



Compatriot News

Philadelphia Continental Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution



Volume 48, Number 1

www.pccsar.org

Winter 2019



Happy New Year! On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Philadelphia Continental Chapter of the SAR, I wish you a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

The new year always comes with the making of resolutions. Some are attainable; some are not. At this stage in my life, I don't intend to make resolutions I can't keep. Having said that, I propose a dual resolution. I will do all I can to get as many Compatriots involved in our Chapter if you will resolve to become involved. Involvement does not mean what you may think. Please read on.

I like to simplify all I can. So your Executive Committee is offering the following enticements: a new and improved website, pccsar.org, where we include not only a Calendar of Events but members names and email addresses; a Fellowship Program where a new member is assigned an Old Guard to help connect with the Chapter to learn what we do and any possible involvement you may have now or later; Board of Management Meetings to address our business limited to four per year with two held during the day and two during the evening; six Chapter Meetings again three during the day and three during the evening featuring a guest speaker; and, our Annual Picnic. In addition to this we are planning to have impromptu gatherings in the 4 counties where we are present.

The goal is get to know as many Compatriots as we can. We are a wonderful Society with something to offer each member if he chooses to be involved. For those whose schedules do not permit involvement, we understand, but still want to meet you. In short, we are more than just a beautiful certificate suitable for framing.

Your Executive Committee is looking forward to an exciting year with the goal of getting to know as many Compatriots as possible.

Fraternally,

Frank

Compatriot News Published Quarterly by the Philadelphia Continental Chapter Editor: Carl Fletcher (610) 430-0755 cfletch514@yahoo.com			President Francis O'Donnell (610) 356-7770 1st Vice Pres. David Mizell (610) 245-1514 2nd Vice Pres. John Mitchell (610) 630-1575 Secretary Steven Kopsick (267) 242-4219 Treasurer John Briggs (610) 649-0866 Registrar John Mitchell (610) 630-1575 Genealogist Kelsey Brown (215) 659-1686
--	--	--	---

PHILADELPHIA CONTINENTAL CHAPTER 2019

OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

OFFICE	NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL
PRESIDENT	Francis A. O'Donnell, Jr.	610-356-7770	Odonnell.frank9@gmail.com
1 ST VICE PRESIDENT	David M. Mizell	610-246-1514	Dave.Mizell@gmail.com
2 ND VICE PRESIDENT	John F. Mitchell, III	610-630-1575	johnfmtc@aol.com
SECRETARY	Steven P. Kopsick	267-242-4219	skopsick@hotmail.com
ASST SECRETARY			
TREASURER	John M. Briggs	610-649-0866	435jmb@comcast.net
ASST TREASURER	William H. Baker	248-701-5267	wbaklava@aol.com
GENEALOGIST	C. Kelsey Brown	215-659-1686	whtwav2@aol.com
REGISTRAR	John F. Mitchell, III	610-630-1575	johnfmtc@aol.com
CHANCELLOR	Michael W. Freeland, Esq.	610-649-0707	freelanm41@comcast.net
CHAPLAIN	David M. Mizell	610-246-1514	Dave.Mizell@gmail.com
HISTORIAN	James H. Willis	484-266-0026	olddogjw@gmail.com
CAPT OF THE GUARD	Philip M. Anders	610-918-0213	philmlyco@verizon.net
SGT AT ARMS	Fernando (Fred) Fonseca, III	610-547-7660	fredfons@msn.com
AIDE TO PRESIDENT	James F. Hall	610-696-7788	james.hall@msn.com
	George M. Clarke, Jr.	610-687-8111	george.m.clarke@verizon.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRS			
AMERICANISM	Gregory J. Shively	609-385-7630	greg.shively@comcast.net
BROCHURE	George M. Clarke, Jr.	610-687-8111	george.m.clarke@verizon.net
BSA EAGLE SCOUT	Mark E. Burt	610-467-0925	burt1230@hotmail.com
CAR/DAR	Lanny R. Patten	610-520-9577	pattenlr@gmail.com
CHAPTER ACTIVITIES	George M. Clarke, Jr.	610-687-8111	george.m.clarke@verizon.net
FLAG CERTIFICATE	Philip M. Anders	610-918-0213	philmlyco@verizon.net
GRAVES	Joseph R. Stokes, Jr.	610-431-4751	N/A
GREENSPAN	Vance Carter Broach	610-687-3031	broach@udel.edu
KNIGHT ESSAY	Fernando (Fred) Fonseca, III	610-547-7660	fredfons@msn.com
MEMBERSHIP	Joseph R. Stokes, Jr.	610-431-4751	N/A
MILITARY AFFAIRS	BG Richard D. Merion (Ret)	610-692-1760	rmerion@verizon.net
NEWSLETTER	L. Carl Fletcher	610-430-0755	cfletch514@yahoo.com
POSTER CONTEST	George M. Clarke, Jr.	610-687-8111	george.m.clarke@verizon.net
PROGRAMS	Francis A. O'Donnell, Jr.	610-356-7770	Odonnell.frank9@gmail.com
ROTC/JROTC	COL John A. Gibson (Ret)	610-348-5747	jagibson215@gmail.com
STUDENT/TEACHER	F. Richard Miller	215-879-0234	richardmiller66@comcast.net
WEBMASTER	William H. Baker	248-701-5267	wbaklava@aol.com

<u>BOM - Class of 2019</u>	<u>BOM - Class of 2020</u>	<u>BOM - Class of 2021</u>
Ellis C. L. Adams	Gregory J. Shively	George M. Clarke, Jr.
John P. Mulcahy	Charles E. Wheeler	William H. Baker
Jeffery R. Smith	Mark E. Burt	James F. Hall
Jacob R. Fisher	John H. Teaford	Glenn J. Tyson

St. Lucia Celebration History

By Steven Kopsick

The Battle of Brandywine, also known as the Battle of Brandywine Creek, was fought between the American Continental Army of General George Washington and the British Army of General Sir William Howe on September 11, 1777. The "Redcoats" of the British Army defeated the American rebels in the Patriots' forces and forced them to withdraw northeast toward the American capital and largest city of Philadelphia where the Second Continental Congress had been meeting since 1775. The engagement occurred near Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania during Howe's campaign to take Philadelphia. The defeat and subsequent maneuvers left Philadelphia vulnerable. The British captured the city two weeks later on September 26, beginning an occupation that would last nine months until June 1778.

On December 10, George Washington's council determined that the Continental Army would move to winter quarters somewhere west of the Schuylkill River. The army struck camp the morning of December 11 and proceeded to march through Plymouth Meeting, across Ridge Road, and down to the river crossing at Matson's Ford. In preparation for the crossing, Washington ordered the Pennsylvania militia, under the command of General James Potter, to establish three advance pickets west of the river to warn of British troop movements: one at Middle Ferry, another at Black Horse Inn at City Line and Old Lancaster Road, and the third at Harriton House (the home of Charles Thomson, secretary of the Continental Congress) on Old Gulph Road.



Unknown to the Americans, General Charles Cornwallis led a sizable British force out of the city on a foraging expedition early that morning. Cornwallis was also apparently unaware of the Continental Army movements, and had planned to forage in the area just south of Matson's Ford. Employing a local resident named John Roberts (who despite protest that he acted under duress, was convicted and hanged in 1778 for assisting Cornwallis) as a guide, Cornwallis crossed the Schuylkill at Middle Ferry, drawing a round of musket fire from the American picket there before it withdrew. Cornwallis then proceeded up the road toward Matson's Ford. His force consisted of brigades of British light infantry and grenadiers, one brigade of regular infantry, two troops of dragoons, and a detachment of German jägers. The force took with them six 6-pound cannons.

Soon after, the militia stationed at the Black Horse Inn exchanged fire with the British troops. Outnumbered and flanked, the militia began to fall back in some confusion, taking casualties along the way. Reports were delivered to Potter, who was with the contingent located at Harriton House, indicating that the British were "advancing in force" up Gulph Road and towards his location. Potter stationed five regiments of militia between the British forces and Harriton House. However, the militia was quickly overrun and they hastily retreated back through Gulph Mills to Swede's Ford (present-day Norristown). The retreat was so chaotic that militiamen literally threw away their muskets and ammunition as they ran (an offense for which they would later be fined or publicly whipped). With the militia in retreat, Cornwallis discontinued pursuit and took up a strong position on the heights overlooking Matson's Ford.

The day after the battle, two Continental Army divisions under the command of General John Sullivan constructed a temporary bridge made from wagons that had been lashed together, and began crossing at Matson's Ford. Those divisions had almost completed crossing the river when the British position on the heights was spotted. Sullivan quickly ordered a retreat back across the river, and destroyed the makeshift bridge behind him.

(Continued on page 4)

The Continental Army spent December 11–12 in the hills above Swede's Ford, while Washington sent out scouting parties on December 12 to determine the extent of the British force across the river. However, Cornwallis had already left the area, beginning a roundabout route that brought him back to Philadelphia with a load of provisions. On the evening of December 12, in a blinding snowstorm, tired, and barely-clothed, Washington's army broke camp and crossed the Schuylkill River at Swede's Ford using makeshift wagon bridges and proceeded down Swedeland Road to Gulph Mills, where they remained from December 13 until December 19.

On December 13, 1777, as Washington and his troops were making their way to a site for their winter encampment, they saw lights burning on the west side of the Schuylkill River. Making their way across the river, they came to Christ Church in Swedesburg. At the time, the church was holding a festival for the feast of St. Lucia, a Swedish festival celebrating Saint Lucia, a 3rd century martyr known for bringing food and aid to Christians in the catacombs using a candle lit wreath upon her head to light the way leaving her hands free to carry as much food as possible. Washington and his officers were welcomed into the church to join in the celebration.

Due to the recent events and the potential for sunshine patriots and congregational members loyal to the British being present, soldiers from Washington's army entered the church to ensure the safety of their Commander in Chief, General George Washington, and his officers. Safety was assured and the officers participated in the religious proceedings.

This annual event has become a tradition supported by the Color Guard of the Philadelphia Continental Chapter of the Pennsylvania Association of the Sons of the American Revolution. True to the custom, when the services are to begin, the Color Guard contingent enters the church and challenges congregational members as to their loyalty to the American Revolution.



References:

<https://sheilahvance.com/2014/12/13/day-1-dec-13-1777-washingtons-army-at-rebel-hill-2/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Brandywine

<http://www.kophistory.org/washington-visits-christ-church/>

<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/valleyforge.htm>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Lucy%27s_Day

Dave Mizell, in his Color Guard uniform, made a presentation of the Bronze good citizenship award on 11/11/18 at Valley Forge Baptist Church to Pastor Scott Wendal in front of the congregation, in recognition of his outreach in the community to Veterans and 1st responders (Police/Fire/EMT).



New Memebers 10/19/18 to 1/7/19

New Member	Patriot
Robert Earl Rush	Jacob Rush
Aaron Robert Rush	Jacob Rush
Thomas Kerrigan Lake	Arthur Row
Robert Paul Oberkofler	John Handley
Stephen Merrick Peter Pierce	Elijah Easton
Kurt Franklin Ahrens	Abijah Comstock
James Allen Miller	William Kennedy
John Randolph Miller	William Kennedy
Robert Ryan Weller	Paul Thorp
Junior Members	Patriot
Roderick Justin Ahrens	Abijah Comstock
Emerson James Sites-Byers	John Leigh

New Member	Patriot
Paul Raymond Laurence	John Clewell
Kevin John Lawrence	John Conrad Rehrig
Ronald Clarence Lawrence	John Conrad Rehrig
David Constantine Lawrence	John Conrad Rehrig
Thomas Hawkins Alton	Azariah Taylor
Charles Raymond Lowry	John Cooper
Garrett Pleasant Smith	Joseph Winchester
Harrison Diesel Woodruff	John Woodruff
Jeffrey Harrison Woodruff	John Woodruff

PHILADELPHIA CONTINENTAL CHAPTER COMBINED ACTIVITY SCHEDULE COLOR GUARD AND CHAPTER

February	7th	Williamson College of the Trades Annual Program	6:00 PM
	16th	Chapter Meeting, George Washington Birthday Celebration, City Tavern	Noon
		Color Guard march-off to Washington Square	11:00 AM
		Color Guard to Independence Hall	11:15 AM
		Color Guard returns to City Tavern	11:45 AM
March	6th	Chapter Meeting, Cocktail Buffet & Speaker, Overbrook Golf Club	6:30 PM
April	1st	Newsletter deadline, Carl Fletcher, Editor	
	13th	Chapter/Ladies Day Program, Chanticleer Garden, Wayne, & Casey's luncheon	10:30 AM
TBD	21st	Mason's march to Franklin's grave, Christ Church, lunch @ City Tavern	10:00 AM
	26th	PSSDAR Service for Veterans luncheon, Doubletree Hilton, K of P, PA	12:00 PM
May	5th	French Alliance Day, Washington Chapel, Valley Forge	1:00 PM
	6th	Board of Management & Chapter Meeting, Dinner - Charlotte's Restaurant	6:00 PM
TBD	12th	Squad Training-WCU ROTC, 202 Carter Dr, West Chester	8:30 AM
	27th	Radnor Memorial Day Parade	9:00 AM
	27th	Radnor Twp Veteran's Memorial Program, Wayne, PA	11:00AM
	27th	DAR—SAR Wreath setting, Washington Square	3:30 PM

PCC History 1982-1983

The 81st Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers was at the Engineers Club of Philadelphia on Wednesday, November 10, 1982. President William G Dorwart welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. The president's staff was installed by Past President PSSAR, Samuel D Foster while newly elected President Paul L DeHaas was installed by Warren G Hayes, Member Executive Committee, NSSAR. Past President William G Dorwart presented the Charter, Insignia and gavel to President Paul L DeHaas who rendered brief remarks. The program states a necrology was led by Col Hartwell Bynum. Perhaps we should consider this at our Installation. Also, as shown above a Charter existed in 1982. I have tried to locate the Charter with no success and called Louisville to search their vaults again with no luck. The Treasurer's report as of November 30, 1982 showed total assets less liabilities of \$14686.

George Washington's 251st birthday was celebrated February 19, 1983 at the Engineers Club with an attendance of 82 compatriots and guests. 40 persons were bussed to Independence Hall and Washington Square for memorial services. Returning for a noon reception the luncheon was at 12:45P. The Annual Church Service was held on April 17th at Arch Street Presbyterian Church where our chaplain, Rev. G Hall Todd, has been its minister for 39 years. Luncheon was at the Holiday Inn, 18th and Market. Cost \$10. The Virginia Monument at Valley Forge Park was dedicated April 2, 1983 with the PCC Color Guard providing the flags. We were asked by the Virginia Society to participate in this program. The Color Guard now appears to be on a much firmer footing but the pictures show the men without uniforms, wearing grey slacks and dark jackets.

The President General's Activity Contest Award for large chapters was won this year (1983) by Philadelphia Continental Chapter. We are the largest in SAR with 416 members. Allegiance Sunday, July 3, 1983 was observed this year at Wayne Presbyterian Church. Of interest is a proposal by US Representative Tom Foglietta to model a monument of The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery for The Unknown's Monument at Washington Square in Philadelphia.

The 14th Annual Constitution Day Celebration was held Saturday, September 17, 1983 at St Davids Inn, Lancaster Ave, St Davids, PA. The guest speaker was Lt Gen Frederick A Welsh PARNG Retired who spoke on the Constitution of the US. He was a well-known lecturer and his presentation was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Cost, \$12 per. Also, Ronald Dancer, recognized nationally as an outstanding standardbred horse trainer and driver spoke at the May 2nd meeting of the chapter on harness racing. Mr. Dancer's father, Stanley Dancer is a member of the Harness Racing Hall of Fame. It is noted that the chapter donated \$50 to American Legion Post #609 for the renovation and upkeep of the Revolutionary War burial plot on Rt 23 in East Vincent Township. The remains of 22 unknown soldiers are interred here. This is the same plot where the Guard presents the Colors and places Betsy Ross flags on each grave on July 4th every year. Speaking of the Color Guard, in 1983 four activities were reported where today we show in over thirty activities. During the course of the year three men served as the Color Guard Captain. Their uniforms were civilian clothes while today new members pay as much as \$1000 for their outfits and all are of the same design and color.

Jim Willis, Historian of the Chapter

Washington's Birthday Celebration

February 16, 2019



This year as in previous years, a contingent of hearty souls will be led by our Color Guard and bagpiper Bill Watson from City Tavern (at 11:00 AM sharp) to the Washington Square Eternal Flame. This is the location of the Revolutionary War Unknown Soldier Tomb. During a brief ceremony, a wreath will be set in place at the tomb. The party will then march off to the Plaza in front of Independence Hall for a second wreath placed at General Washington's statue. Due to security those not directly involved in the ceremony will watch from the north side of Chestnut Street. Following this ceremony everyone will return to the City Tavern for a reception upstairs in the Long Room.

This is a cash bar followed by luncheon at 12:45PM; this affords ample time for a libation and renewing old friendships. The entree selection is Colonial Turkey Pot Pie preceded by a Tavern Country Salad and for dessert, Fresh Fruit Cobbler. Cost of the luncheon is still only \$50.00.

Remember the Color Guard likes your support, but they do not want you to freeze to death. You have two choices: arrive by 11:00, and join us on our short march or, arrive at noon and wend your way to the top floor to attend the luncheon.

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS 2/09/2019

George Washington's Birthday Luncheon Reservation

Saturday, February 16, 2019

	Pot Pie	Vegetarian
Name _____	_____	_____
Guest _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Total @ \$50.00 each _____

Send check payable to PCCSAR

To: Bill Baker

929 Burmont Road

Drexel Hill, PA 19026-4012

Email: wbaklava@aol.com

**Philadelphia Continental Chapter – SAR
199 COPPLES LANE
WALLINGFORD PA 19086-6328**