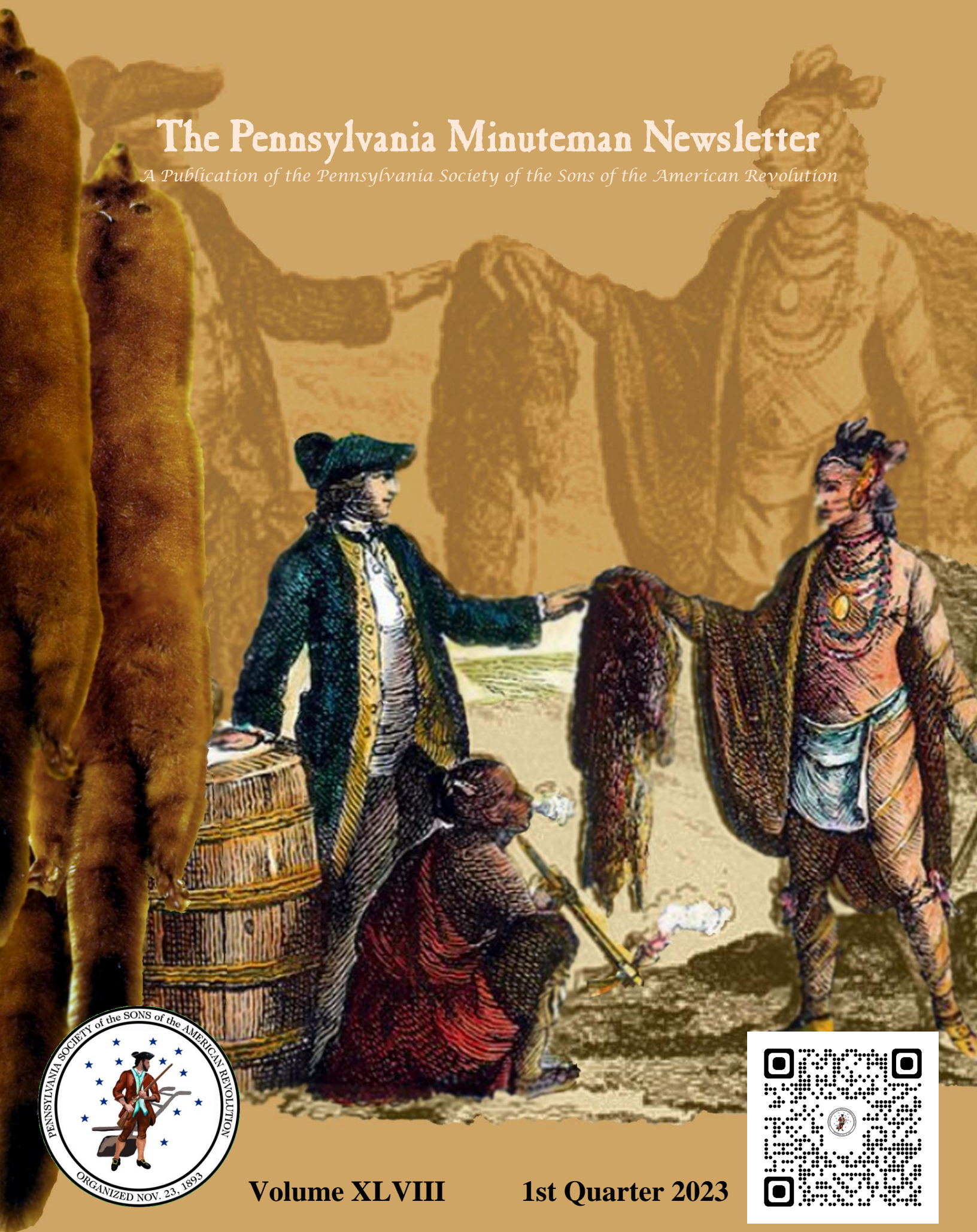


The Pennsylvania Minuteman Newsletter

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



Volume XLVIII

1st Quarter 2023



(Cover story)

Fur Traders

It is often believed that the English were only colonizers, establishing their colonies along the eastern coast of the North American continent. The French, on the other hand are seldom depicted as colonizers. Instead, they are believed to have all been fur traders operating along the major waterways of the colony of Canada.

That simplistic stereotypical view was only partly accurate. Quite a number of French families settled throughout the Canadian region. But there were English fur traders also, and a number of them established trading posts throughout the frontier of the Pennsylvania Colony.

Men from the east, including John Wray, James Dunning, Lazarus Lowry, Nicholas Scull and Frank Stephens, loaded up pack horses every spring and traveled westward to establish trading posts in the valleys of the Appalachian Mountain range. When they built a log cabin in which to house their trade goods along with a log cabin in which they could live during the trading season, all of which were surrounded by a fence, their trading posts were named 'towns' (derived from the Old German *zaun*, meaning a fence surrounding two or more buildings). John Wray's trading post therefore became known as 'Ray's town' whereas James Dunning's single log building became known simply as 'Dunnings'.

The English traders bartered their iron goods, such as axes and shovels to the local Amerindians for beaver pelts or other animal furs. In the late fall, before the snows came, the traders would pack up the furs, load the packs onto their horses and head back east to spend the winter with their wives and families.

Art Source: "Short History of the English People", by J. R. Green, London, 1893.

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By

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

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

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[Larry D. Smith, Editor](#)

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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

Michael E. Seibert, President



Dear Compatriots,

I bring you greetings as we enter into the fourth quarter of our business year. But first, let me take some time to share with you the highlights of the Board of Management meeting on February 4, 2023, in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. At that meeting, we completed our old business from the prior meeting, and reestablished the Pennsylvania Society Life Member dues program. We revised the dues calculation table and will be adding that table to the PASSAR website for member use.

Next, we approved technical and substantive changes to Bylaw No.9 Fees and Dues. We removed the old fee structure from 2018, the life member dues table from 2009, and added definitions for a Regular member, a Junior member, and a Memorial member. The bylaws will be updated on the PASSAR website to reflect the approved changes. We examined the proposed operating budget for the 2023-24 year and based on discussion and changes for the inclusion of payment of active-duty member dues, rebalanced the budget. The revised budget will be formally approved at the annual meeting on May 6, 2023.

We received the proposed slate of officers for the election of officers at the annual meeting. I call attention to four positions still open: the Assistant Treasurer, the Assistant Secretary, the District #8 Director, and the District #11 Director. Anyone interested in being a candidate for these positions can contact Andrew Lick, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, or myself to let us know about your interest.

I also have some good news. During the recently completed dues collection process, we received \$534 of donations for the 2024 Congress, and \$1,104 of donations for other PASSAR programs. We will apply this money to our Patriotism, Education, and Historic Preservation initiatives. In addition, we received \$4,663 for donations to be conveyed to the members' chapters. The chapters can then use these additional donations for their own initiatives.

With a year-end fast approaching on April 30, 2023, there is still much to be accomplished. We will finalize the winners of the Rumbaugh Historical Oration contest, the Eagle Scout Scholarship contest, the Knight Essay contest, the JROTC/ROTC Essay contest, the Middle School Brochure contest, and the Elementary School Poster contest. Please join us at the annual meeting on May 6, 2023.

In Patriotic Service,

Michael E. Seibert
President, PASSAR



The Cutting Of Roads

During the 1700s, travel through the forests of most of Pennsylvania, of necessity, needed to be along established Indian Paths. There were no road-construction businesses, like Road-Con at Chester County, New Enterprise Stone & Lime at Bedford County, or Poole Anderson at Centre County. Roads were made by whichever residents in the region were physically fit and available at the time. Rather than go to the trouble of cutting new roads, the already existing Indian Paths were ideal for use by the Euro~Americans.

Indian Paths were often only single person-wide footpaths through the forest. And the first roads to be cut through a forested region were ones intended for the use of an army. As most of them existed, Indian Paths were too narrow to permit an army with supply wagons and troops marching eight or ten abreast to negotiate easily. A large share of the Forbes Expedition in 1758, for example, was the cutting of the road over which the troops intended for fighting and their supplies could be transported.

When it is said that roads were cut through the forests, that is literally what happened. The phrase 'cutting a road' refers to the chopping down (or felling) of large trees, the chopping down of smaller saplings and undergrowth, the removal of the resulting stumps and the clearing of large boulders. In the 1700s, saws had not yet become a standard tool for felling trees. Nor were those large, spade shaped axes used for chopping down trees. The so-called 'broad ax' was used to 'dress' the felled trees and cut the sides flat. A broad ax was often two to three times as heavy as a felling ax, and its use would have exhausted even the hardest homesteader in attempting to cut down numerous trees each day. As noted, any and all small saplings needed to be cut out. All of the bushes and low brush needed to be cut away too. Anything that would hinder the marching of the troops needed to be removed. All of the tree stumps needed to be pulled out of the ground, and anyone who had ever tried to pull out a single tree stump knows that it is not a job that can be finished easily and quickly. Oxen were chained to the stumps to pull them loose from the ground and then the workers would use their felling axes to cut the roots. After the stumps and large boulders were removed, the ground would then have to be raked level and sometimes extra dirt had to be shoveled into the holes so that the ground could be raked level.

The road cutters also built bridges across the rivers and corduroy roads across swampy areas. Corduroy roads were constructed by felling straight trees, trimming off any branches and then placing the logs flat on the ground, parallel to each other. Sometimes the individual logs were lashed together with vines to keep them in place. If the ground was not necessarily swampy, but tended to retain rain waters somewhat, making travel difficult, two to three inch thick planks would be sawn using pit saws and laid down in the same manner as the whole logs. Those so-called 'plank roads' remain, at least as local road names, to the present day.

No time or effort was expended to prepare a hard surface to the road. There was no attempt to lay down a layer of small rocks in the way that, in later years, would be accomplished by the macadam system of road building. The quarrying of rock and then its transport to the site of the road being cut, and the laying of it would have required double as many men and time to accomplish. So, although the underbrush and small saplings began to regrow in the roads within a few years of being cleared, the road provided an open swath about thirty-five feet wide for a while. After the army abandoned the region, the roads they had cut beckoned to Euro~Americans hoping to find new lands on which to homestead.



Nominating Committee Report

2023 Winter BOM

Andrew L. Lick, Chairman Nominating Committee

The following compatriots were appointed by President Michael Seibert as members of the Nominating Committee pursuant to Bylaw 7.02 and FP Andrew L. Lick, being the most recent former President is by virtue of Bylaw 7.02 the Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

FP Ernest L. Sutton, MD	Western Region
Ronald E. Miller	Western Region
FP Andrew L. Lick	Central Region
FP Eric H. Troutman	Eastern Region
William Hampton	Eastern Region

The Nominating Committee has prepared as follows a slate of officers as specified in Bylaw 7.02, which states that under Bylaw 5.02-h.1. the slate must be published in the *Pennsylvania Minuteman* or furnished to each Chapter 20 days before the Annual Meeting.

Positions in **bold type** are to be elected at Annual Meeting. Occupants of positions in regular type continue in office.

Office	Nominee	Date of Election
President (Eastern Region)	FP Eric H. Troutman	May 2023
First Vice President (Western Region)	Kurt J. Winter, Esq.	May 2023
Second Vice President (Central Region)	Thomas Edwards	May 2023
Third Vice President (Eastern Region)	Peter Reinhart	May 2023
Secretary	Russel L. Mills	May 2023
Assistant Secretary	(*Seeking Candidate)	May 2023
Treasurer	Michael Seibert	May 2023
Assistant Treasurer	(*Seeking Candidate)	May 2023
Registrar	FP Eric H. Troutman	May 2023
Historian	FP Ernest L. Sutton, M.D.	May 2023
Genealogist	Don N. Drewry	May 2023
Chancellor	FP William J. McKim, Esq.	May 2023
Chaplain		May 2023
Chaplain (Eastern Region)	Dr. Rev. William R. Hearter, Jr.	May 2023
Chaplain (Western Region)	Robert K. Grumbling, Jr.	May 2023
PASSAR Nominee for NSSAR National Trustee	Michael Seibert	May 2023
PASSAR Nom. For NSSAR Alternate Nat. Trustee	Kurt J. Winter, Esq.	May 2023
Reserve Manager (3-year term expires 2025)	Thomas Edwards	May 2022
Reserve Manager (3-year term expires 2026)	Peter Reinhart	May 2023
Reserve Manager (3-year term expires 2024)	FP William J. McKim, Esq.	May 2021
Delegates to 2023 National Congress (Max. of 32)	TBD at Annual Meeting	May 2023
Delegate-at-Large (one, if necessary)	TBD at Annual Meeting	May 2023

Nominating Committee Report

✱ Continued ✱

Office	Nominee	Date of Election
District Deputy #1 (3-year term expires 2025)	John F. Mitchell, III	May 2022
District Deputy #2 (3-year term expires 2025)	Don N. Drewry	May 2022
District Deputy #3 (3-year term expires 2025)	Peter Reinhart	May 2022
District Deputy #4 (3-year term expires 2024)	Forrest C. Myers	May 2021
District Deputy #5 (3-year term expires 2024)	Fred L. Whitenight	May 2021
District Deputy #6 (3-year term expires 2024)	Donald E. Knaus	May 2021
District Deputy #7 (3-year term expires 2024)	Gary A. Wiser	May 2021
District Deputy #8 (3-year term expires 2023)	(*Seeking Candidate)	May 2023
District Deputy #9 (3-year term expires 2023)	Gary Timmons	May 2023
District Deputy #10 (3-year term expires 2023)	FP William J. McKim, Esq.	May 2023
District Deputy #10 (3-year term expires 2023)	(*Seeking Candidate)	May 2023

Executive Committee	Nominee	Date of Election
Executive Committee 7.01 provides that 5 members-at-large are to be elected for 1-Year terms and in addition to the 5 elected members, the President, the First Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer shall also serve on the Executive Committee	FP William J. McKim, Esq.	May 2023
	FP Rev. David J. Felts	May 2023
	Michael Seibert	May 2023
	FP Ernest L. Sutton, M.D.	May 2023
	Thomas Edwards	May 2023

Nominations may be made from the floor. Bylaw No. 5, Section 5.02-h.1 Publication, Nominations, Election and Voting.



Tea Act

On Monday, the **10th of May 1773**, the British Parliament passed “*An Act to allow a drawback of the duties of customs on the exportation of tea to any of his Majesty’s colonies or plantations in America*” commonly called the Tea Act of 1773.

This Act was cited in the Statutes of the Parliament as ‘13 Geo. III Cap. 44’. It was enacted for the primary purpose of helping the East

India Company from falling into bankruptcy. In early 1773, the East India Company’s stock prices, on the London Exchange, had dropped from 280£ to 160£. At the time, the Company had a surplus of nearly 17 million pounds of tea in its warehouses in England. In order for the Company to be saved from bankruptcy, it needed to get rid of that surplus tea quickly.

For additional information on the Tea Act of 1773, including the complete text of the Act, scan the QR to the right.

-or-

If you are viewing this online, click on the link below

[1773 Tea Act](#)



Welcome New Members

Chapter	New Member	Ancestor	Sponsor
Conococheague	Dale Hege Myers	Christian Heagy	David E. Parrish
Gen. Anthony Wayne	Duane William Clawson	Ely Dorsey	John G. Inman
Gen Arthur St Clair	Daniel Robert McMahan	HenrybTantlinger	Harry R. Leasure
George Washington	Todd Leroy Ashmore	Joseph Ward	Michael D.C. Merryman
George Washington	Charles David Ferrell	Reuben Perkins	Michael D.C. Merryman
George Washington	Joshua David Ferrell	Reuben Perkins	Michael D.C. Merryman
George Washington	Benjamin Andrew Mathues	James Marshall	Michael D.C. Merryman
George Washington	Steven Charles Morreale	James Dinsmore, Sr.	Michael D.C. Merryman
George Washington	Austin John Schoenfelder	John Palmer	Michael D.C. Merryman
George Washington	Tyler Joseph Schoenfelder	John Palmer	Michael D.C. Merryman
George Washington	Edward Martin Seese	George Seese	Michael D.C. Merryman
Great Glades	Lester Charles Custer	Jacob Walker	Stewart R. Saylor
Harris Ferry	Stephen Michael Ross	Charles Brewster	Ronald C. Aumiller
Philadelphia Continental	Brayden David Applegate	Bartholomew Applegate	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	David Michael Applegate	Bartholomew Applegate	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Donald Scott Boswell	Nicholas Alleman	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Nicholas Joseph Cline	Armiger Lilley	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Vincent Michael Cline	Armiger Lilley	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	James Timothy Gill	John Rowles	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Ryan Edward Gill	John Rowles	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Terence William Gribbin	John Kemp	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Elijah Joseph Jones	Peter Jones	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Joshua Michael Jones	Peter Jones	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Matthew Michael Jones	Peter Jones	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Rhys Patteson Jones	John Harris, Jr	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Ronald Edward Jones, Jr	Peter Jones	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Richard Charles Koch	William Koch	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Russell Henry Koch	William Koch	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Laurence Henry Lucker, III	Joel Weston	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	James William Philbrick, III	David How	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Douglas Raymond Ricketts, Jr	Samuel Morris	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Douglas Raymond Ricketts, Sr	Samuel Morris	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Bernard Justin Schaffer	Abraham Cressman	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Richard Allen Shivers	John Noblet	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Edgar Francis Speer, IV	William Koch	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Richard Thomas Speer	William Koch	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Mark Andrew Thomas	Henry Lauffer	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Scott Owens Wilson	William Ellis	C. Kelsey Brown
Pittsburgh	Donald Richard Charlton	Thomas Kent	William P. Boswell
Pittsburgh	Sean Douglas Taylor	John Hayden	William P. Boswell
Valley Forge	James Frederick Ettwein	Christian Ettwein	Don N. Drewery, MSC
Valley Forge	Karl Samuel Yohn	James Hazlett	Don N. Drewery, MSC
Washington Crossing	David Richard Bryce	Eliphalet Thorp	Edward G. Elgart
Washington Crossing	Conor Joseph Lavin	Weirich Seltzer	Edward G. Elgart

Welcome New Members continued

Chapter	New Member	Ancestor	Sponsor
Washington Crossing	David Benjamin Panyard	Benjamin Batchelder	Jesse L. Hagan
William Maclay	Dale frank Clemons	Frederick Lutz	Eric H. Troutman
William Maclay	Stephen Price Midkiff	Robert Grady	Eric H. Troutman

Flowers in the Forest

The “Floo’ers o’ the Forest (are a’ weede 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
Donald Murray Chapman, III	Centre County	05/02/2022
Richard William Houtz	Centre County	12/31/2021
Donald Edward Mengle	Centre County	12/15/2022
James Duff Moore	Christopher Gist	04/07/2022
Charles Timothy Shaffer	Christopher Gist	05/03/2022
Ronald . Swartzlander	Christopher Gist	10/23/2022
Robert Lee Watson	Christopher Gist	10/16/2021
Dean Milton Garrett	Continental Congress	01/30/2022
Christopher Alan Showler	Erie	11/06/2022
John B. Walters	Fort Jackson	12/16/2022
Albert Edward Law	Great Glades	12/08/2022
John Hartman Clapham	Philadelphia Continental	03/06/2022
William Wolever Engler	Philadelphia Continental	01/21/2022
Ronald Clarence Lawrence	Philadelphia Continental	12/15/2022
Robert Earl Rush	Philadelphia Continental	09/08/2022
Guyon Byoir Wolf Turner	Philadelphia Continental	06/18/2022
Paul David Urner	Tiadaghton	09/19/2021
Robert Noel Mertz	Valley Forge	10/31/2022

One of the Most Commonly Found Artifact

The artifacts most commonly found at Revolutionary War battlefield and encampment sites are the shoes worn by oxen. The beast of burden was used for the ‘heavy lifting’ needs of the army. There were no bulldozers or backhoes in the 1770’s. The ox was the next best thing when power and brute strength was needed. The iron shoes that were nailed

to the ox’s cloven hooves came in pairs as compared to a horse’s single shoe. The stress placed on the oxen’s legs and feet resulted in their coming off and therefore being found often.





The QR Code (aka Quick Response Code) on the cover of this issue, when scanned with a barcode scanning program on your smart phone or tablet, should cause the PASSAR website's Home Page to display on your device.

The QR Code to the right, when scanned with a barcode scanning program on your smart phone or tablet, should cause the Home Page for the 134th Congress of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution (to be hosted in 2024 by the Pennsylvania Society, SAR) to display on your device.

NOTE: If a QR Code is presented to you in an email or other media, claiming to be from the Pennsylvania Society, SAR, if it does not contain the PASSAR Logo in the center, exercise caution in scanning it. It could be a hacking, phishing or scamming attempt.



Judgement Day On Tories

From the 1830 "American Military Biography"



A stylized illustration of a hand pointing towards a pile of coins. The hand is rendered in a light brown color with visible shading on the fingers and palm. The pile of coins is located to the left of the hand, showing various denominations and textures. The entire image is set against a plain white background.

A new, recurring department will be added to *The Pennsylvania Minuteman* that will highlight Compatriots' books dealing with the American Revolutionary War. So if you have had a book published, please send a brief synopsis of the work along with noting if it is currently for sale and how Compatriots may obtain a copy. Include the specifics such as publisher, publication year, size and page number. Also, if possible include an image file of the cover.



Similarly, I use the term ‘Euro~American’ to denote the people of European origin who resided in the English Colonies of the North American continent prior to the establishment of the United States of America. Having immigrated to the colonies, they were no longer Europeans, but until the American Revolutionary War was concluded in 1783, they were not actually ‘Americans’.



10

American Revolutionary War

The War On The Homefront



1775 ~ 1783

Loyalists & Tories

The name 'Tory' was derived from the Irish word *tóraidhe*, which meant 'outlaw.' Both, Loyalists and Tories were those who remained loyal to Great Britain. But whereas Loyalists tended to remain neutral, the Tories actively fought against their Patriot neighbors ~ usually by guerilla tactics.

The British Incursion Into Bedford County

In the spring of 1781, Loyalist Colonel John Butler sent British Army Captain Nelles on an expedition into central Pennsylvania in order to disrupt Patriot communication between eastern Pennsylvania and the Ohio Valley. Nelles led a unit of British troops from western New York to the West Branch of the Susquehanna. On the way they rallied nearly 100 Seneca warriors. It was that group of Amerindians, goaded on by Nelles and his British troops, who ambushed Captain John Boyd and his Rangers on 03 June 1781.

The Tory Expedition to Kittanning

On 04 May 1778, Colonel John Piper wrote to President Wharton of the Pennsylvania Supreme Executive Council to inform him about a Tory plot to launch a murder spree throughout Bedford County. He noted that: *"A Number of evil minded persons, to the amount of thirty-five (I think), having actually associated together, marched away toward the Indian Country in order to join the Indians, and to conduct them into the Inhabitation, and there united kill, burn and destroy Men, Women and Children."*

The Amerindians at Kittanning were initially in favor of joining the Tories, but became suspicious of them when the Tories would not lay down their muskets. The Tory ringleader, John Weston, was grabbed, scalped and killed; the rest of the Tories fled.

Two years later, in July 1780, Tories would join the Amerindians in attacking Captain William Phillips' troops in the Woodcock Valley of Bedford County.

Tories and Loyalists of Bedford County

James Armstrong
Samuel Berrow
James Campbell
William Campbell
Joseph Cessna
Peter Daly
William Hamson
Jacob Hare
Michael Hare
John Hess
James Little
Alexander McKee
Adam Pertmeyer
Old Pertmeyer
Peter Pertmeyer
Peter Shaver
John Shilling
William Shilling
John Weston
Richard Weston
Loyalists: Harry Gorden
Zebediah Ricketts



Linsey Woolsey Blanket

This blanket was carried and used by a soldier during the American Revolutionary War. Although warm, it would have been kind of scratchy because the fabric was made of a blend of linen and wool. The wool threads provided warmth while the linen threads provided stability to the fabric. When new, the colors would have been bright and bold.

Hanger
1760 Pattern



The 1760 pattern Hanger initially would have had a 'knuckle guard' consisting of a bow and quillon. In 1796 a new pattern was introduced without the knuckle guard. It made the sword easier to grasp quickly, and became popular. Owners of these older hangers sometimes, as with this one, cut off the guard in order to conform to the new pattern.



Pennsylvania Society
Sons of the American Revolution
130th Annual Meeting, and
Spring Board of Management Meeting
 Friday, May 5, 2023 and Saturday, May 6, 2023



Friday, May 5, 2023

3:30 to 6:00 PM Registration in the Meade Room
 6:00 to 7:30 PM Friday Evening Social in the Meade Room
 (Fruit and Cheese with Crackers along with Chips with Salsa and Guacamole)

Saturday, May 6, 2023

6:30 to 9:00 AM Breakfast On Your Own *(Continental Breakfast included with the Room Rate)*
 8:00 to 9:00 AM Registration immediately inside the Meade Room
 9:00 to 11:30 AM Board of Management Meeting in the Meade Room
 9:00 to 11:30 AM Ladies Program: Details Forthcoming
 12:45 to 2:00 PM Lunch Buffet in the Meade Room
 3:00 to 4:30 PM Memorial Service *(Venue To Be Determined)*
 6:30 to 7:00 PM Social Time with Cash Bar
 7:00 to 10:00 PM Banquet Dinner and Installation of Officers in the Ballroom *(Black Tie Required)*

1863 Inn of Gettysburg

516 Baltimore St. Gettysburg, PA 17325

Phone: (717) 334-6211

Hotel Reservation Deadline for SAR rate of \$160 + tax (for Two Queen Beds) is **April 15, 2023**

Ask for Group Rate: PA Sons of the American Revolution

Meeting and Activities Registration Form

Deadline for Registration is April 15, 2023

Registration Fee (Compatriots Only)	_____ x @ \$30.00	\$ _____
Zoom Registration Fee (Online Only)	_____ x @ \$20.00	\$ _____
Friday Evening Social	_____ x @ \$20.00	\$ _____
Saturday Ladies Program	_____ x @ TBD	
Saturday Luncheon Buffet	_____ x @ \$45.00	\$ _____
Saturday Evening Banquet (Black Tie)	_____ x @ \$60.00	\$ _____
Total		\$ _____

Name: _____ Chapter: _____

Address: _____

Office: _____ Guest(s): _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Make checks payable to: **Continental Congress Chapter SAR**

Mail check and registration form to: **Michael E. Seibert, 105 Bellows Drive, Carlisle, PA 17015-8953**

Meeting POC: Russell L. Mills Contact Info: Phone: **(717) 965-33488**; Email: **revrlmills@comcast.net**



The County Militias of Pennsylvania

Continued from Volume XLVII, 4th Quarter 2022

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MILITIA

It was previously noted that on the 19th of August, 1775, the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety published the ‘*Extracts From The Votes Of The House Of Assembly, Of The Province Of Pennsylvania . . .*’ That document consisted of suggestions on how the Associators should be organized and operate. The Articles of Association began with the preface:

We the officers and soldiers, engaged in the present association for the defense of American liberty, being fully sensible that the strength and security of any body of men, acting together, consists in just regularity, due subordination, and exact obedience to command, without which no individual can have that confidence in the support of those about him, that is so necessary to give firmness and resolution to the whole, do voluntarily and freely, after consideration of the following articles, adopt the same as the rules by which we agree and resolve to be governed in all our military concerns and operations, until the same, or any of them, shall be changed or dissolved by the Assembly, or Provincial Convention, or in their recess by the Committee of Safety, or a happy reconciliation shall take place between Great Britain and the Colonies.

That ‘happy reconciliation’ never came about. On 17 March 1777, nearly two years after the adoption of the Articles of Association, ‘*An Act to Regulate the Militia of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*’ was passed by the General Assembly of Pennsylvania. [It was given the number of ‘Chapter 739’ in the *Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*.] The 1777 Act called for “*one reputable freeholder in the City of Philadelphia and one in each county within this state to serve as lieutenant of the militia...*” These ‘lieutenants’ did hold military rank; they were civil servants. The County Lieutenants were instructed to engage the constables in their counties to compile “*a true and exact list of the names and surnames of each and every male white person usually inhabiting or residing within his township, borough, ward or district between the ages of*

eighteen and fifty-three years capable of bearing arms.” Exceptions would be delegates in Congress, members of the Executive Council, Supreme Court judges, masters and faculty of colleges, ministers of the gospel or every denomination and “*servants purchased bona fide*” (i.e. slaves purchased in good faith).

Each County Lieutenant was then instructed to divide the list of available men into ‘districts’ of between 440 and 680. The districts would then be divided into eight parts (i.e. companies) of as nearly equal number of men as possible. The parts of the districts roughly corresponded to already established townships within the county. [The companies of artillery or light horse which had previously been created under the Association were to be maintained and exempted from the division in districts.]

The men who were of age to serve would be called to congregate at some convenient location (“*between the hours of ten in the morning and six that evening*”) where they were to elect by ballot a Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel and Major from among the freeholders of the county. Freeholders were men who owned land. The Colonels thusly elected met at some convenient location and drew lots to determine how their battalions were to be ranked among the others. The drawing of the lots determined which battalion would be named the First Battalion, Second Battalion and Third Battalion. The commanding officers of each battalion were commissioned to serve for three years. In 1780, new officers would be chosen to lead the battalions and the rank of each battalion was again decided by drawing lots.

It should be noted that an element of seniority not only existed between the battalions (and their officers) of a particular county, but it existed likewise between all of the counties and the City of Philadelphia. The ranking of the counties followed the hierarchy scheme developed for the Association and included in the *Rules and Regulations for the Better Government of the Military Association in Pennsylvania*, passed on 19 August 1775. Holding the highest seniority was, of course, the City of Philadelphia. The City was followed

by the County of Philadelphia. Then, in descending order, came the counties of Bucks, Chester, Lancaster, York, Cumberland, Berks, Northampton, Bedford, Northumberland and finally Westmoreland. In other words the order of descending seniority for the officers of the individual counties was determined by the order in which the counties were erected.

The County Lieutenants were instructed to divide each of the companies into eight divisions to be called 'classes' of nearly equal numbers of men designated as 'privates'.

The County Lieutenants were instructed to appoint a Captain, two Lieutenants, an Ensign and two Court Martial Men for each battalion's companies. In actual practice, the men of the individual companies often chose their Captains from among their ranks, he being someone they could trust to lead the company effectively. If the men neglected to choose their officers, then the County Lieutenant would make the choices themselves. The company Captains would be required to provide a roster or list of the names of the men and to which class they would belong within six days to the County Lieutenant.

Section VII of the 1777 Act stated that "*the whole of the militia so enrolled as aforesaid shall be subject to be exercised in companies under their respective officers...*" Days of exercise were set on the last two Mondays of April, the first three Mondays in the month of May, the last two Mondays in August, the last two Mondays in September and the third and fourth Mondays in October. Fines were established for anyone who failed to report for the exercises. If a man felt that he could not report to exercise on any of the set days, he could find another man to serve as a substitute for himself. The men who were commissioned as officers would have to find another man of equal rank to serve as his substitute if necessary. Serving as a substitute for another man did not prevent that man from being called to serve himself.

In the event that any man neglected to report to exercise but failed to find a substitute, he would be fined. Those fines were to be ten shillings (per day) for a commissioned officer, five shillings for a non-commissioned officer and seven shillings for a private. And in the event that the man so fined failed to make payment for those fines, his property ("*goods and chattels, lands and tenements*") could be confiscated and sold to pay for the fines.

The Act stated that arms and accoutrements for two classes within each company would be paid for and supplied by the State of Pennsylvania. Included in the

Act was a section that called for any man who served as an officer in the late Association to give up the arms and accoutrements which had been supplied to him by the State for that service.

A man who was enrolled in a particular company was required to remain in that company and would be penalized and fined £3 if he left and joined another company.

The 1777 Act also provided for pensions to be awarded to any man who was injured in the line of service. Section XXVIII stated "*if any commissioned, non-commissioned officer or private militia-man of this state who has or hereafter may lose a limb in any engagement in the service of this state, or in the service of the United States of America, or be so disabled as to render him incapable of getting a livelihood, shall receive during life or the continuation of such disability a pension not more than one-half of the monthly pay...*" To receive a pension, the applicant had to prove that he actually served for a certain length of time during which he received the injury. In the event that the man was deceased as a result of his injury, his surviving spouse or other family member could apply for, and receive, the pension. It should be noted, though, that in actual practice, while every man who served in the Continental Line could receive a pension, only officers of the militia (and Captains at that) could receive pensions.

On 19 June 1777 another Act [number DCCLX (i.e. #760), titled *A Supplement to the Act Entitled "An Act to Regulate the Militia of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania"*] was passed to clarify certain of the sections included in the previous Act. The first and foremost clarification was that the men elected to serve as the Battalion Colonels, Lieutenant-Colonels and Majors would not be required to be freeholders. The men still needed to be 'freemen' but they were not required to own land to serve as a commissioned officer.

Under the new Act, company Captains were instructed to enroll into their companies any men within the age group of 18-53 who were missed previously.

The field officers of each battalion were given permission to appoint one surgeon and surgeon's mate along with one chaplain to their battalions.

Of special interest is Section VIII of the new Act which called for each Captain to appoint "*one discreet person*" who was to be called "the almoner". That person's job was to identify families who were under financial hardships due to the absence of the men. Families thusly identified were to receive support not to exceed ten shillings a week.

Measures to deal with militiamen who engaged in striking or offering any violence toward any superior, or any officer who struck or acted in violence toward an inferior officer or a private were identified in this supplemental Act. Lesser offences would result in a fine of up to £15 and major offences (including high treason) would result in the accused man being tried in court-martial.

Finally, the new Act provided for the creation of six artillery companies out of the existing battalions of the City of Philadelphia. Each company was to consist of one Captain, one Captain-Lieutenant, two Lieutenants and fifty Privates of men “*judged most fit for the artillery service and most inclinable thereto...*”

“*A Further Supplement to the Act, Entitled ‘An Act to Regulate the Militia...*” was passed by the General Assembly on 30 December 1777. The supplement [numbered Chapter DCCLXXXI (i.e. #781)] attempted to rectify the situation of which “*the mode therein prescribed for the lieutenant and sub-lieutenants to notify the different classes of the militia is found tedious and difficult.*” The supplemental Act stated that when it would become necessary to call any part of the militia into actual service, due to rebellion or an invasion of the state, that it would be lawful for the President, Vice-President or the entire Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania to call the militias out. The Act noted, though, that the militia called out was not to exceed four classes of any county.

Another section of this latest Act regarded the ability of a person who could not report to service to provide a substitute in his place. The practice was clarified to read: “*That if any militia-man shall neglect or refuse to march in person on the day appointed as aforesaid, such delinquent shall forfeit and pay within five days the sum of £40 to the lieutenant or nearest sub-lieutenant, unless he produce a sufficient substitute of or belonging to his own family.*” Section III of the Act continued to note that sons, apprentices or servants “*who are not subject to the militia law*” could be admitted as substitutes.

The fine of £40 which was to be levied against any militia-man who refused to march in person on the day appointed, was to be paid within five days of the date of his refusal. During that time, the man could appeal the fine to the County Lieutenant. And further, that if such appeal failed, the delinquent militia-man had to pay the fine within another five days. Failure to do so would result in the sheriff or constable of the delinquent’s place of residence being instructed to seize and sell the offender’s goods, chattels, lands and tenements. The man, himself, would be seized and placed in the “*common gaol or some other place of close confinement for the space of four months.*”

The Supplement of 30 December also addressed the problem of men leaving one militia unit to join another in order to avoid marching when scheduled with the original unit. Any militia-man who withdrew from his originally assigned company to join another would now be subject to a fine of £5. The Supplemental Act then noted the steps a militia-man could take to legally leave one unit and to join another. He would need to apply to the Captain of his original company for a discharge. He would then present that written discharge to the Captain of the company into which he hoped to be enrolled. In effect it was a process of transfer.

On 5 April 1779, another Act to amend the original Act of 1777 was passed. This new Act [Chapter DCCCXLIII (#843)] stipulated that every militia-man who turned out and served “*his full tour of two months*” should be compensated with the sum of £20 over and above the man’s regular pay.

The original Act passed on 17 March 1777 was repealed on 20 March 1780 with the passing of another Act, also titled: “*An Act for the Regulation of the Militia of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*”. The new Act incorporated the various supplements and amendments and essentially duplicated the rules and regulations expressed in 1777.

to be continued



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
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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.

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