



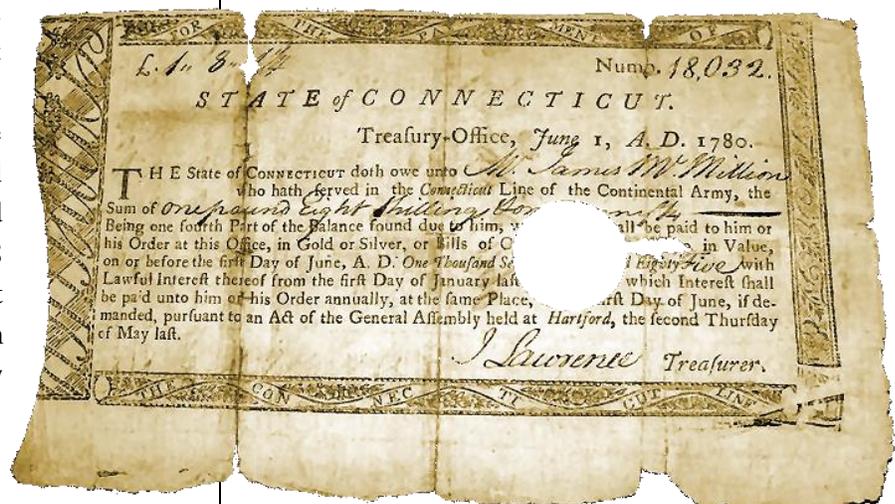
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## The New Levies

Matthew Simpson was laid to rest in the Riverview Cemetery at Huntingdon a couple days after he died on 19 August 1807. Matthew was fifty-three years of age when he passed. He had been born circa 1754 in Scotland and had arrived in America at Philadelphia just as the American Revolutionary War was starting. His name was included in the roster of Captain James Taylor's company of Colonel Anthony Wayne's Fourth Pennsylvania Battalion in 1776. He apparently didn't enjoy his experience in the army, though. A notation was made alongside his name in that roster which stated "enlisted February 10, 1776; deserted February 20, 1776." On 24 May 1778 Matthew married Mary Phillips at Saint Michael's and Zion Church in Philadelphia. By that time Matthew Simpson had already re-enlisted in the army because the entry written in the church's marriage register stated Matthew appeared for his wedding by the "permission of Col. J. Chanoir, commanding Second battalion Gren[adiers]."

The next record in which we find his name in

the archives of military records for Pennsylvania is in a list of *Soldiers Who Received Depreciation Pay As Per Cancelled Certificates On File In The Division Of Public Records, Pennsylvania State Library*. The list is divided into sections according to the military units and following all of the various Regiments of the Pennsylvania Line is a list of 'New Levies' Matthew Simpson's name appears in that grouping. The



'cancelled certificates' noted in the title of the list have also been recorded in a card file which is maintained in Record Group 4 of the Records of the Comptroller

General. The card which contains Matthew Simpson's information is certificate #18397 and was issued on 27 May 1791. The amount of depreciation pay that was received by Patriot Simpson on that date was £45. We can tell that Mr. Simpson actually turned his certificate in and received his money because the card notes 'Cancelled Certificate'. A certificate that was cancelled had a large hole punched in it to prevent the soldier from trying to redeem it again at a later time. A basic rate of exchange between British Sterling in Pennsylvania in the late 1700s and today's U.S. dollars is about \$18 for each £1, so Matthew Simpson received the equivalent of roughly \$810.

The impressive amount of money that the Patriot presumably received is interesting, but the subject of this article is about the title of the group in which Matthew's name was recorded.

What were the 'New Levies'? The word 'levies' referred to 'military conscriptions'. The definition of 'conscription' means "*compulsory enlistment for state service, typically in the armed forces*". It can be thought of as another term for what we today would think of as the 'draft'.

Thomas L. Purvis, in his book, *Almanac of American Life: Revolutionary America*, noted that in the 1770s the population of the English Colonies was approximately two million. Of that total number, one quarter, or about 450,000 were men between the ages of sixteen and forty-five. Although the authorities at the time did not maintain a running total of the number of men who actually served, it is estimated that only half of the available men, or 220,000, joined the Continental Line, the local militias or the navy. The reason for the low number of actual recruits might have been due to the fact that that demographic consisted mostly of single men. Married men were hesitant to leave their families undefended, especially for an extended period of time. A married man could express his support of the Patriot Cause by making a donation of money or goods and many did just that. If a man enlisted in the Continental Line he could figure on being away from

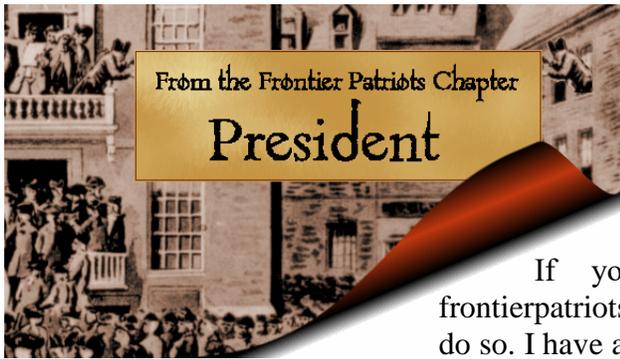
his home and family for at least nine months and possibly however long the War lasted. Those men who involuntarily joined the Continental Line, when their militia companies were incorporated into that military entity at the siege of Boston, could conceivably be in the service up to six to eight years. The county militia recruit could expect to serve between two weeks and three months during any tour of duty. Although he might be called out for multiple tours of duty, at least the militia recruit knew that he would not be taken away from his home and family for nearly a year at a time. As that reality became more and more evident to everyone, there were less enlistments in the Continental Line.

By the beginning of 1778, the excitement of the heady days of '76 was wearing off. A report was presented during the afternoon session of the Continental Congress on Thursday, 26 February which noted that Pennsylvania had ten "*batallions of continental troops*" that were not filled to their intended quotas. Pennsylvania was not the worst in that report. Virginia and Massachusetts~Bay both had fifteen battalions that were not filled. Maryland and Connecticut both had eight unfilled battalions. And even the two smallest colonies, Delaware and Rhode Island & Providence Plantations suffered from this situation. Both had single battalions that were not filled to their intended quotas.

The report presented on that cold Thursday afternoon resulted in the passing of a motion that stated: "*Resolved, That, the several states hereafter named be required forthwith to fill up by drafts from their militia, their respective batallions of continental troops...*" A discussion on the motion resulted in the clarification of "*[or in any other way that shall be effectual]*" being suggested by Henry Laurens.

The Resolution made it lawful to levy or conscript militia troops into the Continental Line as the provincial authorities saw fit. Matthew Simpson was one of those 'new levies.'





The next meeting of the  
Frontier Patriots Chapter  
of the Sons of the American Revolution  
will be held at Creekside Inn restaurant  
at 3059 Everett Rd, East Freedom (I-99 exit 23)  
on Saturday, 11 June 2022  
starting at 12 Noon.

If you haven't visited our Chapter's website at [frontierpatriots.com](http://frontierpatriots.com) before, please take a few minutes at this time to do so. I have attempted to make the site as interesting as possible for you, the Compatriot members. I

would like to note that the website is not a 'cookie-cutter' website. Unlike websites that are produced by a commercial program, such as GoDaddy, I have personally produced everything that appears on the website. I produce the pages by typing them out in html on notepad. I only use java script or similar coding sparingly. I like simple, purely informative pages so I avoid flashy designs. Also, my background in art provides me with the ability to produce whatever artistic elements I need. That means that every background, icon and button were produced by me in Paint Shop Pro, often using my own antiques as subjects. And since I love writing, most of the text is my own creation.

I am constantly trying to think of new things to add to the website for your enjoyment. For example, all of the newsletters that I produced since I started thirty-one years ago (for the first quarter of 1991) are included on the site. There is also a link to a 47-page pdf document: "*The History of the Frontier Patriots Chapter, SAR*". I am currently working on adding an updated listing of Patriots buried in Bedford, Blair, Fulton and Huntingdon Counties with links to pages containing vital information and images of tombstones and pensions.

The most important thing to be aware of is that the *frontierpatriots.com* website is the Chapter's website. If any of you have suggestions for things you'd like to see on it, please feel welcome to contact me with your ideas.

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## Captain White Eyes and the Fourteenth State

Koquethagechton was a sachem (*i.e.* chief) of the Turtle Clan of the Lenni Lenape, or Delaware people residing in the region of western Pennsylvania in what is present-day Somerset County. His name has been sometimes spelled as *Coquataginta* or *Coquetakeghton* and he was also known by the English names George White Eyes, Greyeyes and Sir William. He has been claimed to have been born between 1650 and 1700 and even as late as 1730. He died in 1778 while serving as a guide to American General Lachlan McIntosh.

A friend of the Moravian missionary, David Zeisberger, Captain White Eyes hoped to convert his fellow Lenape to Christianity.

Despite the enmity that it caused between his

Lenape clan and the Shawnee who resided in their vicinity, White Eyes attempted to enter into an alliance with the Patriot rebels when the Revolutionary War began. In October 1775, White Eyes met in conference with commissioners from the Continental Congress at Fort Pitt to discuss a treaty. The conference was also attended by representatives of the Iroquois nations of the Ottawa and Seneca. They were inclined to support the British in a conflict and so they argued against the Lenape making a treaty with the Americans. Despite generations of the Iroquois claiming authority over the Lenni Lenape, Koquethagechton declared the Lenape's independence and right to negotiate for themselves. In addition, the Lenape sachem requested that the lands occupied by the Lenape be granted the right to join the

other thirteen colonies as a fourteenth colony.

The Lenape people were not all united behind Koquethagechton in the desire for a Lenni Lenape colony within the emerging 'united states'. Another Lenape sachem, Hopocan, stirred up sentiment against White Eyes and tried to thwart his efforts to gain a treaty with the American rebels.

White Eyes appeared before the delegates assembled in Continental Congress on Saturday, 16 December 1775 apparently at the invitation of the Commissioners for Indian Affairs. Other than a greeting by John Hancock, then-President of the Congress, the meeting resulted in nothing of merit.

White Eyes returned to Philadelphia the following spring. When he arrived on Saturday, 16 March 1776, he brought a petition along. A committee consisting of Lewis Morris, James Wilson and Richard Henry Lee was appointed to take White Eyes' petition into consideration.

Although the establishment of a fourteenth colony was not readily achieved, the delegates assembled in Congress encouraged White Eyes with the promise of peace. On Wednesday, 10 April 1776, the committee to consider White Eyes' petition presented

their answer. In part, they stated that "*we wish to advance your happiness, and that there may be a lasting union between us, and that, as you express it, we may become one people.*" They continued: "*We wish to promote the lasting peace and happiness of all our brothers, the Indian nations, who live with us on this great island. As far as your settlement and security may depend upon us, you may be assured of our protection, We shall take all the care in our power, that no interruption or disturbance be given you by our people, nor shall any of them be suffered, by force or fraud, to deprive you of any of your lands, or to settle them without a fair purchase from you, and your free consent.*"

Captain White Eyes would continue to try to obtain a place in the union of colonies for his Lenape people over the next two years. Although he did not achieve that goal, he did see a treaty of *articles of agreement and confederation* signed at Fort Pitt on 17 September 1778.

Koquethagechton, Captain White Eyes, was killed by a militiaman in November 1778 when he was mistaken for an aggressor.



## The Fall 2022 PASSAR Board of Management Meeting

Plans were being made to hold the Fall 2022 PASSAR BOM meeting at Bedford. Those plans fell through when the Hampton Inn Bedford called me to tell me that they had misinformed me about the number of men that could be seated in the meeting room.

The BOM meeting will instead need to be held in Blair County since the only other motel with a meeting room in Bedford County is the Holiday Inn at Breezewood. But the Holiday Inn will not be available during the weekend of the 5th of November.

The meeting will be held at the Hampton Inn Altoona. It is easily accessible from I-99 and it has a large meeting room. I have reserved a block of thirty rooms for Friday evening and the meeting room for the Saturday morning BOM meeting.

We will need to decide what we want to do for a reception on Friday evening, where we plan to eat for the Saturday luncheon and speakers/programs for the luncheon and the ladies program. If you can make suggestions for those items, please contact me at [schmitt@motherbedford.com](mailto:schmitt@motherbedford.com).

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](mailto:schmitt@motherbedford.com)