



# Compatriot News

Philadelphia Continental Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution



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Spring 2019



PCCSAR has survived another Philadelphia winter. It may have been cold, wet, dismal and dark for the past three months but that did not stop us from fulfilling our busy calendar of events.

February began with our annual attendance to the Williamson College of the Trades Founder's Day celebration. Each year we have the privilege of presenting the William Yeasley Award to a member of the junior class. The winner must demonstrate the qualities of scholarship, leadership, self-discipline, integrity, and contributions to the College above and beyond the call of duty. This year's winner is Joseph Galbraith from Somers, CT.

Making this event more memorable were the contributions made by our Compatriots Kopsick and Magdy. Both gentlemen regaled several students with tales featuring Williamson graduates who are co-workers at their places of employment. Williamson is very proud that their graduates leave the college with a job in hand. Our Compatriots reinforced this highly valued tenet.

Washington's Birthday celebration later in the month proved to be a huge success. The overshadowing threat of another government shut down did not deter our plans. As it was, the shut down did not occur. Our Color Guard marched to Washington Square for the salute and wreath laying on the Grave of the Unknown Soldier; then off to Independence Hall for a wreath laying at the foot of General Washington's statue. We then processed back to the Old City Tavern for lunch. An excess of fifty Compatriots and guest attended the luncheon.

Our guest speaker was Tyler Putnam from the Museum of the American Revolution. Mr. Putnam explained the history of Washington Square and the little known role this piece of land played prior to, during and after the Revolution. Due to Mr. Putnam's schedule, he spoke before lunch. I received several compliments on this timing. Many guest felt that the presentation before lunch enabled a lively conversation about the subject matter during lunch! We may have a new format to explore.

Our first Chapter Meeting took place March 6<sup>th</sup> at the beautifully renovated Overbrook Golf Club. The format was an hour social reception with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres; then a presentation of The Great Cow Chase by David Lawrence of the Valley Forge National Historic Park Service. Again, this was a well-attended event.

On a business note, the Finance Committee chaired by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Mizel met to discuss developing a business and investment plan for the Chapter. Our financials are fine but it was decided that there is a great need to identify and explain the various accounts so the Committee can ascertain the best investment strategies. More on this approach will be presented at our May Board of Management Meeting.

I'd like to personally thank all of you who have given your time, ideas and contributions to our Chapter. It clearly shows that we are completing our Mission and having a good time doing it,

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## COLOR GUARD CORNER

Last year at this time, I commented that the 1st quarter was quiet – again so THIS year – and that we had just the annual George Washington’s birthday recognition events at Washington Square, Independence Hall and the City Tavern.

There were four (4) “firsts” in THAT message and now, I am pleased to say that we have some more of a similar nature for this year:

1. In 2019, the CG welcomed Steven (Steve) D. Sims, and Glenn J. Tyson to their very 1<sup>st</sup> uniformed events “on the march” in the streets of historic downtown Philadelphia. We certainly welcome them, and their enthusiasm, to our assemblage.
2. We had the largest turnout EVER (as you can observe from photos in this edition) with 16 troopers in uniform and under arms.
3. Newly appointed Sergeant of the Guard (SOG) Fernando (Fred) Fonseca, III is in light-colored hunting frock uniform with his Pennsylvania long rifle in accompanying picture(s).
4. It was my first opportunity to proudly assume the Command on GWB as Captain of the Guard after serving as SOG for many years under now Captain-Emeritus James H. Willis.

Phil Anders CPT of the Guard

## Washington’s Birthday—Philadelphia



On Saturday, February 16, 2019, 18 color guardsmen marched from City Tavern to Washington Square at 6<sup>th</sup> & Walnut in Center City. The troops, under the direction of Captain of the Guard Phil Anders, placed a wreath at the Park and then marched on to Independence Hall for an additional wreath Ceremony.

*(Continued on page 3)*

After the visit to Independence Hall, the men marched along Arch Street and paused for a brief photo event in front of the Museum of the American Revolution. For lunch, SAR and DAR members and guests were treated to a traditional “Colonial Turkey Pot Pie”. We were privileged to have Tyler Putnam from the MA\*R speak about some of the events at the Revolutionary War Museum.



Above left – New Members receive their rosettes

Above right – President Frank A. O’Donnell, Jr. and guest speaker Tyler Putnam

Right – FP Lanny Patten with Treasurer, John Briggs and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, John Mitchell



### Did You Know?

Valley Forge was Pennsylvania’s first state park, established in 1893. In 1976, the bicentennial year of the Declaration of Independence, the park was transferred to the National Park System as Valley Forge National Historical Park.

Varnum's brigade contained the 1st Rhode Island Regiment, a unit largely made up of African American and Native American soldiers. The unit symbolizes the diversity of the army - a diversity not seen again for many years.

## PHILADELPHIA CONTINENTAL CHAPTER COMBINED ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

May	5th	French Alliance Day, Washington Chapel, Valley Forge	1:00 PM
	7th	Board of Management & Chapter Meeting, Dinner - Charlotte's Restaurant	6:00 PM
	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
June	8th	Annual PCC Picnic	11:30 AM

On Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup>, the chapter had an informal “Meet & Greet” event at newly redecorated Overbrook Golf Club. Approximately 54 members and guests were on hand and participated in a lively discussion about Valley Forge and the “Cows”. David Lawrence, from the Valley Forge Park Service, led a colorful discussion as shown from the picture below.



Valley Forge Park Guide, David Lawrence



President O'Donnell presented David Lawrence with a Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation.



Chapter President, Frank O'Donnell leads the assembly with the National Anthem.

## PCC History 1983-1984

The Installation of Officers Dinner Meeting was held at the Engineers Club November 16<sup>th</sup> 1983. The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by outgoing President Col Paul De Haas. After dinner he introduced President General Warren G Hayes, a past president of Philadelphia Continental Chapter, who installed the new officers. They being Paul K Brown-President, Louis S Baker-1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Richard W Seltzer-2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, William G Dorwart-Secretary and Forrest R Schaeffer-Treasurer.

The Regular Meeting of December 5, 1983 was called to order by President Brown with 38 members present. The next meeting was announced for January 9, 1984. It was announced that the Chapter would host the State Meeting February 17-18 at the Kulpsville Holiday Inn and Washington's Birthday celebration on February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Engineers Club with the traditional wreath laying at Washington Square and Independence Hall; price \$13.50 per person. Attendance was 104. The budget for 1983-84 was listed at \$5500.

The Rev. Dr. Galbraith Todd celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Minister of the Arch Street Presbyterian Church. Dr Todd was the long time Chaplain of the Philadelphia Continental Chapter and then became Chaplain Emeritus in December 1983. The Annual Church Service will be held May 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Marys Episcopal Church in Wayne with luncheon at St Davids Inn. At the April 2, 1984 Luncheon Meeting Secretary William Dorwart advised that past President Samuel D Foster was in Paoli Hospital within operable cancer. This is the same Sam Foster who became Chapter President in 1976 when 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Hillman became ill and unable to assume the Presidency. Compatriot Foster was also a past State President. The Pennsylvania Society Annual Banquet honoring President General Warren G Hayes was held at the Yorktowne Hotel, York, PA May 5, 1984.

At the June 4, 1984 Regular Meeting, President Brown announced our chapter will be represented at the Wyoming Massacre celebration on July 4<sup>th</sup> where he would present medals to Compatriot Jim Geddes of Wilkes Barre. For the past several years Geddes has supplied wreaths to the celebration representing the Philadelphia Continental Chapter, SAR with funds from his pocket. Also, the members were reminded of the June 14<sup>th</sup> Flag Day Celebration at the Union League. This was a gala event with services at the Betsy Ross House then moving up to Independence Hall for the Flag Day Associations annual ceremony. Everyone then returned to the Union League for the 1:00 PM luncheon. Sadly, on July 17, 1984 Compatriot Samuel Foster, aged 76, passed away at the Paoli Memorial Hospital. He was a living legend in his day.

The National Congress was held in Cincinnati, Ohio this year with good representation from our chapter. The 1987 Congress will be held in Philadelphia. The annual Constitution Week Celebration started off the fall season. It was held Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the William Penn Inn in Gwynedd, PA. Cost \$12 per. The Regular Luncheon Meeting was held September 10, 1984. Reports of all the above activities were submitted to the 38 members in attendance. The next Regular Meeting was on October 1, 1984. The important issue at this meeting was the report of the Nominating Committee for years 1984-85. Louis S Baker- President, William H Cowper- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and Honorable Herbert K Zearfoss 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. The election and installation of new officers occurred at the Regular Luncheon Meeting at the Engineers Club on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Whatever the reason, there was no evening affair.

Jim Willis—Historian of the Chapter

## FLAGGING REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIER GRAVES

By Jim Sanborn

About 10 years ago, Former President “Chuck” Smith asked me to join him in the chapter’s annual pre-Memorial Day event of placing 13 star flags on the graves of Revolutionary War patriots throughout the chapter area in and around Philadelphia. PCCSAR has been doing this for decades, and now flags over 1700 graves. On our last trip together, I brought one of my granddaughters, who enjoyed the patriotic excursion immensely, and was adored by Chuck. When Chuck could no longer make that event, I took on the task. For several years two of my granddaughters helped me. It became a special event, marked with the girls learning and developing a keen interest in the American Revolution that they maintain to this day. The two older sisters were not able to take part in the 2018 event but were relieved by their six-year old sister. Like her sisters, Kate readily took to the patriotic task as evident in her big smile in the accompanying photo. During all the events, we had lunch together at a fun restaurant in rural western Chester County. On return to school each of the girls shared her experience with her teacher and classmates. Like Chuck others of our chapter will reach an age where they can no longer take part. This chapter event is one of the most important patriotic undertakings that we perform, so it is critical that we perpetuate and indeed grow the effort to find and mark Revolutionary War patriots in the area. So, I urge our newer compatriots to join in the effort, and make it special by taking children and grandchildren as young helpers. It is a unique opportunity to make the history come alive in the eyes of next generations.



On March 6, Frank O’Donnell, president, Dave Mizell, 1st vice president, and Larry Magdy presented the William J. Yearsley Award to Joseph Galbraith, a machine tool technology junior at the Williamson College of the Trades. Mr. Galbraith was presented with a cash award, a SAR Certificate “in recognition of his outstanding Citizenship and his Support of the Williamson College,” and a “Leadership Medallion.” The award is given annually to a junior for demonstrating the qualities of industry, self-discipline, personal integrity, reliability, contributions above the call of duty, having a GPA above 3.25, and having fewer than 28 disciplinary points.



Left  
Frank presenting to Joseph

Right  
Frank, Joseph, Dave, and Larry



<b>New Memebers 1/8/19 to 4/4/19</b>	
<b>New Member</b>	<b>Patriot</b>
Donald Leopold Verdiani	Stephen Yeomans
James Andrew Hogg	Christian Berge
Richard Chapman Otter Hogg	Christian Berge
Richard Chapman Otter	Christian Berge
Michael Christopher Lee	Francis Ottomar Ziegler
David Abbott Jenkinson	Jeptha Abbott
Thomas Huckel	William Huckle
Richard Scott Brown	Thomas White

Interest in the Sons of the American Revolution continues at a high level. There have been 36 potential candidates who have expressed interest in membership since the beginning of the year. Presently there are 18 new member applications awaiting approval by National Headquarters. There are another 17 applications actively being worked on but not yet ready for submission.

**Annual Patriots Picnic  
Saturday June 8, 2019  
Fenimore Woods Park**

The Philadelphia Continental Chapter Annual Patriots Picnic will be held at Fenimore Woods Park on Saturday June 8, 2019. Plan to arrive by 11:30 AM to enjoy the lavish offerings. We will feature a 110 pound pig as well as the traditional hot dogs and hamburgers. We will have beer and wine and assorted cold soft drinks to satisfy your thirst. Bring your wife and family and friends. All are welcome to enjoy the program we are planning. The park is located at 1194 Eagle Road, Wayne, PA 19087.

Please call or email John Mitchell, notifying him with your name and number of guests you are bringing. 610-630-1575 or 484-557-9270 (cell phone)  
e-mail: [johnfmtc@aol.com](mailto:johnfmtc@aol.com)

If you are interested in helping in some way with the picnic, please contact John Mitchell at his phone numbers above or e-mail.



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Remember the picnic, June 8th  
Fenimore Woods Park  
1194 Eagle Road  
Wayne, PA  
11:30 AM until 2:30 PM  
Pig Roast  
Hamburgers and Hot Dogs  
Soft Drinks