

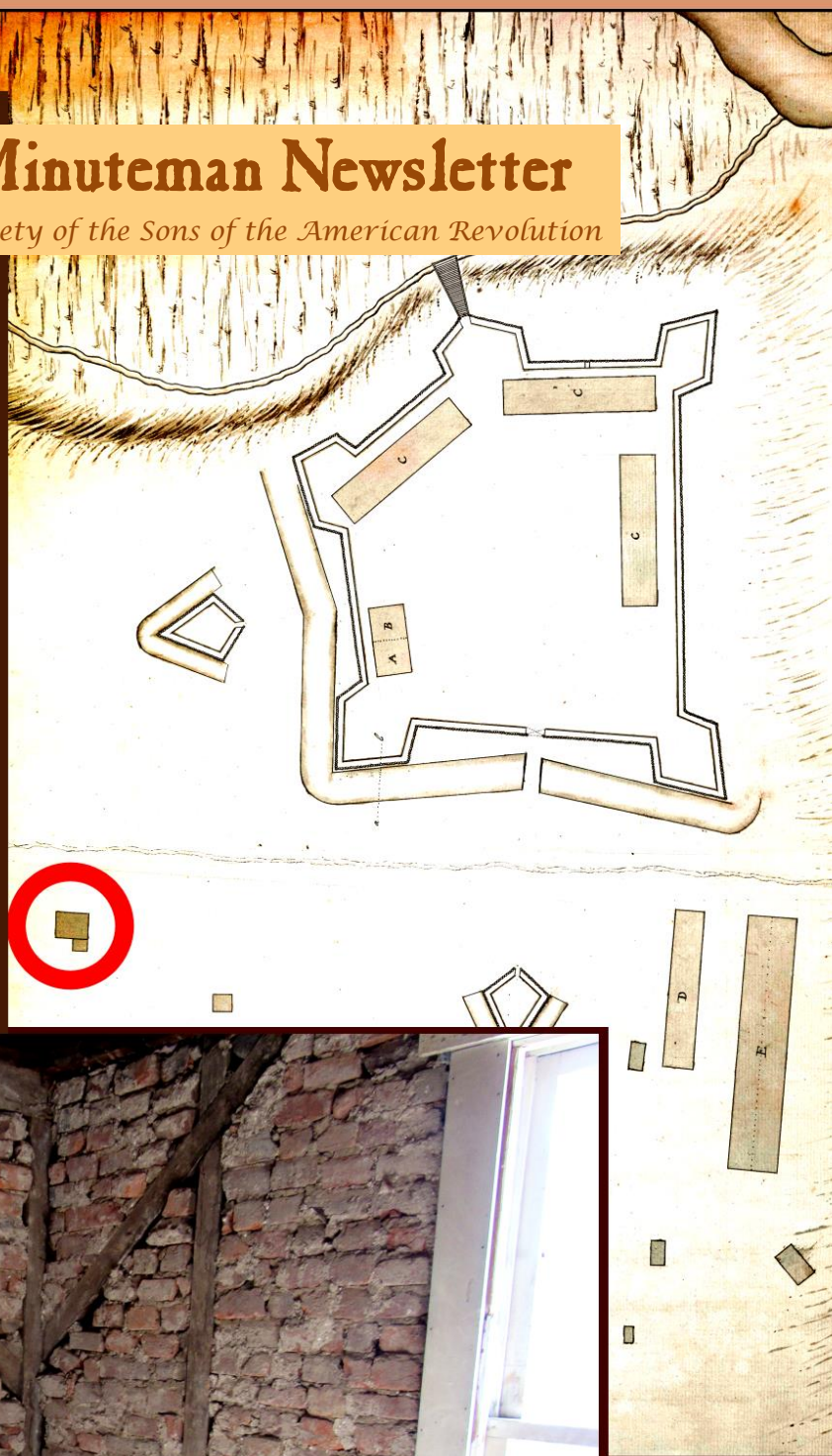
The Pennsylvania Minuteman Newsletter

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

1758

Likely the only
building known to
be associated with the
French & Indian War
still in existence in
the United States
of America.

The Fortified Bedford House



Volume XLIX

1st Quarter 2024



(Cover story)

French & Indian War Half-Timber Structure

Although it is not specifically related to the American Revolutionary War, I wanted to share this with everyone.

A half-timber structure has stood in the center of Bedford Borough for 265 years, but it hid from sight for all those years in view of the fact that its coat of wood lap siding belied its age. Half-timber structures in the mid-1700s were constructed of hand-hewn timbers framing the house's walls with the spaces between the timbers being in-filled with a solid material such as handmade sun-fired bricks. Half-timber structures were usually covered with wood lap siding to protect the brick from destruction by the weather. As a result, if the siding is not removed and the brick covered with some coating, such as stucco, the building will not be readily identified as a Colonial style structure.

The half-timber structure located at 111 S. Juliana Street, Bedford has been dated, by chemical analysis of the brick and radiocarbon testing of the logs, directly to 1758 ~ contemporaneous with Fort Bedford's construction during the Forbes Expedition.

The foundation of this structure has long been conjectured to have been the site of Fort Bedford's powder magazine. The half-timber structure (shown on the Amherst Map of 1759 to the southwest of the fort) was probably built over the powder magazine.

A professor of Temple University, who specializes in the study of fortifications of the French and Indian War, has suggested that this structure was indeed the site of the powder magazine. And as such, it exists today as the only extant man-made structure associated with the French and Indian War within the United States of America. [Despite claims that Fort Frederick in Maryland deserves that title, the structure of that fort is the result of a reconstruction and is not an *extant* original structure.]

A non-profit foundation, *Friends of the Fortified Bedford House* has been created to support ongoing restoration and maintenance of this structure.

For a brochure regarding this structure and/or to make a donation to support the non-profit foundation, contact this newsletter's editor.

**Art Source: Jeffrey Amherst Map of 1759
and photography by 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,

By the time you read this I will have less than two months to serve as your PASSAR President. I must first say it has been an honor to be your president. This winter my wife Stephanie "DAR" and I have crisscrossed the state visiting quite a few chapters. Things started out November 19th in my on county of Berks at St. Michael's Church in Tilden Twp. Several SAR members along with the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter Color Guard worshipped with the congregation and then went outside for the Dedication of a Liberty Tree beside the church. This wonderful ceremony was organized by Georgian SAR member Marc Potteiger. From there it was my own Gov. Joseph Heister Chapter's Annual Dinner Meeting on Pearl Harbor Day. On to Leamersville for the Frontier Patriot's 4th Quarter Luncheon Meeting on Dec 9th and the Gen. Arthur St. Clair Chapter's Luncheon Meeting, Dec 16th.

I began 2024 with PASSAR's Winter BOM Meeting in Chambersburg hosted by the Conococheague Chapter, Feb 2-3. On Feb 17th the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter held its George Washington Birthday Luncheon at the Stouch Tavern, Womelsdorf (George Washington really did sleep there in the 1790's). Feb 21st it was on to Williamsport for the Tiadaghton Chapter's Winter Meeting. On Feb 24th the Centre County Chapter held its George Washington Birthday Luncheon in State College. At some of these meeting I installed chapter officers for this calendar year. I will be attending NSSAR's Spring Leadership Meeting in Louisville, KY. beginning Feb 29 to Mar 2, along with all three of PASSAR's V.P.'s; Kurt Winter, Rusty Mills and Peter Reinhart.

Plans are to be in Carlisle for the Washingtonburg Chapter's belated (snow storm) George Washington Birthday Luncheon and then on to Bedford for the PAC.A.R.'s Annual Banquet both on Mar 16th. I will be in King of Prussia for PADAR's Annual Meeting the last weekend of April. Finally, May 3-4 in Morgantown, PA for PASSAR's Annual Meeting, where Kurt Winter will be installed as the next PASSAR President.

PASSAR & NSSAR are only as good as you the members help them to be. Committee members and Chairman are always needed to make this great society operate. When many hands help, the jobs become easier and we get to make some friends along the way. This is evident by the committee of SAR compatriots and PASSAR Ladies Auxiliary members who worked diligently to organize NSSAR 134th Annual Congress, which is hosted by PASSAR in Lancaster, PA from July 10 to July 16. We owe them a debt of thanks and praise for the work they have done. If you are not registered to attend, at least think about being there for a day or so to see how our society operates. For most of us this will be the last congress to be held in Pennsylvania in our lifetime since many other states are waiting in line to host future congresses. Looking forward to August 2-3 for PASSAR's Summer BOM Meeting in Ligonier, PA. Be there to support Kurt Winter at his first PASSAR function as state president! The MidAtlantic States will have its Conference in Williamsburg, VA the second week of August, plan to attend it is not only for officers of the society. What a great place to hold a patriotic organization's annual meeting. Next year PASSAR will be hosting the MidAtlantic States Conference in York, PA the second weekend in August. Keep your eyes open for more information about this event.

I want to thank everyone that has been involved with PASSAR during my term as president. It was nice to see so many patriotic people as I traveled the state. It has been rewarding and fun to be your president this past year and I hope to see many of you in the years to come. Stay involved in the society, your involvement always appreciated. God Bless America.

Sincerely,

Eric H. Troutman
President, PASSAR

An Apology

The online version of the previous issue came to you too late for the “Imminent 250th Anniversaries” to be properly ‘imminent’. The lateness was due to unforeseen circumstances and hopefully will not occur again. -- The Editor



George Washington Chapter Participates In Naturalization Ceremony



For the 18th year, the George Washington Chapter took part in a Naturalization ceremony at the Federal Court House in Wheeling, WV. Compatriot Gary Timmons was one of 3 speakers to welcome 42 new citizens. Pictured (L-R) Compatriots Robert Zelch, Gary Timmons, Daria Igorivna Gavriushchenko (formerly from Russia) and Compatriot Ronald Malmgren.

2023 PASSAR Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest Winners

Lauren P. Tyree, Troop 19, Marshallton, PA, Chester County Council, placed first in the PASSAR's 2023 Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest. Lauren was sponsored by the Philadelphia Continental Chapter.

Placing second was Zachary W. O'Connor, Troop 28, Pittsburgh, PA, Laurel Highlands Council. Zachary was sponsored by the Pittsburgh Chapter.

The third place winner was Garrett E. Hyneman, Troop 241, Mohnton, PA, Hawk Mountain Council. Garrett was sponsored by the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter. Each of the top three winners will receive a cash award.

As the first place winner, Lauren Tyree will be presented with the SAR Eagle Scout Silver Medal at the Spring Annual Meeting Banquet. Lauren's application has been forwarded for judging at the National level. 2023

PASSAR contest entries were received from the following Chapters: Valley Forge; Pittsburgh; Gen. Arthur St. Clair; At-Large; Philadelphia Continental; and Gov. Joseph Hiester.

Welcome New Members

Chapter	New Member	Ancestor	Sponsor
Centre County	Jax Alynn Martin	Clement Engle	Lynn A. Harding
Conococheague	Harry Lee Borger	Richard Derrick Gun	Ned A. Little
Conococheague	Michael Patrick Hallman	John Rahn	Todd A. Dorsett
Conococheague	Robert Joseph Hallman	John Rahn	Todd A. Dorsett
Conococheague	Robert Joseph Hallman, Jr	John Rahn	Todd A. Dorsett
Continental Congress	Michael Stewart Carter, Jr	Christopher Gadsden	Russell L. Mills
Continental Congress	Robert Lewis Keck	Reuben Smith	Russell L. Mills
Continental Congress	Jerome John Levans	Francis Bates	Russell L. Mills
Continental Congress	Robert Josiah Nicholson, III	William McClellan	Russell L. Mills
Fort Halifax	Michael Patrick Koppenhaver	Michael Koppenheffer	Eric H. Troutman
Fort Halifax	Patrick Ryan Koppenhaver	Michael Koppenheffer	Eric H. Troutman
Fort Halifax	Andrew Michael Wagner	Jacob Wagner	Eric H. Troutman
Fort Halifax	Brian Russell Wagner	Jacob Wagner	Eric H. Troutman
Fort Halifax	Jonathan Ryan Wagner	Jacob Wagner	Eric H. Troutman
George Washington	Parker James Griffith	John Shields	Michael D.C. Merryman
George Washington	Donald Lee Grimm	Davis Meredith	Michael D.C. Merryman
George Washington	Mickey James Marshall	Aaron Marshall	Michael D.C. Merryman
George Washington	Robert William McGowan	Abdiel McClure	Michael D.C. Merryman
George Washington	Ross William McGowan	Abdiel McClure	Michael D.C. Merryman
George Washington	Sean Robert McGowan	Abdiel McClure	Michael D.C. Merryman
Gov Joseph Hiester	Mark Allan Scheneman	Phillip Kauffman	Eric H. Troutman
Gov Joseph Hiester	Michael Francis Witman	Henry Vanderslice, Sr	Eric H. Troutman
Harris Ferry	Jason Eric Krieg	Jacob Snell	Eric H. Troutman
Philadelphia Continental	Jeffrey Edward Ackerman	Joseph Scull	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Zorie Robert Barber	Charlton Shepard	Eric H. Troutman
Philadelphia Continental	Benjamin William Bernstein	John Famous	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Mark Edward Hoffman	Baltzer Faust	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Robert Douglas Kelly	Benjamin Mathews	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Grayson McKelvey Leming	John Fowler	James M. Leming
Philadelphia Continental	Hunter James Leming	John Fowler	James M. Leming
Philadelphia Continental	Casey W. Morton, Jr	John Gerhart	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Rodney Roehner	Anthony Hallman	C. Kelsey Brown
Philadelphia Continental	Bryson Michael Shivers	John Noblit	Richard A. Shivers
Philadelphia Continental	Jacob Alexander Shivers	John Noblit	Richard A. Shivers
Philadelphia Continental	Richard Allen Shivers, Jr	John Noblit	Richard A. Shivers
Philadelphia Continental	John Wright Toothill	Joseph Scull	C. Kelsey Brown
Tiadaghton	Kenneth Crissy Holgate, Jr	Sanford Kingsbury	Gregory W. Forsburg
Valley Forge	Craig William Bartholomew	John Henry Butz	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Valley Forge	Benjamin Arthur Chaisson	Brittian Corlies	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Valley Forge	Ethan Thomas Chaisson	Brittian Corlies	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Valley Forge	William Richard Chaisson	Brittian Corlies	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Valley Forge	Nathaniel Raymond Vaughn	Stephen Paddock	Don N. Drewry, MSC
Washington Crossing	William Henry Cane	Joseph Hart	Edward G. Elgart

Washington Crossing	Alan Douglass Gray	Daniel Brown	Edward G. Elgart
Washington Crossing	David William Tweed	Christian Eulenberger	Edward G. Elgart
Washington Crossing	Frederick Dale Tweed	Christian Eulenberger	Edward G. Elgart
Washington Crossing	Justin William Tweed	Christian Eulenberger	Edward G. Elgart
Washingtonburg	Paul Matthew Boyer	Henry Schreffler	Eric H. Troutman
Washingtonburg	James Wilbur Harris	John Phillabaum	Dale J. J. Leppard
Washingtonburg	Todd Allen Hockensmith	George Hockensmith	Dale J. J. Leppard
Washingtonburg	Larry William Miller, Jr	Zachariah Shoe	Dale J. J. Leppard
Washingtonburg	Gregory T. O'Brien	Thomas Wright	Dale J. J. Leppard
Washingtonburg	Jonathan T. O'Brien	Thomas Wright	Dale J. J. Leppard
Washingtonburg	Michael K. O'Brien	Thomas Wright	Dale J. J. Leppard
Washingtonburg	Samuel Lawrence Russell	Thomas Russell	Dale J. J. Leppard
William Maclay	Harold Ray Kashner	Micahel Kressler	Eric H. Troutman

Flowers in the Forest

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

Full Name	Chapter	Date of Change
James Lee Wharton	Christopher Gist	10/07/2023
Donald R. Inman	Gen. Anthony Wayne	12/05/2023
John Joseph Montague	Gen. Anthony Wayne	10/31/2023
Peter L. Peretti	Gen. Arthur St. Clair	01/30/2024
Lance Walter Westerlund	Gen. Arthur St. Clair	12/28/2023
Lawrence Francis O'Toole	Gen. Arthur St. Clair	11/21/2023
Richard Russel Long	Gov. Joseph Hiester	01/16/2024
Robert Wayne Murray	Gov. Joseph Hiester	11/11/2023
Blair Edward Younkin, Jr	Great Glades	01/24/2024
Jack Elwood Mosholder	Great Glades	11/04/2023
Edwin Nugent Conroy	Philadelphia Continental	10/30/2023
James Mitchell	Philadelphia Continental	11/29/2023
Robert Kaiser Young	Valley Forge	01/25/2024

The NSSAR Merchandise Department currently has this first medal in the 250th Anniversary series available for sale. I was told that there will probably be ten of these ‘challenge coins’ in the series that will be produced and sold over the next few years.

I am extremely pleased with the detail of the one that I got. It cost \$15.00 (with no sales tax added) and the shipping was \$7.75 ~ making the total \$22.75. That is a very good price for the quality of the item.



Killed By A Cannonball But Not By The Ball

The cannonball was one of the deadliest articles of ammunition employed during the American Revolutionary War. There were solid cannonballs used to batter holes in the walls of fortifications and plow through the walls of earthen redoubts. There were hollow cannonballs which were filled with powder and a lit fuse and sent over the heads of bodies of troops so that when they exploded they would shower fragments down onto the troops. Some of the hollow cannonballs were also packed with metal shrapnel intended to tear into the enemy's skin.

The subject of this article is not intended to be a study of types of cannonballs or their use. Rather, this article is intended to observe that in some cases, soldiers were injured or even killed by the wind created by the moving cannonball.

In 1902, Charles K. Bolton published his book, *The Private Soldier Under Washington*. He recounted an incident experienced by the Reverend Benjamin Boardman. Apparently, a sentry was on guard duty near Roxbury, Massachusetts (then-near, but now-a part of Boston). It occurred on Monday night, 31 July 1775. The British opened fire on the Patriots and a cannonball whizzed past the sentry. The force of the wind of the moving projectile caused the sentry to be twirled around, or as the Reverend said it: *"the man was set to whirling like a top"*. The sentry fell to the ground, but otherwise was uninjured.

John Trumbull, later a noted painter of Revolutionary War scenes, served during the war as an Aide-de-Camp for General George Washington and also as a Deputy Adjutant General to General Horatio Gates. In 1841 Mr. Trumbull published an autobiography titled: *"Autobiography, Reminiscences and Letters John Trumbull, From 1756 to 1841"*. In that book he noted an incident similar to the one previously mentioned, but which had a different result.

Serving in General Spencer's regiment outside of Boston, Trumbull noticed that the enemy had turned their attention to the Patriots' movements. The British trained their cannon toward the Patriots. Trumbull

noted that several of the British cannonballs passed over their heads, telling them that they were a little too close to the enemy lines. The Patriots were commanded to fall back above the meeting house. In his position as adjutant, it was Trumbull's duty to bring up the rear and encourage any stragglers to hurry along. He, and a soldier who was only two feet to his right, were crossing over a stone wall that had been virtually destroyed by the cannon fire. Trumbull heard the sound of a cannonball fly past him and turned to see the soldier on his right side fall to the ground. The soldier cried out that he was hit and killed. Trumbull paused in his dash forward to check his comrade. And in his words: *"I looked at him ~ his limbs were all entire ~ I saw no blood, and naturally concluding that his fall was occasioned by extreme fear, I told him that he was not hurt, but only frightened, and bade him get up. He insisted that he could not rise, and I called some other soldiers to help him to the rear and to the surgeon. Some time after, I enquired for him, and was told that he was dead. There was no external wound, but the body over the region of the heart was black from extravasated blood [meaning that blood leaked into the tissues surrounding the heart]. It is said that the rush of a heavy ball, by its passage through the air, occasions a momentary vacuum; probably this ball passed close to the heart at the instant of a violent throb, (whether from fear or exertion,) and the blood-vessels, un-sustained by the pressure of the atmosphere, gave way. In this manner I account for the effects produced by what is called 'the wind of a ball.'"*

Quite astoundingly, the account of Jesse Lukens in a letter he sent to a Mr. John Shaw Jr., from Boston on 13 September 1775 included the information that: *"The wind of a 24 Pounder knocked down a man & horse, struck the Limb of an apple tree & threw it against Dr. Hubley knocked him down & did none of them any kind of harm, except frightening them soundly."* A '24-pounder', as he noted, would have weighed, literally, twenty-four pounds and measured five and one-half inches in diameter.

Education Trunk Displayed At “Wizard Safari”

Article submitted by Russell L. Mills

The Continental Congress 1st VP Edward Kopsick and Historian Thomas Gibson joined over 2,000 scouts and their families on 30 September 2023 at the Wizard Ranch in York County, for a “Wizard Safari”. There were many booths ranging from the Autobahn Society, chainsaw carving, blacksmiths, fur 0000000trappers, cowboy booths, archery range, lathe turning, the York Water Company, and so much more. The York County History Center partnered with the Continental Congress Chapter to present general and local history. This was the perfect opportunity for a field test of the Chapter’s new

Education Trunk for Revolutionary War history. The SAR booth displayed replica Revolutionary War items, the Declaration of Independence, history books, and a map of the battles from Quebec down the east coast all the way to Florida. Visitors were tested on their basic Revolutionary War knowledge; informed of several Revolutionary War myths; and provided with interesting facts about the war. It was an eye-opening experience for many with some parents even commenting that they wished that this “hands-on approach to learning history” was available to them when they were in school.



General Arthur St. Clair Chapter Presents Good Citizenship Medal

The Good Citizenship Medal was presented by Frank Stillman, President General Arthur St. Clair Chapter, to Matthew Gault, Director of Education, Fort Ligonier, PA, on November 18, 2023.

The medal was awarded for the impact he has made on both youth and adult education in Westmoreland County on the French & Indian War and Fort Ligonier through a diversity of programs, youth leadership development and research. Fort Ligonier’s programs touch the lives of more than 6,000 students annually and the number continues to grow.

In the photo, from left: Frank Stillman and Matthew Gault.





(Left) The Sons of the American Revolution Pittsburgh (SAR) Chapter presented four Eagle Scout Awards on October 22nd, 2023 at a Honor Court ceremony held for Troop 28 in Mt. Lebanon, PA.

Pictured (from left): 1st Vice President John E. B. Baldrige, President Colonel William P. Boswell, Eagle Scouts Andrew Carvender, Dylan John, Grant Carvender, Secretary Andrew B. Gray, and 2nd Vice President Jason S. Miller.

Not pictured: Eagle Scout Zachary O'Connor.

(Below) Scout Leader, Robert Krugh was awarded for 23+ years of service.

Pittsburgh Chapter Presents Eagle Scout Awards



The Troop 28 Eagle Court of Honor was held at the Bower Hill Presbyterian Church in Mt. Lebanon, PA.(Above)

(Right)Pittsburgh Chapter President, Colonel William P. Boswell and 1st Vice President John E. B. Baldrige.





The Presidency - Prior To And Including George Washington

We are living in the *Me Age*. And in this *Me Age*, it is fashionable to question every statement ~ but not just question the content or substance of it. Rather, it is fashionable to assume that every statement made by someone other than oneself should be subject to revisionism. A statement made by someone other than yourself couldn't possibly be accurate and true, could it? It seems that most people accept conspiracy theories more readily than the truth. In this modern age of technology and instant global communication via the internet, it only takes a few seconds after someone makes a statement for multitudes of others to begin to try to prove it false. Thus it is in regard to the Presidency of the United States of America.

One of the fashionable things to question in recent years is if George Washington was actually the *first* president of the United States of America. I'll come back to this point in a minute.

In 2009, Barack Obama was inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States of America. His father was negroid (black) while his mother was caucasoid (white). According to the '*One Drop Rule*' classification defined by the Virginia General Assembly in 1924, and later adopted by the United States Congress as a means to more distinctly categorize the citizens of the nation in its censuses, a person would be designated as *negroid* or 'black' if he or she had inherited as little as one drop of negroid blood from his/her ancestors. Children of mixed race unions had, historically, been referred to as *mulatto* (which translates as 'multi-racial'); but the One Drop Rule superseded that designation with the terms 'colored' and/or 'black'. Therefore, Mr. Obama, despite having one half white ancestry, was proclaimed as the '*first black President*.'

Another fashionable thing to question now is whether Barack Obama actually *was* the 'first black President'. The conspiracy theorists who claim that George Washington was not the actual first President, claim that at least one of the 'prior' presidents was black.

The following is intended to identify as much of the facts as possible, and present them in a manner to quell and dispel the conspiracy theories regarding the presidency of the United States of America ~ prior to, and including, George Washington.

Every organization (whether social, industrial, commercial or political) normally is structured with a board of management and officers (or just one or the other). The officers of any organization tend to include a president (*i.e.* one who *presides* over the meetings and controls its activities and functions), a secretary (*i.e.* one who maintains a transcription of what occurs and/or is said during meetings) along with various other officers who perform a variety of specialized duties. The union formed between the provincial colonies during the 1770s was no different. The formal name for the organization that formed out of the colonists' attempt to work together in unison was: the Continental Congress. The Continental Congress was structured with officers, like any other organization: it had a president, a secretary and so forth. Also, the delegates from the thirteen English colonies who met in Philadelphia during the 1770s can be thought of as a 'board of management' for the colonies as a whole.

In the very beginning, the word *Congress* was not considered to be a noun in its own right. Rather, it was used consistently as part of the prepositional phrase: *in congress assembled*. The phrase modified the noun: *delegates* in a simple sentence "The delegates... (did something)". The prepositional phrase *in congress assembled*, when added to the sentence as a modifier of the noun, formed a phrase that can be found throughout the records of the organization that was formed: "The delegates in congress assembled... (did or resolved something)". In the latter part of the 1700s, the word 'congress' referred simply to the meeting of people. According to *An Universal Etymological English Dictionary*, published in 1789, the definition of the word *congress* was simply: "a meeting or coming of people together." It was only later that the name of the situation of delegates meeting together to lead the

activities of the nation evolved to become a noun, naming an entity, as in: 'The Congress' or 'The Continental Congress'.

In a similar manner, the words: *union* and *united* referred simply to "the joining several things together; concord, agreement." Therefore, when the phrase *united colonies* was first used to describe the organization formed between the provincial colonies, it referred to the fact that the colonies were attempting to function together as one. The phrase, only later, became a pronoun, as in the title phrase 'The United States.'

What the foregoing points out was the difference between the action of meeting and joining together in unison (*i.e.* 'delegates in congress assembled' and/or the united colonies) and a formal entity (*i.e.* 'The Continental Congress' and/or 'The United States of America').

The history revisionists who make the claim that George Washington was not actually the first president of the United States of America, base their claim on the fact that *the delegates assembled in congress*, in what has become known as the Continental Congress, took on the structure of any other type of organization. The Continental Congress' meetings were presided over by individuals who bore the title of office: 'President'. The thirteen English colonies which had agreed, by a majority of their individual legislative bodies, to attempt to function together as a *united* entity, had agreed to be subject to whatever laws and other dictates that those delegates (in congress assembled) should resolve. Therefore, the history revisionists claim that since the colonies had agreed to function as a united entity, and since the delegates (in congress assembled) would function as the board of management of the united entity, therefore the 'president' of the Continental Congress occupied that same leadership role throughout the thirteen participating English colonies.

The first President of the First Continental Congress, which met between 05 September and 26 October 1774, was **Peyton Randolph** of Virginia. On

the 22nd of October, it was announced that Mr. Randolph could not continue in the office of President "*on account of indisposition*", and **Henry Middleton**, of South Carolina, was appointed to fill the vacant position. Middleton's 'presidency' was also short-lived, though. The congress broke up just four days later.

The purpose of the First Continental Congress was basically to draft petitions to the King of England and letters of intent to the English colonies and to the citizens of England. Although it was believed, toward the end of October, that all had been done that needed to be, as the new year began, the need for additional actions became apparent. The Second Continental Congress convened on 10 May 1775 and met continuously until 01 March 1781. Peyton Randolph, having been desired to serve as the President of the First Continental Congress, and Henry Middleton succeeding to that position only upon the indisposition of Randolph, when the Second Continental Congress was convened, the choice for President again was **Peyton Randolph**. He served in that position for only two weeks, from 10 May 1775 until 24 May. At that time, Randolph received a request from his family to return to his home in Virginia; he had been chosen to preside over the Virginia House of Burgesses. He complied, and so the position in the Continental Congress of the presidency was again vacant.

As before, Henry Middleton was asked to step into the vacant seat, but he declined this time. The *Journals Of The Continental Congress* stated simply that: "*Whereupon on motion, the Honble **John Hancock** was unanimously chosen President.*" His term in that position, as the third individual, but fourth in line, lasted until 01 November 1777. Hancock was therefore serving as the President of the *delegates in congress assembled* in July 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was passed. On 31 October 1777, John Hancock presented a speech to the *delegates assembled in congress* in which he expressed the fact that he desired to vacate the position of President due to health reasons.

To Be Continued In The Next Issue, If Convenient, Or In Some Future Issue If More Convenient, But Who Is To Say?

**131st Annual Meeting, and
Spring PASSAR Board of Management Meeting
Friday, May 3, 2024 and Saturday, May 4, 2024**

Friday, May 3, 2024

3:00 ~ 6:00 Registration Outside the Mordecia Lincoln Room
6:00 ~ 8:00 Friday Evening Social in the Mordecia Lincoln Room

Saturday, May 4, 2024

6:30 ~ 9:00 AM Breakfast on Your Own
8:00 ~ 9:00 AM Registration Outside the Mordecia Lincoln Room
9:00 ~ 11:30 AM Board of Management Meeting in the Mordecia Lincoln Room
9:00 ~ 11:30 AM Ladies Program: French Creek Room ~ Program To Be Determined
12:00 ~ 2:00 PM Lunch Buffet
3:00 ~ 4:30 PM Memorial Service: Church of St. Benedict, Mohnton, PA
6:00 ~ 7:00 PM Social Time with Cash Bar: Daniel Boone / Hopewell Room
7:00 ~ 10:00 PM Banquet Dinner and Installation of Officers (Black Tie Required)

Holiday Inn Morgantown

6170 Morgantown Road, Morgantown, PA 19543

Phone: (610) 286-3000 (press "0")

Hotel Reservation Deadline for SAR rate of \$139 + Tax is **April 3, 2024**

Ask for the Group Rate by using code: **JHC** when calling the hotel

Meeting and Activities Registration Form

Deadline for Registration is April 15, 2024

Registration Fee (Compatriots only)	_____ @ \$40.00	\$ _____
Friday Evening Social	_____ @ \$15.00	\$ _____
Saturday Ladies Program	_____ @ TBD	\$ _____
Saturday Luncheon Buffet	_____ @ \$25.00	\$ _____
Saturday Evening Buffet (Black Tie)	_____ @ \$55.00	\$ _____
Total		\$ _____

Saturday Evening Banquet Choice of:

_____ Oven Roasted Salmon _____ Crab Cake _____ Beef Tenderloin Filet

Name: _____ Chapter: _____

Address _____

Office: _____ Guest(s): _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Make checks payable to: Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter SAR

Mail check and registration form to: David Shultz, 136 West Bacon Street, Pottsville, PA 17901

Contact: Peter Reinhart Phone: (610)-247-5256 Email: preinhart@fast.net



The County Militias of Pennsylvania

Continued from Volume XLVIII, 3rd Quarter 2023

THE CLASS TAX

The statement has been made that the militia of Bedford County, Pennsylvania (and indeed of Westmoreland and Northumberland Counties also) was set up in a way that was different from the rest of the state's eastern counties due to the fear that to call men out in classes would hinder the county's ability to safeguard the families of those men. Although the situation and circumstances of the region demanded that the formal rules of the Militia system be suspended to allow for a certain amount of flexibility in how the men would be called out, it did not negate the responsibility of the county to provide for its own defenses as best as it could.

The Class Tax, as noted above, was taken in Bedford County just as it was taken in the rest of Pennsylvania, and all able-bodied men were expected to serve their tours of duty, or be labeled a Tory and fined for non-association with the Patriot Cause. There are no records extant today which reveal why most of the individuals volunteered at first; their consciences spoke to them, and they listened. The first enlistments (from 1775 through the spring of 1777) tended to be totally volunteer; the men's actions having been motivated solely on patriotic terms. After the Class Tax was taken in 1777 (and again in 1781/2) it is difficult to know if an enlistment was made for patriotic reasons or because of the threat of fine or arrest. Many historians do not use the word 'drafted' to explain why many of our ancestors joined the army during the Revolutionary War. It might be felt that the use of the word 'drafted' might tarnish the pride we desire to feel toward those Patriot fathers of ours. Unfortunately, drafted is exactly the situation many men found themselves in. The Committee of Safety, in recommendations for forming battalions in 1776 stated that *"it is recommended to all Freemen in the province from the age of sixteen to fifty, immediately to associate in some Batt. or Compy, to sign the articles of association, & in every respect to prepare himself for the Defence of the Liberties of America."* The emphasis on the phrase "it is recommended" is rather understated when viewed alongside the *Resolutions Directing The Mode Of Levying Taxes On Non-Associators* issued by

the Committee of Safety in 1775. Article #8 of those regulations reads:

"The said commissioners, or any two of them, are required on or before the first day of June next ensuing to meet together, and cause their clerks to make out fair lists of the names and surnames of all persons mentioned in the duplicates returned to them aforesaid, with their places of abode, who appear by the duplicates returned by the colonels not to have signed the articles of associations; and thereupon the said commissioners are required to charge every such person not associating, over and above the rates and assessments set upon him by virtue of the laws of this province, the sum of Two Pounds Ten Shillings, on the lists made out by their order as aforesaid."

The sum of Two Pounds Ten Shillings (£2 f10) was a large amount in the year 1777. The English Pound was a monetary unit based upon the number of grains a denomination of currency contained. There were approximately 5,760 grains in a Pound, so the Two Pounds charged as a tax for non-associating would have equaled 11,520 total grains. The Eagle, a denomination of currency utilized shortly after the war was set at a weight of 270 grains (and would have equaled roughly ten dollars). The tax of Two Pounds would have been the equivalent of approximately \$420. The threat of possibly being fined such a sum would have surely been motivation to pledge your allegiance to the patriot cause, especially when the amount of the Class Tax was so appreciably lower, and within most settlers' capability to pay. The average man's tax amounted only to 9 pence.

Although some of the early settlers of Bedford County might have paid their Class Tax out of fear of higher fines, the fact that certain of them also signed Oaths of Allegiance is testimony to their patriotic convictions. Practically all of the individuals residing in Frankstown Township, Bedford County (which is today the whole of Blair County) were ones whose names on the tax assessor's Duplicate Of Delinquent Classes were marked with an 'X' to signify that they had paid their

assigned tax in the year 1782, but many of them had also signed an Oath of Allegiance back in 1778. They, mostly German and Irish immigrants, must have felt the desire to express their sense of duty to this new homeland, and

signing the Oath of Allegiance was one way they could do so.

to be continued



Quebec Act

The Quebec Act was passed by the British Parliament on **20 May 1774**. The Act was cited in the Statutes of Parliament as ‘14 Geo. III Cap. 83’. The Colony of Canada was established in 1535 within the territory claimed by France (as Nouvelle-France) in the North American Continent.

The Colony of Canada fell to the British in 1763. The French holding the City of Quebec capitulated on 18 September 1759. Under British rule the colony would be named Quebec. The Quebec Act attempted to strengthen British administration over the colony. It was aimed at being sympathetic to the French way of life while introducing British rule over the inhabitants. The ‘Anglicization’ of the French inhabitants was not really a point of concern for the French inhabitants. The Act established the south boundary of the Colony of Quebec as the Ohio River and therefore was objected to by the colonies of Virginia, Massachusetts~Bay and Connecticut because they all made claims to the Ohio Valley region.

For additional information of the Quebec Act of 1774,
Scan the QR Code to the right.

[Note that the Quebec Act is included with transcriptions of
the other Coercive Acts.]

-or-

If you are viewing this online, click on the link below
[1774 Quebec Act](#)



Pittsburgh Chapter's Secretary Receives SAR War Service Medal

Congratulations to SAR Pittsburgh Chapter's Secretary, Andrew B. Gray, on receiving the SAR War Service Medal in grateful recognition for his service during two tours in Afghanistan as an active-duty U.S. army Infantry Officer assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for each of his tours. Andrew's service continues today as a Major in the U.S. Army Reserve.

The SAR War Service Medal was first authorized in 1899 for members who served in the Spanish-American War. Thank you for your service, Andrew.



Photo: President William P. Boswell (left) presents Andrew B. Gray with the SAR War Service Medal and Certificate.

Valley Forge Chapter ~ Ceremony on Veterans Day

The Valley Forge Chapter, The Bethlehem DAR Chapter and the Nancy Hart Society C.A.R. held a joint ceremony at The Easton Cemetery on Veterans Day (below, center and bottom right). The Bethlehem DAR Chapter was represented by Regent Jennifer Brasko, and the C.A.R. was represented by Compatriot Reinhard Brasko. Compatriot Reinhard Brasko is a junior member of SAR and the Valley Forge Chapter. Also attending the ceremony was Compatriot Ryan Mackenzie, PA State Representative - 187th dist. and Milou Mackenzie, PA State Representative - 131st dist.

After the services, The Valley Forge Chapter held its Annual Meeting Luncheon and Installation of Officers

at Bethlehem Masonic Center. Guest speaker was Josh Fink, Lehigh County Historical Society. Mr. Fink talked about the Liberty Bell Museum being moved from the Zion Church in Allentown to the Lehigh County Historical Society.

The slate of new officers was installed. Past President Arthur Morey was given his president's pin by President Robert Abbott (below, top left). During the meeting Compatriot George Hixon was awarded his 50-year service award and certificate (below, top right). Compatriot John Beitel presented the SAR Rosette to Compatriots Robert May (below, bottom left), Reinhard Brasko, and Robert Cody.



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.

ERIC H. TROUTMAN, PASSAR
Registrar

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Table of Contents

	Cover
2	Cover Story & Legal Notice
3	President's Report
4	Geo. Washington Ch. Naturalization / Eagle Scout Scholarship
5	Welcome New Members
6	Flowers Of The Forest
7	Killed By A Cannonball But Not By The Ball
8	Education Trunk / Gen Arthur St. Clair Good Citizenship Medal
9	Pittsburgh Chapter Presents Eagle Scout Awards
10-11	The Presidency ~ Prior To And Including George Washington
12	131st Annual Meeting & Spring BOM Meeting Registration
13	County Militias cont. ~ The Class Tax
14	Imminent 250th Anniv./ Pittsburgh Ch. Secretary Receives Medal
15	Valley Forge Chapter ~ Ceremony on Veterans Day
16	PASSAR Fees & Dues / Table of Contents



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

Remember to notify your Chapter President
and Secretary about your new address. We
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right to your door!

