# The Pennsylvania Minuteman Newsletter

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





**Volume XLVIII** 

3rd Quarter 2023



(Cover story)

#### American~French Cockade

The *cockade* has been described as a 'knot of ribbons'. It was more of a rosette created by folding ribbon in a circular fashion. The cockade was a device attached to a Continental Army soldier's tricorne hat for the purpose of quickly identifying the military unit to which the soldier belonged and/or his rank.

Prior to the American Revolutionary War, cockades had been worn in men's hats since the 1400's. Soldiers sometimes tied colored ribbons around their upper arms or on their hats. Although not proven, the use of the cockade in Colonial America might have risen out of the custom of soldiers taking sprigs of flowers or herbs (which their wives and lovers gave to them when they left home) and placing them in the upturned brims of their hats.

Initially, the colors of their cockades identified the rank of the soldiers. According to General George Washington, field officers were to wear cockades of red or pink color, captains should wear yellow or buff colored cockades, and subalterns (*i.e.* lieutenants and lower ranking officers) should wear green cockades.

After the 1778 Treaty of Alliance between the Colonials and France, the cockades worn by soldiers in the Continental Line were black (representing the fledgling United States of America) with a smaller circle of white (representing France) in the center. Soldiers in the French Army, in turn, wore cockades which were white with a black dot in the center.

Art Source: detail of "Disbanding of the Continental Army", by H. A. Ogden, published in *Harper's Weekly*, 1883.

#### The Pennsylvania Minuteman Newsletter

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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,

It has been three months since I was installed as president of PASSAR and it has been a busy three months. My wife Stephanie and I visited many events starting out on May 20<sup>th</sup> in Westtown Twp., Chester County for a Revolutionary War Militia Monument Dedication. Wreaths were placed by a number of dignitaries including myself and a DAR chapter regent. On Memorial Day, May 29<sup>th</sup> as a member of the Gov. Joseph Hiester Color Guard I helped present the colors for the Memorial Day Service at Veterans Grove, City Park, Reading, PA. On June 3<sup>rd</sup> we attended the Washingtonburg Chapters Annual Meeting in Carlisle. Several awards were handed out and a good time was had by all in attendance.

June 11<sup>th</sup> was Allegiance Sunday where my chapter, the Gov Joseph Hiester Chapter worshiped with the members of Christ Lutheran Church in Stouchsburg, PA. After the service the color guard held a Patriots Dedication Ceremony for the 18 Revolutionary War Veterans buried in the old cemetery. Many members of the congregation attended the dedication. June 24 was a DAR Revolutionary War Soldier "John Ditty" Grave Marker Dedication at St. David's Church Cemetery, Killinger, PA. PASSAR Color Guards were in attendance. On July 2<sup>nd</sup> the DAR held a Revolutionary War Soldier "Johann Michael Shinnick" Memorial Marker Dedication in the sanctuary of Historic Old Zion Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, PA. The colors were posted by the Philadelphia Continental Chapter's Color Guard.

From July 15 to 20 the NSSAR Congress was held in Orlando, FL at the Rosen Plaza Hotel. While the delegates did the business of the society there was also time to socialize with old and new friends from around the country. A good number of PASSAR officers and their ladies attended Congress this year. Then August 4-5, PASSAR held its Summer BOM Meeting in State College, PA hosted by the Centre County Chapter. While the men held their business meeting the ladies heard about the early settlers and native Americans from that area. August 11 to 13 the Atlantic Middle States Annual Conference was held in Tarrytown, NY at the Sleepy Hollow Hotel. The seven associated state societies laid the groundwork for what will be done the following year.

As you can see there are a lot of events which you could also attend when you get involved on the chapter, state and national level. Things are looking better for our society, getting back to normal after the nation had its three year battle with COVID 19. Time to get involved in community events, getting our name recognized by the public, letting people know about what our ancestors did 250 years ago to give us the freedoms we enjoy today.

PASSAR's committee for NSSAR's Congress in 2024 which will be held in Lancaster, PA in July remains hard at work pulling things together to make this a memorable event for all that attend. As the time gets closer volunteers will be needed, please think about being one of them. I hope to see some of you as I travel the state during the rest of my term as PASSAR President.

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

Sincerely, Eric H. Troutman President, PASSAR



#### **SAR Bronze JROTC Medal Awarded**

On Thursday May 11, 2023 the Bensalem High School Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) held the annual awards and Change of Command ceremonies. The JROTC program at Bensalem High School is a Naval Honors School that is ranked among the top 20% in the country. Cadet Sergeant Nikki LaFontano was recognized by the Washington Crossing Chapter with the SAR Bronze JROTC medal, certificate and SAR challenge coin. This junior cadet was chosen by the Senior Marine Instructor Col J.C. Church as the recipient of this award based on her superior leadership abilities, military bearing and academic excellence. The Instructor, selected Cadet LaFontano to potentially serve as Company Executive Officer in her Senior year. This outstanding Cadet exemplifies the high ideals and principles which motivated and sustained our patriot ancestors. Past Washington Crossing Chapter President and Veteran Committee Chairman Bill Hampton processed the award package, attended the ceremony, and took photos. Bob Reiser, President, presented the award to Cadet LaFontano.



Picture taken by Bill Hampton

# 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
John Michael Cook	Christopher Gist	06/11/2023
Bertram Daniel Leiby	Gov Joseph Heister	01/19/2023
James Cinton Killian (Ret.)	Harris Ferry	05/10/2023
Quincy Thomas Jones	Philadelphia Continental	05/26/2023
James Henry Willis	Philadelphia Continental	07/10/2023
Dale Kelt Gilmore	Tiadaghton	06/15/2023
Scott Curtis Arcury	Valley Forge	07/24/2023



## Welcome New Members

Chapter	New Member	Ancestor	Sponsor
Centre County	Anthony Micahel Engel	Christian Shively	Robert V. Dunbar
Centre County	Alvin Buel Hick, Jr	Christian Shively	Robert V. Dunbar
Conococheague	David Wayne Bowers	John Conrad	David E. Parrish
Gen Arthur St Clair	James Joseph Sabulsky	John Craig	Harry R. Leasure
George Washington	Aidan Mitchell Bond	Abraham Bledsoe	Michael D.C. Merryman
George Washington	lan Peter Bush	Abraham Bledsoe	Michael D.C. Merryman
George Washington	Adam William Dunn	Abraham Bledsoe	Michael D.C. Merryman
George Washington	Mark William Dunn	Abraham Bledsoe	Michael D.C. Merryman
Harris Ferry	David Wayne Hull	Wakeman Hull	Ronald C. Aumiller
Harris Ferry	Jonathan Wesley Hull	Wakeman Hull	Ronald C. Aumiller
Philadelphia Continental	Robin H. Ashby	Benjamin Ashby	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Brian Patrick Gill	John Rowles	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	John Joseph Gill	John Rowles	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Dr. Stephen Charles Halpert	Andrew McClure	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Daniel Lloyd Hessel	Gilbert Hart	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Donald Bignell Lewis	Isaac Lewis	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Matthew Davies Lewis	Isaac Lewis	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Haden Charles Quillman	Abijah Adams	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	John Weston Quillman	Abijah Adams	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Everett Lee Richardson, Jr	Robert Wright	C. Kelsey Brown
Pittsburgh	Jeffrey Dean McLaughlin	Robert Nichols	William P. Boswell

#### Welcome New Members continued

Valley Forge
Washington Crossing
Washington Crossing
Washington Crossing
William Maclay
Washington Crossing
Washington Crossing

Eric Daniel Smith Michael Ned Borish Calvin John Gauker Kevin Peter Treiber James Howard Fox Richard Eugene Hughes Jerry Lane Wert Casper Ritter
Samuel Eisenhart
Nathan Beall
Henry Koons
John Freese
Peter Klingler
John Adam Wertz

Don N. Drewry, MSC Edward G. Elgart Edward G. Elgart Edward G. Elgart Eric H. Troutman Eric H. Troutman Eric H. Troutman



# Gen. Arthur St. Clair Chapter Pays Its Respect

Ernest Sutton – PASSAR Historian

On a cold rainy May1, 2023 day, the Gen Arthur St Clair Chapter Color Guard paid its respect to War World II Veteran Technical Sergeant John Holoka, Jr. US Army Air Corps of Cresson, PA at his burial at the St. Michael Russian Orthodox Church Cemetery, Portage, PA.

According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, in the summer of 1944 Holoka was assigned to the 844<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Eight Army Air Corps. On June 22<sup>nd</sup> Holoka was an engineer on a B-24 Liberator that was struck by anti-aircraft fire after a bombing raid on a German airfield in Saint-Cyr-l'Ecole, near Versailles, France. The pilot nursed their plane back to the England, but it crashed near the coast. Seven



Color Guard left to right: Duane Myers, Raymond Zimmerman (CC Commander), Joseph Wingrove, Jr., Ernest Sutton, Francis Stillman (Chapter President)

crew were able parachute to safety, but Holoka and two others were still on board. The remains could not be found, and Holoka was declared non-recoverable May 10, 1950.

A June 2021 recovery mission found and identified his remains using dental, mitochondrial DNA and Y chromosome analysis. Afterward on the Wall of the Missing at the Cambridge American Cemetery, a rosette was placed next to his name to indicate he was recovered, and his remains were returned home.

# Seven Patriots Honored By The Great Glades Chapter



On Saturday, May 27, the Great Glades Chapter held a ceremony at the Samuel's Lutheran Church Cemetery in Somerset Township, Somerset County to honor seven patriots buried there. The patriots that were honored included: Samuel Morrison, Jacob Barkley, Jeremiah Miller, Elizabeth Miller, Johan Jacob Lehmer, John Jacob Barkman, Adam Flick and two additional Patriots identified only by their initials and dates carved on their tombstones.



# Fall Board of Management Meeting November 3 and 4, 2023 Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport 1111 Airport Blvd. Pittsburgh, PA 15231

#### Friday, November 3, 2023

 $3:00 \sim 6:00$  Registration in the Atrium  $8:00 \sim 8:00$  Gathering  $\sim$  Atrium Dinner on your own

#### Saturday, November 4, 2023

 $7:00 \sim 8:00$ am Continental breakfast  $8:00 \sim 8:30$ am Registration  $\sim$  Atrium

8:30 ~ 12:00pm Board of Management Meeting ~ Earhart ABC Room

8:30 ~ 12:00pm Ladies Program ~ Earhart D Room

10:00am Coffee Break

12:00 ~ 2:00 Luncheon Buffet ~ Conference Room

#### Make room reservations directly with

#### **Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport**

1111 Airport Blvd Pittsburgh, PA 15231 Phone: (724) 899-1234

**Motel Reservation Deadline** for SAR rate of \$134 plus tax is TBD. Twenty rooms Are reserved. Ask for Group Rate: PA Sons of the American Revolution

#### PASSAR FALL BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

Registration Fee (Compatriots only)	@ \$20.00	\$
Zoom registration (Online only)	@ \$20.00	\$
Saturday Catering	@ \$30.00	\$
Total		\$
Name:	Chapter: _	
Address:		
Office:	Guests:	
Email:	Phone:	

#### REGISTER AND MAKE RESERVATIONS BY OCTOBER 6, 2023

Make checks payable to PGH CHAPTER SAR

Mail to: Bill Boswell, 405 Hare Lane, Sewickley, PA 15143

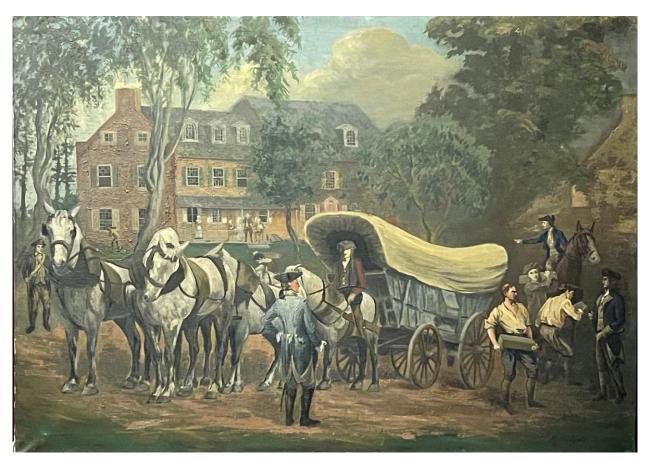
### Mayor Helfrich Discusses the J. Horace Rudy Painting



On May 22, 2023, Michael R. Helfrich, Mayor of York City, Pennsylvania personally shared the following story about a painting that hangs directly behind his desk in City Hall with members of the Continental Congress Chapter, NSSAR and the Col. Richard McAlister Chapter, NSDAR.

Mayor Helfrich said, "When I became mayor, I found this amazing painting down in the basement of City Hall. It is a painting done in 1924 by J. Horace Rudy, most prominently known for Rudy Art Glass, an important art glass company in America founded in York in 1892. Rudy did this painting of the arrival of the French gold into York while

Continental Congress was seated here. The efforts to create our own country were almost bankrupt. And, of course, the British were spreading counterfeit money, which was destroying the value of our Continental paper money, so we needed gold to support our continuing efforts. At the time of the shipment there was an English blockade. The English controlled most of the coastline of the United States, so they had to sneak this gold in through New Hampshire and then transport the gold the whole way around New York, which was controlled by the English, at least New York City. Then, of course, the gold had to be transported around Philadelphia, which was also controlled by the British. The final portion of the trip came down through Reading, bringing the gold in these Conestoga wagons to the square of York, which if you go over to the square of York, you'll see the commemorative plaque. The home of Archibald McLean, depicted in the painting, was the first official treasury for the United States of America, and that's what the painting is about."



J. Horace Rudy Painting Commemorating the Arrival of French Gold into York Square

#### Mayor of York City, PA Receives SAR Good Citizenship Medal

Members of the Pennsylvania Society's Continental Congress Chapter accompanied by a member of the Col. Richard McAlister Chapter, NSDAR, and a local York-based reenactor presented Michael R. Helfrich, Mayor of York City, with the Sons of the American Revolution Bronze Good Citizenship Medal at York City Hall on May 22, 2023.

All in attendance expressed great appreciation to Mayor Helfrich for his unwavering support for, and dedication to, preserving our Colonial and Revolutionary history, actively promoting our Constitution and our Representative form of Government, and personally sharing the living memory of one of America's most famous forefathers: Thomas Payne. Mayor Helfrich provides outstanding presentations of Thomas Payne and even

impersonates this famous Revolutionary, dressed in period attire. His presentations are enhanced with actual Colonial and Revolutionary-period items (newspapers and documents) acquired by Mayor Helfrich through the years. The mayor's office attested to his enthusiasm as the entire décor centered around York's Colonial Period history and its significant connection to the birth of our great Nation.

On hand to present the medal and certificate were (left to right) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Edward Kopsick, Secretary Joseph Clark, Mayor Helfrich, Chapter President Russell Mills, Historian Thomas Gibson (in Regimental attire), York-based Reenactor Valarie Connor and DAR Representative Cynthia Mills.





# The County Militias of Pennsylvania

Continued from Volume XLVIII, 2nd Quarter 2023

#### THE RANGERS ON THE FRONTIER

The militia called out in Bedford, Westmoreland and Northumberland Counties consisted largely of companies whose purpose would be to defend the frontier from an unknown enemy. The residents of those counties generally believed that the enemy was marauding bands of Amerindians who were seeking vengeance for the taking of their lands by Euro~Americans. But the Shawnee and Lenni Lenape tribes who had once inhabited the Pennsylvania frontier had moved on into the Ohio Valley many years before. Reports of Amerindian incursions tended to claim that the warriors came 'across the mountain' or 'out of the mountain'. The truth was that the marauding tribes were invariably from the Seneca nation of the Genessee Valley of the New York colony.

Frontier settlers were not only at the mercy of the Senecas. Not everyone was infatuated with the Patriot Cause. There were numerous Loyalists throughout the Pennsylvania frontier. The Loyalists were ones who did not want to rebel against Great Britain, but who would rather move away rather than fight with their neighbors. Then there were the Tories. Tories, like their Loyalist friends, continued to support the mother country of Great Britain, but who, unlike the Loyalists, chose to engage in guerilla warfare against their neighbors. And then there were the British. The British Army maintained control of Fort Niagara throughout the course of the American Revolutionary War. The commandant of that fort for much of that time was Sir Guy Johnson. He received his orders from Sir Frederick Haldimand, the Governor of Canada. Haldimand's directives to Johnson was for him to harass the Pennsylvania and Virginia frontiers. So although the frontier settlers usually blamed the Amerindians for their troubles, the Tories and British were equally to blame.

The militia units of the rural counties who were engaged in defending the frontier were known as *Rangers On The Frontier*. Regular militia troops were employed primarily in defending the fortifications throughout the county. The Rangers, on the other hand, would travel, or range through the forests looking for and engaging if

any Amerindians. Tories necessary British encountered. Although they saw little action in terms of participation in battles with the British, they were a necessary part of the defense of the state. If the Seneca warriors had been allowed to overrun the northern and western frontier, the British might have seen the opportunity to split the united colonies. [Indeed, from 1777 through 1783, Fort Niagara's commandant, Sir Guy Johnson sent platoons of British troops to take Seneca braves southward to aggravate the frontier.] The Forbes Road, laid out during the French and Indian War, would have provided a route for an enemy attack from the west; the target being the Continental Congress in residence in Philadelphia. In addition, Bedford County would have provided a convenient staging area for the British to proceed eastward in the same way that it had provided such for the British in the previous war. The Rangers On The Frontier, by performing guard duty, so to speak, kept the possibility of attack from the west from being able to develop.

On 27 November 1777, George Woods and Thomas Smith, of Bedford County, sent a letter to Thomas Wharton, Jr (who had been elected to the position of President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, upon the dissolution of the Council of Safety on the 4th of March 1777). In that letter they explained the situation Bedford County found itself in at that time:

"Gentlemen: The present situation of this County is so truly deplorable that we should be inexcusable if we delayed a moment in acquainting you with it, an Indian War is now raging around us in its utmost fury. Before you went down they had killed one man at Stony Creek, since that time they have killed five on the Mountain, over against the heads of Dunning's Creek, Killed or taken three at the three springs, wounded one and killed some Children by Frankstown, and had they not providentially been discovered in the Night, & a party went out and fired on them, they would,

in all probability, have destroyed a great part of that settlement in a few hours. A small party went out into Morrison's Cove scouting and unfortunately divided, the Indians discovered one division and out of eight killed seven & wounded the other. In short, a day hardly passes without our hearing of some new murder and if the People continue only a week longer to fly as thay have done for a week Past, Cumberland County will be a frontier. From Morrison's, Croyle's and Friend's Coves, Dunning's Creek, & one-half of the Glades they are fled or forted, and for all the defence that can be made here, the Indians may do almost what they please. We keep out ranging parties, in which we go out by turns; but all that we can do that way is but weak and ineffectual for our defence, because one-half of the People are fled, those that remain are too busily employed in puting their families and the little of their Effects that they can save and take into some place of safety, so that the whole burden falls upon a few of the Frontier Inhabitants. For those who are at a distance from danger have not as yet offered us any assistance, we are far from blaming the officers of the Militia, because they have not ordered them out, for if they had they really can be of little or no service, not only for the foregoing reasons, but also for these: not one Man in ten of them is armed, if they were armed you are sensible and take the country through there is not one fourth Man that is fit to go against Indians, and it might often happen that in a whole Class there might be a single Person who is acquainted with the Indians' ways or the woods, and if there should be a few good men and the rest unfit for that service, those who are fit take the Indians in their own way, could not act with the same resolution and spirit as if they were sure of being properly supported by men like themselves. The Consequences would be that the Indians, after gaining an advantage over them, would become more daring and fearless, and drive all before them. A small number of select Men would be of more real service to guard the frontiers than six times that number of People unused to arms of the woods.

It is not for us to dictate what steps ought to be taken, but some steps ought to be taken without the loss of an hour. The safety of your country, of your families, of your Property, will, we are convinced, urge you to do every thing in your Power to put the Frontiers in some state of defence. Suppose there were orders given to raise about 100 Rangers, under the Command of spirited officers who were well acquainted with the woods and the Indians and could take them in their own way. They could be raised instantly, and we are informed there are a great number of Rifles lying in Carlisle, useless, altho'

all the back country is suffering for the want of arms. It was a fatal step that was taken last winter in leaving so many guns when the Militia came from Camp. About this place especially, and all the country near it, they are remarkably distressed for the want of Guns, for when the Men were raised for the army you know we procured every Gun that we could for their use, the country reflects hard on us now for our assiduity on those occasions, as it now deprives them of the means of defence. But this is not the only instance in which we bear reflections which are not deserved. The safety of our country then called loudly on us to send all the arms to the Camp that could be procured, and it now as loudly calls on us to entreat that we may be allowed some as soon as possible. As also some ammunition, as that which was entrusted to our care is now almost delivered out to the officers who are fortifying, and what remains of it is not fit for rifles. We need not repeat our entreaties that whatever is done may be done as soon as possible, as a day's delay may be the destruction of hundreds. We are in haste, Gentlemen, Your most obedient, humble servants, George Woods, Thomas Smith."

The situation continued in that course for the next few years. The archives of the State of Pennsylvania are filled with letters describing the harsh environment occasioned by the constant threat of Amerindian attack. On 20 January 1778 Col. John Piper wrote to the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania:

"I would Beg Leave to Enform that on my Return from Council the distressing situation of our fronteers obliged me to Call upon the Subalterns to Consult upon measures to prevent our fronteers from Being Entirely Evacuated, when we wire obliged to Adopt the following measures, viz: to give orders to Raise 30 men for defence of the Settelmt called the Gleads, 40 men for the Senter divission, Encluding Bedford, thirty men for Frankstown, and the same number for Sinking Valley, and thirty men to Guard the inhabitants of Harts Log Settelmt and Shavers Creek; the urgant call for these men and the Exorbitantt Prices of all articles, Lay us under the necessity of augmenting their Pay to £5 per month, the men to Be enga'd for the space of nine months, unless soon dischargd. These People Have Repeatedly applyd to me, praying their Situation to Be Layd Before Council and assuring Council of their determinations to make a Stand ~ if they meet with the necessary assistance, the Likewise Pray that a Suitable Person may be Appointed to Lay a Small Store of Provisions at each Post to Supply Scouting Party, or other troops who may be Employd as Guards. If these measures are approven by Council the People will Stand, and if Rejected, I have the greatest Reason to Believe, that upon the first alarm from Indians A great Part of our County will Be Left desolate. The measures we Have Adopted is by no means to be understood as acting against Authority, But in Compliance with the order of Councill, of the 9th of December and the Situation of our County Renders it impossible to Call the People out in Classes; these considerations I Beg Leave to Lay Before Council], and refar to Col Davis for further Enformation."

On the 2nd of February 1778, Col. Hugh Davidson wrote to the Supreme Executive Council:

"Gentlemen: In consequence certain of directions given by the honorable Council on the 9th of December last to Coll. John Piper, Lieutenant of Bedford County, to endeavor to raise a Company of Men, and Consult with the sub-Lieutenants about Measures for the defense of the said County, I would humbly represent to you that the Lieutenants and sub-Lieutenants have met, and considering the situation of the Frontier of the County, were of opinion that one Company would not afford any reasonable Prospect of Defense against the Enemy which they expect in the Spring. They think that about 160 men disposed in the following manner, viz: one Company of 30 men, one Capt., one Lieut., for the Western Frontier, (Glades;) one of 40 men, one Capt., two Lieuts., for the middle Frontier, including Bedford; one of 30 men, one Capt. & one Lieut., for Frankstown; one such Company for Hart's Log and Shaver's Creek; and one such for Sinking Valley might do. They apprehend that that Number of Men may be raised in the County for the Defense of the Frontier if their monthly wages were advanced to five Pounds, they receiving five Pounds advance, and also finding their own apparel, which, perhaps, may be thought to be equal to the fifty shillings per month above the monthly pay allowed to soldiers by authority. They expect an assault when the winter opens, and can't depend upon the militia called out regularly in Classes, the most of them being poor, and the Condition of the County such that when one Part of it is attacked the Danger may be apprehended thro' the whole. Every one is concerned to consult for the immediate Protection of his Family & Connexions and will not turn out, so that unless there be some such method as the above fallen upon to guard the Frontiers, and encourage the Inhabitants to stand, they expect nothing else than that the County will suffer most severely. The Lieuts. & Sub-Lieuts. having some

encouragement that a Number of Men would be allowed for the above Purpose, and also some encouragement from many in the County that the overplus, 50 shillings per month, would be paid by voluntary subscription of the Inhabitants, tried to raise some men, and several are engaged on that Footing, but scrupling that security they dare not go on, but humbly desire you to consider the matter, and if consistent with your Wisdom & Powers, grant them orders to proceed, or if such matter should not immediately lie before you, to use your Influence with the Assembly when sitting to give us help in our threatening circumstances."

From the foregoing letters, it can be seen that the situation during the war was different in Bedford County than it was in the rest of Pennsylvania. [Westmoreland and Northumberland were similar.] The government of the County had to concern itself with keeping the County together besides dealing with the Amerindian threat. The phrase at the end of the Col. Piper's letter that stated: "the situation of our County renders it impossible to call the people out in Classes" provides one reason why records of individual companies from Bedford County do not exist to the present day. The militia, as called out in Bedford County, depended to a large extent on the availability of men not actively engaged in the defence of their own home and farmsteads. As noted above, the other Counties would call out a certain number of Classes, while leaving complete other Classes of men to defend their own families. In Bedford County, the defence of their own families was a full-time job for most settlers.

Although the stereotyped image of frontier life as a daily battle with what they called 'savages' might not be completely correct, it would be wrong to assume that our ancestors in Bedford County were not at least daily aware of the closeness of the menace. The inhabitants of Path Valley, Cumberland County sent a memorial to the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania on 18 May 1778 informing the Council that "The Indians (or rather the tories) is Murdering our Neighbors close by us, no further off than Bedford..." Other letters, including one sent on 19 May 1778 from the inhabitants of Dublin Township, Bedford County (in what would be presentday Huntingdon County) noted the same sort of atrocities and the fears they entailed. In that letter, the inhabitants of Dublin Township claimed: "You are no doubt informed that the Savages have already begun to murder and destroy the property of the inhabitants upon the frontiers of this State; that those who have escaped their barbarities, fearing least they may also fall a prey into their hands, are flying to the more secure parts of the Country."

On the 19th of May 1778 (in what clearly appears to represent a change of attitude from their letter of 02 February), the Supreme Executive Council acknowledged the drastic state of affairs on the frontier in a letter sent to the President of Congress:

"Sir, The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, having received accounts of attacks being made by the Indians on several parts of our Western frontiers, and that upwards of thirty persons have been lately killed by them in Bedford county, appointed a Committee to confer with the Executive Council on this distressing circumstance: this conference being had, we are unanimously of opinion, that it is our duty to apply to Congress for effectual assistance against the Savages, as hath been afforded to the Southern States. This we conceive to be the more necessary in the present situation of our State, while the British enemy are in possession of our Capital. The great extent of our frontiers renders it almost impossible to prevent the sudden & horrid excursions of this Savage people, by any force which can be supported in forts or defences of that kind; but we conceive, that if an expedition were carried into the heart of the Indian country, and if some of their towns

destroyed, it would be much the most effectual defence, and be attended with less expence, and the loss of fewer men, than any mode of mere defence. We have a firm reliance on the wisdom of Congress in directing the measures in the present distressing situation of our affairs, yet we should be greatly wanting in our duty to the people whom we represent, if we neglected to solicit immediate and effectual assistance against an enemy which, with small number of men, may depopulate a greater country in a few days than a large British army would do in a whole campaign."

It must be noted that I concentrated this study on events which took place in Bedford County because it is the region with which I am most familiar. But similar events were taking place throughout the frontier regions of all of Pennsylvania. Rangers on the Frontier were active in Westmoreland and Northumberland Counties in addition to Bedford. The names change but the activities of the British and Tories were the same throughout the frontiers.

to be continued



# Did George Washington Sleep Here?

On 19 October 1794, when then-President George Washington arrived at the town of Bedford, Pennsylvania, he took up temporary residence at the Espy House. The Espy House was built in 1771 by Thomas Smith and in its basement Arthur St. Clair set up an office in which to perform his duties as Prothonotary and Clerk of Courts for Bedford County. The building was purchased by David Espy shortly before Washington's arrival.

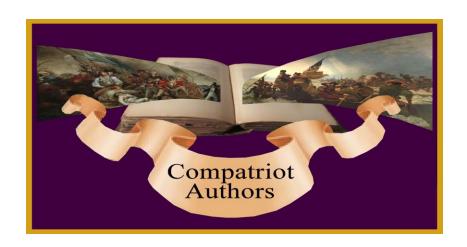
Despite it being a short visit for the President ~ he stayed there only two nights ~ the building joined the ranks of properties which could validly claim that "George Washington Slept Here".

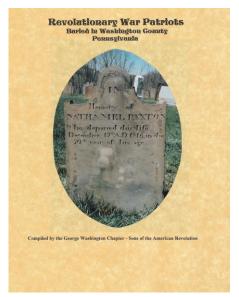
If George Washington ~ either as a Colonel of the Virginia Militia, as a General of the Continental Line, or as President of the United States of America ~



slept in a building in your vicinity, please send information on the event to the editor of this magazine for future inclusion.

# The **George Washington Chapter**

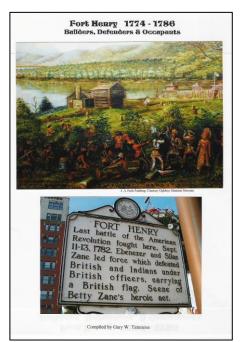




The George Washington Chapter, Pennsylvania Society, SAR has published two books which are being profiled here.

The first book, *Revolutionary War Patriots Buried in Washington County, Pennsylvania*, contains the names and locations, when known, of over 1,000 rev war veterans that are buried in the county. It is broken down in sections listing the veterans name, all patriots in a given cemetery and addresses for the cemeteries. There is also a fold-out map of Washington County with the cemeteries marked.

This book was updated in 2022. Cost is \$10.00 plus shipping.



The second book, *Fort Henry Builders, Defenders and Occupants*, has 47 pages and lists the names of over 600 people that were documented to be at Fort Henry at any time during its existence.

This list comes from over 30 different sources including pension records and is mainly a reference book. It also has a reprint of the history of Fort Henry which was located in Wheeling, Virginia (now West Virginia) as many of the people that were there came from Washington County, PA.

This book was updated in 2022. Cost is \$8.00 plus shipping.



#### **PASSAR FEES & DUES**

NEW APPLICANT	
National Society (NSSAR) Fee	\$ 100.00
+ 1st Calendar Years Dues, NSSAR	50.00
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	50.00
PASSAR Fee	12.50
+ 1st Calendar Year Dues, PASSAR	25.00
Transfer from CAR age 18-22	\$ 40.00
+ 1st Calendar Year Dues, NSSAR	50.00
+ 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
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REGULAR ANNUAL DUES	
	\$ 50.00
NSSAR Dues PASSAR Dues	\$ 50.00 25.00
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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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