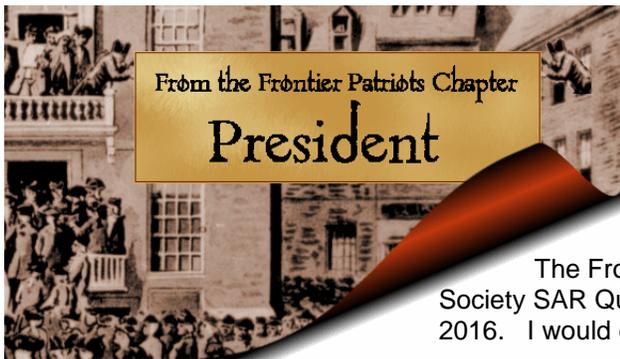


This is NewsLetter Issue No. One ~ For the year 2016



The next meeting of the
Frontier Patriots Chapter
of the Sons of the American Revolution
will be held at King's Family Restaurant, 3001 6th
Avenue, Altoona, PA
on Saturday, March 5, 2016
starting at 12 Noon.

The Frontier Patriots Chapter will be hosting the Pennsylvania Society SAR Quarterly Board of Management Meeting on November 11-12, 2016. I would encourage all members of our chapter to attend.

For those of you that receive this newsletter by US mail, if you have an email address, we would appreciate you sending it to us to use for future newsletters. Printing and mailing these newsletters is very expensive. Please send to our Secretary Melvin McDowell at melvin.mcdowell@gmail.com



Patriots Without Muskets

Throughout the course of the American Revolutionary War, a recurring theme was the lack of adequate supplies with which to equip and feed the troops who served in the Continental Line and also the lack of arms and ammunition to supply the local county militias. What could be done to rectify the situation? While no one likes taxes, the delegates meeting in the Second Continental Congress at Philadelphia understood that they would have to levy more and more taxes in order to sustain the war effort.

Now, when we think about 'taxes' the initial impression is usually: "We fought the American Revolutionary Wars to get rid of taxes." But that's not entirely accurate. Our ancestors did not serve on the Patriot side of the American Revolutionary War to avoid paying any and all taxes. Our ancestors who resided in the British Colonies on the North American Continent during the 1770s felt that they were as much British citizens as if they would have resided in England, Scotland or Wales (the nations that comprised the

Kingdom of Great Britain prior to 1800). The colonists were upset by the fact that they were not permitted to send representatives to participate in the British Parliament. Remember the saying that was drilled into your head in elementary school: *Taxation without Representation*? It wasn't simply a rhyming phrase. It signified the situation in which the British Parliament could levy taxes on the people of North Umbria or London ~ but the people of North Umbria and London both had representatives in that Parliament. Even though they might have been outnumbered in a vote regarding the levying of taxes on their respective jurisdictions, they at least had representatives in that Parliament to participate in that vote or at least to express their displeasure. The Colonies were not permitted to send representatives to participate in the Parliament. How could they not feel discriminated against? So the rallying cry of *Taxation without Representation* applied solely to the Colonies / Mother Country disagreement; whereas taxes on the Colonists levied by their own Continental Congress were more easily accepted.

In the year 1779, with the end of the American Revolutionary War nowhere in sight, and with the Continental Congress unable to pay the men serving on the Continental Army for their service, a *federal* tax was enacted. The full title of the tax was *the Federal Effective Supply Tax*.

In the 1770s, the word *federal* (and its variant *foederal*) was defined as anything pertaining to a covenant or agreement. The definition of a *covenant* was something that was expressly agreed to by any number of parties.

In 1779 the delegates from the thirteen colonies meeting in Continental Congress were not able to provide all of the necessary supplies to sustain the troops in the field, let alone pay them for their service. The solution agreed upon by which the delegates agreed was to levy a tax, the proceeds of which would be used to pay for the supplies required by the army. Each state would decide how it would impose and collect the tax, but they were all in agreement that it was needed: hence it was a 'federal' tax.

The word *effective* indicated that the tax was 'indeed true.'

The Federal Effective Supply Tax was levied in Bedford County during the years 1779,

1781 and 1783. Payment of the tax was obligatory, but its noble cause probably ensured that it was readily paid by the residents who could not help in the war effort by physically serving in the army. Besides, refusing to pay the tax implied loyalist sympathies.

Since it removed the requirement of taking up arms, while assisting in the Patriot Cause, the Supply Tax (as it was commonly known) was willingly paid by those residents of the Quaker faith. Quakers believed, among other things, that it was wrong to swear oaths. They were permitted to pay the Supply Tax double. A second payment substituted for swearing the Oath of Allegiance to the newly emerging United States of America.

Many people erroneously assume that when Earl Charles Cornwallis, the 1st Marquess Cornwallis, surrendered at Yorktown, that the American Revolutionary War was official at an end, but it was not. New York City was held by the British Army under Sir Guy Carleton until 25 November 1783. During the period from the surrender of Cornwallis on 19 October 1781 until the last of Carleton's redcoated troops decamped from New York City, the War was still in effect. The Federal Effective Supply Tax was taken in 1781 and 1783 because, as far as anyone knew, a British Campaign might have been commenced at any time in a continuation of the War. Of course, hindsight is 20/20.

Due to the fact that it is believed that every man who paid the Federal Effective Supply Tax was wholeheartedly in support of the Patriot Cause, the inclusion of any name on any of the Supply Tax returns is accepted today as proof of service. That means that even if an individual paid the tax only to divert attention, but was secretly a Loyalist who prayed every day that the Patriots would fail, and the mother country would once again take over the governance of her colonies, he is still regarded today as having been a Patriot. His descendants are entitled to join the Sons of the American Revolution simply because he paid the tax. The one provision in the ruling that could justly prevent such a situation from happening is: if the individual, who paid the tax under false pretenses, committed some act to implicate his deceit (such as being captured and convicted of tory activities) subsequent to the date the Supply Tax was taken, his Patriot service would be

denied. But so long as he kept his nose clean after paying the Supply Tax, and did not do anything to cause suspicion or doubt of the sincerity of his support of the Patriot Cause, he was considered to be a Patriot himself.

Apart from the payment of the Federal Effective Supply Tax, and besides the taking and signing of the Oath of Allegiance ~ and most definitely besides taking up a musket to serve physically in the War ~ there was another way that a man (and in some few cases, a woman) could prove his support of the Patriots and the fledgling United States of America. He could supply some sort of service or goods to benefit the Continental Army and/or the local Militias. That is exactly what many families did if they could not supply a man to serve, but still wanted to help in some way.

The so-called *Lieutenants Reports* were lists that County Lieutenants recorded to show the Provincial or State government who had donated what to the Cause. In Bedford County, the Lieutenant Reports include the following entries:

Obadiah Leaton was paid £7.10f.0d on 13 August 1778 for 'carriage of provisions'. That, of course, meant that he either transported them himself, or else he allowed his wagon to be used to transport some sort of goods needed by the troops.

On 20 September 1778, William Parker provided 400 pounds of beef and 8-1/4 cwt (*i.e.* hundred weight) of flour to the army for which he was paid £102.10f.0d. Now that might not actually seem like he did anything patriotic; it appears more that he simply *sold* his beef and flour to the army. But nonetheless, he *provided* a

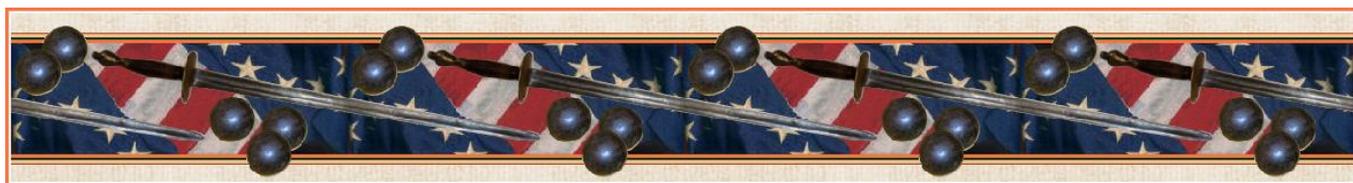
commodity needed, and therefore the transaction was considered a benefit to the Patriot Cause.

Moses Read, who owned and operated a grist mill in the eastern part of Bedford County, along the Great Tonoloway Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River, was paid for nineteen and one-half gallons of whiskey "*for the use of the militia.*" He was paid £17.11f.0d on 23 March 1779 for his Patriotic service. It should be noted that Moses Read was not known to have owned or operated a distillery ~ at least he never obtained a license to distill whiskey from the Bedford County Court ~ where he obtained the whiskey is anyone's guess. [Incidentally, Read would probably have furnished the whiskey in a wooden cask of some sort because bottles would have been too expensive and it was quite a few decades before metal cans were available. So, when one considers that a *kilderkin* was the size of wooden cask that held roughly 17 to 19 gallons, the odd amount of Moses Read's much needed donation makes sense.]

Adam Long was paid for 135 pounds of bacon on 20 May 1779. The Bedford County treasurer paid him £16.17f.6d for the meat.

The sum of £402.12f.6d was paid to Bedford County resident, William Jones "*for repairing arms.*" William Jones apparently was a gunsmith to be able to provide this service to the army.

The last example of the way that private citizens could support the Patriot Cause without actually taking up a musket and joining the Continental Line or the local Militia is presented by the £300 paid to George Elder for his services as a clerk from 1777 to 18 October 1780.



2016 Meeting Dates

First Quarterly Meeting
Second Quarterly Meeting
Third Quarterly Meeting
Fourth Quarterly Meeting

March 5
June 4
September 10
December 3

Officers For The Year 2016

President ~ David G. Hammaker
dhammaker@aol.com

1st Vice-President ~ Robert D. Williams
pspwill@hotmail.com

2nd Vice-President ~ John W. Betting
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3rd Vice-President ~

Secretary ~ Melvin C. McDowell
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Treasurer ~ John D. Faulds
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Registrar ~ Larry D. Smith
schmitt@motherbedford.com

Chaplain ~ Melvin C. McDowell
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Historian ~ Larry D. Smith
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Chancellor ~ Melvin C. McDowell
mcdowell@psualum.com

Genealogist ~ David G. Hammaker
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Chapter Webmaster ~ Larry D. Smith
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A Pocket Powder Horn

I recently acquired a powder horn that is a bit different from the type of powder horn that is commonly recognized as such. It is called a *Pocket* powder horn because it was crafted with the intent of literally being carried in a pocket. To that end, this horn was boiled until the material



became slightly soft and somewhat pliable. It was pressed and held in a flattened shape and then left to dry in order that it could easily be inserted and removed from a pocket in a coat or waistcoat. Also unique is the manner in which the powder is made to stay inside the horn. Most powder horns have the large end permanently closed by a shaped piece of wood nailed in place, and they have a wooden stopper inserted in the small end. The wooden stopper could be easily pulled out and replaced, and worked well if the powder horn were carried on a strap across one's torso. If carried in a pocket, the stopper might just as easily be worked out of the horn by normal movements, spilling the contents into the pocket. This horn's stopper screws onto the body by means of threading carved into it and the body, thereby reducing the possibility of it

accidentally coming loose. The pocket powder horn was used primarily by cavalry troops. A conventional powder horn, hung by a strap and slung over one's chest would dangle and bob around while moving on horseback. Despite being more troublesome to charge a musket ~ having to unscrew the stopper and then rescrew it back on ~ it prevented loss of valuable powder while galloping on horseback.