



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

“Whites and Blacks”

The destruction of Hanna’s Town on 13 July 1782 was described by Michael Huffnagle to William Moore, the President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania in an undated letter. He stated:

*I am sorry to inform your Excellency, that Last Saturday at two O’Clock in the afternoon, **Hanna’s Town was attacked by about one hundred Whites & Blacks.** We found several Jackets, the buttons mark’d with the King’s eighth Regiment. At the same Time this Town was attacked, another party attacked Fort Miller, about four Miles from this Place. Hanna’s Town & Fort Miller in a short Time were reduced to Ashes, about twenty of the Inhabitants kill’d and taken, about one hundred head of Cattle, a number of horses and hogs kill’d. Such wanton destruction I never beheld, burning and destroying as they went. The People of this Place behaved brave; retired to the Fortt, left their all a prey to the Enemy, & with twenty Men only, & nine guns in good order, we stood the attack ‘till dark. At first, some of the Enemy came close to the Pickets, but were soon oblig’d to retire farther off. I cannot inform you what Number of the Enemy may be kill’d, as we see them from the Fortt carrying off severals.*

A curious detail of Michael Huffnagle’s letter is seldom, if ever, discussed. It will be noticed that in the first sentence he stated that “*Hanna’s Town was attacked by about one hundred Whites & Blacks.*”

It should first be noted that the *traditional* concept of the skin color of Amerindians being ‘red’ was not something that was widespread during the time of the Revolution. The earliest reference to the Amerindian’s skin being ‘red’ appeared in print no

earlier than the 1720s, and the combination of the word ‘red’ with the word ‘skin’ might date as recently as the first half of the Nineteenth Century. Of course, the Amerindians’ skin color was only ‘red’ because the men tended to be shirtless most of the time, and their sun-tanned skin took on a ruddy complexion.

The Amerindian attackers whom Huffnagle referred to as ‘white’ Amerindians were no doubt the Amerindians we all know about through actual

historical study and *traditional* perception. But the notion of ‘black Indians’ is somewhat unusual. Perhaps the strangeness of such a name ~ suggesting that Amerindians could be ‘black’, *ergo* of African descent, is not an idea that is usually considered. Nevertheless, certain Amerindian nations bear physical features that belie an African origin. The Cherokee and Mohawk are two such nations.

Joseph Brant, the Mohawk war chief, was known to have encouraged the intermarriage of his fellow Mohawks with Africans newly arrived on the North American shores as slaves or as runaways. In fact, it has been conjectured (though not completely proven) that peoples from the African continent had traversed the Atlantic Ocean much earlier than the emigrants from the Asian continent via the Bering land bridge. The offspring of those African immigrants and the Amerindians already here are known by anthropologists as *Paleoamerican Blacks*.

Despite not having appeared in the writings and teachings of popular history, it would seem that Paleoamerican Blacks were quite common in the latter half of the Eighteenth Century. While the Mohawks might have encouraged the intermarriage of blacks of African descent and Amerindians, perhaps other

Nations were known to not have. The Senecas might have been a Nation which did not encourage the intermarriages and therefore might have been referred to as ‘white’ Amerindians.



In regard to Michael Huffnagle’s statement that the town was attacked by about one hundred “Whites & Blacks”, he might have been stating that the town was being attacked by Senecas (Whites) and Mohawks (Blacks); the two tribes being allied Iroquois and both being allies to the British. It

was common for Senecas to be involved, since the British at Fort Niagara were located just north of the Seneca homeland. Each time that the British moved southward, they easily picked up Seneca warriors to participate in the raid. The Mohawks, being located farther east, were less inclined to attack western Pennsylvania.

The photo attached to this article is of two Amerindians taken in the late-1800’s. The man on the right exemplifies the ‘black Indian’ or Paleoamerican Black who had ‘negroid’ features such as the broad nose and pronounced lips. The man on the left exemplifies the ‘white’ Amerindian with ‘mongoloid’ features such as the long, slender nose and less pronounced lips.



Regimental Orders

In the same way that George Washington issued directives known as *General Orders*, the commanders of the various battalions, later renamed regiments, of the Continental Army issued their own directives known as *Regimental Orders*.

Colonel Anthony Wayne was the commander of the Fourth Pennsylvania Battalion in October 1776.

The battalion, then at Ticonderoga, was part of the *Northern Army*. On 25 October 1776, Colonel Wayne issued *Regimental Orders* in which he stated: “*The Fourth Pennsylvania Battn are all to be under Arms to-morrow Morning at 10 O’clock.*” That order implied the men would need to perform certain acts that evening rather than wait until the following morning. The

Regimental Orders further stated: “*The Officer will make it a Point of causing their Respective Companies to appear clean, well Powder’d and Shav’d, and their Arms in good order, for which Purpose they will see that their Men all Shave this Evening.*” The *Regimental Orders* of 2 November echoed the same thought of the necessity of being prepared for the following day’s activities. At that time, the *Orders* stated: “*The Officers with all the Men in their respective Companies to shave this Evening and to see that they are well powder’d, with their Arms in good Order, ready to be turned out at 8 o’clock tomorrow Morning on the Parade, or at such Time as they may be order’d. The Officers will be prepared themselves, and make a Point of causing their Men to appear as decent as possible.*”

The tours of duty for many of the troops of the Fourth Pennsylvania Battalion were coming to an end as the fall wore on. And so accordingly, on the 30th of October 1776, Colonel Wayne, in addressing the need for soldiers to re-enlist, issued *Regimental Orders* which included: “*All such non Commission’d Officers and Soldiers as incline to continue in the Service of the United States of America agreeable to the Encouragement offer’d by Congress are to apply to their Respective Captains or to me, where they will receive 20 dollars in Part of their Bounty, and a Dram together with a full Assurance of Returning to Pennsylvania as soon as the Enemy are Defeated, which the Col. hopes will be in a few Days, perhaps in a few HOURS.*”

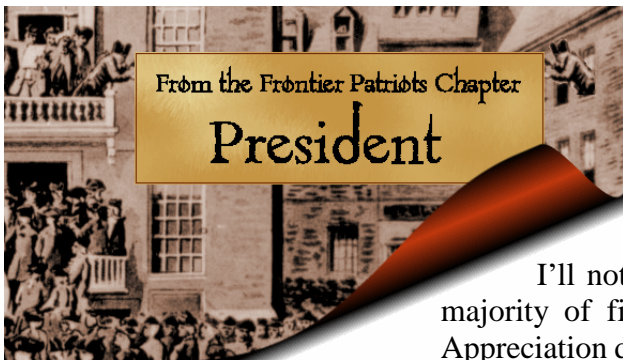
When thinking about the armies that served during the American Revolutionary War, one seldom considers the fact that certain jobs that would have been taken care of by a soldier’s wife or mother, now had to be attended to by either the troops themselves or by an

individual assigned the task. One of those ‘jobs’ was the sewing and repair of the soldiers’ clothing. The *Regimental Orders* of 5 December 1776 addressed that matter. “*The Taylors belonging to each Regt are immediately to attend at the Old Fort, in order to make up Sacks to hold Straw for the Sick to lie on. As soon as this Work is done, the Officers commanding Companies in each Battn will sett their own Taylors to repair the Clothing of the Men.*” And to make sure that each of the soldiers were properly dressed, Colonel Wayne issued the following in his *Regimental Orders* of 7 December 1776: “*The Commanding Officers of Regt will immediately cause a Return to be made to Major Masom, of the Number of Waistcoats, Mittings and Leggings wanted for their respective Regts, . . .*” In those same *Regimental Orders*, Colonel Wayne informed his troops that: “*Col. Wayne has observ’d with a good deal of Pain that some of the Regts have sent their Men to the Parade with unpowder’d Hair, long Beards, dirty Shirts and rusty Arms.*”

From the time of the French and Indian War, the British Army was followed by merchants, known as suttlers, who sold goods to the soldiers that the army did not provide and by women (often wives of some of the soldiers) who washed and mended clothing for the soldiers. The practice of allowing suttlers and women to follow the army as part of the baggage train was continued by the Patriot armies. But their activities were subject to the rules and regulations of the army. In his *Regimental Orders* of 10 December 1776, Colonel Wayne stated: “*Any Woman belonging to the Regt, who shall refuse to wash for the Men, shall be immediately drum’d out of the Regt, as they are not found in Victuals to distress and render the Men unfit for Duty, but to keep them clean and decent.*”

The Rebel Stripes

On the next page is a cartoon that was published in London on 8 December 1782. It presented caricatures of Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, Spain and the United States of America responding to the results of the American Revolutionary War. The female ‘Indian’, representing America, is holding a Liberty Pole from which flies a seventeen-stripe *Rebel Stripes* flag.



The next meeting of the Frontier Patriots Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will be held at The Dream restaurant at 1500 Allegheny St, Hollidaysburg, PA on Saturday, 14 December 2024 starting at 12 Noon.

I'll not belabor the point, but I do want to mention that the majority of fire companies to which I mailed the Certificates of Appreciation didn't even take the time and effort to send a postcard to let me know that they had even received the Certificates. A postcard costs only 56 cents to mail and perhaps a total of 1.28 minutes to write: "Got the Certificate. Thank you." But that apparently was too much cost and effort for the fire companies to undertake. But then we should feel good to have given the Certificates and not care if they appreciated the gesture.



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>