

Hiester Herald

GOVERNOR JOSEPH HIESTER CHAPTER

PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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February 2014

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President's Message

Thanks to all who attended our annual meeting at the Berkshire Country Club in December. Fine food, great entertainment, and Holiday spirit made the event a success for the members and their guests.

With the Holidays behind us and winter's icy grip around us, it may be a good time to look at future, and hopefully warmer, chapter functions. Please don't forget the President's Day Brunch on February 15. Details are included elsewhere in this edition of the Herald. Our first quarterly meeting in 2014 will be held at Tuscani's. This is a new restaurant for the Chapter meeting, and we hope to have a good attendance to obtain member feedback for future reference. I hope you will plan to attend. We are also working on a location for our annual Allegiance Sunday Service to be held on June 22, 2014. Please reserve the date.

I was sorry to note the passing of David Batdorf several weeks ago. Attorney Batdorf was a former member and briefly served as Chancellor of the Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter. He had the unique privilege of observing the trials of Nazi war criminals in Nuremberg, Germany while serving as a young soldier in Germany following World War II.

Please note that we are in need of an editor for our newsletter. Floyd Turner has served in this capacity for a number of years and has graciously agreed to continue until we can find a replacement. I would hate to see this award winning publication cease to exist in the future. Please let me or Floyd know if you are willing to serve the Chapter in this manner as soon as possible.

Barry L. Kauffman, President

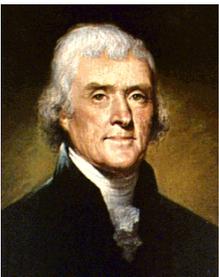


10 Myths About Early America & Independence

By Dan Shippey & Michael Burns of the Breeds Hill Institute

Frustrated historians often claim that the average American knows almost nothing about the Revolutionary War--and that most of what they do know is wrong. There are so many misconceptions, inaccurate quotes, and downright lies told about the American Revolution that it is hard for those who study the period to share their knowledge with the average person. There's a fine line between sharing what you know and telling someone they are wrong. Funny thing, people don't like to be told they are wrong. During the last election and inauguration I kept finding my jaw on the floor as newscasters stated "facts" that I knew were wrong to millions of unsuspecting viewers. Not one of my helpful e-mails to various news departments got a response or a correction.

So, here is our unscientific list of the top 10 myths that we run into here at Breed's Hill Institute, along with the truth. Be warned, however; the next time you hear someone spouting one of these in public, it is not wise to blurt out "That's wrong!" This is especially true if the speaker is a teacher, a tour guide, or physically larger than you.



Myth 1

People died younger back then.

Q: How can statistics lie? A: Easily. Today, with modern medicine, we do have greater a life expectancy and survival rate when ill. Still, that does not mean that a 40-year-old living in 1775 was considered an old man. The problem arises from averaging out ages. In pre-revolution America about 50% of children did not survive their first year. Many more died before turning 18. If you survived to 18 then you had a pretty good shot at living to a ripe old age. If you average out the ages when 50% of the population lived under a year, you are going to get some skewed data. John Adams died at 91, Jefferson at 83, Franklin at 84, all in an age without antibiotics.

Continued on page 6

Annual Meeting Highlights



About 50 members and guests gathered at the Berkshire Country Club for the chapter's Annual Meeting on December 5th. The banquet room is always beautifully decorated for the holidays which helps get everyone into a festive mood. The ambiance was merry but to ensure we were in the spirit, celtic harpist, Cathleen Sauber, played a selection of celtic and holiday tunes on her harp.

As is our tradition, President Barry Kauffman honored individuals whose efforts and dedication on behalf of the chapter and the SAR warranted recognition.

Veronica Seibert, wife of compatriot Charles Seibert, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for the assistance she renders to the Color Guard and for graciously sharing the photographs she takes with the Newsletter Editor. Her aid and friendship help us fulfill our mission and are greatly appreciated.

Past President Robert Hillegas has served faithfully in our Color Guard through ceremonies that were, at times, bitterly cold and scorching hot for over 3 years. For his service he was presented with the Bronze Color Guard medal

Compatriot Jason Lawrence was sworn-in by President Kauffman and was presented with his membership rosette by State 1st Vice President Eric Troutman.

To conclude the evening, the 2014 chapter officers were elected and sworn-in. A list of the 2014 officers and chairmen are on page 7.



Membership Drive

Greetings from your newly appointed Membership Chairman.

As I understand, this chair is responsible for recruiting new members and seeing to it that each new member has someone to act as a mentor. Upon further examination, I learn that all members are to recruit new members. In doing so they become top line signers on that new member's application and therefore are most qualified to be the mentor. This is extremely good news as now my focus is clear...have each member recruit a new member! Now I can relax and look forward to congratulating each successful compatriot and his new member at each chapter meeting. This task is going to be a breeze!!

I can hear the laughter as you read this note. Well, we all can dream and working together we can make this dream real. The Governor Joseph Chapter will be the envy of the entire state.

What am I willing to do? I will give you all the support this old Dutchman can muster – here's my cell phone # 610-413-4235. Home phone: 610-683-7363. Address: 104 Heights Ct., Kutztown, 19530.

Seriously we can accomplish much by pulling together, dreaming together and keeping in mind "If it's to be, it's up to me."

Nevin C. Miller, Chairman



Registrar Report

We welcome the following New Members:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
Wayne Patrick Faust	Paul Barlet
Blake Martin Hozak	Nicholas Heltzel
John D. Mauser, Jr.	Andreas Daniel
William A. Nagle	Frederick Wilhelm Nagel
Dylan Matthew Siegel	Nicholas Heltzel
George Andrew Siegel	Nicholas Heltzel
George Henry Siegel	Nicholas Heltzel
George Matthew Siegel	Nicholas Heltzel

The following supplementals have been approved:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
William N. Brensinger	John Roth
Calvin D. Huntzinger	Andreas Bittle
Eric H. Troutman	Daniel Kemp
Eric H. Troutman	Mathias Kemp

We Welcome the Following Transfers:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
John Edward Lauman	Abraham Schwenk
Michael John O'Malley, III	Christian Kaup

The following New Member applications have been submitted to National Headquarters:

Brady P. Ernst & Kenneth J. Long

The following Supplemental applications have been submitted to National Headquarters:

Raymond H. Longacre, Larry A. Magdy & Charles H. Seibert (2)

The cost of Supplemental Applications may go up to \$90.00 next July. Please contact me for more information

*Eric H. Troutman
Genealogist/Registrar*

All members are encouraged to report news and submit articles and pictures for the newsletter.

Deadlines for submissions:

- Jan. 20 for February issue
- Apr. 20 for May issue
- July 20 for August issue
- Oct. 20 for November issue

Send submissions **and address changes** to:
Floyd N. Turner II, 958 Whitner Rd.
Reading, PA 19605-1051
610-406-3933
fnt2@comcast.net

CHECK OUT THESE WEB SITES:

Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter, SAR

<http://home.comcast.net/~gjh.passar/site/>

Berks County Chapter, DAR

<http://www.rootweb.ancestry.com/~paberdar/bdar.htm>

Conrad Weiser Society, CAR

<https://sites.google.com/site/conradweisersociety/>



Color Guard Activities



Veteran's Day Ceremonies



Members of the color guard were very visible on Veteran's Day. Once again, our guardsmen stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the JROTC cadets from Reading High School for the annual ceremony in the Veteran's Grove area of City Park in Reading. During the ceremony, Sergeant Nevin Miller, a Marine Corps veteran of World War II, placed the chapter's wreath. From City Park the color guard proceeded to First Energy Stadium, home of the Reading Fightin' Phils, to present the colors during a special ceremony conducted by the Gen. David McM. Gregg American Legion Post 12.

Flag Retirement Ceremony with C.A.R.



The Conrad Weiser Society, Children of the American Revolution partnered with the Berks County Veterans Affairs Office to conduct a Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Daniel Boone Homestead on November 17th. The ceremony was conducted by the children and cadets from the Wilson JROTC provided the color guard. Our guardsmen presented the flag retired during the ceremony and removed each stripe as one of the children read a quote from important figures in American history including: Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Thomas Paine, John Paul Jones, Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan.

Wreaths Across America at Indiantown Gap



The annual Wreaths Across America ceremony was held on December 14th at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. Although the snowy weather appeared to conspire against us, the ceremony forged ahead. Nothing was going to prevent us from honoring our veterans!

In spite of the snow, nearly 1,000 people attended including the PA National Guard Adjutant General, Wesley Craig, and a dozen members of his staff. The ceremony was conducted in the PA Veterans Memorial and afterward everyone helped us lay over 7,500 wreaths.

In the end, the snow seemed quite appropriate for the occasion and made the event one the most memorable ever.



Veterans Report

As we welcome in the New Year, I would like to remind our members, that we have three active duty Compatriots still serving our Country. They are David Benjamin Goss, Nathan Alexander Hillegas, and Zachary Lee Railing. We sent them holiday greetings, with a small token of our appreciation for their service and sacrifices. Once again, we all thank you for your service.

Also this year, as part of our Veterans Outreach Program, we will be organizing a drive to collect items for our homeless veterans. This would take place at the September meeting, which is the last meeting before the annual Veteran's Day Ceremonies at Veterans Grove in Reading. I will be talking to Doug and Liz Graybill later and getting more details about the items needed and letting you know in our next newsletter.

*Charles Seibert, Veterans Affairs Chairman
Phone: 610-385-7370
Email: cvseibert@gmail.com*

Eagle Scout Report

For 2013, the committee was invited to attend 52 Eagle Scout Courts of Honor. We were unable to commit to 8 due to lack of personnel, but the appropriate information was sent to each Scout. We have scheduled 4 Courts of Honor for 2014 and 7 scouts have requested our attendance but no date has been set.

Without more support from the chapter's members this committee can no longer function effectively. Hawk Mountain Council certifies well over a hundred Eagle Scouts each year. Sadly, the number of requests for our services has been decreasing lately and the participation in our recognition program has dwindled also. We may need to increase the monetary award and perhaps recognize more than one scout to increase their interest in our program. Unfortunately as things now stand this is not possible. Unless things change - monies and participation of our membership - this program cannot be successful.

My thanks to those committee members who were able to attend their scheduled Courts of Honor.

Robert W. Murray, Eagle Scout Chairman

10 Myths, Continued

Myth 2

The United States Became Independent on July 4 1776.

This is an easily understood and fairly harmless misconception. Congress voted for Independence on July 2nd, adopted the Declaration on the 4th and everyone (except for John Hancock and Secretary Charles Thomson) signed after August 2nd of '76. Even though we were officially independent on the 2nd, the Declaration is critical to our identity as Americans. It is in the Declaration that we find the words, "United States" and, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The country was named and given its founding concepts on the 4th of July, when the document was formally adopted.



Myth 3

Tomatoes were believed to be poisonous in 18th century America.

Most people in 18th century America had never heard of or seen a tomato. Written accounts tell us, however, that only a tiny percentage of those who knew of tomatoes thought they were poisonous. This myth has persisted, however, so that even the author of this article believed it for a long time.



Myth 4

Paul Revere yelled "The British Are Coming!" during his famous midnight ride.

In 1775, Independence was not yet declared. Everybody was still "British." Revere yelled, "The Regulars are coming out!" meaning that the Regular troops were coming out of Boston. Another misconception is that Revere was a lone rider; he actually had other riders helping spread the word.

Myth 5

The leading cause of death for women was childbirth or burns.

Women did die during childbirth at a higher rate than do 21st century women, but the leading cause of death for men and women in Revolutionary America was disease. Stories of women's dresses catching on fire were so horrific as to be much talked about, but the number of recorded cases was never high.

Myth 6

People bit off the ends of clay pipes to avoid germs when they passed the pipe around.

Ahhh, but they didn't know about germs yet in the 1700's. In fact, most 18th century hygiene is a bit scary by today's standards. Clay pipes had long stems because they kept the heat away from the face. Most old clay pipe stems are excavated broken because they were fragile. Pipes, like most things in colonial America, were not made to be disposable. If your friend bit the stem off your pipe, you would have taken issue with it.



Myth 7

A closet tax existed in the American colonies.

I have no idea where this myth started, but I have heard it repeated many times. The story goes that a closet was counted as another room and increased the tax on your house. In truth there are no records of regulations or taxes placed on closets in colonial America, and we have extensive tax records from the time.



Myth 8

Doctors used leeches to bleed patients.

Doctors did use leeches, but not for any major bleeding. The 18th century doctor believed that the body held about 12 pints of blood (it only holds 8-10 pints). Dr. Benjamin Rush believed you could bleed a patient of 6-8 pints over a few days. For that kind of bleeding you are going to have to open a vein. A leech drinks less than a teaspoon of blood (There's a fact that doesn't come up everyday). Leeches were used as cure alls for anything from fevers to facial discoloration but not for bleeding.

Myth 9

Americans won the war by using guerilla tactics.

There were some battles fought in the Revolution that used non-traditional, Native American style, or guerilla tactics, but they were not the norm and not decisive battles. The war was won when the American army learned to fight like a European army, learned to pick its battles, and got some major assistance from the French. That is all very simplified because the war lasted eight years and Washington learned new lessons and employed new strategies throughout. Only by keeping his army together and in the field was Washington able to finally find the

Continued on Page 8

2014 Officers and Committee Chairmen

Office	Name	Phone	E-Mail
President	Barry L. Kauffman	610-926-2664	bkauff1043@aol.com
Vice President	Leon E. Adam	610-933-9308	adamleoni_sr@yahoo.com
Secretary	David G. Loose Jr	610-780-9943	davidloosejr@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Robert W. Murray	610-670-1433	rwmurraysar@verizon.net
Genealogist/Registrar	Eric H. Troutman	610-488-7855	etroutman@juno.com
Chaplain	Dr. David Brock	610-670-9255	oncaldoc@comcast.net
Surgeon	Dr. Thomas A. Stewart	610-488-7044	
Chancellor	Scott Lash, Esq.	610-777-1115	

Presidential Appt.	Name	Phone	E-Mail
Aide-to-the-Pres.	Vacant		
Newsletter Editor	Floyd N. Turner II	610-929-5840	fnt2@comcast.net
Color Guard Capt.	Charles Seibert	610-385-7370	cvseibert@gmail.com

Committee	Name	Phone	E-Mail
Eagle Scout	Robert W. Murray	610-670-1433	rwmurraysar@verizon.net
Knight Essay	Vacant		
ROTC	Bruce L. Dietrich	610-374-7381	skyteach@comcast.net
Graves	Eric H. Troutman	610-488-7855	etroutman@juno.com
Veterans Affairs	Charles Seibert	610-385-7370	cvseibert@gmail.com
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CAR/DAR Relations	Floyd N. Turner II	610-929-5840	fnt2@comcast.net
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Americanism	Robert M. Hillegas	717-865-7478	hrrp11@verizon.net
Flag	Robert M. Hillegas	717-865-7478	hrrp11@verizon.net
Awards	Floyd N. Turner II	610-929-5840	fnt2@comcast.net

If you are interested in obtaining more information about the activities of the chapter or committees please contact the appropriate officer or chairman. If you would like to volunteer to lead a committee, please contact the Chapter President. If you would like to volunteer to assist one of the existing chairmen, please contact that chairman directly.

Past Chapter Presidents

1937	George B. Hiester *	1971 – 1976	John H. Henninger, Jr. *
1938 & 1939	Irving C. Hanners *	1977 – 1979	Darryl S. Jeffries
1940 & 1941	Walter S. Ludwig *	1980 – 1983	Howard D. Baldwin
1942 & 1943	Louis J. Heinzman *	1984 – 1987	Robert J. Buckalew, Ed.D. *
1944	George B. Balmer *	1988 – 1990	Darryl S. Jeffries
1945 & 1946	Daniel F. Ancona *	1991	Richard R. Long
1947 & 1948	Ernest F. Rhoads *	1992	John E. D. Huffman II *
1949	G. Fred Steinrock *	1993 & 1994	John L. Houser
1950 & 1951	Arthur W. Heim *	1995 & 1996	Philip L. Garrett, Ph.D.
1952	John F. Neihart *	1997 & 1998	Miles K. Dechant
1953 & 1954	John Stolz *	1999 & 2000	Thomas E. Shultz, M.D.
1955	Paul K. Stolz *	2001 & 2002	Darryl S. Jeffries
1956 – 1958	Louis J. Heinzmann *	2003 & 2004	Nevin C. Miller
1959 & 1960	John H. Henniger, Jr. *	2005	Martin J. Peicker
1961 – 1963	John E. German, M.D. *	2006 & 2007	Eric H. Troutman
1964 – 1966	Tyler W. Gray *	2008 & 2009	Floyd N. Turner II
1967	Clarence O. Hartman *	2010	Eric H. Troutman
1968	D. Clarence Hoffa *	2011 & 2012	Robert M. Hillegas
1969	William G. Hintz, Jr. *	2013	Barry L. Kauffman
1970	LeRoy M. Kutz, Sr. *		

* Deceased

UPCOMING EVENTS

“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”
 -Benjamin Franklin

Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter Events

- Feb. 13** - Executive Committee meeting, 7:00 PM, 775 Grange Rd, Leesport (Note: new date!)
- Feb. 15** - President’s Day Brunch, 11:00 AM, Hendel House, Speaker: Barry Kauffman
- Mar. 13** - Quarterly meeting, 6:00 PM, Toscani Restaurant, Wyomissing, Speaker: Dr. David Brock
- May 14** - Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM, 775 Grange Rd., Leesport
- May 26** - Memorial Day Ceremony, 9:00 AM, Veteran’s Grove in City Park
- Jun. 12** - Quarterly meeting, 6:00 PM, Location: TBD
- Jun. 22** - Allegiance Sunday, Christ (Mertz) Lutheran Church, 18 Fleetwood Rd, Fleetwood
- Aug 13** - Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM, 775 Grange Rd., Leesport
- Sep. 11** - Quarterly meeting, 6:00 PM, Heidelberg Country Club, Bernville
- Nov. 12** - Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM, 775 Grange Rd., Leesport
- Dec. 4** - Annual Meeting, 6:00 PM, Berkshire Country Club, Reading
- Dec. 13** - Wreaths Across America, 12:00 Noon, Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA

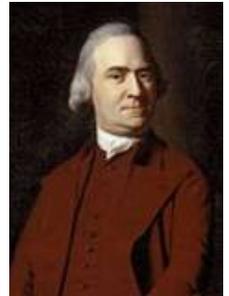
10 Myths, Continued

right combination that brought victory. This in no way belittles the bravery and usefulness of the riflemen and minutemen who fought for Liberty, but it took a lot more to win Independence.

Myth 10

The Revolution was fought over high taxes.

The tax rate was higher in England than in the colonies. The argument was over rights. British law stated that British citizens would not be taxed when they had no representation in Government. There were other rights violated as well. The government was making unwarranted search and seizures and denying citizens rights to trial by jury. The British government was restructuring the colonial government without the consent of the colonists, shutting down Boston harbor, and demanding that citizens billet soldiers on their property. Essentially, the Revolution was fought against the arbitrary rule of a government that was not following its own laws, was making itself too powerful and intrusive, and wasn’t listening to the people. Fortunately, nothing like that could happen today.



OK, that’s 10. But before we go I’d just like to say... George Washington did not have wooden teeth, he was not the richest man in America, he did not farm pot, and he never threw a silver dollar across the Potomac. Betsy Ross did not make the first flag, Thomas Jefferson did not create a wall of separation for church and state and there is no treasure map on the back of the Declaration of Independence. I feel better already.

Report News and Events!

Compatriots,
 This is your newsletter! You’re encouraged to submit news, articles, information and photographs that may be of interest to the members of the chapter. Articles relating to the history of Berks County and surrounding areas in the 18th century may be particularly interesting.

Also, don’t forget to visit the State and National websites for more information regarding the SAR!

www.sar.org
 &
 www.sar.org/passar/

WANTED

Newsletter Editor

I’ve had the honor and pleasure of serving the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter as the Newsletter Editor for 6 of the last 7 years. Recently, unique opportunities have been offered to me that I can’t refuse. Therefore, I’d prefer to pass on the Editor duties to a compatriot who can focus on the position for the benefit of the chapter.

Some knowledge of computers and software such as Microsoft Publisher or Word is essential. The Hiester Herald is our primary method of communications with our members and is a tool to help us recruit and retain members.

Interested compatriots should contact President Barry Kauffman at bkauff1043@aol.com or 610-926-2664

Floyd N. Turner II, Editor