



The Hiester Herald

Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution

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President's Message

Compatriots,

Our chapter membership is growing! We have 80 members and I would like to see 90 members by the end of this year. I think we can do it.

I'd like to fill you in on our upcoming events. Our next membership meeting will take place June 10th at Galen Hall. Our speaker will be Marion T. Lane, Ed.D., her topic is *Looking at African American History Through a Different Lens*. I am sure you will be enlightened by her presentation. On June 13th we will gather at St. Paul's UCC in Amityville to mark Allegiance Sunday. The worship service begins at 9:00 A.M. and following worship we will gather for a memorial ceremony on the cemetery to honor the 34 known Revolutionary War veterans buried there. Check the calendar of events in this issue for an overview of meetings and events scheduled for the rest of this year.

As this issue goes to press, a few of your fellow compatriots will be gathering in Ligonier for the annual PSSAR meeting. I don't imagine the weather will be a factor as it was in February. Miles Dechant and I made it to Pittsburgh before the snow storm. We watched as 26 inches of snow fell Friday night through Saturday. A few hardy Compatriots joined us that weekend. We had a quorum and so we could conduct business. It was a good time to renew old friendships.

Don't forget the SAR Annual Congress in Cleveland, OH, June 26-30 and the Atlantic Middle States Conference in Philadelphia, August 14-15.

I would be remiss if I didn't encourage all of our Compatriots residing in Pennsylvania to remember to vote in the coming May primary. We need to exercise the right to choose those who seek to represent us in our local government. To for-go this obligation is to dishonor our patriot ancestors and all the sacrifices they made those many

years ago. By the way, it doesn't hurt to encourage your friends and neighbors to go to the polls either.

Please plan to join me July 24th at 1:00 P.M. at my home in Bernville for a chapter picnic. Family members are welcome. Bring your swim suit and a folding chair. Let's spend an afternoon relaxing and getting to know one another.

Eric H. Troutman

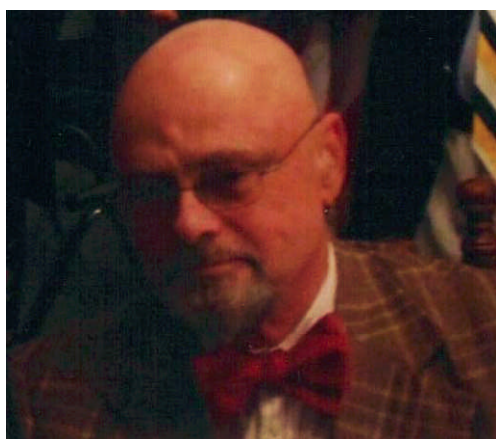
President



March 2010 Stouch Tavern



PASSAR President Duane Miller and his First Lady, Mary Ellen, joined our chapter for dinner at the Stouch Tavern and they graciously offered to sell raffle tickets before dinner.



Mr. George Hetrick, our guest speaker, presented *Saving Conrad Weiser Homestead*.



Compatriots Raymond and Howard Longacre enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres prior to dinner.

Compatriots Larry Ramberger and Henry Troutman are joined by their ladies, Gladys and Evelyn.



President Troutman presented David Loose with the Military Service Certificate and medal.



Ronald Fisk and Nevin Miller enjoy Mary Bahr's story .



Martin Peicker and David Batdorf are ready to partake of the buffet as David Brock prepares to join them.

Berks County in the Revolutionary War



Soon after the French and Indian War, trouble began with England, the mother country. With the passage of the Stamp Act, General Gage was sent to Boston from England and harassment began. When the news reached Reading, meetings were held on Penn Square to protest the outrages of the British troops. At one of these meetings seven resolutions were adopted attacking the British stand; this action helped to spur other colonies into action. Residents of Berks have always been very patriotic and in this case were identified with the Revolution by being one of the first groups to offer their

services. George Nagel, John Spohn, and Jonathan Jones raised companies in Berks in answer to Washington's call for troops. Captain Jones' Company marched 600 miles to Quebec to join the attack on Canada because it had not rebelled from England. They joined the command of Benedict Arnold who, at that time, was a loyal American general. After suffering greatly from cold and the attempt having failed, they marched south through New York state helping Arnold to prepare for the Battle of Ticonderoga. Later this same company escorted Martha Washington to Philadelphia.

A regiment of Berks County patriots assembled and equipped by Joseph Hiester [1752-1832] arrived in New Jersey only to find that Washington had moved to Long island. Some Reading men were killed and wounded; Hiester was captured and held prisoner on various British ships. He was robbed of all his money and clothes; ill treatment and poor food weakened him until he was forced to crawl about on his hands and knees. He was later exchanged and came back to Reading; recovering his health, he returned to the army. Later he enlisted 650 more men in Berks for General Reed's Army. After the war ended, Joseph Hiester entered political life and served as governor of the state from 1820 to 1823. [Known as "Old German Grey," Hiester, at six-feet tall

and 200 pounds, walked with a malacca cane. As governor, he presided over dedicating the first state capitol building, and is credited with expanding education for citizens. He is buried in Charles Evans Cemetery.

During the struggle with her rebellious colonies, England was short of trained soldiers and hired troops from Germany, paying their prince large sums of money. They came principally from Hesse and were called Hessians. Berks County patriots were in the battles of Saratoga and Trenton where many of the Hessians were captured. A large number of prisoners were brought to Reading and encamped along the south side of Mt. Penn on what is now Hill Road and through the valley to Mineral Springs Park. About 1,000 prisoners were brought to Berks during the war. Some had their wives here so they built small cabins. Many were skilled farmers and were hired out during the war. Later they bought land and became American citizens.

The only blot on Reading's Revolutionary War record is the fact that a little log hut just east of Eighth and Penn Streets was the meeting place of General Mifflin, General Conway, General Lee, and others who conspired to remove Washington from command and replace him with General Gates who had just won the Battle of Saratoga. Washington had been defeated at Brandywine and had retired to Valley Forge. Reading became a gathering place for dissatisfied officers and wealthy families of Philadelphia. The conspirators later met in Philadelphia at Tauntin Inn. Washington learned of the plot through friends. The movement collapsed, and the Conway Cabal, fortunately, never achieved its object.

From History of Berks County

J. Wallace Luckenbill

Fleetwood Junior High School Lectures 1938-1945

Committee Reports

Eagle Scout Committee

The committee has been quite busy this year attending twenty-eight Courts of Honor where we presented the scouts with a letters of congratulations from the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter, Certificates of Recognition, and information about our scholarship program. We were unable to participate in nine additional ceremonies but the same information was mailed to these scouts.

The State Eagle Scout Scholarship award winners for 2009 are as follows: 1st Place - Nathan Alan Iler, Chester County Council Troop 44, 2nd Place - Stephen Joseph Gliatto, Cradle of Liberty Council Troop

176 and 3rd Place - Sean Steven Cravelle, Westmorland-Fayette Council, Troop 311.

I hope you will be able to attend our June meeting where we will recognize our award winner for 2009, John David Watts, from Troop # 595.

Robert W. Murray,
Eagle Scout Chairman



Compatriot Eric Troutman presents the SAR Certificate of Recognition to Kyle Gutshall at Kyle's Court of Honor in the Bernville Grange.

Genealogist's Report

Robert G. Hall and his son Payton W. Hall, along with Thomas A. Foreman have received National numbers. Compatriots Robert and Peyton Hall's ancestor is John W. Hall. Peyton is a junior member. Compatriot Foreman's ancestor is George Hartman. We welcome all to our fellowship and look forward to awarding them their rosettes.

At this time there are 6 applications at National Headquarters awaiting approval along with two supplemental applications.

I am currently working with 15 prospective members to prepare their applications for submission to NSSAR.

Eric H. Troutman
Registrar/Genealogist



The NSSAR Nominating Committee endorsed Miles K. Dechant in March for election to the position of Librarian General. The election will be held in Cleveland, Ohio in June during the annual NSSAR Congress.

Best wishes Miles!

Compatriot Floyd Turner represented Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter SAR March 31, 2010 at the Naturalization Ceremony at the Berks County courthouse.



In Memoriam

Compatriot John H. Henninger, Jr. died March 9, 2010. some of you may remember that John was Governor Joseph Hiester chapter president in 1959, 1960 and from 1971 to 1975. Compatriot Henninger was also PSSAR Historian from 1968 to 1969. we extend our heartfelt condolences to Compatriot Henninger's family.

2010 Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter Officers

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2010 Calendar of Events

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| May 13 | Executive Committee Meeting Troutman Home |
| June 10 | Membership Meeting Galen Hall Country Club, 6:00 PM |
| June 13 | Allegiance Sunday, 9:00 A.M. St. Paul's UCC, Amityville |
| June 26-30 | SAR Annual Congress, Cleveland, Ohio |
| July 24 | Picnic, 1:00 P.M. President Troutman's Home, Bernville |
| August 5 | Executive Committee Meeting Troutman Home |
| August 6-7 | PASSAR Quarterly Meeting, Erie |
| August 14-15 | Atlantic Middle States Conference New York |
| Sept. 9 | Membership Meeting Heidelberg Country Club, 6:00 PM |
| October 23 | Breakfast Country Fare Restaurant, 9:00 AM, Myerstown |
| Nov. 4 | Executive Committee Meeting Troutman Home |
| Dec. 2 | Annual Membership Meeting Berkshire Country Club, 6:00 PM |

