



This is NewsLetter Issue No. One ~ For the year 2024

The British (and other) Colonies

Ask anyone, or rather any citizen of the United States of America, to name the British Colonies prior to the American Revolutionary War and they will probably answer: “New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.” That is the popular answer but it is not the entirely correct answer. Those thirteen colonies were indeed the ones that joined together into the ‘united’ colonies, or states, but many more colonies had been established in the North American continent by Great Britain prior to 1776.

[Note: This article will cover the British

Colonies that were established in the North American Continent along with the French,



Swedish and Dutch colonies which came under British control just prior to the American Revolutionary War. Therefore, despite the fact that Spain established colonies in the West Indies (e.g. La Isabela on the Island of Hispaniola, established

in 1493), most of them were not acquired by Great Britain prior to 1776.]

The concept of ‘colony’ changed a bit over the nearly two centuries from 1583, when the first British colony was chartered, to 1776, when thirteen of them chose to dis-associate with the mother country. In the beginning stages of the colonization of the ‘New World’, a colony consisted of a relatively small community of people who would establish a single village in the wilderness that seemed to endlessly cover the ‘New World’. By the 1770’s, the British monarchs (George II and George III) had begun to grant to certain individuals large tracts of land which they may or may not have acquired from the Amerindians who then occupied those lands. Quite a number of those colonies’ charters stated that the grant of land stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the western boundary of the continent. It must be remembered that in the 1600’s, the full extent of the continent was not known. And of course, now, in retrospect, we know that the ‘New World’ had been ‘colonized’ by the Amerindians who had dwelt there since they too had emigrated from Asia circa 13,000 BCE. Because the Amerindian immigrants had occupied the lands for so long, they have become acknowledged by many historians as ‘indigenous’ people of the continent ~ and therefore as ‘owners’ of the land. Both, King George II and King George III felt that the ‘indigenous’ inhabitants could just move out of the way of the Europeans.

The Virginia Colony that was established at Jamestown in 1607 has been lauded as the first permanent settlement by the British on the North

American Continent. But it was actually the third attempt by the British to establish a lasting settlement in that ‘mid-Atlantic’ region. The first had been the Newfoundland Colony, established on the island of that name in the North Atlantic during the year 1583. That first British colony is still extant to the present-day, making it the longest-lived British Colony in the ‘New World’. In the following year of 1585, the Roanoke Colony was chartered to Sir Walter Raleigh and set up on the outer banks off shore from present-day Dare County, North Carolina. The Roanoke Colony lasted only five years, during which the colonists suffered from lack of supplies and bad relations

with their Amerindian neighbors. When a supply ship arrived in 1590, it was discovered that the settlement had been abandoned. Except for the word ‘Croatoan’ etched on a palisade wall, there was no evidence of what happened to the colony. No bodies were



ever found. Some historians have suggested that the colonists left the settlement and intermarried with local Amerindians.

The third attempt by the British at colonizing the New World was, finally, the Jamestown Colony. Jamestown was established on 4 May 1607 by the London Company (*i.e.* The Virginia Company of London). It was located north of the Roanoke Settlement along the northeast bank of the James River near its mouth where it empties into the Chesapeake Bay. The colony was briefly abandoned in 1610 due to lack of supplies, but as the settlers were passing down the James River, they met the supply ship and returned to the settlement. It would become a permanent settlement from that point onward. Jamestown is

noted for being the destination, in 1619, of a slave ship. Twenty Africans were sold by fellow Africans at present-day Angola to a Portuguese slave trader. They were brought to the New World by a British privateer, the *White Lion*, flying a Dutch flag. The British sailors had removed the now enslaved Africans from the Portuguese ship, the *São João Bautista*, but did not do so to set them free. Rather, the British crew brought them to be sold to the settlers at Jamestown.

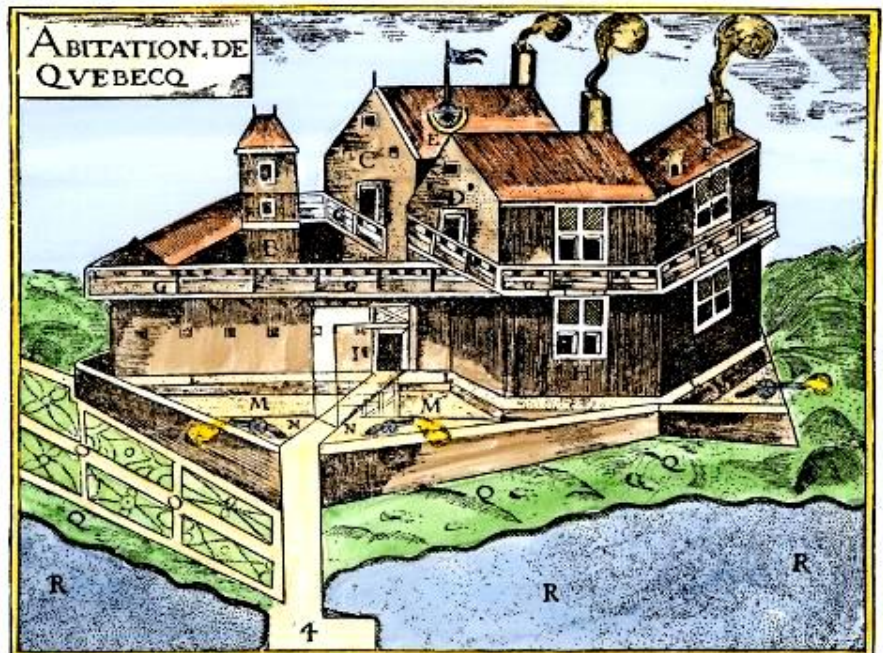
The Jamestown Colony took on the name of the Jamestown Settlement along with a number of other smaller towns settled along the Chesapeake Bay as more Europeans crossed the Atlantic Ocean. By 1624, those towns and additional fortified sites were incorporated into the Virginia Colony. It was initially set up as a Crown, or Royal, Colony.

While the Jamestown Colony has been widely celebrated as an important milestone in the history of the United States of America, very few may have even heard of the Popham Colony. Also known as the Sagadahoc Colony, the Popham Colony was established also in 1607, only a couple months after Jamestown. Established by the Plymouth Company, the Popham Colony was established where the present-day town of Phippsburg, Maine stands near the mouth of the Kennebec River. The Popham Colony is perhaps overlooked because it was abandoned within a year. The colony's patrons' deaths, more than the lack of supplies, has been assumed to have been the downfall of this settlement.

The Kingdom of France, meanwhile, was establishing colonies sixty-six years prior to the British settlement on Newfoundland Island. In the

year 1517, the French established the Harbour Grace Colony at Conception Bay in the present-day Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. It has thrived since then, making it the actual first permanent European settlement in the North American Continent. The Harbour Grace Colony was founded by the French King Francis I. The settlement thrived as a seasonal fishing community and by 1583 it was a continuously occupied colony, twenty-four years before Jamestown and two years before Roanoke.

Eighteen years later, in 1535, the Kingdom of France established a new colony that they called the Colony of Canada. It spread over the vast territory encompassing the northern half of the North American Continent. The easternmost islands of that northern region were also settled by the French as the Acadia Colony. The Acadian Colony was established in 1604 on St. Croix Island and it encompassed the lands that would eventually become: Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick,



Nova Scotia and a portion of the Maine Province claimed by the Massachusetts-Bay Colony. In 1605 the Port-Royal Colony was established on Nova Scotia along the north bank of the Annapolis River where it empties into the Annapolis Basin. Initially

the settlement was called the Habitation at Port-Royal.

A number of towns were founded throughout the Colony of Canada. The City of Quebec, known at first as the Habitation de Quebec, was founded in the year 1608 ~ one year after Jamestown ~ and then, in 1634 Trois-Rivieres was established. Montreal came next, in 1642. In 1763, four years after the City of Quebec was captured by British General James Wolfe and other French towns, including Montreal, fell to Great Britain in the French and Indian War, the Colony of Canada was renamed by the British as the *Colony of Quebec*. Perhaps the purpose of the renaming was to convince the French residents that their

disappeared by 1620 when the Puritans arrived at Plymouth, a few continued to endure the hardships of the region to keep it alive to the present-day.

Also in 1610, a colony was established by the Kingdom of France at Pays d'en Haut, which was located at the present-day just north of Montreal.

The Winter Harbor Colony was established along Biddeford Pool, near Saco Bay, Maine in 1616. The Winter Harbor Colony would become the earliest permanent settlement in the region now designated as the U.S. state of Maine.

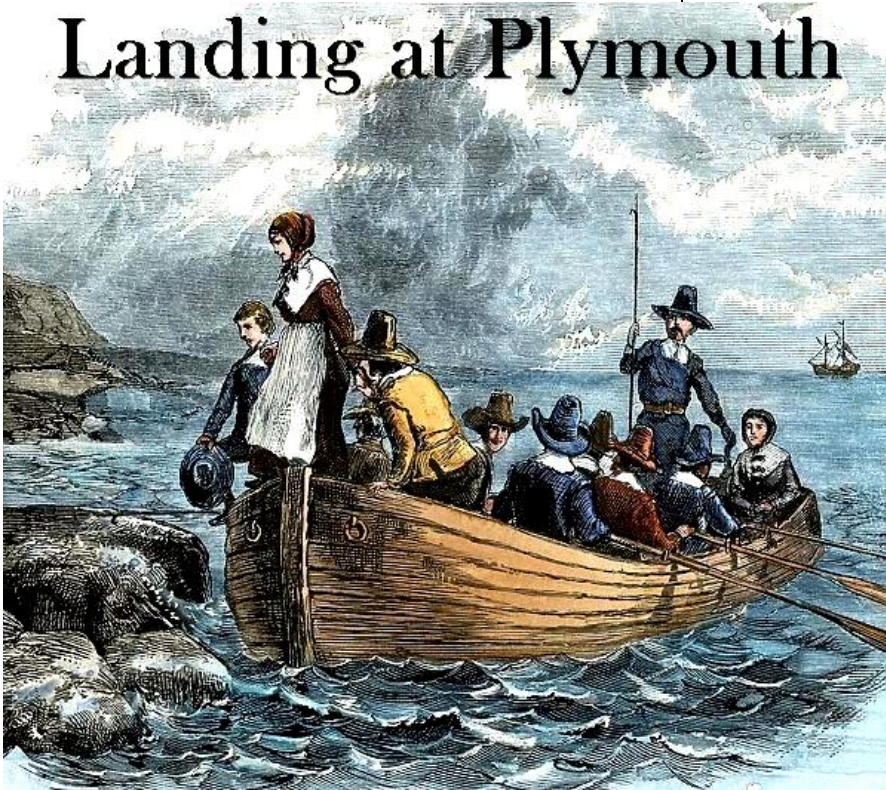
Finally we arrive at 1620, and a crowded boat named the *Mayflower* arrived at Plymouth Rock on the hook-shaped peninsula of Cape Cod of

the present-day U.S. state of Massachusetts. A group of one hundred and two Puritan Separatists, who came to be known as the Pilgrims, had departed from Plymouth, England two months earlier in search of religious freedom. The *Mayflower* was manned by a crew of thirty. There was only one death on board during the passage. A week after the ship anchored at Provincetown Harbor, a child named Peregrine White was born. The child was a son of William and Susanna White and would be lauded as the first child of European parents to be born in the 'New World'.

Historians had a landmark event and they apparently never took the time to check if any children had been born in any of the other French or British colonies to that point in time.

American students are led to believe that when the Pilgrims on the *Mayflower* arrived in 1620 at Plymouth Rock, they were the first Europeans to live that experience. It is sometimes

Landing at Plymouth



everyday lives would not be affected by the change in governmental control.

A colony at Cuper's Cove was launched in 1610 by the Society of Merchant Venturers of Bristol. The Cupers' Cove Colony was located on the southwestern shore of Conception Bay on Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula. Despite the fact that many of the original settlers had

stated that the Pilgrims were surprised that they were met by Samoset, a minor Abenaki chief, who greeted them by saying “Welcome Englishmen”. They should not have been surprised that some of the Amerindians already knew how to speak English. Not only the earlier British colonies, but British surveyors and cartographers had visited the North American Continent prior to the 1620 landing of the Mayflower. There were ample situations in which the Europeans made contact with the Amerindians who then inhabited the Atlantic coastline.

The year after the Plymouth landing, 1621, saw the Dutch West India Company establishing the New Netherland Colony. The colony, the first to be launched by the Republic of the Seven United Netherlands in the North American Continent, encompassed lands in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Connecticut and New York. Students are usually taught about this New Netherland Colony because they are taught that the City of New York started as New Amsterdam with Peter Stuyvesant as its governor.

In 1622, the Province of Maine Colony was established. The colony included settlements of Falmouth (current Portland, Maine), Lygonia (between the Cape Porpoise and the Kennebec River) and New Somersetshire. The Province of Maine Colony, funded partly by the Plymouth Council for New England, was eventually (by 1658) incorporated into the Massachusetts-Bay Colony.

In 1622, a party of fishermen established the Pannaway Plantation, the first settlement in present-day New Hampshire. In the year 1630, the

settlement was abandoned by the colonists who moved to the present-day region of Portsmouth where they established Strawberry Banke.

In 1623, the Dover Settlement was founded in what is today Strafford County, New Hampshire.

The Agamenticus Colony was established in 1624 in the region currently occupied by York, at the southern tip of Maine and bordering on the Gulf of Maine. Sir Ferdinando Gorges, the proprietor of Maine under the Plymouth Patent, established the settlement, but upon his death it was incorporated into the Massachusetts-Bay Colony.

Speaking of the Massachusetts-Bay Colony, it was established in 1628 by the Massachusetts-Bay Company and the Dorchester Company of Adventurers. In 1691 the Province of Massachusetts-Bay was established to merge the Plymouth Colony with the settlements of Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket.



The Province of Nova Scotia was created within the Acadia Colony in 1629. The colony was originally chartered in 1621, but it took four attempts to make a successful settlement. In 1713 the Province of Ile-Royale was established on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia. The colony incorporated the Ile Saint-Jean, later renamed as Prince Edward Island.

In that same year of 1629, the Province of New Hampshire was established as a royal colony

in the wilderness lying between the Merrimack and the Piscataqua Rivers. Beginning in the 1620's a number of small villages were settled along the



Pavonia Massacre

coast of the Atlantic Ocean, the Piscataqua River and the Great Bay. They were gathered together in 1641 under the control of the Massachusetts-Bay Colony and then separated once more to exist as the Province of New Hampshire.

In 1630 the Pavonia Colony was set up on the west bank of the North, or Hudson, River in present-day New Jersey by the Republic of the Seven United Netherlands. The site would become Hudson County in present-day New Jersey.

In 1632 the Middle Plantation was constructed as a fortified town located between the James and York Rivers. It was renamed as Williamsburg and functioned as the capitol of the Colony of Virginia beginning in 1699 following a number of fires in the Jamestown settlement.

The Province of Maryland was established in 1632 as a haven for Catholics when it was granted to Cecil Calvert, 2nd Baron Baltimore as a proprietary colony.

The Saybrook Colony was established at the mouth of the Connecticut River in 1635. The Connecticut River Colony was established the

following year, 1636. The Saybrook Colony was merged with the Connecticut River Colony in 1644 and in that merger the word 'River' was dropped from the name, resulting in simply the Connecticut Colony.

In 1636 the Providence Plantation Colony was begun. Roger Williams, a Puritan theologian, was exiled from the Massachusetts-Bay Colony. He and a small group traveled westward and received a tract of land from the Narragansett sachem Canonicus. In 1642 the Warwick Colony was set up within the present day county of Kent, Rhode Island. The Narragansett sachem Miantonomi sold the land on which the settlement would be planted to Samuel Gorton. The name of Shawhomett was applied to the new settlement. Two other sachems, Sacononoco and Pumham went to the Massachusetts-Bay Colony claiming that Miantonomi had no right to sell the land to Gorton. The Massachusetts-Bay Colony sent a militia force to take possession of the new settlement in 1643. Gorton went to England to plead his case and with the help of Robert Rich, Second Earl of Warwick, a new charter was granted to Gorton, so he renamed the settlement 'Warwick'.

In 1651, the Providence Plantation became a proprietary colony. At that time the Colony of Rhode Island, which encompassed the settlements at Portsmouth and Newport, was merged with the Providence Plantation, which encompassed the settlements of Portsmouth and Warwick, to become the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

The New Haven Colony was established in 1638 in the present-day U.S. state of Connecticut across Greenwich Bay, north of New York's Long Island. In 1664 the New Haven Colony was merged with the Connecticut Colony.

The New Sweden Colony was established

in the Delaware Valley by the Swedish Empire in 1638. A fortified structure, Fort Christina, was built on the site of present-day Wilmington, Delaware. In 1650 a settlement named Sveaborg was established at the present-day Swedesboro, New Jersey. In 1655 the colony was captured by the Dutch who merged it with the New Netherland Colony to its north. The colony was then captured in 1664 by England and renamed the Delaware Colony. In 1682, the Delaware Colony was merged with the Colony of Pennsylvania at which time it was designated as the 'Three Lower Counties on Delaware' of that province. The three counties colony petitioned for its own legislature and was granted such in 1701. It finally became its own 'state' in 1776.

Two new colonies were established in the present-day U.S. state of New Hampshire in the year 1638. Both were located in present-day Rockingham County: the Exeter Colony and the Plantation of Winnacunnet. The latter was later renamed as Hampton.

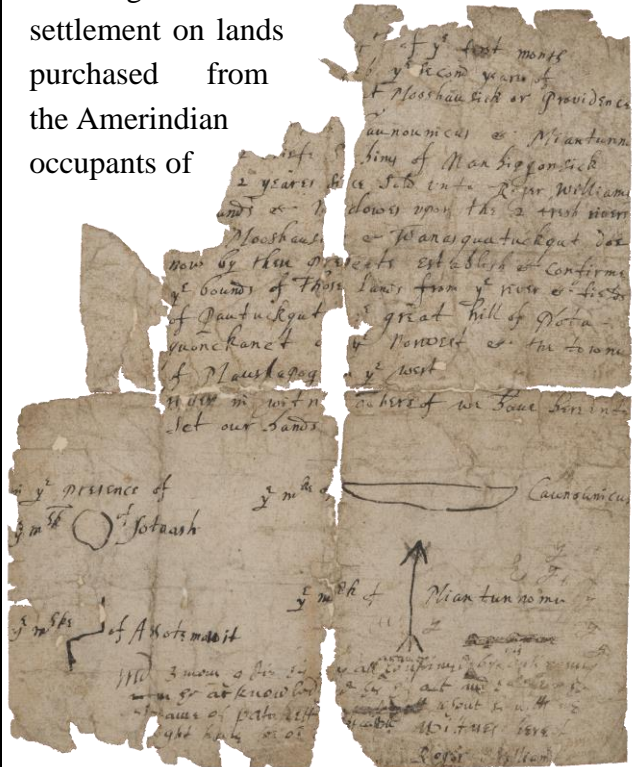
In 1639, the Newport Colony was established on the island originally named 'Rhode Island'. It has more recently been renamed 'Aquidneck Island'.

In 1641, Thomas Mayhew obtained a patent for a proprietary colony from Sir Ferdinando Gorges for a number of islands in the Nantucket Sound that included Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket and the Elizabeth Islands north of the Vineyard Sound.

The Province of Carolina was chartered as a proprietary colony in 1663. The charter granted to eight proprietors all the lands currently encompassed by the present-day U.S. states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and the northernmost part of Florida. In 1712, the Provinces of North and South Carolina were formed out of the original Carolina Province.

The settlement of Charles Town was established in 1670 in the Province of Carolina. It was intended for the resettlement of residents of Bermuda and Barbados.

In 1664, the Elizabethtown Tract was the name given to a settlement on lands purchased from the Amerindian occupants of



Roger Williams' Deed to Rhode Island
From Chief Canonicus 1636

present-day Elizabeth, New Jersey. In that same year the Province of New Jersey was established as a proprietary colony. It would be separated in 1674 into East Jersey, settled mostly by Scottish people and West Jersey, settled mostly by Englishmen. In 1702, the two Jerseys would be re-merged into once again the Province of New Jersey. This region was often referred to as 'the Jerseys' during the American Revolutionary War. In 1666 the Newark Settlement was started by Puritans from the New Haven Colony.

In 1664, the Province of New York was established by the capture of New Netherlands from the Dutch West India Company by a force sent from London. Charles II gave the colony of New Netherlands to his brother, James, Duke of

York and then sent the military force to capture it from the Dutch after the fact. The Dutch gave up without giving the English a fight, and New Amsterdam became New York City overnight. The new Province of New York was governed as a proprietary colony under the British.

Explorers and Jesuit missionaries for the Kingdom of France made their way deep into the North American Continent and in 1668 a group of Jesuits established a settlement at Sault Ste. Marie on the present-day Upper Peninsula of the state of Michigan.

Another result of the missionaries' ventures into the heart of the continent was the establishment of the Pays des Illinois in 1675. The territory was governed as part of Colony of Canada until 1763.

In 1684, two counties in the Province of Carolina were purchased to provide a refuge for Scottish Covenanters. The settlement, known as the Stuarts Town Settlement was located south of Charles Town, on the site of present-day Port Royal, South Carolina.

Far north, at Hudson's Bay, the Prince Rupert's Land Colony was established in 1670. It was established by the Hudson's Bay Company encompassing all of the lands surrounding Hudson Bay. The Hudson Bay is a large body of water connected to the Atlantic Ocean that cuts southward through the present-day nation of

Canada. It is bounded today on the east by the Province of Quebec, on the south by the Province of Ontario, on the southwest by the Province of Manitoba and on the northwest by the Territory of Nunavut. The colony of Prince Rupert's Land was eventually, in 1870 (when the original charter to the colony was surrendered to the British Crown),

merged into Canada and divided up into the Provinces and Territories noted above.

The Province of Pennsylvania was set up in 1681 as a proprietary colony. William Penn, Sr had given a loan to King



Charles Stuart I, but Charles was beheaded before he could repay the debt. And then William Penn Sr died. Charles II became king in the Restoration of the Stuart monarchy, and he repaid the loan made by his father to the son, William Penn, Jr by granting to him a proprietary colony in the New World. Penn advertised his colony as being a refuge for anyone seeking religious liberty throughout the Germanic kingdoms and territories. Penn's tactic guaranteed that his colony would be occupied quickly. By the time of the American Revolutionary War, Philadelphia, the capitol city of the Colony of Pennsylvania, had become the most populous city in the British Colonies.

The last British colony to be established in the North American Continent prior to the American Revolutionary War was Georgia. It was established as a proprietary colony in 1732, but


then in 1755, it was changed to a Crown, or Royal, Colony. The colony was granted by King George II to General James Oglethorpe on 21 April 1732. The colony was envisioned as a refuge for English subjects who had been imprisoned simply for debts. The idea that Georgia was established for all manner of convicts is a fallacy. The Darien or New Inverness Settlement was established in 1735 in the new Province of Georgia to provide a home for 177 Scottish Highlanders. Their presence at the southernmost point of the Colony of Georgia was intended to serve as a buffer against any attack from Spanish Florida.

The point with which I started this article is that the thirteen colonies which joined in 1776 to become the United States of America did not constitute all of the British colonies which existed at the time. The French and Indian War had succeeded in bringing the French colonies in the North American Continent into the British fold, increasing the number of established colonies just a decade prior to the thirteen's declaration of independence.

By the time that the American Revolutionary War began, many of the smaller colonies ~ individual towns originally established as separate and unique colonies ~ had merged together. Some might have been incorporated into earlier and larger colonies, such as the Massachusetts-Bay Colony, without their actual desire to. In any case, in addition to the thirteen British colonies of Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Virginia were the additional British colonies of Quebec, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and St. Johns' Island. Although some historians list the Province of Maine as one of the colonies that remained loyal to Great Britain in 1776, Maine was considered to be part of the Massachusetts-Bay

Colony, and so was included in that colony during the War. Likewise, New Brunswick, which is often associated with the British Colonies that remained loyal to Great Britain, was still part of Nova Scotia at the start of the American Revolutionary War. It would not gain its own designation as a unique province until 1784.

Being originally French, one would think that those only-recently-British colonies would have sided with the thirteen and also desired independence from Great Britain. But despite overtures from the delegates meeting in Continental Congress, the Province of Quebec refused to join the Patriots. And despite pleas from the people of Nova Scotia to join the Patriots, those same delegates meeting in Continental Congress refused to allow that colony to join the thirteen.



2023 Meeting Dates

First Quarterly Meeting	March 11	Bedford Hoss's
Second Quarterly Meeting	June 10	Creekside Inn
Third Quarterly Meeting	September 9	Bedford Hoss's
Fourth Quarterly Meeting	December 9	Creekside Inn

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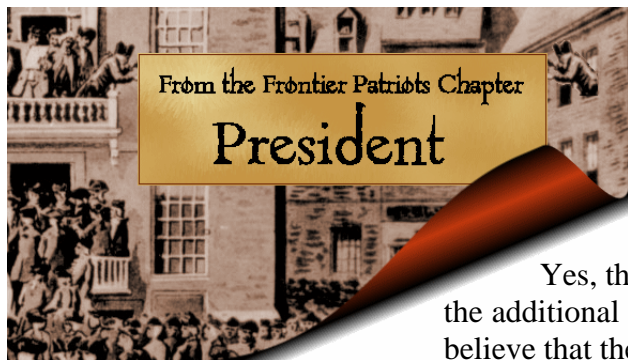
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The next meeting of the Frontier Patriots Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will be held at Hoss's restaurant at Business 220, Bedford, PA on Saturday, 11 March 2023 starting at 12 Noon.

Yes, this issue is ten pages long. I felt that the subject merited the additional pages. Too many people ~ maybe even some of you ~ believe that there were only thirteen British Colonies in 1775.

I hope that all of you are doing well ~ with good health and peace of mind ~ as we pass through this 2023 / 2024 winter season.



For those of you that receive this newsletter by US mail, if you have an email address, we would appreciate you informing us of it to use for future newsletters. Printing and mailing these newsletters is not that expensive, but it is time consuming. Please send to our Secretary Larry Smith at schmitt@motherbedford.com

Frontier Patriots Chapter website: <https://frontierpatriots.com>