



# The Hiester Herald

Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Fellow Compatriots,

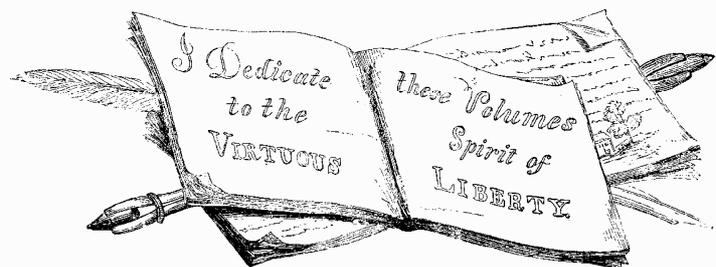
The quarterly dinner meeting scheduled for Flag Day, June 14, 2007 has been designated as the official celebration of the Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. My hope is that all of you will join with your Fellow Compatriots in celebration of this auspicious event. Besides celebrating the anniversary of our founding, we will be honoring our Revolutionary War ancestors and the patriotic men who organized this chapter 70 years ago. The Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter has passed the reins of leadership through the generations and has evolved into a chapter that would make our founders proud. Our challenge is to stay abreast of the technology available to us to continue to attract the younger generation of Sons to the SAR as they are the future of the Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter.

While learning to use new technology to keep us current, it is vitally important that we work to preserve our history. At our spring meeting our Chapter voted to donate \$100 to help preserve a national treasure. I must say that the decision to donate to this cause made me realize how fortunate I am to be President of the Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter, SAR. Our Chapter is earnestly working to recognize young men through the Eagle Scouts Court of Honor and ROTC programs and now we can also say that we are actively working to preserve pieces of history that will be displayed for all citizens to enjoy. You can find more information about "Support Our Constitution Flag" project in the pages of this edition of the Hiester Herald. I am sure that our founders are pleased that we have acted to preserve a piece of our National History.

Unfortunately it has again become fashionable to criticize this nation for faults real and imagined. It makes one wonder why so many try to reach our shores and boundaries every day risking physical harm and sometimes even imprisonment. At the end of the day this nation is still the hope of the world. We must concentrate our efforts to show our love of God and country so that the United States of America will continue to be a beacon of hope to the world. Our ancestors did it, and so must we.

God Bless You  
and  
God Bless America

*Eric H. Troutman*  
President



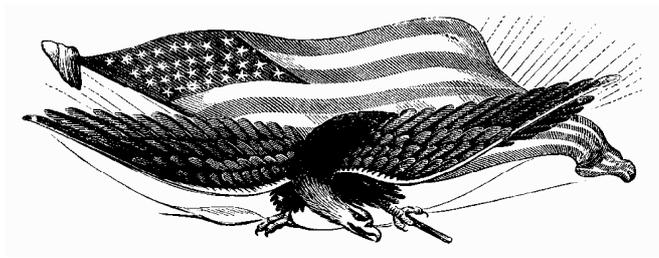
## Chapter Mourns Compatriots Passing

On March 17, 2007 the SAR lost a devoted Compatriot.

Dr. Robert J. Buckalew passed away in the Henry Care Center in Topton. A native of Florida, Dr. Buckalew was a retired Air Force Major that served during World War II. After retiring from the military he worked at Kutztown University as a psychologist in special education until 1989.

In addition to being a Past President and Genealogist of the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter, he was active in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Reserve Officers Association.

We extend our heart-felt condolences and prayers to his wife, Flora, and two daughters, Flora and Faye.

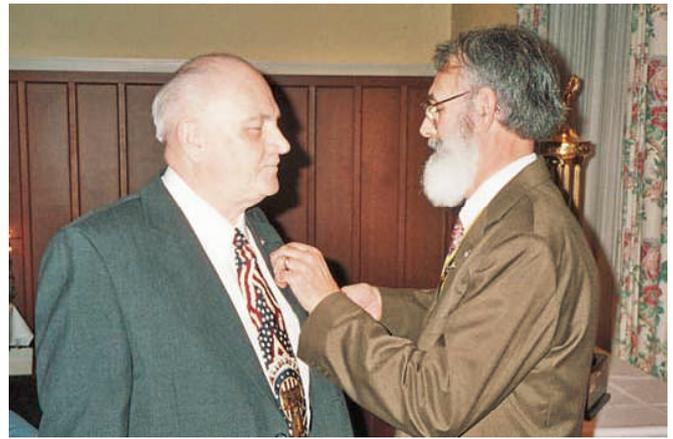


## March Quarterly Meeting Recap

Members and guests met at the Inn at Moselem Springs on March 8<sup>th</sup> for the Quarterly Meeting and to observe the 237<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Boston Massacre.



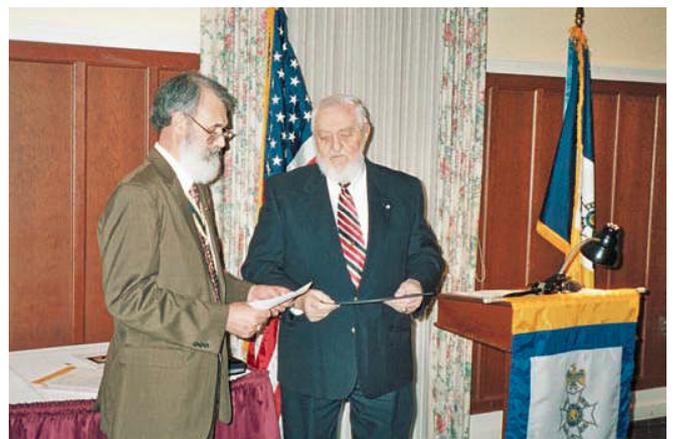
Compatriot Robert W. Murray was sworn-in as Aide-to-the-President by National Trustee Miles K. Dechant.



Our newest member, Bruce Reppert, was presented with his membership rosette by President Troutman. Compatriot Reppert is a veteran and serves on the Berks County Armed Forces Advisory Committee and with several other civic organizations.



Mr. Sime Bertolet, Executive Director of the Historical Society of Berks County, gave an informative and enjoyable talk about the history and future of the Historical Society.



Past President Nevin C. Miller was presented the War Service Ribbon for his service during World War II. Marine Corporal Miller was, and still is, a gung-ho, hard-charging devil dog that served in the Pacific theater from March 1944 to November 1945.

## Preserving a Part of Our Heritage



Flag, "Support Our Constitution" White silk, painted. 70"W x 47"H, c. 1800. Frame: 80"W x 60"H. Property of The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania.

The following is a quote from the Executive Director of the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, Andrew A. Zellers-Frederick:

“Within our collection is a late 18<sup>th</sup> century flag created when our nation was beginning to put into practice the new government recently formed under the Federal Constitution. This flag, one of only 30 or so remaining from this important era, is dominated by the awe inspiring Federal Eagle depicted with the emblazoned words Support Our Constitution a phrase as important to our country today as it was over two centuries ago. The flag was donated to our cultural institution over a century ago following its original bequeath to Pennsylvania Masonic Lodge 59 by one of its members.

As you can see by the enclosed image, this proud flag is in urgent need of stabilization and conservation work, due to the deterioration of the silk and other elements, in order to preserve it for future generations to view. Subsequently, we have contacted two experts to study the requirements for the required professional work. Following the completion of the required textile work, the flag will be placed into a specially designed and environmentally controlled museum case and then displayed on our main museum floor. The flag will then take its logical place along with other notable objects in our collection with provenance to such prominent individuals as President Washington and Dr. Franklin.

To fund this endeavor, we have applied for a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. This grant is a matching one with the

other half of the project budget sought from other interested organizations, institutions and individuals.

So far, our initial request for support has been met with success. To show our deep appreciation, each supporting organization will have its name on a plaque by the flag and be invited to a special dedication ceremony.”

Members voted to give \$100.00 toward the restoration of this historical flag. A very nice letter was received by the Chapter from Mr. Andrew A. Zellers-Frederick thanking us for the contribution and promising to keep us apprised for the progress. Anyone that would like to see the flag may contact Mr. Zellers-Frederick at (215) 988-1920 to arrange a personal view.

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### Chapter Member Appointed PASSAR Chairman

Chapter Eagle Scout Committee Chairman, Robert W. Murray, has agreed to be the new PASSAR Eagle Scout Committee Chairman. He will be following in the footsteps of Nevin C. Miller who retired from the position in May 2006.

It's good to know the position is in very capable hands and the PASSAR Eagle Scout program will continue to thrive.

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### New Members and Supplementals

The following supplementals have been approved:

<u>Compatriot</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
Raymond Longacre	Mathias Rhoads
Howard Longacre	Mathias Rhoads
Eric H. Troutman	Johannes Batdorf
Eric H. Troutman	John Brossman
Eric H. Troutman	Melchior Fiegel
Eric H. Troutman	Philip Klahr
Eric H. Troutman	Jacob Ludwig

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*“Doing an injury puts you below your enemy; Revenging one makes you but even with him; Forgiving it sets you above him.”*

- Benjamin Franklin

## PA CAR State Conference

“As President of the Conrad Weiser Society and newly elected Pennsylvania Society State Historian, I would like to thank the members of the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter for your generous support of the recent conference. You helped to make it a huge success. Thank you very much.”

Kathryn Turner, President, Conrad Weiser Society  
Anita S. Bond, Senior President

“I am extremely proud of the generous support demonstrated by the members of the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter. Your contributions helped to ensure a successful, but equally importantly a fun and memorable conference. The Conrad Weiser Society received a great deal of praise regarding the conference. Some of that credit belongs with the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter for your donations that enabled us to go the extra mile for everyone.”

Floyd N. Turner II, Conference Treasurer

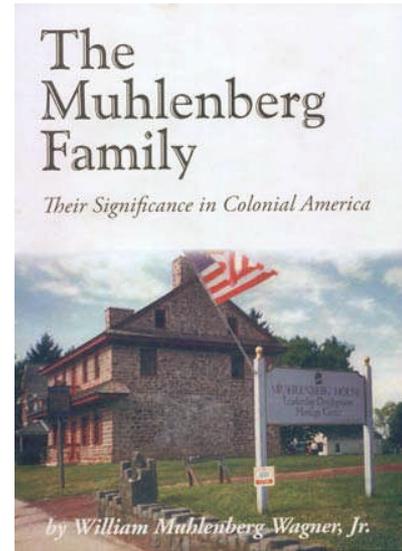


Sergeant of the Guard, Nevin Miller, assisted at the conference registration table.



State Treasurer (and Past President of the Conrad Weiser Society), Miles K. Dechant attended the banquet and presented National President Robert Fritsch with a \$500.00 donation from PASSAR to his national project, the restoration of the spring house near Washington's Headquarters at Valley Forge.

## Chapter Member Publishes Book



Compatriot William Wagner has written an interesting and well illustrated book about one of the areas most prominent and influential families. It's available through the Berks County Library System and may be purchased directly from Compatriot Wagner (\$35.00). Contact him at [wwagner@enter.net](mailto:wwagner@enter.net) or 610-678-7031.

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### A Few Words from Our Favorite District Deputy

We are now well into the spring season and if the sun would ever shine like it should, we will have some delightful days before the summer commences. Spring is a season for hope. Hope that the world can be a better place in which to live and that we as individuals can be more tolerant of each other. Hope that we as a nation of free people can come together and continue our leadership in the affairs of mankind.

James Willis  
District Deputy #1

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### Trimble Trophy Update

On May 4<sup>th</sup> President Troutman loaded the Trimble Trophy in his car. It was time for the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter to give up the award. At 9:40 AM the trophy crossed the border and departed Berks County.

The President has vowed that it shall return!

## Eagle Scout Report

I am very impressed with the status of the Eagle Scout program in our Chapter and I wish to thank Compatriot Miller for his dedication and the tremendous job he has done over the years for the scouting program.

Along with Compatriots Brown, Lash, Leiby, Miller, Peicker, and Turner, I have been extremely busy attending Courts of Honor in both Berks and Schuylkill Counties. From January 1 through May 19th, we have or are scheduled to attend thirty-three Courts of Honor. I have sent seventeen certificates and scholarship information to those scouts who either did not schedule a Court of Honor or those the committee was unable to attend.

We have attended as many as three Courts of Honor in one day and five Courts of Honor over a weekend. If any of our Compatriots would like to become part of this very worthwhile and satisfying endeavor, please contact me. I know the Eagle Scouts and their parents are very appreciative of our presence on this special occasion.

Our local scholarship winner, Kyle M. Crabbs from Sinking Spring, will be recognized at our dinner on June 14, at which time he will receive his Medal and cash award.

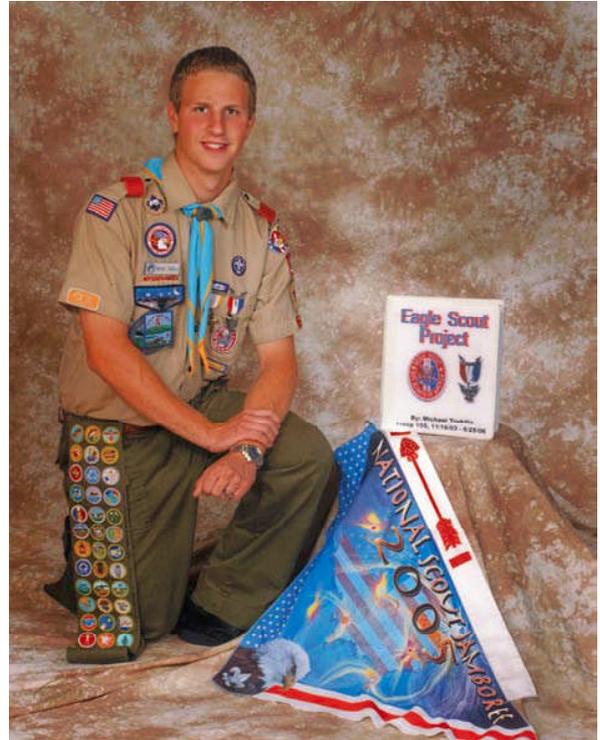
Benjamin M. Lombard from Murrysville, PA was selected as the State Scholarship winner and was recognized at the Annual Meeting in Washington, PA.

There were thirty-three entries for the National Scholarship award and the winners were: First place-Charles C. McBride II, Connecticut; Second Place -Alexander P. Spillane, New York; Third place - Paul J. P. Banwart, Minnesota.

The application for the Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Award is now ready and the National Eagle Scout Committee will receive and approve, for the first time, applications at the business meeting at the July Congress. The committee voted to present two awards per state per year. It is an honor due to members of the SAR who act as role models and provide dedicated service to the young men in the Boy Scouts of America

To repeat, I encourage any and all SAR members to take the time to attend one of these ceremonies. You will find the experience both reassuring and uplifting when you meet these outstanding young men.

-Robert W. Murray, Eagle Scout Chairman



Michael D. Trubilla, Troop 155, received his Eagle Scout Award on March 24, 2007. As an extra surprise, Michael's parents and Scoutmaster presented him with his acceptance letter to the United States Air Force Academy at his Court of Honor.

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## JROTC Awards

Bruce Dietrich, ROTC Committee Chairman, reports that the following JROTC students have been selected to receive the Bronze ROTC Medal and certificate for 2007.

Kathryn Abercrombie - Pine Grove H. S. (Army)  
Seth Ecker - Pottstown Senior H. S. (Air Force)  
Joshua Rapella - Boyertown Senior H. S. (Navy)  
Adrian Garcia - Reading Senior H. S. (Marine)

SAR awards the ROTC Medal to foster the principle of the "citizen" soldier. Recipients are selected by their Commanding Officers for their leadership, military bearing and general excellence.

Congratulations to all the winners!

## Grave Dedication

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, Compatriot Ray Maxson, President, Mecklenburg Chapter, NCSSAR will be conducting a Grave Dedication Ceremony at the grave of Jabetz Weiser. Patriot Weiser is buried in the Zion Cemetery, 116 Front St., Womelsdorf. The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 1:00 PM. Members of the Weiser Family Association will be coming from as far away as California to take part in the ceremony. A combined Gov. Joseph Hiester and Philadelphia-Continental Color Guard will present the Colors. After the ceremony, the group will meet for a tour of Conrad Weiser Homestead from 3:00 to 5:00 PM and then move on to Stouch Tavern for a "toast" to Jabetz Weiser.

All Compatriots are encouraged to attend. Let's show our friends from North Carolina some Pennsylvania Patriotism and hospitality.

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## Allegiance Sunday

Allegiance Sunday services will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church in Bally. The church began as St. Paul's Chapel in 1743 and is the oldest Catholic church in Berks County. Plan to be there at 9:45 AM so we can sit as a group. After the service there will be a tour of the museum and St. Paul's Chapel. Afterward, we will visit the cemetery and pay respects to the Revolutionary War veteran buried there. Come out and join your Compatriots at this historic church.

### Directions:

From the intersection of Routes 73 and 100 in Boyertown, take Route 100 North for 6 miles into Bally. Turn right onto South 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn right onto Pine Street. One block to the church.

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## Annual Flag Day Luncheon Hosted by DAR

This year the Flag Day luncheon will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Viva, Good Life Bistro in Wyomissing. The speaker will be a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors of Berks County. The registration form has been sent with the Hiester

Herald. All Compatriots are welcome and encouraged to attend this annual event.

## Patriot Sunday Hosted by the Valley Forge Chapter

The Valley Forge Chapter has invited us to join them on Sunday, May 20 for their Patriot Sunday service at the Zion Reformed UCC Church, 620 Hamilton St., Allentown, PA. Members will assemble at the church at 10:30 AM. The 6<sup>th</sup> PA Military Re-enactors will be assisting with the program.

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## Meeting and Anniversary Celebration

On Flag Day, June 14<sup>th</sup>, the Chapter will celebrate its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Reading Country Club, 5311 Perkiomen Ave. (Rte 422), Reading, PA

Past President General Roland Downing will be the guest of honor and will speak on the future of the SAR.

Cocktails will be served at 6:00 PM and dinner will be served at 6:30 PM.

We are hoping to see a large turnout for this milestone celebration. Chapter Presidents throughout Pennsylvania were sent invitations. The Berks County Chapter, DAR and Sons of the Revolution were also invited.

There are plans to take a lot of pictures at the meeting/celebration so that future members might marvel at the handsome Compatriots gathered in patriotic revelry.

A special picture of all the Past Presidents will be taken before the anniversary cake is served.

Please come for an evening of fun festive fellowship.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



*“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”*

-Benjamin Franklin

### Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter Events

- May 21 – Grave Dedication ceremony for Jabetz Weiser, Zion Lutheran and Reformed Cemetery, Womelsdorf and 1:00 PM
- May 26 – Wyomissing Hills Memorial Day Parade and Memorial Service – 9:45 AM
- May 27 – Oley Memorial Day Parade and Memorial Service – 6:00 PM
- May 28 – Bernville Memorial Day Parade and Memorial Service – 2:00 PM
- June 9 – DAR Flag Day Luncheon at Viva, Good Life Bistro – 12:00 Noon
- June 10 – Allegiance Sunday Service at the Most Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church in Bally, PA at 9:45 AM
- June 14 – Quarterly Meeting and Chapter Anniversary Extravaganza at the Reading Country Club
- July 4 – Wyomissing July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade, 10:00 AM
- July 21 – Klingerstown Bicentennial Parade 1:00 PM
- Aug. 9 – Executive Committee Meeting at 252 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Bernville, 7:00 PM
- Sep. 13 – Quarterly Meeting at the Heidelberg Country Club
- Nov. 8 – Executive Committee Meeting at 252 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Bernville, 7:00 PM
- Nov. 11 – Veterans Day Wreath Laying Ceremony in City Park, Reading
- Dec. 6 – Annual Meeting at the Berkshire Country Club
- Dec. 15 – Wreaths Across America, Wreath Laying Ceremony at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery

### PASSAR Events

- August 3 & 4 – Quarterly Meeting  
Host – Arthur St. Clair Chapter
- November 2 & 3 – Quarterly Meeting  
Host – Washington Crossing Chapter

Any Compatriot that wishes to attend a PASSAR meeting should contact the Chapter President at least a month before the event. He will try to ensure that you receive the registration form before the deadline for submittal.



This picture is from the Annual Meeting in December 2006. Treasurer Bruce Dietrich is giving his report. The respect and veneration which Compatriot Dietrich commands is evident. Note that everyone in the picture is listening intently and has turned to watch. Even the bottle on the table speaks to his esteem among the gathering.



Members of the Color Guard posted the Colors at the President's Day Luncheon hosted by the Berks County Chapter, DAR



Guardsmen Ray Longacre (L) and Floyd Turner (behind the camera) joined the Philadelphia-Continental Color Guard to

march in the American Spirit Parade in Lancaster, PA

In May of 1775 the Second Continental Congress selected George Washington to command the Continental Army. He accepted the position with a certain amount of reluctance as evidenced by the two letters below. General Washington served as commander for 8 years. Although he suffered many hardships and military setbacks, his incredible strength of character helped carry the army to success and forge a nation of free men.

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June 16, 1775

Mr. President,

Tho' I am truly sensible of the high Honour done me, in this Appointment, yet I feel great distress, from a consciousness that my abilities and military experience may not be equal to the extensive and important Trust: However, as the Congress desire it, I will enter upon the momentous duty, and exert every power I possess in their service, and for support of the glorious cause. I beg they will accept my most cordial thanks for this distinguished testimony of their approbation. But, lest some unlucky event should happen, unfavourable to my reputation, I beg it may be remembered, by every Gentleman in the room, that I, this day, declare with the utmost sincerity, I do not think myself equal to the Command I am honored with. As to pay, Sir, I beg leave to assure the Congress, that, as no pecuniary consideration could have tempted me to have accepted this arduous employment, at the expence of my domestic ease and happiness, I do not wish to make any proffit from it. I will keep an exact Account of my expences. Those, I doubt not, they will discharge, and that is all I desire.

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My Dearest, Philadelphia, June 18th 1775

I am now set down to write to you on a subject which fills me with inexpressible concern--and this concern is greatly aggravated and Increased when I reflect upon the uneasiness I know it will give you. It has been determined in Congress, that the whole army raised for the defence of the American Cause shall be put under my care, and that it is necessary for me to proceed immediately to Boston to take upon me the Command of it. You may believe me my dear Patsy, when I assure you in the most solemn manner, that, so far from seeking this appointment, I have used every endeavor in my power to avoid it, not only from my unwillingness to part with you and the Family, but from a consciousness of its being a trust too great for my capacity and that I should enjoy more real happiness and felicity in one month with you, at home, than I have the most distant prospect of reaping abroad, if my stay were to be seven times seven years. But as it has been a kind of destiny that has thrown me upon this service, I shall hope that my undertaking of it is designed to answer some good purpose. You might, and I suppose did perceive, from the Tenor of my letters, that I was apprehensive I could not avoid this appointment, as I did not even pretend to intimate when I should return--that was the case--it was utterly out of my power to refuse this appointment without exposing my Character to such censures as would have reflected dishonor upon myself, and given pain to my friends. This, I am sure, could not, and ought not to be pleasing to you, and must have lessened me considerably in my own esteem. I shall rely therefore, confidently, on That Providence which has heretofore preserved, and been bountiful to me, not doubting but that I shall return safe to you in the fall. I shall feel no pain from the Toil or the danger of the Campaign. My unhappiness will flow, from the uneasiness I know you will feel from being left alone. I therefore beg of you to summon your whole fortitude and Resolution, and pass your time as agreeably as possible--nothing will give me so much sincere satisfaction as to hear this, and to hear it from your own Pen.

If it should be your desire to remove into Alexandria (as you once mentioned Upon an occasion of this sort) I am quite pleased that you should put it in practice, and Lund Washington may be directed by you, to build a Kitchen and other Houses there proper for your reception--if on the other hand you should rather Incline to spend good part of your time among your Friends below, I wish you to do so. In short, my earnest, and ardent desire is that you would pursue any Plan that is most likely to produce content, and a tolerable degree of tranquillity as it must add greatly to my uneasy feelings to hear that you are dissatisfied, and complaining at what I really could not avoid.

As Life is always uncertain, and common prudence dictates to every Man the necessity of settling his temporal concerns while it is in his power--and while the mind is calm and undisturbed, I have, since I came to this place (for I had not time to do it before I left home) got Colonel Pendleton to Draft a Will for me by the directions which I gave him, which Will I now inclose. The Provision made for you, in case of my death, will, I hope, be agreeable; I have included the Money for which I sold my own land (to Doct'r. Mercer) in the Sum given you, as also all other Debts. What I owe myself is very trifling--Cary's Debt excepted, and that would not have been much if the Bank stock had been applied without such difficulties as he made in the Transference.

I shall add nothing more at present as I have several Letters to write, but to desire you will remember me to Milly and all Friends, and to assure you that I am, with the most unfeigned regard, my dear Patsy, Yr Affect. George Washington