same, we need to rebound from COVID and help bring civility back to our nation. Help raise our standing in the community of nations by the way we act and vote. As a patriot lineage society, it is up to us to show others the pride we have in our ancestors for the country they gave us and for us to defend it. Let us strive to keep our country free and moving in the right direction.

God bless you and God bless the United States of America.

Sincerely,

Eric H. Troutman
PASSAR President
PASSAR Registrar

Knight Essay Contest Winner and Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Instructor Recognized by the Washington Crossing Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

The Washington Crossing Chapter Pennsylvania Society SAR held its Washington's Birthday dinner meeting on Tuesday February 21st at the Continental Tavern in Yardley, PA. This year marked the 291st anniversary of Washington's birthday on February 22nd. Grace Krause, a junior at Central Bucks High School West in Doylestown was recognized at the dinner for winning the SAR George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay contest for Bucks County. The Chapter presented her with a certificate and an SAR medallion for winning at the chapter level of the competition. Grace's essay titled The Product of Enlightenment is based on her research into the idea that the American Revolution is a product of the Age of Enlightenment in Europe that emphasized reason and individualism rather than tradition. She read her essay at the



Left to right: Chapter First Vice President Steven Ware, Grace Krause holding the Knight Essay Medallion and Certificate and Chapter President Robert Reiser.

meeting. Her essay went on to win first place in the Pennsylvania Society SAR contest.

The featured speaker was retired Marine Corps Colonel John Church who is the Senior Marine Instructor for the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC) at Bensalem High School in Bucks County PA. Col Church's presentation was titled "President George Washington, Secretary of State Colin Powell and Major Megan McClung, USMCR – *Three Empathic and Enduring Leaders*" He spoke about Washington's leadership style and how it influenced Secretary of State Colin Powell and Major Megan McClung.

The Chapter has a long relationship with the MCJROTC at Bensalem High School. Each year the SAR Bronze MCJROTC medal is

awarded to the Cadet who will serve as Cadet Company Commander the following year. That Cadet is chosen by the Senior Marine Instructor for superior leadership abilities, military bearing and academic excellence. Current Cadet Company Commander Captain Liam Robinson was in attendance.

The Chapter presented Col Church with the SAR Distinguished Service Certificate and limited-edition SAR "Victory or Death" challenge coin. The purpose for the certificate as defined by the National Society SAR is to recognize outstanding personal service to endeavors that exemplify the finest American ideals. Col Church had a distinguished 35-year career in the military. He also has had a career in education as a Military Academy President, College Dean and President, Assistant Professor, Assistant High School principal and MCJROTC instructor.



Left to right: Chapter First Vice President Steven Ware, Col. John Church holding the SAR Distinguished Service Certificate and Chapter President Robert Reiser.

Broad Ax Versus Felling Ax

I think that I'll take my broad ax and head out into the forest to cut down a tree. *Oops!* There's something wrong with that first sentence. Could it be that I probably would not want to exert the energy necessary to cut down a tree? Could it be that my sciatica would prevent me from heading too far from home ~ that my right leg would be aching too much before I got very far into 'the forest'? ~ No, the thing that's wrong with the sentence at the head of this article is that in order to cut down a tree, I would not use a *broad ax*.



A *felling ax* is needed to cut down a tree. The broad ax would be used to dress the log after the tree was felled or cut down.

The idyllic image of the ax-wielding homesteader, as created and spread by early-America historians who didn't know what they were writing about, was that he used a broad ax for his every wood-cutting need. Indeed, if the myth is believed, the homesteader

carried his broad ax everywhere he went, setting it aside only when he ate his supper or went to sleep at night. Unfortunately, that myth, like the one about hanging your musket on the fireplace mantle above the raging fire, came into being during the first half of the 20th Century.

There was a *Colonial Revival* movement in the United States during the 1920s, and certain objects, including the broad ax, spinning wheel and musket with powder horn, became mythologized. The advocates of the

Colonial Revival style were fond of the art form of the tableau, in which they arranged properly dressed 'colonists' in their idea of 'realistic' situations. This means that one of their tableaux was bound to show a man, dressed in knee breeches and black leather shoes with giant brass buckles, standing beside a tree that has been just recently cut down, holding a broad ax with its big, massive iron head. Despite the fact that that image was wrong, it was made that way because the diminutive sized head of the felling ax wasn't as impressive as the broad ax.

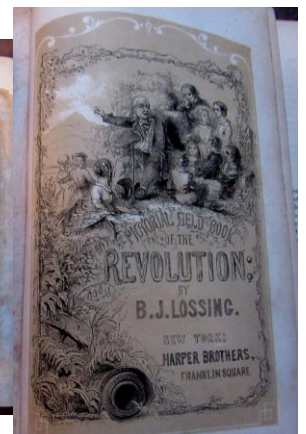
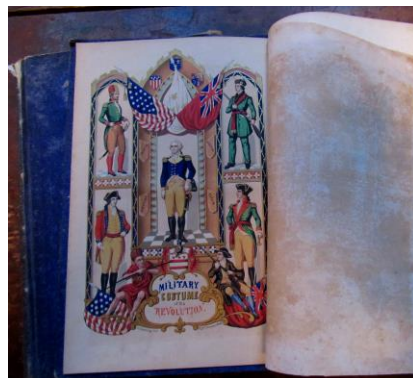


The felling ax was about four inches wide and six inches long. It had a double beveled edge (*i.e.* beveled on both faces) which made it ideal for making deep-cutting slashes into a standing tree. It was light-weight enough to be swung multiple times without the tree-cutter becoming too exhausted.

The broad ax was used primarily for dressing (*i.e.* finishing) a log to remove bark and flatten the sides. The dressing of a log made it more useful in home construction, after the tree was felled. The broad ax was made with a single beveled edge to enable it to shave pieces of wood off the log with ease. The broad ax was notable for its curved handle. The curve of the handle allowed the user to stand with both feet on the log and not have to bend and twist uncomfortably to bring the ax's face in contact with the log. The felling ax, on the other hand, was held by the user standing on the ground, striking the tree at a right angle; it therefore did not require any curve in the handle.



Lossing's Pictorial Fieldbook of the Revolution



Welcome New Members

Chapter	New Member	Ancestor	Sponsor
Centre County	Clinton John Tucker	Stephen Harding, Sr.	Joseph B. McMullen
Centre County	Olin Wayne Tucker, Jr	Stephen Harding, Sr.	Joseph B. McMullen
Erie	Randall Arlen McCaslin	Elihu Chadwick	Raynold L. Prusia, Sr
George Washington	Thomas Kevin Gualano	Benjamin Lincoln	Michael D.C. Merryman
George Washington	Gabriel William Swerbensky	Frederick Snyder	Michael D.C. Merryman
George Washington	Jarrold Michael Ward	Joseph Ward	Michael D.C. Merryman
George Washington	Jonah Michael Ward	Joseph Ward	Michael D.C. Merryman
Gov Joseph Hiester	Jason Todd Confair	Nathan Tubbs	Eric H. Troutman
Gov Joseph Hiester	Richard William Confair	Nathan Tubbs	Jayquan J. J. Sudler
Gov Joseph Hiester	David Elmer Glass	Jacob Kolb	Adam F. Dobroskey
Gov Joseph Hiester	A. Joseph Reichwein	John Stauffer	Eric H. Troutman
Gov Joseph Hiester	Aidan Patrick Nolen	Jonathan Whitcomb, Sr.	Eric H. Troutman
Harris Ferry	Donald Richard Appleby, Jr.	Rinard Hopper	Ronald C. Aumiller
Northeast	Christopher Mark Carr	James Carr	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Northeast	Norval LaVerne Treat	John Cary	Eric H. Troutman
Philadelphia Continental	George Wayne Bradley	Cornelius Hoffman	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Andrew David Carr	Ephraim Bidwell	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	David Andrew Carr	Ephraim Bidwell	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Alexander Keith Dennis	Johann George Gresh	Kenneth R. Burkitt
Philadelphia Continental	Crew James Nelson Freeland	William Niles	Michael W. Freeland
Philadelphia Continental	Torin Matthew Freeland	William Niles	Michael W. Freeland
Philadelphia Continental	James Bruce Glennon	John English	P. Clark Glennon
Philadelphia Continental	William Perry Gresh, III	Ellis Cook	C. Kelsey Brown
	Ronan Alexander Daniel		
Philadelphia Continental	Smith Jonsson	John Bliss	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Michael Peter Lease	Frederick Leasure	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Roger Grantham Milton	Elijah Fleming	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Keith John Murray, Jr.	Israel Brush	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Nicholas Alfred Murray	Israel Brush	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Earl Lee Pearson, IV	Isaac brown	John E. James
Philadelphia Continental	Frank Joseph Rue	George Hain	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Matthew Robert Rue, Sr.	George Hain	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Matthew Robert Rue, Jr.	George Hain	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Mark Andrew Seris	Nicholas Schweyer, Sr.	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Jack Shinnick	Michael Schenck	Lawrence W. Shinnick
Philadelphia Continental	Matthew Jacob Shinnick	Michael Schenck	Lawrence W. Shinnick
Philadelphia Continental	Horace James Tollett, III	John Tollett	C. Kelsey Brown
Pittsburgh	David Eugene Book	George Book	William P. Boswell
Pittsburgh	Jay Thomas Cellante	Samuel Blackmore	William P. Boswell
Pittsburgh	Charles Edward Felix	Israel Lum	William P. Boswell
Tiadaghton	Thomas Lloyd Kear	Gad Lamb	Donald E. Knaus
Tiadaghton	Robert Thomas Welter	Frederick Newhard	Gregory W. Forsburg
Tiadaghton	William Townsend Welter, II	Frederick Newhard	Gregory W. Forsburg
Tiadaghton	Zachary John Welter	Frederick Newhard	Gregory W. Forsburg

Valley Forge	Brooks Taylor Baker	Ludwig Moser	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Valley Forge	John Maximilian Brasko	John Bell Tilden	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Valley Forge	Robert Reinhard Brasko	John Bell Tilden	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Valley Forge	Wiliam Starke Brasko	John Bell Tilden	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Valley Forge	Donald Lewis Cunningham	Wright Chamberlain	Donald M. Cunningham
Valley Forge	Jayden Brian Garis	John Michael Strauss	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Valley Forge	Kody Stephen Garis	John Michael Strauss	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Valley Forge	Jared Robert Gist	John Michael Strauss	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Valley Forge	Noelan Robert Gist	John Michael Strauss	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Valley Forge	Andrew Gian Leighton Green	Lewis Ogden	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Valley Forge	Erik Stephen Horn	John Michael Strauss	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Valley Forge	Landon Michael Horn	John Michael Strauss	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Valley Forge	Michael Joseph Mercadente	William Woodford	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Valley Forge	Swyer William Moore	John Michael Strauss	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Valley Forge	Tymon Joseph Moore	John Michael Strauss	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Valley Forge	Allen Kenneth Skoranski	Joseph Nearing	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Washington Crossing	Everette Charles Harris	Simeon Stiles	Edward G. Elgart
Washington Crossing	Larry Richard Hart	Henry Rockey	Edward G. Elgart
Washington Crossing	Ethan Joseph Whitehurst	Solomon Butts	Edward G. Elgart
Washington Crossing	Sean Harrell Whitehurst	Solomon Butts	Edward G. Elgart
Washingtonburg	Earl Harvey Lippert	Henry Lippert	Dale J. J. Leppard
Washingtonburg	Noah Francis McMahon	John McDowell	Dale J. J. Leppard
Washingtonburg	Keith Alan Searfoss	John Serfass	Dale J. J. Leppard
Washingtonburg	William Martin Sloane	John McDowell	Dale J. J. Leppard
Washingtonburg	William Slaevski Sloane	John McDowell	Dale J. J. Leppard
Washingtonburg	Mark Robert Weigle	John Hinkle	Dale J. J. Leppard
William Maclay	Dr. Russel Elmer Bachert, Jr.	Nicholas Bachert	Eric H. Troutman

Flowers in the Forest

The “Floo’ers o’ the Forest (are a’ wede away)” is an old Scottish song that was brought about when the Scots lost their battle of Flodden (1513). The song tells the story of a young lass who lost someone she loved so dear. We, as brethren, take this time to remember those who have gone before us with our hopes and wishes that they, like their patriot ancestors, will not be forgotten.

Full Name	Chapter	Date of Change
William Wesley Aulenbacher, Sr	Erie	02/27/2023
Terry Lee Waters	Fort Jackson	02/18/2023
Michael Ruland Gardner	Philadelphia Continental	11/28/2022
William Morgan Harris	Philadelphia Continental	02/03/2023

The Long S

When we are researching our Patriot ancestors, we often have to read documents from the 1700s. In doing so, we might be confronted with those pesky ‘f’s in the place of ‘s’s. Hopefully this article will take a little of the mystery out of this confusing situation.

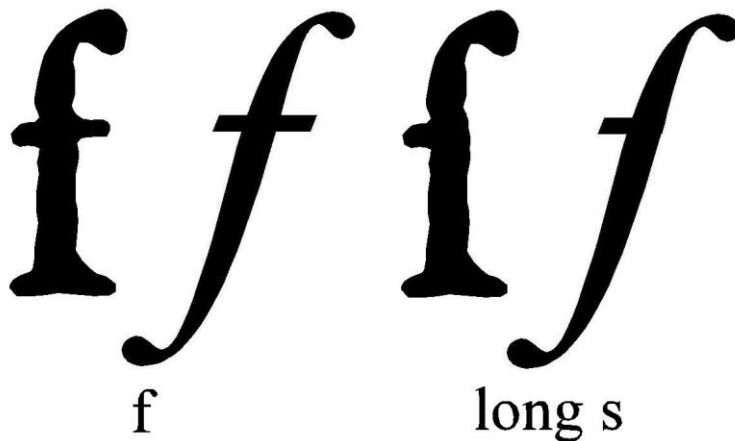
Known as a ‘*long s*’, this letter form was also called a ‘*medial s*’ because it was employed in the *middle* of a word. The letter form that we know today as the ‘s’ was called a ‘*terminal s*’ because it was used at the end of a word. The rules for the letter form’s usage, though, tended to be a little more complicated than that.

The ‘long s’ resembles an ‘f’, but as can be seen in the illustration, the cross-bar on the ‘f’ extends on either side of the main

stroke. On the ‘long s’, the cross-bar extends only on the left side.

The ‘long s’ was used as long ago as during the days of Ancient Rome. It was used in both handwriting and printing into the early 1800s.

[Note: In the following examples of text, I do not have a font type that includes the long s,



so the integral symbol ‘∫’ will be used.]

The ‘long s’ had no capital form; it was employed only in place of the lowercase ‘s’. Words that began with the letter ‘s’ would

employ the long ‘s’ (e.g. *science*, for *science*). Words that ended with the letter ‘s’ would employ the small ‘s’ (e.g. *cows*). Words which included double ‘s’s anywhere in the middle either used the long ‘s’ for both letters, or the long ‘s’ for just the first letter. Double small ‘s’s were never employed (e.g. *leſſon* or *leſson*, for *lesson*). The word ‘*success*’ would have been written as ‘*ſucceſs*’. Words which were written as abbreviations, and which ended with an apostrophe and a single ending letter used the small ‘s’ if it preceded the apostrophe (e.g. *paſs’d*, for *passed*).

Words in which both an ‘f’ and an ‘s’ were together employed only the small ‘s’ (e.g. *ſatisſied*, for *satisfied*).



An Exhibit of the American Revolutionary War

As noted in the 1st Quarter 2023 newsletter, in this and future issues, I am including panels from my 2015 exhibit of American Revolutionary War artifacts which had been held at the Bedford County Historical Society. These panels were created with the intention of highlighting Bedford County’s role in the War. Bedford County, during the War, encompassed present-day Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset Counties. The panel that is reproduced on the next page regards the fleeing of frontier settlers as Amerindian incursions increased.

1700s

American Revolutionary War



"the frontier Inhabitants being Generally fled..."

Stone Ax

Amerindians were still using stone tools when the Euro-Americans arrived.



Hunting Grounds

There were very few Amerindian villages located throughout the frontier of Pennsylvania. The Iroquoian tribes that resided in the Ohio Valley and northward into the Province of New York used this region that would become Bedford County for hunting and migration routes to the south. The Amerindians were, understandably, offended as the English, Irish, Ulster Scot, Swiss and German settlers moved in ~ establishing farmsteads, and in the process, disrupting the Amerindians' lifestyle. Despite repeated complaints to the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the Euro-American settlers continued to move in and establish settlements.

The Burnt Cabins

Euro-American settlers were moving into the region to the west of the Susquehanna River and to the north and west of the Blue Mountain. After receiving numerous complaints from the Amerindians, the Pennsylvania General Assembly ordered the settlers to remove themselves from the region. The settlers ignored the orders. On 24 May 1750, the provincial government sent men to a village of eleven log cabins located in then-unpurchased lands in what is today Dublin Township, Fulton County. The collection of log cabins near the Little Aughwick Creek was called Sidneyville.

The Pennsylvania authorities ordered the inhabitants to vacate their homes. The settlers objected at first, but grabbed what articles they could as their cabins were set afire.

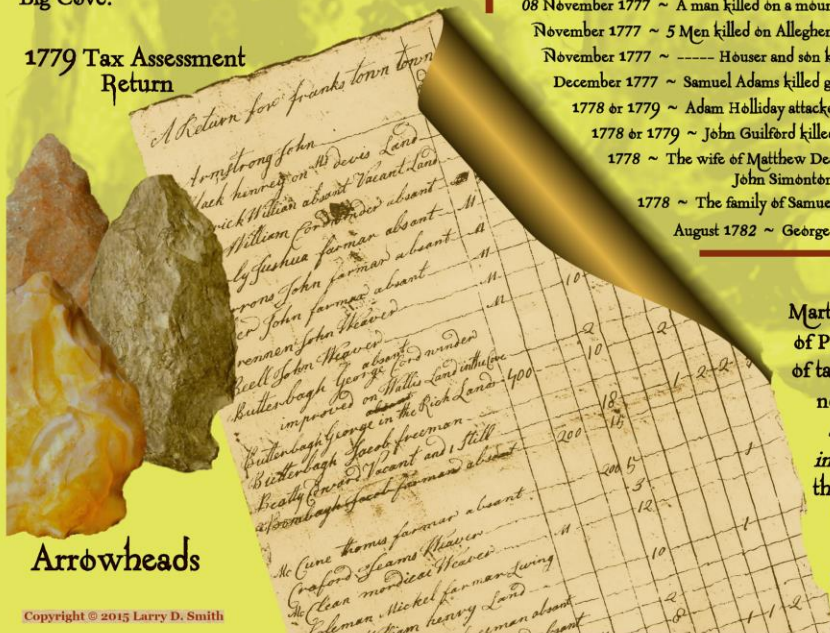
Similar burnings were conducted at Path Valley, Sherman's Creek, Aughwick and the Big Cove.

The Amerindians Retaliate

The reaction of the Amerindians to the influx of Euro-American settlers into their hunting grounds was to retaliate by killing the men and taking the women captive. There were a couple notable instances in which Amerindians stealthily attacked Euro-American settlers in the frontier region that was erected as Bedford County in 1771. The Euro-Americans, as a group, may have been guilty of intruding upon the Amerindian lands, but that crime surely did not merit the punishment of innocent individuals being ambushed and killed outright ~ being tortured, such as being scalped while still alive ~ or being taken captive and forced to endure the horror and hardship that that entailed.

- 31 October/02 November 1755 ~ 47 Euro-Americans killed or taken in the Great Cove and the Conellways valleys (Fulton Co)
It is believed that over 100 Amerindians (Delaware and Shawnee) were led by Shingas. 27 Houses were destroyed.
- 31 October 1755 ~ Indian trader, Peter Shaver and two other men were killed and their houses burned. (Huntingdon County)
- 24 June 1757 ~ 1 son of William Linn (Fulton County) was killed; 1 son scalped but not killed; and 1 son taken captive.
- June 1763 ~ Warriors led by Pontiac and Gwaysuta kill numerous settlers along Dunning's Creek and near Fort Bedford.
- 1768 ~ James Henry killed near Frankstown. (Blair County) He had killed 5 Amerindians before they finished him.
- 19 June 1777 ~ Felix Donnelly and son, Francis, killed while trying to get to the safety of Fort Standing Stone. (Huntingdon County)
- 1777 ~ The Tull family did not leave their home six miles west of Bedford and all - parents and 9 children - were killed.
- September 1777 ~ Adam Ernst and two neighbors killed and Adam's wife, Eve (Indian Eve), and 1 child taken captive.
- Fall 1777 ~ Nearly 30 Dunkards residing in Morrisons Cove were killed. (Blair County)
- 12 October 1777 ~ 1 settler killed near Stony Creek. (Somerset County)
- 08 November 1777 ~ A man killed on a mountain near Fort Bedford.
- November 1777 ~ 5 Men killed on Allegheny Mountain near the head of Dunning's Creek and 3 killed or taken near Three Springs.
- November 1777 ~ Houser and son killed and his wife and 2 children taken. (Blair County)
- December 1777 ~ Samuel Adams killed going from Fort Bedford to Johnstown. ----- Bricks taken captive. (Cambria County)
- 1778 or 1779 ~ Adam Holliday attacked but escaped with 2 children; his 2 eldest children killed (Blair County)
- 1778 or 1779 ~ John Guilford killed going from Fort Fetter to his home. (Blair County)
- 1778 ~ The wife of Matthew Dean and 3 children killed in their Canoe Valley home (Huntingdon County) A visitor, John Simonton, was taken captive.
- 1778 ~ The family of Samuel Moore was attacked, and 1 son, James, was killed. (Blair County)
- August 1782 ~ George Peck, his wife and all their children were killed at Rays Cove.

1779 Tax Assessment Return

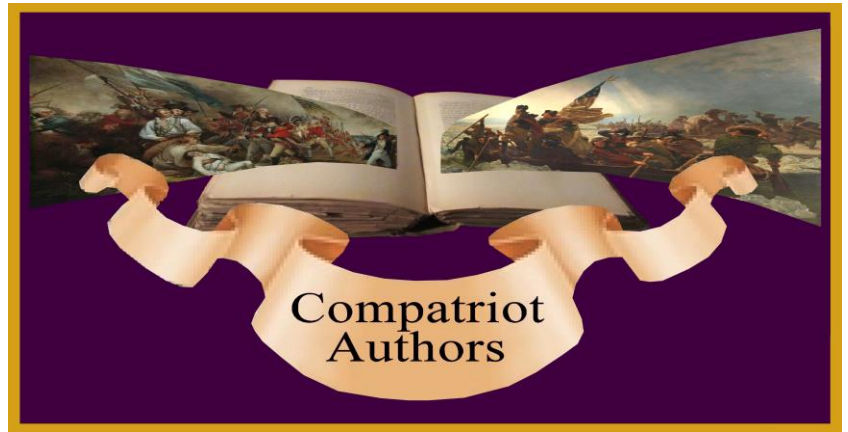


Arrowheads

"Absent"

On 16 February 1779, Bedford County Commissioners, James Martin and Samuel Davidson wrote a letter to the General Assembly of Pennsylvania. They requested permission to forego the collection of taxes due to the county being ravaged by the Amerindians. It was noted "that for eighteen months past the frontier Inhabitants have almost entirely been deprived of the fruits of their labour by the incursions of the Indians." The residents who had fled eastward to the relatively greater safety of Cumberland County were noted as 'absent' on the tax assessment return. Of 163 residents listed for Frankstown Township, 79 or nearly half, of them were either recorded as 'absent' or 'vacant land' indicating that they had fled.

Michael R. Gallagher



The British Invasion of Delaware, Aug-Sep 1777



Gerald J. Kauffman
Michael R. Gallagher

The first PASSAR Compatriot to be featured in this department is a dual member of the Delaware Society. In 2011, Compatriot Gallagher and Gerald J. Kauffman published a book titled, *The British Invasion of Delaware, Aug-Sep 1777* via the print-on-demand online website lulu.com.

During the American War for Independence in August and September, 1777, the British invaded Delaware as part of an end-run campaign to defeat George Washington and the Americans and capture the capital at Philadelphia. For a few short weeks the hills and streams in and around Newark and Iron Hill and at Cooch's Bridge along the Christina River were the focus of world history as the British marched through the Diamond State between the Chesapeake Bay and Brandywine Creek. This is the story of the British invasion of Delaware, one of the lesser known but critical watershed moments in American history.

The 104-page book includes chapters with the titles: "The Chesapeake Sees Red", "The March toward Head of Elk", "The British Invade Delaware", "The Battle of Cooch's Bridge", "The British March through New-Ark", "To New Garden and Hockessin Meeting", "To Kennett Square and the Brandywine" and "Concluding Remarks".

The paperback volume is available through Amazon for \$34.20.



Members of the Continental Congress Chapter SAR were on hand as Joseph P. Bevivino III was promoted to the rank of Eagle Scout by Troop 25 at Advent Lutheran Church in York, PA on February 28, 2023.

Compatriot Edward Kopsick presented the Certificate of Recognition on behalf the Continental Congress Chapter.

For his Eagle Scout project, Joseph led a group of scouts to replace a footbridge over a stream at Rocky Ridge County Park. Also in attendance were Compatriots Joseph Clark and David Brady.

Summer PASSAR Board of Management Meeting ~ 4-5 August 2023

Friday, August 4, 2023

3:00 ~ 6:00 pm Registration in the Atrium
6:00 ~ 8:00 pm Gathering ~ Atrium
Dinner on your own

Saturday, August 5, 2023

6:00 ~ 9:00 am Breakfast on your own (continental breakfast included
with room rate)
8:00 ~ 9:00 am Registration ~ Atrium
9:00 ~ 12:00 pm Board of Management Meeting Conference room
10:00 ~ 12:00 pm Ladies Program ~ Atrium
12:30 ~ 2:00 pm Luncheon Buffet ~ Conference Room

Make room reservations directly with
Super Motel 8 by Wyndham
1663 South Atherton Street
State College, PA 16801
Phone: (814) 237-8005

Motel Reservation Deadline for SAR rate of \$119 plus tax is July 10, 2023. Twenty rooms are reserved. Ask for Group Rate: PA Sons of the American Revolution

PASSAR SUMMER BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

Registration Fee (Compatriots only)	_____ x @ \$20.00	\$ _____
Zoom registration fee (Online only)	_____ x @ \$20.00	\$ _____
Saturday Ladies Program	_____ x @ \$5.00	\$ _____
Saturday Luncheon Buffet	_____ x @ \$17.00	\$ _____

Name _____ Chapter _____

Address: _____

Office: _____ Guest(s) _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Make checks payable to **CENTRE COUNTY CHAPTER, SAR**
Mail to: Gary Wiser, 1180 Ellman Lane, State College, PA 16801

‘permanent billet roll’. The word ‘billet’ during the 1700s referred to the quartering of soldiers together in a building.

The ‘billet roll’ was a record of all the soldiers who were quartered together for the purpose of serving the defence of the county. The billet rolls for each company within a particular district / battalion were recorded under the broad heading of the *General Returns of the Battalion*. The General Returns ~ Billet Rolls recorded the men’s names and the classes to which they were assigned, and recorded the commanders under whom they had been assigned when they enlisted.

Full companies were seldom called out to serve a tour of duty. Instead, the calls went out for men assigned to the particular classes. Classes were called out in numerical order. In other words, the first call was for the 1st Class. That would be followed by a call for the 2nd Class. Two or more classes might be called out at the same time. So, a call might go out for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Classes to turn out at the same time. That might then be followed by a call for the 4th and 5th Classes. The next call would be for the 6th Class, or perhaps the 6th and 7th Classes together. If there were eight classes in each company of the particular battalion, once the 8th Class was called out, it would be followed by the 1st Class again and so forth.

When any particular Class of soldiers was called, the men assigned to that Class fell under the command of a rotating group of officers. A list called an Active-Duty Roster would be written down. The Active-Duty Roster would contain the names of the officers and the soldiers who comprised the company called together for the particular tour of duty. The class(es) to which the soldiers belonged were seldom recorded on the Active-Duty Roster; it was probably deemed unnecessary since the soldier’s class was already noted on the Billet Rolls. Each time a soldier (assigned for example to the 1st Class) was called out for a tour of duty, he would be placed under the command of a different Captain than he had been the previous times he was called out. The soldier’s name would appear on the rosters of companies commanded by various Captains and their staffs.

One would think that ever changing command would be detrimental to any of the units being able to function efficiently. The reasoning behind the decision to rotate the officers might have been to make sure that no one company be either better or worse than the others. The manner in which the officers were rotated was outlined in Section X of the 17 March 1777 *Act to Regulate the Militia*:

And to the end that each particular draft may be

suitably officered, the following order is hereby directed and enjoined: That is to say, For the first draft, the captain of the first company, the first lieutenant of the second company, the second lieutenant of the third company and the ensign of the fourth company; for the second draft, the captain of the second company, the first lieutenant of the first company, the second lieutenant of the fourth company and the ensign of the third company; for the third draft, the captain of the third company, the first lieutenant of the fourth company, the second lieutenant of the first company and the ensign of the second company; for the fourth draft, the fourth captain, the first lieutenant of the third company, the second lieutenant of the second company and the ensign of the first company; for the fifth draft, the fifth captain, the first lieutenant of the sixth company, the second lieutenant of the seventh company and the ensign of the eighth company; for the sixth draft, the sixth captain, the first lieutenant of the fifth company, the second lieutenant of the eighth company and the ensign of the seventh company; for the seventh draft, the seventh captain, the first lieutenant of the eighth company, the second lieutenant of the fifth company and the ensign of the sixth company; for the eighth draft, the eighth captain, the first lieutenant of the seventh company, the second lieutenant of the sixth company and the ensign of the fifth company.

To give an example of how the Billet Rolls and the Active-Duty Rosters compared, we can take a look at Chester County in 1780. At that time, James Denny served as the Captain assigned to the 3rd Company of the First Battalion. A muster roll is transcribed in the published *Pennsylvania Archives*, in the 5th Series, Volume V on pages 473 and 474. There are the names of fifty-six Privates recorded in groups according to the class numbers. On page 476 of the same volume a list is transcribed under the simple title of “Capt. Denney’s Return 1780”. That list includes the names of fifty-seven Privates. But comparing the two lists, despite the very similar number of names (56/57), only thirty-eight of them are actually matches between the two rosters. The point to be noted is that the muster roll of Captain Denny’s Company which has the names separated according to their assigned classes was the ‘permanent’ Billet Roll whereas the other roster which included only the names of the members of Captain Denny’s Company who was assigned to certain classes combined with other soldiers assigned to those same classes from other companies was the Active-Duty Roster of a particular tour of duty.

John B. B. Trussell, a Pennsylvania Society Compatriot, noted in a chapter he wrote for the book, *The*

First Century ~ A History of the 28th Infantry Division, that "Once mustered, the members of the class in question would be organized into provisional companies." He further noted those 'provisional' companies could be considered as 'marching companies' which were brought together to undertake a particular tour of duty.

When a tour of duty was completed, each soldier who had been called out, was permitted to return to his farm. He might be called out again numerous times during the course of the War, or that one tour of duty might be the only instance of his being needed to participate in the defence of his county.

to be continued

Heroism Award Winner Recognized

by the Washington Crossing Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution



The Washington Crossing Chapter Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) presented the SAR Heroism Medal and Certificate to Sean Whitehurst on Saturday March 4th. The ceremony was held in the auditorium at Washington Crossing Historic Park in Washington Crossing PA. Sean is a senior at Penn Ridge High School from Sellersville PA.

Sean reacted instinctively, putting his own life in danger, to rescue an injured unconscious man from the bottom of a pool in a stream below Bingham waterfall in Stowe VT. Sean witnessed the man fall from a cliff into the water. He removed the man from the turbulent water to the streambank. It is estimated only 2 minutes passed from the time the man hit the water until Sean removed him from the water. Sean performed

CPR until the victim regained a pulse and began to breath independently. A rescue squad transported the victim by helicopter to a hospital in Burlington. Unfortunately, the man passed away 3 days later. However, Sean's brave actions gave his family and friends time to say goodbye.

The accompanying photo was taken in front of the Emanuel Leutze painting of Washington Crossing the Delaware.

Picture Caption Left to right: Chapter First Vice President Steven Ware, PASSAR Public Service and Heroism Committee Chairman John Mitchell, Sean Whitehurst holding the Medal and Certificate, Chapter President Robert Reiser, and Ethan Whitehurst..

Photo Credit: Cari Whitehurst

The 79th Annual Pennsylvania C.A.R. State Conference

The 79th Annual Pennsylvania C.A.R. State Conference was held from March 17th through the 19th (2023) at the Omni Bedford Springs Resort at Bedford, PA. The photos below were provided by Compatriot Kurt Winter.



Kurt Winter with the Parkinson Ferry Chapter C.A.R.



Kurt Winter; C.A.R. President,
William Gresh; and Gene Moyer,
C.A.R., DAR and SAR Liaison.



PASSAR FEES & DUES

NEW APPLICANT

National Society (NSSAR) Fee	\$ 100.00
+ 1st Calendar Years Dues, NSSAR	35.00
Pennsylvania Society (PASSAR) Fee	25.00
+ 1st Calendar Years Dues, PASSAR	25.00

FAMILY APPLICATION

(2nd & additional Applications on the same family line)	\$ 40.00
+ 1st Calendar Year Dues, NSSAR	35.00
PASSAR Fee	12.50
+ 1st Calendar Year Dues, PASSAR	25.00

Transfer from CAR age 18-22	\$ 40.00
+ 1st Calendar Year Dues, NSSAR	35.00
+ 1st Calendar Year Dues PASSAR	25.00

Transfer from CAR age 1-18	\$ 40.00
+1st Calendar Year Dues, NSSAR	5.00

NEW JUNIOR APPLICANT

National Society (NSSAR) Fee	\$ 100.00
+1st Calendar Year Dues, NSSAR	5.00

REGULAR ANNUAL DUES

NSSAR Dues	\$ 35.00
PASSAR Dues	25.00
Chapter Fees	vary

JUNIOR ANNUAL DUES

NSSAR Dues	\$ 5.00
------------	---------

REINSTATEMENT

Current year NSSAR, PASSAR and Chapter dues	
+ late fee	\$ 10.00

SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION

National Society Fee	\$ 100.00
Pennsylvania Society Fee	10.00

INTERSTATE DUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Pay NSSAR Dues and Home State Dues to Home State	
PASSAR dues	\$ 25.00
+ Pennsylvania Chapter Dues	vary

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Life Memberships are available for the National, State and Chapter levels. The exact cost is based upon the member's age. Please contact your Chapter Secretary or Treasurer for costs and information.

ERIC H. TROUTMAN, PASSAR
Registrar
Ehtroutman13@gmail.com
(610) 488-7855

The Pennsylvania Minuteman Newsletter
Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
966 Johnstown Road
East Freedom, PA 16637

Periodicals Postage
PAID
Altoona, PA
16635

TO:

Table of Contents

	Cover
2	Cover Story & Legal Notice
3	President's Report
4	Washington Crossing Chapter Gives Awards
5	Broad Ax vs Felling Ax
6-7	Welcome New Members
7	Flowers in the Forest
8	The Long S
9	American Revolutionary War Exhibit Informational Panel
10	Compatriot Authors / Eagle Scout Honored
11	Summer BOM Meeting Registration
12-14	The County Militias of Pennsylvania ~ continued
14	Heroism Award Winner Recognized by Washington Crossing Chap
15	The 79th Annual Pennsylvania C.A.R. State Conference
16	PASSAR Fees & Dues / Table of Contents



Have, or are you MOVING?
Visit passar.org/Layouts/forms.htm
to print out the
Change of Address form.

**Remember to notify your Chapter President
and Secretary about your new address. We
want to make sure you get your PA Minuteman
right to your door!**

