

This is NewsLetter Issue No. Two ~ For the year 2020

Before Velcro

Long before the world ever heard the name 'velcro,' cloth and leather needed to be attached somehow. During the Medieval Age, and for many decades prior, tanned animal hides and capes made of coarse wool fibers were draped over a man's back and shoulders and held together by a single large broach at his chest. Through the Renaissance, and as lighter weight fabrics, such as satins, silks and velvets came into wide use, the use of ribbons, buttons and buckles became the favored means of fastening clothing. And it was these types of fasteners that were still popular during the latter half of the 1700s.



Ribbons, sometimes referred to as ties or laces, were a very simple and inexpensive way to fasten two pieces of clothing. Ribbons were woven on special ribbon looms. They were similar to regular looms, with the exception that they held only a small number of warp, or lengthwise threads

resulting in 'cloth' only an inch to two inches in width. Two lengths of ribbon, each sewn to one part of an article of clothing, would be tied in a bow. The ribbon was an effective way to connect two pieces of clothing, or to make a tight hold, such as when encircling the loose tops of hose or stockings. Elastic was not invented until 1820, and so hose was loose fitting top to bottom. The only problem with ribbons was that they might just as easily become untied as a result of movement.



Where a tight fastener was required, a button might be employed. But buttons were used sparingly. Buttons had been in use since the days of the Roman Empire. Until the mid-1800s, a button was constructed as a solid metal disc to which a loop of wire, the shank, was attached on the backside. Without the standard two or four holes that are found on buttons now, the solid surface of the button permitted a design to grace it.

During the Revolutionary War, buttons would be sometimes decorated with the number of the regiment or division in which the soldier served. A problem with buttons in their early days was that a reinforced buttonhole in which closely spaced stitches surrounded the hole was not invented until the mid-1800s. Buttons, therefore had a habit of damaging the material around the buttonhole. Prior to the employment of buttonholes into which buttons would be inserted, a small loop of leather or ribbon would be sewn onto the opposing piece of clothing. The length of the loop required to be pulled over the button resulted in a loose attachment.

The third form of attachment used during the American Revolutionary War was the buckle. Most people think that buckles were used only on shoes, but they were employed as general fastening tool on other pieces of clothing. They were used on stockings, neck stocks, belts and breeches in addition to shoes.

Shoes tended to be fastened together by being constructed with uppers that had a strap on one side, and a buckle on the other. The man would slip his foot into the shoe, and then fit the

strap into the buckle, pulling it as tight as necessary.

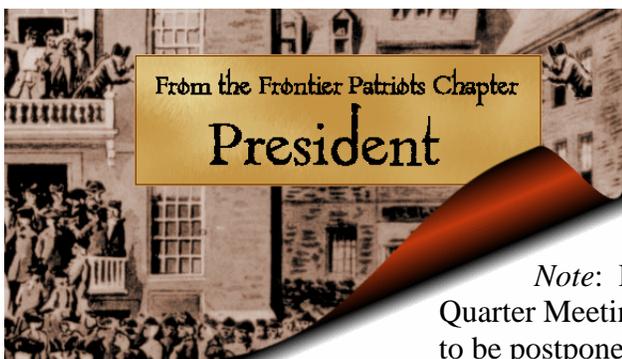
Hose, or stockings, which a man wore over his foot, extended up to and past the knee.

The hose, as noted above, could be fastened by tying a ribbon around it, but sometimes garters were used. The garter was often made of supply leather, or perhaps silk, with its end attached by a small buckle.

The neck stock was essentially a small belt, the ends of which were held together by a buckle. It was worn around the neck to hold the shirt collar together. A descendant of this article of clothing would be the tie.

Belts were sometimes worn at the waist to assist in holding breeches in place, but more often than not, if a man used a belt, it was to hold some article, such as a sword or powder horn.

Breeches were fastened at the waist in the front by buttons, and at the back by cords or ribbons tied into a bow. Buckles were attached to the cuff of the leg and assisted in holding the bottom of the breeches leg together and tight just below the knee.



The next meeting of the Frontier Patriots Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will be held at the Freedom Twp Fire Hall 139 Municipal Street, East Freedom on Saturday, 13 June 2020 starting at 12 Noon.

Note: Due to the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic, the 1st Quarter Meeting that had originally been scheduled for 21 March had to be postponed. It has been rescheduled for Saturday 13 June.

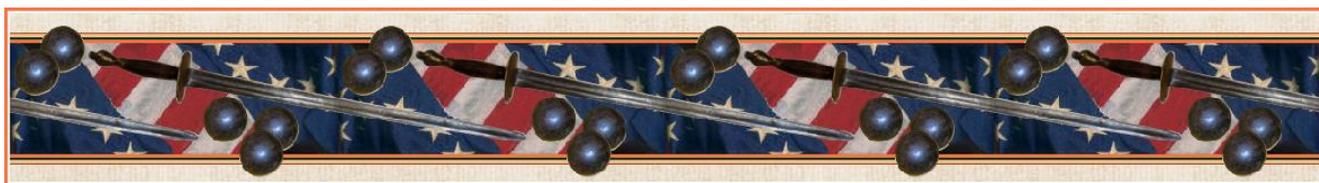
In order to hold the required four meetings per year, The schedule included in the previous newsletter issue needed to be changed. An updated schedule is included in this issue. The first meeting of the year will be held at the Freedom Township Fire Hall since the local restaurants are still closed in

Pennsylvania for in-house dining / meetings. I have checked with the Fire Department and Municipal Officers and they have assured me that we may hold the meeting in their hall since social distancing is possible in the large room. Of course, not being held in a restaurant, if you want to bring your own lunch, please do so.

Anyone who attends will be provided with Wet Ones which have the primary ingredient of Benzalkonium Chloride 0.13% (Antimicrobial Agent) and can be used to clean your personal space at the table and/or use as hand sanitizing. I will also provide Lysol All-Purpose Cleaner which is included on the EPA's list of disinfectants that meet their criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, the cause of COVID-19 (EPA Reg. #777-66). The active ingredients of Lysol All-Purpose Cleaner are Alkyl (67% C₁₂, 25% C₁₄, 7% C₁₆, 1% C₈-C₁₀-C₁₈) dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride and Alkyl (50% C₁₄, 40% C₁₂, 10% C₁₆) dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride.

If you want to attend but do not feel that you will be safe with what I have already noted, and want to bring your own disinfectant, please feel welcome to. We will follow current CDC Guidelines for Social Distancing, and in view of the fact that facial covering is no longer required in all the groceries and other stores, including Walmart and Target (since Blair County is in the Yellow Stage), it will not be required at our meeting. If you do not feel comfortable with attended according to what I have outlined here, please do not feel obligated to attend. But I want you to know that you are more than welcome.

The Remembrance Ceremony at the Capt. Phillips Rangers Memorial is still planned to start at 11:00am on Saturday, 18 July 2020. The upcoming meeting on 13 June will be the last meeting before the event. If you are interested in helping with the ceremony in some way, or have an idea for it, please attend this meeting ~ or contact me at schmitt@motherbedford.com . ~ Larry



2020 Meeting & Event Dates

☞ First Quarterly Meeting	June 13
☞ Phillips' Rangers Massacre Remembrance Ceremony	July 18
☞ Second Quarterly Meeting	August 8
☞ Third Quarterly Meeting	October 10
☞ Fourth Quarterly Meeting	December 12



Mistake Identified and Corrected

In the 1990s, I undertook the task of writing a history of the Blair County Chapter which included the researching and compiling of a list of Patriots involved in the American Revolutionary War within the region that (during the War) was Bedford County. The project eventually resulted in my book, *Mother Bedford and the American Revolutionary War* and my website, motherbedford.com. Within the book I included listings of the Patriots buried in each of the present day counties of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset. My research to identify Patriots buried in these counties included the use of already published sources, such as Floyd Hoenstine's *Soldiers of Blair County* and unpublished lists accumulated by prior Blair County Chapter historians, such as Harry K. Woodcock.

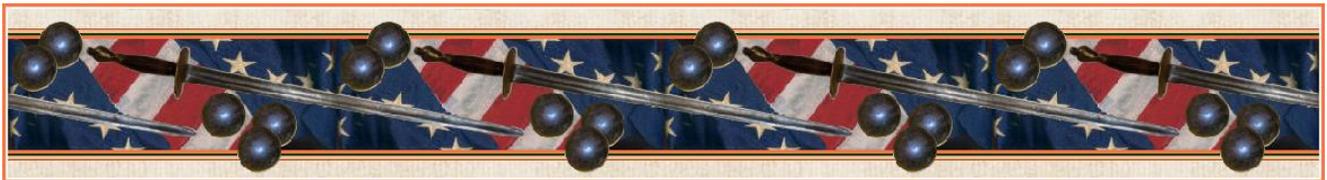
Mr. Woodcock had accumulated his lists by visiting cemeteries in the region and locating any and all men who were born between the 1730s and 1760s and died between 1775 and the 1840s. That method included any and all men who would have been of age to participate in the War. The method was not a failsafe one to identify Patriots, but it was a way to begin the process. The names accumulated then needed to be checked against records in the Pennsylvania Archives for proof of service.

One man who was identified as a Patriot by Harry Woodcock was Johannes (John) Ulrich Zeth,

who was buried in the Union Cemetery at Claysburg, Blair County. Johannes' birth and death dates: 1758 and 1820, certainly fit the requirements of possible service. So John Ulrich Zeth's name was included in the list of Patriots buried within Blair County.

Recently, while working on another project, I made contact with Richard Snyder of Coalport, a Compatriot member of the Frontier Patriots Chapter. In the course of our discussion, Richard mentioned his genealogical connection to John Ulrich Zeth. He noted that Zeth had been a Hessian and died a Hessian, never having joined the Patriot Cause. I was excited to learn that and asked Mr. Snyder if he had any documentation noting such. He was kind enough to send me that information. And from that information it appears that Johannes Ulrich Zeth was a member of the Hessen-Hanau Erbprinz Regiment. The 'myth' of Zeth having deserted from the British Army and joining General Washington, spending the winter of 1777 in bivouac at Valley Forge, and participating in the Battle of Yorktown was apparently devised by one of Johannes' grandsons, William.

In order to make the record more accurate, I removed the name of John Ulrich Zeth from the website's list of Patriots Buried in Blair County. I thank Richard Snyder for helping me to correct the record.



Frontier Patriots Chapter website: <http://www.motherbedford.com/FrontierPatriots.htm>

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