

The Hiester Herald



THE GOVERNOR JOSEPH HIESTER CHAPTER SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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President's Message

Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter finished the year 1999 with two very nice and well-attended events. First was the holiday dinner and Chapter meeting at the Berkshire Country Club, courtesy of Compatriot Bill Koch. Our private room was an ideal setting with wood paneling and 18th Century pictorial wallpaper. The single long dining table was festively decorated for Christmas. The after-dinner speaker, Compatriot David Cole of the Philadelphia Continental Chapter, spoke about espionage during the Revolution.

Three days later we met again at St. Gabriel's Old Church, Douglassville, for our George Washington bicentennial observance, organized by our Chapter Treasurer, Martin Peicker.

Events are being planned for the year 2000 by the chapter officers and executive committee. First will be the annual Washington-Lincoln Day Luncheon, co-sponsored by SAR, DAR and Historical Society of Berks County, the luncheon host this year. Details and reservation form follow in this newsletter. In conjunction with the luncheon, and as a continuing observance of the Washington bicentennial, there will be an exhibit of Washington artifacts and memorabilia, including a braided lock of Washington's hair and a portrait attributed to Gilbert Stuart. Many of these items were last seen in 1932 at the bicentennial of Washington's birth. The exhibit runs February 1 to March 15 at the Historical Society.

Our first chapter meeting of the new year will be Thursday, March 30th at Moselem Springs Inn. The after-dinner speaker will be Kathy Scogna, author of the book, The Ford at the Schuylkill. Her topic will be "The French and Indian War in Berks County."

Notes From The Secretary

The Veterans Hospital in Lebanon is still accepting contributions in the form of used books. These books should be of recent publication and may be either hard cover or paperback on any subject. If you would like to make a book contribution through the Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter, please bring the books to any meeting. Chapter Vice-President John Houser is coordinating this project and will deliver the books to the hospital.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY THROUGH MARCH

February 19 (Saturday), Annual Washington-Lincoln Birthday Luncheon- Historical Society of Berks County. 12:00 Noon. The speaker will be Dr. Michael Gabriel, Department of History, Kutztown University. His topic will be "American Revolution Times."

March 30 (Thursday), Chapter Meeting-at Moselem Springs Inn at the intersection of Routes 222 and 662. Cocktails at 6:00 P.M. . Dinner will be served at 6:30 P.M. . The speaker will be Kathy Scogna, author of the book, The Ford at the Schuylkill. Her topic - "The French and Indian War in Berks Co."

**Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary
of the Death of
General George Washington**

On Sunday, 5 December 1999, as the oblique rays of the mid-winter sun softly illuminated the sanctuary, the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution gathered with their neighbors in S. Gabriel's Old Church in Douglassville, to observe the 200th anniversary of the death of General George Washington.

Dr. Robert J. Buckalew had arranged for the Marine Corps JROTC to form an honor guard. For half an hour before the service four members of the Angelica Consort played period music on woodwinds.

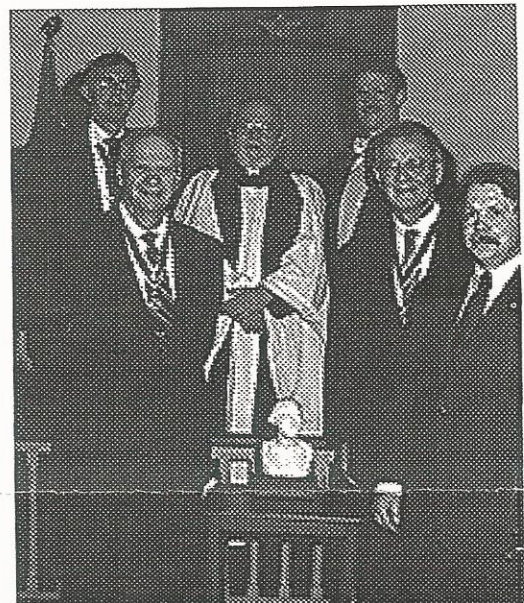
Punctually at 3:00 PM two shots rang out, and the congregation rose to sing a hymn. The Rev'd Canon Calvin C. Adams, Rector, read Washington's prayer for the United States.

Dr. Philip L. Garrett offered the eulogy which Light Horse Harry Lee had delivered before Congress on 26 December 1799. In it the Major General traced the career of Washington and extolled his merits. Dr. Garrett's reading was deeply moving. When he concluded, members of the Berkshire Chorale under the direction of David Gross sang "The Mount Vernon Hymn" by Jacob French.

The Rector, vested in floor-length surplice and black grosgrain scarf, read the Order for the Burial of the Dead from the 1789 Book of Common Prayer. He offered two concluding prayers which the Rev'd Mr. Bend had composed for the service at Christ Church in Baltimore on New Year's Day 1800. The priest having concluded the office, the choristers sang "A Dirge for General Washington" by Dr. George K. Jackson.

As the dirge faded, the Masons came forward to a small table whereon had been placed a bust of Washington and a Masonic apron. They performed their dignified obsequies and walked in a body out of the church. Two shots rang out. The dead bell tolled sixty-seven times as all kept prayerful silence.

Thanks to all who made the observance possible. ----- Article submitted by *Martin J. Peicker*



Officers assembled with The Rev'd Canon Calvin C. Adams, Rector, are, clockwise from lower left, Philip L. Garrett Ph.D., chapter secretary and District Deputy PASSAR; Darryl S. Jeffries, Past President of PASSAR; J. Thomas Showler, 3rd Vice President of PASSAR; Dr. Thomas Shultz, chapter president; and Martin J. Peicker, chapter treasurer.

Congratulations to the following Compatriots

James M. Beidler was recently installed as the new Executive Director of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. Since 1988 he has written a column, "Roots and Branches," which appears in The Patriot-News of Harrisburg. He is also the historian for the Daub family. --- from information provided by *Martin J. Peicker*

Scott E. Lash was recently sworn in as Berks County's eleventh judge. His assignments will be in family and juvenile courts. Since 1982 he had been associated with the law firm of Golden, Masano, Lash and Nice.