



The Hiester Herald

Governor Joseph Hiester Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution

Chartered - May 11, 1937

Instituted - June 17, 1937



Volume XI, Number 1

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

February 2009

Nevin C. Miller, Secretary
610-926-4253

Floyd N. Turner II, President
610-929-5840

Floyd N. Turner II, Editor
610-929-5840

A Message from the President

Compatriots,

I am honored to serve the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter as President for another year. I will continue to strive to raise the visibility of our Chapter and promote the SAR in our community.

We are blessed with some very active members, each contributes what he can to the cause. Some serve as Chapter officers or chairmen, others pitch-in to help with whatever needs to be done. But as large as we are, and as much as we have accomplished, so much more remains to be done. The Color Guard could use more men to help improve our presence at parades and other patriotic functions. The Eagle Scout Committee needs men that are willing to help at Courts of Honor so we don't have to tell an Eagle Scout that we can't be there on his special day. Please let us know if you are able to help in any way. If you have a particular interest or talent that may be helpful, let us know.

For the third year in a row, I had the privilege of acting as the Master of Ceremonies for the Wreaths Across America ceremony on December 13th at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. Each year the event has grown bigger and bigger. The first year we had just 6 ceremonial wreaths and a few spectators to watch. The second year we had our ceremonial wreaths and 200 to place on veterans graves. This year we had 2,100 wreaths and hundreds of people at the ceremony. These events are always emotional for me but this year was particularly so. I was having difficulty getting through the portion of the ceremony where I thank all those veterans and families that have sacrificed so much for us. My daughter, who was there to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, stepped in to prop up her dad. We all need a little help sometimes.

Speaking of help, I also want to acknowledge my wife, Jane, and Mary Bahr for providing most of the pictures published in the Hiester Herald. Their pictures add color and help document our activities.

I look forward to the coming year and all we can do to promote patriotism and our heritage.

I am honored to remain your humble servant,

Floyd N. Turner II
President



Highlights from Annual Meeting

The Chapter conducted it's Annual Meeting on December 4th at the Berkshire Country Club.



One of our newest members, William Koch, Jr., was sworn in at the meeting. Looking on is his father, Compatriot William Koch. After being sworn in a proud father pinned the SAR Rosette on his son's lapel.



Attending our meeting was Compatriot Keith Jones a member of the Valcour Battle Chapter of the Empire State Society. This was actually his first SAR meeting so he was presented with a rosette.

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

Deadlines for submissions:
 Feb. 1 for February issue
 May 1 for May issue
 Aug. 1 for August issue
 Nov. 1 for November issue

Send submissions **and address changes** to:
 Floyd N. Turner II, 958 Whitner Road
 Reading, PA 19605 or e-mail: floyd2@comcast.net

CHECK OUT THESE WEB SITES

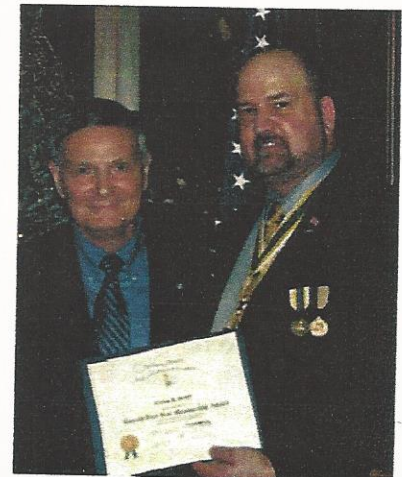
Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter, SAR
<http://home.comcast.net/~gjh.passar/site/>

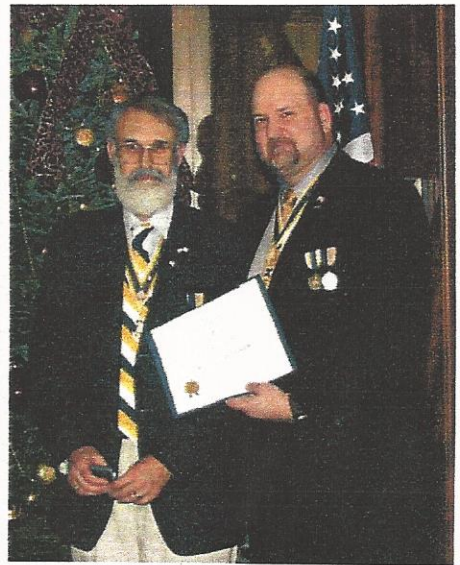
Berks County Chapter, DAR
<http://www.rootweb.ancestry.com/~paberdar/bdar.htm>

Conrad Weiser Society, CAR
<http://home.comcast.net/~cws.pacar/site/>



Compatriots Philip Garrett, Ph.D (above) and William Seidel (below) were each presented with their 25 Year Membership Certificates.





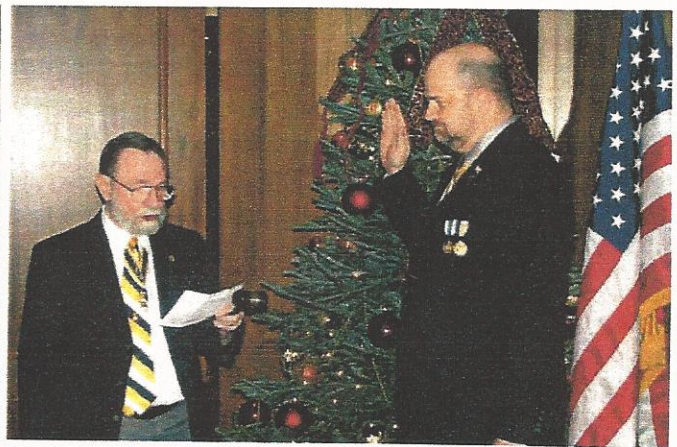
Compatriots Martin Peicker (left), Philip Garrett, Ph.D. (center) and Eric Troutman (right) were presented Meritorious Service Medals for their dedicated support of and service to the SAR.



(Left) Elizabeth Dechant, 1st Vice Regent of the Berks County Chapter, DAR, was presented the SAR Medal of Appreciation. She has been a good friend of our Chapter and has logged many hours recruiting members, assisting with genealogy, preparing applications for membership and helped prepare this newsletter for the first 5 years of it's existence. Her service to the SAR is greatly appreciated.



(Right) Entertainment for the evening was provided by Victoria Dreibelbis. She's 15 years old and a member of the Gen. Anthony Wayne Society, Children of the American Revolution. She's a student at Radnor High School and plays with the Main Line Youth Chamber Orchestra.



On the left, Chapter officers are sworn in by PASSAR District Deputy #1, Col. Joseph Thomas, who is also a dual member of the Chapter. On the right, Past PASSAR President and candidate for Librarian General of the National Society, Miles K. Dechant, swears in the 2009 Chapter President, Floyd N. Turner II.

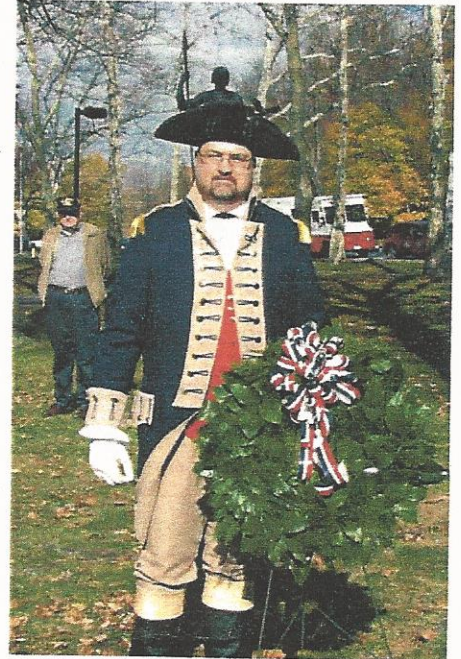
Veterans Day in City Park



Color Guard members and several other Compatriots from the Chapter represented the SAR at the Veterans Day ceremony in City Park, Reading. President Turner placed a wreath to honor our Nations veterans and Guardsman, Bruce Reppert joined with the Marine Corps League Color Guard to present the Betsy Ross flag during the ceremony.



On a much lighter note, the picture on the right was taken in front of the monument to Women Veterans. For those familiar with Greek mythology it may conjure up an image of the birth of Athena.

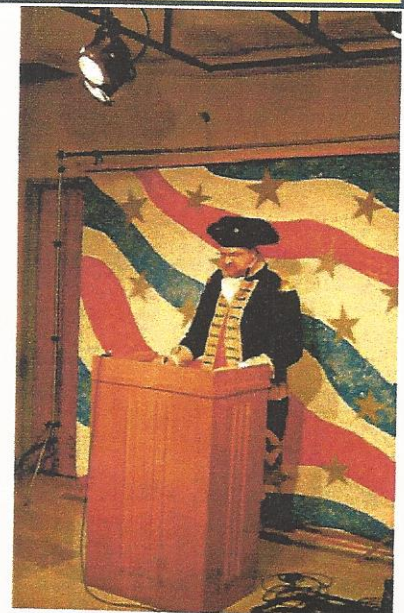
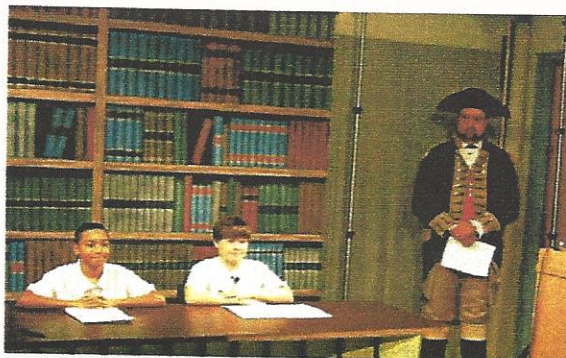


Veterans Day Address to Muhlenberg Middle School Students

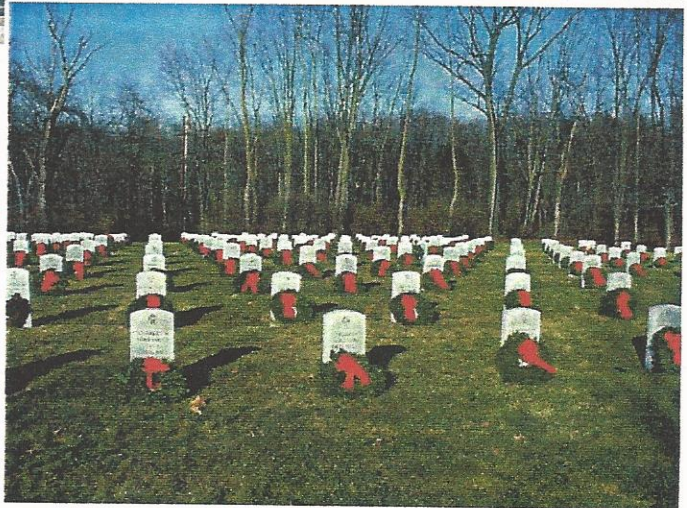
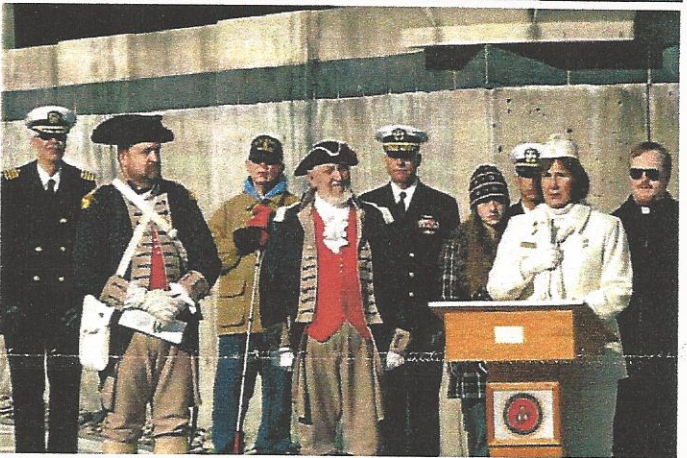
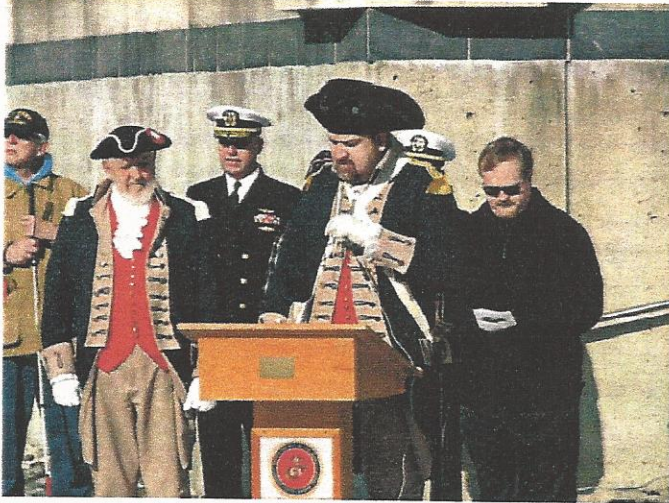
President Turner was invited to address the students at Muhlenberg Middle School on Veterans Day. The school has a media room that is used to make the morning announcements. Some students serve as news anchors, others as cameramen and some handle the duties in the production booth.

The students were given a brief history of Veterans Day and encouraged to appreciate what our veterans have done for this great Nation.

The school also hosted a breakfast that was free to all veterans. Members of the school band and choir put on a patriotic show and school officials and students thanked the veterans for their service.



Wreaths Across America



For the third year in a row the Chapter participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony held at Indian-town Gap National Cemetery. Participating in the ceremony were active-duty military, veterans groups, Civil Air Patrol, Sea Cadets, Gold Star Mothers and Patriot Guard Riders. After the ceremony, 2,100 wreaths were placed on veterans graves by the hundreds of people that came to watch. The Chapter also sponsored wreaths for the ceremony through the Conrad Weiser Society, Children of the American Revolution. This is an annual event that's held on the second Saturday of December. All members are highly encouraged to make plans to attend.

Eagle Scout Committee Report

For the 2008 calendar year our Committee was fortunate to be able to represent the SAR at seventy Courts of Honor but sadly were unable to attend an additional thirty-five Courts due to scheduling conflicts and too few Committee participants. Certificates and scholarship information were mailed to those thirty-five Eagle Scouts we could not cover. In the first month of the new year, the Committee has already participated in five Courts of Honor and has a number of additional ceremonies set up in the near future

The Gov. Joseph Hiester Scholarship Award winner for 2008 is David James Leinbach, 16 Timothy Drive, Mertztown, Pa 19539 from Troop #510. David will be recognized at our June meeting and his paperwork/application has been submitted to the State for consideration for a State Award. A letter of congratulations has been sent to David.

I would like to thank the following compatriots for their dedication and work on behalf of the Eagle Scout Program during 2008: Thomas Brown, Scott Lash, Nevin Miller, Martin Pecker, Bruce Reppert, and Floyd Turner.

As always this committee is in dire need of additional assistance if we are to be able to cover all of those young men earning their Eagle Awards in the future. Certainly, especially in these times, the dedication and effort required of these young men to persevere to the rank of Eagle, deserves a special dedication and effort on the part of the SAR.

Robert W. Murray, Eagle Scout Chairman



Genealogist Report

There are 5 applications for new members which have been submitted and are being processed. They are Brian P. Brock, David C. Brock, David G. Loose Jr., Richard W. Reiber and Steven L. Miller.

There is one supplemental application that is being processed for Raymond H. Longacre.

10 more people have expressed interest in joining. Several are in various stages of completing their applications.

Eric Troutman, Genealogist

NEW MEMBER GOAL!!

Lets try to increase our membership by 15% in 2009. That means that we'll need 10 new members.

Are any of your relatives interested?

Do you know someone that's interested in history and genealogy?

Ask them to join!

Offer to help them prepare their application.

Let's all try to get new members!

New Members and Supplementals

The Chapter welcomes the following new member:

<u>Compatriot</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
Stefan H. Troutman	Johann Philip Trautmann

The following supplementals have been approved for Compatriot Eric Troutman:

Jacob Belleman
 Johan Michael Hollenbach
 Francis Krick
 Johan Martin Potteiger
 Johann Valentine Unruh

We also welcome:

Robert Hillegas—transferred from Tiadaghton Ch.
 Christopher Smithson—dual member from the Maryland Society

Revolutionary War Monument Update

We have seen significant progress on the monument project over the past month or so. Our grant from Representative Dante Santoni has come through and is in our bank account. The Daughters of the Berks County Chapter, DAR have been exceptionally generous with their personal donations which now total almost \$1,000. It appears that the Conrad Weiser Society, C.A.R. will get the grant money they requested through Senator Mike O’Pake sometime around May of this year. And, last but not least, Representative Tom Caltagirone has promised a grant as well. With any luck, funding will be in place before this summer.

Great strides have been made with the City of Reading toward obtaining permission to erect the monument in City Park (Penns Common). On January 7th, President Turner along with Hallie Vaughan, Regent of the Berks County Chapter, DAR, Jane Turner, Senior President of the Conrad Weiser Society, C.A.R., Kathryn Turner, Secretary, Conrad Weiser Society and Compatriots Nevin Miller, Robert Murray, Bruce Dietrich and Bruce Reppert attended a meeting of City officials. Sitting in on the meeting was Mayor McMahon, members of City Council, Planning Commission, Historical and Architectural Review Board and the Penns Common Neighborhood Group. Also at the meeting and lending his full support to the project was County Commissioner Christian Leinbach.

Virtually all that attended the meeting seemed to approve of the project. We just need to jump through all the hoops. There will be meetings with the Planning Commission, Historical and Architectural Review Board and the Penns Common Group before the City Council will formally consider the project. There is reason to believe that we could have approval by April or May. If so, we should be able to order the monument and still have it installed this fall.



THE GREAT SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES



Compatriot Addresses Historical Society



A talk about Berks County Revolutionary War veterans was presented by Guardsman Bruce Reppert to members and guests at the Fleetwood Historical Society’s meeting in December. Some detail was given about his ancestor, Pvt. Jacob Reppert and Capt. Bartholomew von Heer, Commander of the Provost Corp.

His talk included information on the SAR, it’s function and the Revolutionary War monument project.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter Events

- Feb. 12**—Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM at 958 Whitner Road, Muhlenberg Twp.
- Feb. 21**—President's Day Luncheon, 12:00 Noon at the Historical Society of Berks County
- Mar. 12**—Quarterly Meeting, 6:00 PM at the Inn at Moselem Springs, Fleetwood
- Apr. 28**—Special Meeting, 6:00 PM at the Old Country Buffet, Wyomissing
- May 14**—Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM at 958 Whitner Road, Muhlenberg Twp.
- Jun. 7**—Allegiance Sunday service, Evangelical Lutheran Friedens Church, Bernville, PA
- Jun. 11**—Quarterly Meeting, 6:00 PM at the Wyomissing Family Restaurant, Wyomissing
- Jun. 13**—Flag Day Luncheon, Date tentative and location to be determined
- Jun. 14**—Rededication of "Support Our Constitution Flag", Date tentative
- Aug. 13**—Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM at 958 Whitner Road, Muhlenberg Twp.
- Sep. 10**—Quarterly Meeting, Location: TBD
- Nov. 12**—Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM at 958 Whitner Road, Muhlenberg Twp.
- Dec. 3**—Annual Meeting, 6:00 PM at the Berkshire Country Club, Reading

PASSAR Events

- May 1 & 2**—Annual Meeting
 Hosted by: Philadelphia Continental Chapter
- Aug. 7 & 8**—Quarterly Meeting
 Hosted by:
- Nov. 6 & 7**—Quarterly Meeting
 Hosted by: Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter

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

President's Day Luncheon

This years President's Day Luncheon will be hosted by the Historical Society of Berks County on February 21st at 12:00 noon at the Historical Society. A buffet lunch will be served by "Bravo! Classic Catering".

The program will feature Lynn Otto who will speak about "Frontier Forts of the Blue Mountains".

Please join with the members of the Historical Society and the Berks County Chapter, DAR for an afternoon of historic fellowship. See the registration form enclosed with the newsletter.



Quarterly Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at the historic Inn at Moselem Springs on March 12. The speaker will be Brigadier General John Gronski, Assistant Adjutant General, Joint Force Headquarters, PA National Guard, Fort Indiantown Gap.

We will gather at 6:00 PM with the meeting starting at 6:30.

Please join us for an evening of patriotic camaraderie. See the registration form enclosed with the newsletter.



Additional Meeting

There will be a special meeting of the Chapter on April 28th in the meeting room at the Old Country Buffet in Wyomissing. We will gather at 6:00 PM, dine at 6:30 and conduct the meeting after we eat.

This meeting is for members and prospective members only. All members are encouraged to bring anyone interested in membership so they may get to know us a little bit.

Dress for this meeting is casual. There will be no speaker. This is a chance for us to get to know each other better.

Registration form is enclosed. Please plan to attend.