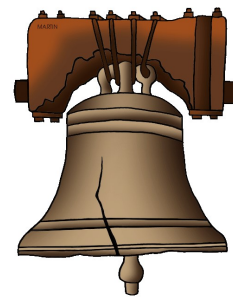




Compatriot News

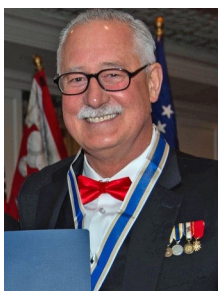
Philadelphia Continental Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



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Winter 2024



Steven Kopsick

Changes to meetings

I appreciate the efforts of the committee chairs in submitting their reports early and providing us with ample time to review them before the meeting. This allowed us to have a more productive and efficient discussion during the BOM. By sharing the committee reports with members in advance through a constant contact message, we were able to ensure everyone was well prepared and informed. The smooth flow of the meeting was a testament to the success of this approach. Once again, my sincere gratitude goes out to the committee chairs for their cooperation and timely submissions.

Social Media

Members can find updates on meetings, workshops, and conferences that the Philadelphia Continental Chapter will be participating in. This Facebook page serves as a hub for all our members to stay connected and informed. Not only will you find event details, but we also post important updates and announcements from the organization. This includes initiatives, upcoming events, past events, and any other information that members need to be aware of. We encourage all members to visit and follow the Facebook page of the Philadelphia Continental Chapter. It's a great way to stay connected, network with other members, and stay up to date with all the happenings within our organization.

Williamson flag project

Thank you to Compatriot Lanny Patton and all other participants for their generous donations and for helping us reach \$2,680 towards our \$3,000 goal. Additionally, we would like to acknowledge the \$1,000 donation from PASSAR, further adding to our fundraising efforts. We are also grateful to PSEG for their contribution of \$6,500, which has boosted our total to \$10,180. With these combined funds, we are making significant progress towards our goal.

Williamson

The winner for the Yearsley Award has been announced. He is Jack Gommer. A certificate and \$500 will be awarded on February 8th during the Founder's Day program.

Compatriot News
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Dues collection

Congratulations to Bill Baker for taking the initiative to address the issue of membership delinquency and for his exemplary leadership in engaging with members. Initially, there were 108 members facing the challenge of delinquency, but thanks to Bill's unwavering dedication, we were able to make significant progress in reducing that number. In recognition of his outstanding efforts, Bill was rightfully awarded a certificate of appreciation for his exceptional leadership skills.

Officer's emails

We have decided to remove our personal emails from the website and create g-mail accounts for our positions. Mine is pccsar.president@gmail.com. All officers should have created an account by now. If not, then in the near future. Committee chairmen are also encouraged to do this as well. This is an attempt for cyber security reasons to keep personal emails out of the internet realm. Be advised, some email have already been hacked so open emails with some caution. Once the emails are created, inform the president of the login and password to ensure access to the account when the leadership/chairmanship changes. The internet homepage will reflect these newly created emails instead of using our personal emails.

Committees and teamwork

Chairmen have held their positions for some time and are well versed with the ins and outs of these committees. The officer ranks change with our elections and the "new" regime is not as familiar with these activities. So it is incumbent that Committee chairs report all activities to the president and to John Whiteside, Americanism chair as they happen. This way we can keep track of our activities to keep the membership and the national organization apprised of our activities.

If there are shortcomings, or we are not hitting the mark, that needs to be brought to our attention so we can address and resolve these challenges. So, moving forward, chairs can appreciate the need for this stream of communication to demonstrate to our community and to our membership the value of what we do.

June Picnic

We have secured Fenimore Woods for our picnic on June 8th.

Guidon

I have added the constitution and by-laws to the guidon provided by the guidon committee. Copies will now be printed and provided to new members.

Washington's Birthday

We have the necessary permits for the event which will be on Saturday, February 17th. We will start at Washington Square, proceed to Independence Hall, take a membership photo at the Museum of the American Revolution and then go to lunch, potentially Glory Beer Bar and Kitchen, a mere walk from the MAR.

New Member certificates

A measure passed during the December chapter meeting requiring new members to attend an event to receive their membership certificates is now in place. I have received several certificates from the State Society secretary and informed new members via email of this process. Exempt are out of state members and those who are infirm who will have their certificates mailed to them.

NASSAR trip to France

There are still spots open for our NASSAR trip to France April 6-20, 2024. We are planning an exciting two weeks of fun, fellowship, and history. John Berik and his MAGIC team have assembled an extraordinary program for our SAR adventure honoring our French Allies in the Revolution. Contact me (pccsar.president@gmail.com) for details and registration.

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Upcoming events

February 2-3-PASSAR BOM in Chambersburg

February 8th-Williamson Founders Day

February 17th-Washington's Birthday and Chapter meeting

COLOR GUARD CORNER

The PCC Color Guard finished the final quarter of 2023 strong, ending a year chock full of activity.

On October 4th, the color guard returned to Revolutionary Germantown and held a memorial ceremony at Axes' burial ground, where many rev war vets are buried along with unknown fallen from the battle.

This will be an annual event with the goal of becoming a National Color Guard event by the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Germantown in 2027. We also reestablished our support of Revolutionary Germantown and manned a table at Clivedon to promote the SAR. In 2022, the reenactment that had taken place since the Bicentennial, was canceled.

Consequently, instead of thousands of people attending Revolutionary Germantown, there were dozens. Clivedon who has the main control of the activities, scheduled a closing ceremony themed on gun violence. This is at the heart of the reenactment cancelation. Revolutionary Germantown planners felt that the reenactment, involving pretend gunfire, is disrespectful to the lives lost by real gunfire. This makes no sense. The first speaker was the Pa. House representative from that area. He began by saying "this is ground that was stolen from the Indians and the violence that occurred at the Battle of Germantown continues today in the streets of Philadelphia". I was not having it. After the ceremonies I approached the representative and told him, as a descendant of two men who fought at Germantown, I did not appreciate him comparing those heroes who risked their lives for the idea that men should choose their government, with teens killing each other in the streets over money, drugs or being disrespected on social media. To my surprise, he said he got it and would not say such a thing in the future.

Compatriots, there are people that do not believe America is exceptional among nations. They cast America as evil and are finding success in their efforts to cancel the founders of this great country. If we remain silent, they will cancel our ancestors next and eventually cancel the SAR, DAR, and CAR.

Massey House is a long-time event on the PCC Color Guard October schedule, and we had a good showing, with five guardsmen. The following day, October 22nd, I represented Penn-



Color Guard at Axes' Burial Ground



Pipers at the Installation Banquet

sylvania in the Battle of Red Bank National Color Guard event hosted by the NJSSAR.

At the annual November Installment Banquet, the guard posted the colors after marching to music provided by pipers, two of whom are PCC members. This year we had three events related to Veterans Day. A corporate banquet was held in Lafayette Hill on the 9th. On the 10th, we were at the Constitution Center in the morning, with four guardsmen, and in the evening at the Merion Cricket Club, with four guardsmen.

December afforded the color guard six events. On the 10th, three PCC guardsmen participated in a wreath laying at the Trenton War Memorial, the first of several National Color Guard events surrounding the 10 Crucial Days. Afterwards was the first crossing of the Delaware reenactment, in which four PCC guardsmen participated.

Immediately after the crossing, the Washington Crossing National Color Guard Wreath Laying event was held, with five PCC guardsmen participating along with guardsman Ed Kopsick, President of the Continental Congress Chapter and Calvin Hunzinger of the Joseph Heister Chapter. Secretary General Addington and his lady were in attendance representing President General Dodd.

On the 13th is the always fun St Lucia Day reenactment of Washington's visit to the Old Swedes Church in 1777. In my absence, command was placed in Larry Magdy's capable hands and five guardsmen took part in the successful event.

Once again we were invited to Boehme's Historic Church Wreaths Across America event, showing up with four guardsmen.

To wrap up 2023, four PCC guardsmen participated in the Christmas Day Washington Crossing reenactment.

In December, I received a request from Villanova



Color Guard at Trenton War Memorial



Washington Crossing National Color Guard Event



Color Guard at Boehme's Historic Church

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University to present the colors at a women’s basketball game. I declined the request due to their practice, immediately prior to the playing of the National Anthem, of playing “Lift Every Voice and Sing”, which is known as the black national anthem. My position is that any anthem that is particular to any racial, ethnic, or religious group excludes those not in that group and is therefore divisive and un-American. My request for the guard to be on the court only for the National Anthem was deemed not possible by Villanova.

We have purchased telescoping poles and new toppers since the old toppers don’t fit on the new poles. This is the first time I have spent money from the color guard budget since becoming commander. The poles we have been using are too long for the ceilings at the Washington’s Birthday and Nominations banquets. In addition, some of the toppers were looking shabby due to the brass plating wearing off. We are still waiting for the arrival of our new period correct uniforms. These along with new poles and toppers will make the color guard look better than ever.

We are always looking for new members for the color guard. It is a great opportunity to socialize with others who share a love of history and sense of pride for the nation our ancestors helped to create.

Huzzas for the members who turned out for color guard duty during 2023. You deserve many thanks for your time and efforts on behalf of the Philadelphia Continental Chapter.

Fred Fonseca, PCC Color Guard Commander

2023 Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest Winners

Lauren P. Tyree, Troop 19, Marshallton, Chester County Council, and Tyler Murphy, Troop 117, Plymouth Meeting, Cradle of Liberty Council, were the top-scorers in their respective Scout Councils. An SAR Eagle Scout Medal (or oak leaf cluster as appropriate) and a cash award will be presented to them at the Chapter’s June Picnic, Saturday June 8, 2024. 2023 marks the second year in a row that Eagle Scout Lauren Tyree has won the PCCSAR’s Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest. Her application also placed first for the second time in the PASSAR contest. Lauren’s application has been sent for review in the National Contest.

New Members 10/17/23 to 1/21/24	
New Member	Patriot
Benjamin William Bernstein	John Famous
Rodney Roehner	Anthony Hallman
Zorie Robert Barber	Charlton Shepard
John Weight Toothill	Joseph Scull
Jeffrey Edward Ackerman	Joseph Scull
Mark Edward Hoffman	Baltzer Faust
Robert Douglas Kelly	Benjamin Matthews
Richard Allen Shivers, Jr	John Noblet
Junior Member	Patriot
Jacob Alexander Shivers	John Noblet
Bryson Michael Shivers	John Noblet

PCC History

Harry Blynn(1845-1908) First Known President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

The starting date for the Philadelphia Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution is generally given as 1901.

Harry Blynn, a Philadelphia Pennsylvania hatmaker is sometimes identified as the first President of the Philadelphia Continental Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. However, technically he was the first President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. The Continental Chapter, for several years a separate chapter, was not formed yet

We have a booklet listing all the members of the "Philadelphia and Continental Chapter" from 1901 through 2013 which I received from the late Philip Anders. The Philadelphia Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society was formed in early 1901. The Continental Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society was formed in the latter part of 1927. About 1958 the two chapters merged.



Harry Blynn is identified as the first President of "The Philadelphia Chapter". His SAR application was dated March 25, 1901 He traced his descent from a great-great-great-grandfather, Ozra Goodman(1735-1788) who was an Ensign in the Connecticut Volunteers of which his brother, Nathaniel Goodwin, was Captain. This group's mission was to repel the attack from the British in Danbury, Connecticut in late April 1777

Harry Blynn's application to join the Sons of the American Revolution can be found on ancestry.com as can many other SAR applications done through about 1970.

Harry Blynn served as President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution from March, 1901 until his somewhat unexpected death on November 5, 1908 at age sixty three years. He seems to have been held in high regard by his SAR chapter. We find this statement: "The Philadelphia Chapter of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, of which he had been a member for several years, one of the most active and popular members, and for the past eight years, President; at a meeting held November 9, 1908, adopted a memorial to him, showing their high appreciation of his many good qualities"

During Harry Blynn's eight terms as President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, he served as a delegate to the National Congress of 1901, 1902, and 1903 in the following cities - Pittsburgh PA, Washington DC, and New Haven CT, He supported his son and brother to become members.

Mr. Blynn's National SAR number was 8750 and his Pennsylvania (PASSAR) number was 291. He also had a Empire State (New York) membership, with an Empire State number of 850.

Harry Blynn was born June 7, 1845 in Philadelphia PA, the son of Michael R. Blynn(1820-1897) and Elizabeth Ann (Eliza) Richardson(1825-1860). After a preliminary education in Philadelphia schools, he matriculated at Harvard University, where he studied for two years. At the end of his second year at Harvard, he returned to Philadelphia and entered the "business life", associating him-

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self with Lewis Blaylock in the hatting (hat making) business. In 1873, the two gentlemen entered into partnership under the name: Blaylock and Blynn.

In 1873, Harry Blynn married Ida Ross, daughter of John Ross of Philadelphia. They had one son, Lloyd Ross Blynn, born in 1875. Ida died in 1877 and in 1886, Harry Blynn married Miss Margaret Brice Mathews of Baltimore, Maryland and they had two children.

Harry Blynn held many memberships. He was quite active in the Masonic fraternity in Philadelphia, and for thirty years was a member of the Union League of Philadelphia. In addition to his membership in the Sons of the American Revolution, Harry Blynn also held membership in the Veterans Corps of the First Regiment, N.C.R., the Old Guard of Company D, the Orpheus Club in Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Historical Society and the National Geographic Society. Memberships were also held in the New England Society, the Valley Forge National Park Association, and the National Guard of Pennsylvania, and the Empire State Society of New York. He was a member of the Ionic Lodge (related to Free Masonry) and he was also a member of the Photographic Society.

During the spring of 1908, Harry Blynn took a trip to European countries, a reason being to try to restore his physical health, having suffered from illness for several months. Not long after his return to Philadelphia, in seemingly improved health, Harry Blynn passed away at his home at 2026 Locust Street in Philadelphia. He was buried in Baltimore. His nature was described as "genial, social, and hopeful". He was considered a "good judge of art" and possessed a good library of books.

Of Note: The First Officers of Philadelphia Chapter: of the Sons of the American Revolution: The 1955 Yearbook of the Sons of the American Revolution identifies the following "first officers"

- Harry Blynn- President 1901 -1908(death)
- George R Randell – Vice President
- H B Gill- Secretary
- Edward Heston Harding- Treasurer
- Thomas Wynne- Registrar
- John V Allen Historian

John F Mitchell
Philadelphia Continental Chapter
Interim Chapter Historian

Washington's Birthday

Saturday, February 17, 2024

Chapter Meeting and Wreath Laying

Washington Square 11:00 AM Wreath Laying and Remarks
then 11:30 Wreath Laying at Independence Hall
11:45 Picture in front of Museum of the American Revolution
12:00 Luncheon at P. J. Clarke's at The Curtis 601 Walnut St.

Menu: PJ's Market Chopped Salad, Country Chicken Pot Pie, Fruit Cobbler
Guests Welcome -- Cost \$60 pay in advance