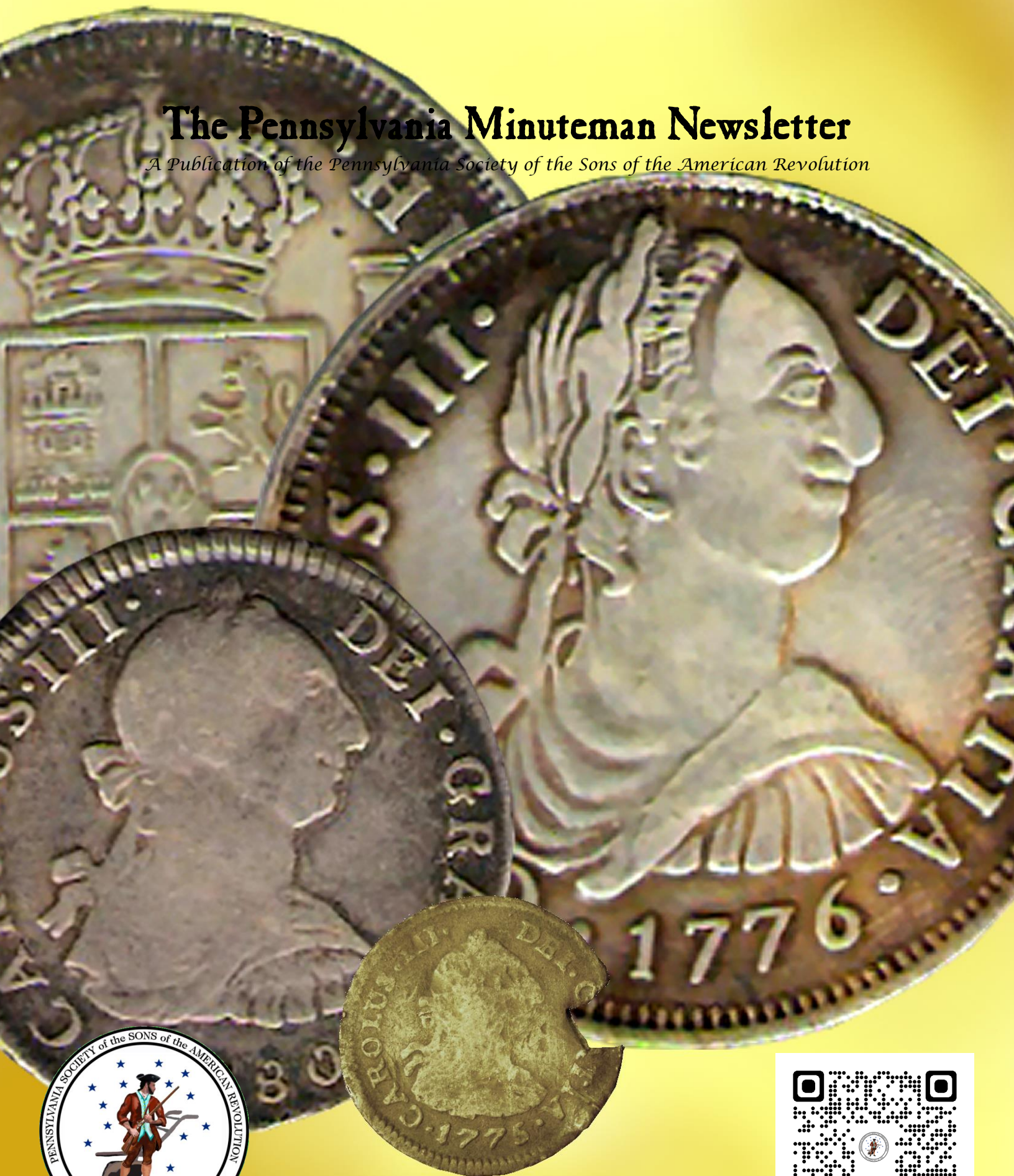


The Pennsylvania Minuteman Newsletter

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



Volume XLVIII

4th Quarter 2023



(Cover story)

Pieces of Eight

The primary type of currency in use during the American Revolutionary War was the trade dollar minted by Spain and named the Eight Reales. It was more commonly known as the *Piece of Eight*.

The name of Piece of Eight is well known to anyone who reads pirate stories or who watches pirate movies. The coin, though, was not used only by pirates. Trade dollars were accepted widely throughout the world. Even today trade dollars may be used anywhere on the planet that metal currency is employed.

There exists a common myth regarding pieces of eight which is derived from that very name. The myth states that an eight reale coin would be literally cut into smaller pieces when an amount less than eight reales was needed. If four reales were needed to complete a transaction, the eight reales coin would be cut in two sections to produce two four-reale pieces. Cutting a quarter piece out of the entire eight reales coin would provide the owner with two reales and the remaining six reales pieces. To obtain a single real piece, the owner would cut one-eighth section out of the entire coin.

While cutting the trade dollar into individual pieces is a romantic notion, in actual practice, it would be both difficult and pointless. Not many people carried either metal shears, hammer and chisels or any other tools to cut a trade dollar into small pieces. And even if everyone did, in fact, carry the tools with them, trying to cut out small pieces out of the coin would be difficult.

The fact of the matter is that although it might have happened sometimes, cutting an Eight Reales trade dollar into pieces was unnecessary because the smaller denominations were also minted. Just as in the present age in which we have dollar coins along with quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies, the people of the 18th Century likewise had coins of smaller amounts than the dollar. On the cover are shown the two sides of an Eight Reales piece (dated 1776) a Two Reales piece (dated 1780) and a One Real (dated 1775). The image on all of the pieces is King Charles III of Spain.

Art Source: Personal collection of Larry D. Smith.

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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



Dear Compatriots,

Over the last three months my wife Stephanie and I were able to attend many SAR and DAR events. I have installed chapter officers and have enjoyed being with the membership. On August 19th we traveled west for the combined Washington County Picnic hosted by the George Washington Chapter and a number of DAR Chapters. There were also members from a CAR Chapter present. The picnic was held in McGuffy Park, Claysville, PA. It was good to see the interaction between the different societies. Next was another picnic on August 26th at the Gen. Greene Pavilion, Washington Crossing Park, held by the Washington Crossing Chapter.

September 10th the Pittsburgh Chapter held its 3rd Quarter Luncheon Meeting at the Longue Vue Club, Verona, PA. Former Pittsburgh Steeler "holder of four Super Bowl Rings" and Viet Nam War Veteran "U.S. Army" Rocky Bleier received a Silver Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate. On September 14th I attended my chapter, the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter's Dinner Meeting at the Yellow House Hotel, Yellow House, PA. September 16-17 was the DAR/SAR Constitution Luncheon and DAR, SAR, CAR Constitution Debutante Ball at the Alloy Hotel, King of Prussia, PA. Along with a DAR Brunch and Sunday Service at the Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge, PA. September 21-24 attended the NSSAR's Fall Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY. The meeting was well attended and the many state societies were able to pass ideas along to each other.

October 3rd was the Annual Meeting of the Philadelphia Continental Chapter at the Glenhardie Country Club, Wayne, PA. October 7th the Continental Congress Chapter had a Grave Marking Service at Flohr's Lutheran Church Cemetery for patriots Baltzer Pitzer and Peter Comfort. DAR and CAR representatives were also in attendance. I gave the keynote address. November 3-4 was PASSAR's Fall BOM Meeting at the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport Hotel which was hosted by the Pittsburgh Chapter. Attendance was low for the meeting so I hope that we can do better in the future for our state meetings. November 11th I was part of the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter's Color Guard as we posted the colors at Veteran's Grove, City Park, Reading, PA. The Color Guard also went to Charles Evans Cemetery in Reading for a Gov. Joseph Hiester Graveside Ceremony. We ended the day with the Fort Halifax Chapter for their Veteran's Day Banquet at the Valley Lighthouse, Lykens, PA.

We are now in that time of year when our national, state and chapter dues are being collected. If you have not sent in your dues, please do so now. December 15th has been set as the deadline for dues collection for 2024. If you have any questions about this check with your chapter officers. Next year the NSSAR Congress will be held in Lancaster, PA from July 10 to the 16th. Attend if you can as PASSAR's Congress Committee has done a good job putting this together. The committee is also looking for volunteers to help with varying jobs.

In closing, I have a question for you. Did you just join the SAR to get that certificate showing that you have a patriot ancestor or was it also because you wanted to show your love of God and country? At this time PSSAR and our chapters need help, think of getting involved. If our ancestors would have said let the other guy do it, I will stay at home where would we be today. The way things are going on in the world today we need active societies like ours to do our part and keep "society in general civil and free". Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Eric H. Troutman
President, PASSAR

Revolutionary War Militia Monument Dedication

A Revolutionary War Militia Monument was dedicated on Saturday, 20 May 2023 at Westtown Township, Chester County. Assisting in the ceremony was the Philadelphia Continental Chapter Color Guard and the Nur Colonial Fife and Drum Corps of Nur Shrine.

Additional photos can be found online by accessing the url address:

https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipMuY3HBCzFB1pkRWLqQIyS_LNgYpIA18xALaxNIp3jgpImATk9-C9f1FxO9iCZvLg?pli=1&key=czMzSEpaUXhTTDdBm9GRG5NcXND5np5M1BJOXdn

Or by scanning the QR Code to the right:



Rocky Bleier Honored

Article Submitted by President Eric Troutman

According to William Boswell, President of the Pittsburgh Chapter: In a minute our State President, Eric Troutman, will present the Silver Good Citizenship to Rocky Bleier. This is the highest SAR distinction that the State Society may award to a non-member, and it was established in 1939 to recognize outstanding service to society.

His national reputation aside, and despite



being born in Wisconsin, Rocky is known to all of us in Western Pennsylvania as a local boy who made good. He was a three time All-State running back in High School, went to Notre Dame and was a member of the football team when it won the NCAA National Championship in 1966. He also served as team captain.

Rocky was drafted into the NFL 1968 by the Pittsburgh Steelers but was then drafted by the US Army at the end of the season and volunteered for duty Vietnam, serving as a Spec 4 with the Americal Division. He was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor, the CIB, and the Purple Heart. Doctors told him he'd never play football again due to his combat wounds. He didn't agree with that diagnosis.

Most people know the story of his extraordinary determination to overcome what happened to him, supported by Steeler President Art Rooney. By 1974 he returned to full status on the team and was a member of the squad that won four Super Bowls.

Rocky has devoted a significant amount of his post-Steeler career to assisting Veterans, especially those with TBI and PTSD, and is a splendid example to all of us of giving back to his communities. Nationally and locally, he's spearheaded efforts to support veterans and memorialize their sacrifices. He's enriched the lives of those service members who carry invisible wounds by restoring their mental health and dignity.

This award is one of the many he's received over the years, and we are honored to honor him as a man who exemplifies the highest principles of our forefathers.

Note: The Silver Good Citizenship Medal bestowed on Rocky Bleier was largely due to the efforts of Pittsburgh Chapter Vice President John Baldrige. Also note that just a few of Bleier's many contributions involve: Victory Media, NaVOBA, Vietnam Veterans of America, and programs to address veteran hunger and PTSD.

Photo above, left: President Eric Troutman presents the award to Rocky Bleier. *Photo above, right:* Pittsburgh Chapter President, William Boswell tries on Mr. Bleier's four Super Bowl rings.

Welcome New Members

Chapter	New Member	Ancestor	Sponsor
At Large	Samuel Wilson Noden	Michael Moore	Eric H. Troutman
Benjamin Franklin	Francis Rex Poly	Anthony Walters	Paul D. Prusia
Centre County	George K. Gillen	Christian Donat	Eric H. Troutman
Continental Congress	John Edwards McQuain	Alexander McQuain	Russell L. Mills
Gen Arthur St Clair	Donald Gabriel Savage, Jr	Samuel McLean	Ernest L. Sutton
George Washington	Matthew Dean Saxton	Matthew McConnell, Sr	Michael D.C. Merryman
Gov Joseph Hiester	David Richard Edwards	Benjamin Carpenter	Eric H. Troutman
Gov Joseph Hiester	Terence Eric Henne	Daniel Hiester	Eric H. Troutman
Gov Joseph Hiester	Nolan Mohammed Varian	Andrew Knox	Eric H. Troutman
Gov Joseph Hiester	Steven Andrew Variana	Andrew Knox	Eric H. Troutman
Northeast	Daniel James Weary	Christian Weary	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Northeast	Kristoffer Daniel Weary	Christian Weary	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Northeast	Peter Gordon West, II	Robert Culbertson	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Philadelphia Continental	Matthew Richard Couch	William Couch	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Francis Anthony Kane, Jr	George Ludwig Bilger	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	David Clark Patten, Jr	Anthony Thomas	David C. Patten
Philadelphia Continental	Craig Hammond Patton	John Georgre Hambright	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Kevin Donnelly Hammond Patton	John George Hambright	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Stuart Haden Quillman	Abijah Adams	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Weston Hunter Shivers	John Noblit	Richard A. Shivers
Philadelphia Continental	Donald Righter Smedley	John Righter	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	William Paul Strain	John Ashton, Sr	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	David Robert Struwe	Frederick Hain/Haynes	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	John David Struwe	Frederick Haynes	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	William Saam Struwe	Frederick Haynes	C. Kelsey Brown
Valley Forge	Robert Patrick Cody	Abner Gleason	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Washingtonburg	Douglas R. Cubbison	William Southworth	Dale J. J. Leppard
Washingtonburg	Steven Lee Dedmon	Richard Pennington	Dale J. J. Leppard
Washingtonburg	John Francis Guinan	Daniel Pettey	Dale J. J. Leppard
Washingtonburg	Benjamin Warren Lyncha	Jeremiah Vandermark	Dale J. J. Leppard
Washingtonburg	James C. Markley	Sylvester Ward	Dale J. J. Leppard
Washingtonburg	Jeremy Tyler Winn	John Hall	Sale J. J. Leppard
William Maclay	Shaun Lawson Creighton	Jacob Perkins	Eric H. Troutman



Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician recognized by the Washington Crossing Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

Article Submitted by Bob Reiser

The Washington Crossing Chapter Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) held its Battle of Yorktown Victory Celebration dinner meeting on Tuesday October 10th at the Continental Tavern in Yardley, PA. This year marked the 242nd anniversary of General George Washington's victory on October 19th, 1781. The featured speaker was David Hathaway who serves as Assistant Quartermaster for the Society of the Honor Guard Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Tomb Guard Platoon. His presentation was titled "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier". He spoke about the history of the Tomb at Arlington National Cemetery and four memorials at tombs of unknown American Revolutionary War soldiers, including the one at Washington Square in Philadelphia.

David has served as a volunteer firefighter in Bucks County for 32 years. He is a life member of Midway Volunteer Fire Company which services Buckingham and Solebury Townships in Central Bucks County where he has served in leadership roles and was named firefighter of the year in 2007. He manages and commands the Bucks County Firefighter and EMS Memorial Honor Guard which provides ceremonial services locally and around the country. Other work in the profession includes providing support to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation which operates and

maintains the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg Maryland. David is employed as an



Emergency Medical Technician for Central Bucks Emergency Medical Services.

The Chapter presented David Hathaway with the Fire Safety Commendation Medal, enameled bar, and certificate. The purpose for the award as defined by the National Society SAR is to recognize and honor citizens who have dedicated their career to constant study, development, and involvement in the profession with a single goal: to protect human life and property by preventing injuries or casualties due to fire and chemicals.

Picture Caption Left to right: Chapter First Vice President Steven Ware, David Hathaway holding the SAR Fire Safety Commendation Certificate, and Chapter President Robert Reiser

Photo Credit: Bill Hampton, Chapter Veterans Committee Chairman



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
Thomas Arthur Craig	Christopher Gist	08/09/2023
Frederick Paul LeVan	Harris Ferry	09/16/2023
Harry Andrew Wissinger	Pittsburgh	08/03/2023

Two Patriots' Graves Marked by Continental-Congress Chapter

Article submitted by Russell L. Mills

Revolutionary War Patriots Baltzer Pitzer of the 6th Company, Lancaster County Militia and Peter Comfort of Capt. John Cope's Company, Philadelphia County Militia were honored with a SAR Grave Marking ceremony on October 7, 2023, at Flohrs Cemetery in McKnightstown, Pennsylvania. The Continental Congress Chapter-hosted event was joined by the Regents and members of the Gettysburg, Col. Richard McAlister, and Donegal-Witness Tree Chapters, DAR, and by the President and one member of the George Ross Society, CAR. The public was invited, and the Gettysburg Times newspaper covered the proceedings. Pennsylvania Society President Eric Troutman gave the Keynote address to 50 attendees of this prestigious happening which also included the placement of SAR grave markers, the attachment of Betsy Ross flags to the markers, the laying of wreaths, and two volleys of musket fire—one for each Patriot. Compatriot



Larry Magdy, Philadelphia Continental Chapter 2nd Vice President, shared biographical details on Baltzer Pitzer, who is Compatriot Magdy's 6th great grandfather. Ms. Janice Miller,



President of the Flohrs Evangelical Lutheran Church Council shared the biographical information on Peter Comfort. Many ceremony

participants and guests wore Militia and Continental attire, providing a richer, more authentic experience for many first-time attendees. Following the ceremony, most of the participants and guests proceeded to the Flohrs Church Social Hall for refreshments and fellowship.

Photos, from left: Wyatt Lebowitz, George Ross Society CAR Member attaching Betsey Ross Flag to SAR Grave Marker; Musket Salute by Joseph Clark, Edward Kopsick and Howard Tendler.



Boston Tea Party

As a result of the Tea Act passed in May 1773, the East India Company was authorized to sell half a million pounds of tea to selected merchants in the major port cities of Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Charleston. The fact that this was a monopoly is primarily to what the colonists (who were not counted among the 'selected' merchants) objected.

On 16 October, Philadelphians met, and produced a condemnation of the Act along with a call for the merchants who had been identified by the East India Company as its selected consignees to resign. On the 5th and 6th of November, Bostonians held their own meeting and used the Philadelphia resolves to write their own. New York held its own discussions on the matter on 10 November, resulting in the publication of a broadside warning ships carrying tea to not enter the harbor. Then, on the 29th, the Sons of Liberty demanded a boycott of any tea landed, and a call for the consignees in that city to resign. The people of Charleston waited until the first ship carrying tea arrived in their harbor on 02 December before they demanded the consignees' resignation. As a result of the meetings, the consignee merchants of Philadelphia, New York and Charleston bowed to the pressure and did, in fact, resign; those in Boston refused to. (Perhaps the reason for the Boston response was that two of the consignees were sons of Governor Hutchinson, while a third was his nephew.)

At Boston Harbor, on the 27th of November, the *Dartmouth* arrived. The result was the Boston Tea Party, in which, on the evening of the **16th of December 1773**, approximately 8,000 people gathered at Boston's Old South Church. From that crowd emerged a group of men disguised as Mohawk Indians; they headed to Griffin's Wharf, where the *Dartmouth* and two other recently arrived ships were moored. Boarding the ships, the group broke open and dumped into the harbor's waters all 342 chests of tea.

Winter PASSAR Board of Management Meeting ~ 2-3 February 2024

Friday 2 February 2024

3:00 ~ 6:00 Registration

Saturday 3 February 2024

8:00 ~ 9:00 Registration

9:00 ~ 12:00 Board of Management Meeting

12:00 ~ 2:00 Luncheon ~ Lunch Buffet

Hampton Inn ~ Chambersburg

655 Leshar Road, Chambersburg, PA 17202

All Room Rates: \$129 + tax

**Guests are to make their reservations directly with the
Hampton Inn ~ Chambersburg at 717-261-9185**

Make sure you mention you are with The Sons of the American Revolution group room block.

If booking online use code PSS for the special rate.

Reservations for the special rate need to be made by January 19, 2024.

Winter BOM Meeting ~ February 2 & 3, 2024

Please reply by January 22, 2024

Name: _____ Chapter: _____ Office: _____

Address: _____

Phone & Email: _____

Name(s) of Guest(s): _____

Registration Fee (Compatriots only) _____ @ \$25.00 = \$ _____

Saturday Luncheon _____ @ \$25.00 = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Conococheague Chapter, SAR: Mail check and registration form
to: Dr. David H. Kingsley, 624 Tussey Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17202-9289

**Please Note: There will be no Zoom participation until someone volunteers to
operate the equipment.**

SAR Member Preaches at DAR Event

Article submitted by Andrew Hart



Every year, the Daughters of the American Revolution in Franklin County hold a church service in the historic Rocky Spring Presbyterian Church. Owned by the DAR, the church dates back to the American Revolution, looks like it did back in the 1700s, and is blessed with an historic graveyard. This graveyard has both Patriot and British graves in it.

This year, Dr. Andrew Hart, a Presbyterian Pastor, and a member of the Conococheague Chapter of the SAR was asked to preach for this service. While tempted to

preach for two hours like those in the Colonial Times, he limited his remarks. Focusing on Luke 1:1-4, he asserted the importance of the care taking of the history we have, the need for accuracy in historical/ genealogical research, and questioned historical revisionism. It was well received. How nice it was to see SAR and DAR working together to honor our ancestors. This service is done yearly in the late spring.

[Andrew Hart is the Senior Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring at Chambersburg.]

Grave of James Irwin Dedicated



On 23 September 2023, the grave of Patriot James Irwin was dedicated by the Frontier Patriots Chapter at the Hollidaysburg Presbyterian Cemetery in Blair County. Patriot Irwin served as a Private in the Chester County

Militia during the American Revolutionary War. Due to a light rain, turnout was low. President Larry Smith and Vice-President Bob Williams of the Frontier Patriots Chapter were joined by a descendant of James Irwin and friends of the Irwin descendants.

The grave dedication was requested by William Crawford of Texas. Bill Crawford is a 4th Great-Grandson of the Patriot, and at 98 years of age, was unable to attend the event.

Attending the event were, from left: Roger Galbraith, friend of Bill Crawford; Bob Williams, Second Vice-President Frontier Patriots Chapter; W. Matt Evans, bagpiper; Chuck Gregor, 5th Great-Grandson of Patriot James Irwin; Larry D. Smith, President Frontier Patriots Chapter; and Richard Hayden, family relation.

Piper, W. Matt Evans played *Flowers of the Forest* and *Amazing Grace*.

The photo at left was taken by Melanie Ramsey, Friends of the Forgotten Families of the Hollidaysburg Presbyterian Cemetery.



The Pennsylvania Society Needs You!

Have you ever considered what you might do to affect innovation and change within the Sons of the American Revolution? Have you ever considered employing your leadership and experiential talents to help navigate the Pennsylvania Society into the future? Have you ever thought about becoming an officer or a committee chair at the State-level? If you have, I implore you raise your hand and join the team. If you have not, I humbly request you begin to consider the possibilities.

The Pennsylvania Society, Sons of the American Revolution (PASSAR), is always seeking willing participants within our membership ranks to stand up and assume various positions of responsibility and influence—especially for those positions current vacant. Additionally, many positions, such as mine (the PASSAR Secretary), have incumbents that have remained in their positions for five years and over—and I will soon be stepping down from this role. Other positions were recently vacated by chairmen who long severed with distinction and honor—who sought other growth opportunities—we will not begrudge our volunteer brethren when they must move on. We need your help! We need men to stand up, considering our Patriot forefathers before us, and seize the opportunities afforded within our organization. We must maximize our Society's community connection and outreach; endeavor to fulfill our educational commitment to today's youth (and tomorrow's leaders), our prove resolute in our obligation to uphold our Constitution and traditional American values. This requires every able-bodied member, who is willing, to join us in our Society's endeavors! Again, PASSAR needs you!

Our most pressing needs to date:

Assistant Secretary

Americanism Committee Chair

JROTC/ROTC/Sea Cadet Committee Chair

Knight Essay Contest Committee Chair

Public Relations Committee Chair

Rumbaugh Orations Contest Committee Chair

SAR Foundation Committee Chair

Veterans and Veterans Recognition Committee Chair

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Rev. Russell L. Mills

2nd VP and Secretary, Pennsylvania Society





Camp Security – York County’s Revolutionary Prisoner of War Encampment

by Richard Geidel & Jonathan Stayer, Friends of Camp Security

How does a fledgling country respond to a logistical problem it had not anticipated—securing and maintaining thousands of prisoners of war? From 1781-83, a prison encampment in Springettsbury Township, York County, known as “Camp Security,” held British private soldiers and noncommissioned officers and their families as part of the solution to this problem. This location is the last remaining undeveloped site of such a prisoner-of-war facility in the United States.

Origins of Camp Security

As the British forces pushed northward and westward through the Southern colonies in the first months of 1781, Continental Congress became concerned about the security of their British and German prisoners of war housed in Charlottesville, VA. Congress authorized the prisoners to be moved northward. Eventually, many of them were sent to the existing facilities in Lancaster, PA. Because the Lancaster resources proved to be inadequate, in July 1781, Pennsylvania government officials directed that a prison encampment be constructed in York County for British privates and noncommissioned officers.

This new prison camp—named “Camp Security”—was located on a “well wooded & watered” site four and one-half miles east of the town of York. About ten miles from the Susquehanna River, this location allowed the American authorities to quickly move their prisoners across the river in the event that the British Army would move into Pennsylvania from the southwest. The first prisoners arrived at Camp Security around August 1, 1781.

What did Camp Security look like?

The encampment included at least one stockade of posts set into a trench that was then backfilled. The prisoners were housed in huts or possibly barracks inside the stockade. To alleviate some of the conditions in the stockade, those prisoners captured at the battle of Saratoga (the “Convention Army”) later were permitted

to construct an unfenced village on the hill above the stockade, which the British acrimoniously called “Camp Indulgence” because the lessening of restrictions on those captives was seen as indulging them.

Other structures in this prison complex may have included guard huts and a hospital. Local legend purports that the historic Schultz House to the north of the stockade served as the headquarters for the guards. A cemetery was associated with the site; however, it probably was destroyed by the twentieth-century construction of a residential development adjacent to the west of the Camp Security Preservation Area.

The Guards

From July 1781 until January 1782, York County militia constructed and guarded Camp Security. At times, as many as 200-300 militia men may have been at the encampment. Lists of some of the names of these men can be found on the website of the Friends of Camp Security (www.campsecurity.org). In January 1782, a Continental Army regiment known as “Congress’s Own” under the command of Col. Moses Hazen assumed guard duty at York, Lancaster and Reading, with Capt. Satterlee of the unit in charge of the company at Camp Security. Called to other duty in October 1782, Hazen’s men were replaced by a provisional Pennsylvania Continental regiment from Carlisle, PA commanded by Col. Richard Butler. Butler’s soldiers remained at Camp Security until it was emptied in May 1783.

The Prisoners

Camp Security held British privates and noncommissioned officers, and their wives and children, captured at the battles of Saratoga (1777) and Yorktown (1781). The first to arrive in August 1781 were about 800-1000 “Convention Prisoners” from the forces of Gen. John Burgoyne who had negotiated a “convention” at Saratoga rather than an actual surrender to Gen. Horatio Gates of York County’s Gates House fame. Those

prisoners initially had been held in Massachusetts, but because Continental Congress would not approve the Convention for political and economic reasons, they remained in captivity for almost four years and were moved through several states before arriving at Camp Security. This group eventually resided in the Camp Indulgence area of the encampment, and they engaged in cottage industries such as making buttons, pins, lace and other items. American authorities allowed them passes to travel outside the camp to work and to sell items to the local residents. Some were hired out to area farmers.

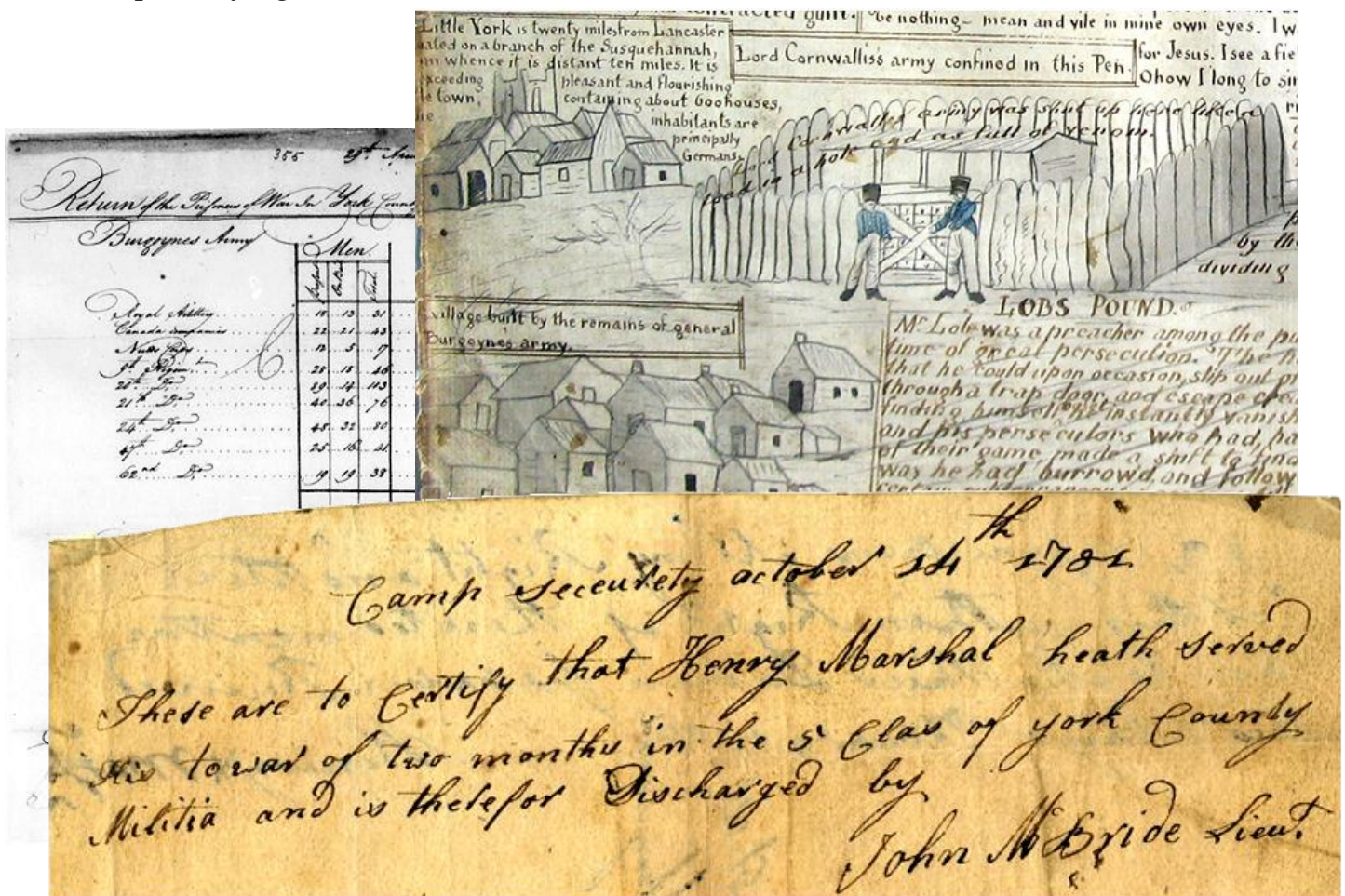
In January and February 1782, another 800-900 British prisoners captured at the battle of Yorktown, VA arrived at Camp Security. Most of these people resided in the stockade. An April 1782 return of men, women and children listed 1588 people credited to the encampment; however, possibly at least as many as a third of these individuals did not live on site.

With the ratification of a preliminary peace treaty between Great Britain and the United States in April 1783, the prisoners at Camp Security were released by May 11, 1783 and marched to the New York area for return to England. The prison complex was abandoned, and local residents disassembled the structures for fence rails, firewood and other purposes. No surviving above-ground features of Camp Security remain today.

Preservation of the Site

To oppose development of the site, the Friends of Camp Security was established in 2000 as a nonprofit, volunteer organization committed to protecting, preserving and interpreting this significant historical property. Since 2009, the Friends have partnered with Springettsbury Township to purchase the site and to conduct both digital and physical archaeological investigations. In 2022, an archaeological dig located a portion of Camp Security's palisade trench and associated post holes. Current work focuses on defining the size and shape of at least one of the encampment's stockades.

For more information about Camp Security and to support the efforts of the Friends, visit the website: www.CampSecurity.org.



Lauren Tyree, Eagle Scout Scholarship Winner

Article submitted by Mark Burt, PASSAR Eagle Scout Committee Chair

As Pennsylvania State winner of the 2022 Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest, Eagle Scout, Lauren Tyree, Troop 19 Marshallton, was presented with the Pennsylvania Society's SAR Eagle Scout trophy and a cash award at its youth awards banquet on May 6, 2023. The Pennsylvania Society also strives to recognize the Pennsylvania winner's Scoutmaster for encouraging Eagle Scouts to participate in the SAR Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest. Melissa Pendill, Troop 19 Scoutmaster, was unable to attend the May 6th youth awards banquet. However, she was presented with a SAR Certificate of Commendation and a SAR/BSA Partners in Good Citizenship Patch at the Troop 19 Court of Honor, held on September 21st. Melissa was also thanked for her efforts as a volunteer Scouter on behalf of the Sons of the American Revolution. Lauren also placed first in the Philadelphia Continental Chapter's SAR Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest and 9th place in the National Contest.

Pictured from left: Camille Bergmaier, Court of Honor Leader, Melissa Pendill, Scoutmaster Troop 19, and Mark Burt, Eagle Scout Committee Chairman Philadelphia Continental Chapter and Pennsylvania Society SAR.



Washington Crossing Chapter Recognizes Member for Service to Veterans

Article Submitted by Bob Reiser

The Washington Crossing Chapter Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) held its Yorktown Victory Celebration

dinner meeting on Tuesday October 10th at the Continental Tavern in Yardley, PA. This year marked the 242nd anniversary of General George Washington's victory on October 19th, 1781.



Chapter member Timothy Ghebeles was honored at the October 10th dinner meeting for his service to veterans and their families. Tim performs Military Funeral Honors at Washington Crossing National Cemetery and other cemeteries in the area. He plays taps at veteran's

funerals and at special events including Memorial Day and Veteran's Day events in our region. Since becoming a member of the Washington Crossing Chapter in June 2017, Tim has volunteered to perform Military Funeral Honors at 2,005 funerals. He has also played taps at numerous Veteran events. He has driven close to 10,000 miles to and from those ceremonies. Based on the hours volunteered and the miles driven, Tim was awarded the SAR Service to Veteran's medal in 2018. The Chapter awarded him three bronze oak leaf clusters for continued service in 2019 and 2020. He was awarded another bronze and a silver oak leaf cluster at this meeting for continuing to volunteer an extraordinary amount of time.

Tim serves with Bugles Across America on the Pennsylvania and Washington Crossing Honor Team, Guardians of the National Cemetery at Washington Crossing National Cemetery and with the Bucks County Area Joint Veteran's Service Officer Honor Team. Tim played taps at the end of the meeting in remembrance of the unknown soldiers buried in Arlington National Cemetery and other cemeteries across the country who have died in the line of duty.

Picture Caption: Timothy Ghebeles holding the SAR Bronze and Silver Oak Leaf clusters

Photo Credit: Bill Hampton, Chapter Veterans Committee Chairman

Did Colonial Men Wear Boxers Or Briefs?

Short Answer ~ Neither!

The actual answer to the question is not so simple as simply saying 'neither'. So let me explain. It should be noted that military uniforms were based on the civilian clothes worn throughout the British Colonies in the Eighteenth Century.

The basic clothing donned by men during the 1700's started with hose, or what we would today call: stockings or socks. The hose very often stretched from the toe to mid-thigh. Garter belts were worn above the calf, just under the knee because those hose were not elastic and could easily sag down to the ankles if not held up by the garter. A leather garment that was called either 'spatterdashers' or 'gaiters' fit around the lower leg. They covered the top of the foot (over the shoe) and extended upward over most of the calf. They were secured around the leg with buttons. Shoes, the left of which matched the right, were held tight by a strap buckled across the 'upper' covering the top of the foot.

Covering the body from the waist down to just below the knees were breeches. Most breeches had a flap in the front that was sewn along its bottom edge and its top edge held up by buttons. Belts were unknown, and the breeches were held up by being tightened with lacing at the back. The bottom edge, at the knee, was made tight against the leg by fastening with three to five buttons along a slit on the outside of the leg. To alleviate the need for the buttons at the bottom of the breeches and the use of spatterdashers, trouser like garments called 'overalls' came into use during the War. The structure of the overalls at the waistline was similar to breeches with the flap at the front and the lacing at the back. The bottom edge of overalls were secured under the bottom of the shoe by straps.

Shirts were large. They were sewn from large squares of fabric with equally large sleeves attached to the top edge that formed the shoulders. A collar might be sewn around a slit along the top edge of the shirt and in the front, a deep slit from the neck down the front permitted the man to slip his head through the hole. Then a single button would keep the collar closed. The ends of each of the sleeves would be gathered into cuffs that would be closed with a button. The shirt was rather long and reached nearly to the knee.

A waistcoat, what we today would call a vest, was worn over the shirt. The back was slit up the back nearly to the neckline, and the two halves were held together by lacing. The waistcoat of the 1770's was shorter than those worn in the 1760's, but they still reached about four inches below the waist. Short slits along the bottom at each side permitted the man to sit comfortably. The two front panels were held together by a row of buttons from the neck to the waist. Being spaced closely together, perhaps an inch and a half apart, there might be thirteen to fifteen buttons down the front of the waistcoat. Small pockets near the bottom edge of the waistcoat provided spaces, albeit small spaces, to hold loose items.

Two types of coats were worn over the waistcoat. The frock coat was a light-weight, usually linen, coat while the great coat was a heavier-weight coat made out of wool. Both types of coat typically sported high collars and wide cuffs on the sleeves. The bottom edge of the back of the coat was usually slit and held together by buttons. The bottom of the front panels could also be attached to the back of the coat by buttons to keep the bottom edge from flapping against the man's thighs when he walked.

Completing the outfit was the hat. The most common hat worn by just about every man was a wide brimmed beaver felt hat, the brim of which was raised at three points. The three points gave the hat the common name of 'tricorne'.

So now about that boxers or briefs question. Men did not wear any type of what we would call 'underwear' or 'drawers' today. The long tail end of the shirt, when gathered inside the breeches, functioned as the underwear we know. Also, men seldom took off their shirts. When a man did remove his shirt, he was considered 'naked' whether or not he was wearing breeches and hose. At night, a man would remove his waistcoat, shoes and breeches, and perhaps his hose and the garter belts that held them up. He kept the shirt on and its long length covered everything that needed to be covered while preventing the need for any so-called underwear. Images from the Colonial Period that show men at night wearing what are called their 'nightshirts' are actually showing them wearing their regular shirts that are simply untucked from their breeches. Underneath them would be no other garment.

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