



Compatriot News

Philadelphia Continental Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



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Compatriots,

Our organization is committed to making a positive impact in the community through various initiatives and charitable activities. These efforts not only demonstrate our dedication to giving back, but also provide a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction. By participating in these initiatives, we not only support important causes, but also contribute to creating a better community for all. I strongly encourage all members to get involved, as it is an excellent way to experience the gratification that comes from making a difference in the lives of others.

On behalf of the Philadelphia Continental Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, I would like to extend my most sincere and heartfelt gratitude to all our members for their unwavering support. Your dedication and commitment to our organization are truly invaluable, and I am confident that without your assistance, we would not be able to fulfill our mission with the same level of success. Your contributions have been instrumental in helping us achieve our goals, and I am grateful for your efforts. Thank you for being part of this esteemed organization.

There is great satisfaction with our accomplishments this year. We have maintained our membership, and we are 468 strong and still growing. This is remarkable accomplishment, especially considering the effort that goes into retaining members. We are just beginning our dues campaign for year 2025 and we decided to let the state society have the first go at it for reasons obvious.

We have completed and approved the guidon which we are currently disseminating to new members as they attend an event to receive their membership certificates and rosettes, and . . . take the oath of the organization.

We have started a social media page on Facebook that currently has 114 followers and continues to grow. We also publish our activities on the National Society's Facebook page.

The Williamson flagpole project is concluded, and we now have two 25' and one 30' flagpoles at the athletic field to which fans can pay homage during the playing of the National Anthem. A big rock with a plaque graces the ground below identifying our participation. Photos are on our

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Facebook page.

Our Yearsley winner was Jack Gommer and he received his \$500 stipend and was very gracious and humble to be honored. We did purchase a quarter page ad in the Williamson yearbook congratulating him.

We continue to create gmail accounts for officers to mitigate hacking on the internet.

Our Washington's Birthday event was a great success, even though it was postponed a week due to expected snow conditions and all enjoyed the new venue, Glory Beer Bar and Kitchen.

We enjoyed a solar eclipse and compatriot Mike Carver, portraying David Rittenhouse, gave a presentation on this historical figure's astrological contribution. This was also on television.

Our April chapter meeting was held at Fellini's Restaurant in Media, with a wonderful dissertation from former Upper Darby High School history teacher Dave Tatum. He spoke of his student's research projects investigating the lives of local Vietnam veterans. The meeting continued with a tour of the Pennsylvania Veterans Museum, for which the chapter gave a \$200 donation.

By having committee chairmen provide their reports for review before the meetings, our meetings have become streamlined allowing more time for socializing with each other.

We have issued a slew of Certificates of Appreciation, Scout awards, flag certificates, flag retirement certificates, Good Citizenship certificates, Greenspan award, Knight essay award, Outstanding Student of History award, poster and brochure awards, ROTC awards and the Yearsley award.

We have State winners in Posters and Brochures as well as for the Scouts BSA Eagle Scout contest. Our Eagle Scout winner, Lauren Tyree, placed 6th Nationally and is gearing up to win next year. The ROTC program is alive and well, with 4 bronze JROTC and 6 Silver ROTC awards presented at 2 high schools, the US Naval Sea Cadet program, and 6 colleges and universities. We have 3 recipients of the "outstanding student of history" award.

Our color guard continues to be the face of the organization and represents us well. Please see the Color Guard report.

We place over 1500 flags on Revolutionary War graves for Memorial Day.

Our annual summer picnic had the highest participation rate in years!

We, George, I mean, successfully sponsored the 134th annual National Society of the SAR Congress in Lancaster over the summer. The PCCSAR represented PASSAR at the National Regional CAR meeting while congress was going on. We got 3rd place for a chapter of our size for the Americanism award, thanks to the efforts of John Whiteside.

Our nominating committee has provided us with the prospective slate of officers for next year. Once again, thank you for your trust and support.

Steve Kopsick, President

The Dues Notices for 2025 have been mailed by USPS. Mail payment (to PASSAR), to be received by December 15, 2024, to the PASSAR Treasurer: Michael E. Seibert, 105 Bellows Dr., Carlisle, PA 17015. You can also visit the PCC web site to pay by PayPal or check.

COLOR GUARD CORNER

Third quarter 2024 color guard activities started right off the get go on July 2nd, with the annual Children's Naturalization Ceremony at the Betsy Ross House. Cpt. Fred Fonseca, and Sgt. Rich Lind were joined by new guardsman Mark Thomas, who made his first appearance in PCC color guard uniform.

Another annual event the PCC color guard participates in is the Independence Day commemoration at the East Vincent Unknown Soldiers Burial Ground. Cpt. Fred Fonseca, Pres. Steve Kopsick, and Bill Baker, placed a 13 star flag in each marker while Chris Snyder and Cpl. Spencer Snyder stood at "present arms". Chris and Spencer were thereafter detached to perform a musket volley to honor the unknown heroes beneath our feet.

A week later, Lancaster Congress began. Cpt. Fred Fonseca, Pres. Steve Kopsick, 1st VP Larry Magdy, Bill Baker, Sgt. Rich Lind, Glenn Tyson and Arlo Duff participated in National Color Guard events related to the National Congress. Fred and Steve were employed as guards in the Ring Ceremony during the installation of President General Addington.

A Lancaster Congress bench was installed at York City Hall. At the dedication, PCC guardsmen Cpt. Fred Fonseca, Pres. Steve Kopsick, Bill Baker, and Arlo Duff participated along with Continental Congress Chapter Pres. Ed Kopsick and Pa. guardsman Joe Clark.

Washington Chapel was also chosen for the location of a Lancaster Congress Bench and PCC guardsmen, Cpt. Fred Fonseca, Sgt. Rich Lind, Glenn Tyson, 1st VP Larry Magdy, Arlo Duff and Calvin Huntzinger, from the Joseph Heister Chapter, presented colors. These bench dedications were National Color Guard Events attended by PG Dodd, National Color Guard Commander Scott Collins and his adjutant Patrick Wesolowski, PASSAR President Kurt Winter, and other SAR and PASSAR officers.

We wrapped up July's activities on the 20th, with the presentation of colors at Lafayette day at Thornbury Farm. This was the kickoff for the 200th anniversary of Lafayette's return tour of America. Cpt. Fred Fonseca, Sgt. Rich Lind and Mark Lanyon participated and manned an SAR information table.

The Goschenhoppen Folk Festival has become an annual August event for the PCC Color Guard.



Ring Ceremony



Washington Chapel bench ceremony

Cpt. Fred Fonseca, Cpl. Spencer Snyder and Chris Snyder participated in a living history demonstration of a continental soldier camp at the site of Washington's HQ in 1777, during Camp Pottsgrove. We were joined by Calvin Huntzinger from Joseph Heister Chapter.

On August 18th Cpl. Spencer Snyder and Chris Snyder participated in a living history demonstration of the continental soldier and manned an SAR information table at the Historic Moland House.



Lafayette Day

On Sept. 14th, at the SAR/DAR/CAR Annual Constitution Week Luncheon, Cpt. Fred Fonseca, Guy Lisowski, Bill Baker, and Mark Thomas presented and retired the colors. Immediately afterward, we headed to Brandywine Battlefield Park for a PCC wreath laying commemorating the Sept 11th, 1777, Battle at Brandywine Creek. I am working for Brandywine to become recognized as a National Color Guard event in 2026. Attending were PASSAR President Kurt Winter, PASSAR First District President John Mitchel, past PASSAR President Michael Seibert and Continental Congress Chapter President Ed Kopsick. Bringing greetings from the DAR was Maribeth Seibert. At-

tending were local DAR members and about a dozen interested members of the public. Cpt. Fred Fonseca, Cpl. Spencer Snyder, Guy Lisowski, Bill Baker, Mark Thomas, and Chris Snyder, presented the colors. Ed, Chris and Spencer fired a volley at the close of the ceremony.

The following day was the DAR Constitution Week Prayer Service. Presenting Colors at Washington Chapel were Cpt. Fred Fonseca, Cpl. Spencer Snyder, Glenn Tyson and Chris Snyder.

Sept. 20th is the night that lives in infamy when in 1777 British troops attacked Wayne's camp at Paoli where over 250 men were casualties of the bayonet and sword. The PCC held its third annual Paoli remembrance on the 247th anniversary of that fateful evening. Paoli is also on my short list for elevation to a National Color Guard Event. Jim Christ, President of the Paoli Preservation Fund, was extremely supportive of our event offering use of their chairs and PA system. Chester County DAR



Goschenhoppen Folk Festival

regent Michele Thackrah and several other DAR ladies attended as well as PCC members. John Mitchel brought greetings from PASSAR, representing District 1. Cpt. Fred Fonseca, Sgt. Rich Lind, Cpl. Spencer Snyder, Chris Snyder, and William Watson participated. William not only was the keynote speaker, but he also brought his pipes and played Taps. This was followed by a musket volley performed by Rich, Spencer, and Chris.

The final scheduled activity of the third quarter was the Skip-pack Days Encampment, where Cpt. Fred Fonseca manned an SAR information table.

Fred Fonseca, Captain of the Guard



Paoli remembrance

250th Anniversary First Continental Congress

On October 12, 2024, the Sons of the American Revolution celebrated the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Continental Association which took place on 20 October, 1774 at Carpenters' Hall in Philadelphia. The Celebration was a major effort by the America 250 SAR Committee, headed by Historian General Jeff Thomas which included four major events:

- 1) Tour of Harriton House, home of Secretary of the First Continental Congress Charles Thomson, in Bryn Mawr, PA;

- 2) SAR grave marking of the grave of Charles Thomson at Laurel Hill East Cemetery in Philadelphia; followed by
- 3) The Carpenters' Hall SAR 250th Celebration followed by a private tour of Carpenters Hall after closing; and
- 4) Concluding with an informal dinner at the Glory Beer Bar and Kitchen just down Chestnut Street.



SAR Marker at Thomson's grave

Attendees were permitted to select which events they would take part in, but a surprising number of people elected to attend them all!

Charles Thomson was born in Ireland and arrived in the British colonies as an indentured servant. He eventually made his way to Delaware where he was found begging on the streets and taken in by a family due to his language skills. Eventually he was noticed by Benjamin Franklin and invited to teach at what became the University of Pennsylvania. Thomson served as the Secretary of Continental Congress for all fifteen years of its existence.



Stephen Pierce, interpreter at Harriton House, at Thompson's grave

Thomson was buried at Laurel Hill East Cemetery, one of the graves at which PCC places flags prior to Memorial Day each year. The SAR Color Guard Commander, Scott Collins, with a Color Guard representing thirty-six SAR chapters from eleven states, posted the colors for the unveiling ceremony for the SAR Marker at Thomson's grave. Stephen Pierce, interpreter at Harriton House, presented the life and times of Charles Thomson. After the ceremony, members drove to Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia.

The Carpenters Hall SAR 250th ceremony was opened by the inimitable NSSAR Color Guard led by Commander Scott Collins. The program followed the cadence of an SAR meeting followed by introduction of the VIP's from SAR National Association, State Associations and the cosponsoring Philadelphia Continental Chapter, Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge, Daughters

of the American Revolution, and Children of the American Revolution. Proclamations were received from U. S. Senator Bob Casey, U. S. Senator John K. Fetterman, U. S. Representative Mary Gay Scanlon, PA Governor Josh Shapiro, and Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle L. Parker.

Next, Matt Ifill, Park Ranger at the Independence National Historical Park, rose to give the keynote address, offering an interesting perspective on the First Continental Congress and why the colonial representatives met at Carpenters' Hall instead of the State House at Independence Hall.



Carpenters' Hall portion of the day; at the end of the Wreath Presentations.

Matt conveyed his belief that the Congress felt that the Tory-leaning leaders of the Pennsylvania Delegation should not be given the advantage of meeting "on their turf" in the Pennsylvania State House, whereas a more neutral location like Carpenters' Hall would tend to promote their purpose of deciding how the colonies should meet British threats to their freedom, and openly discuss their grievances so that a policy of resistance to the British could be agreed upon.

Historian General Jeff Thomas then introduced the main event by reviewing the Declaration and Resolves of the First Continental Congress and the resulting Continental Association agreement signed by twelve colonies. The Carpenters' Hall SAR 250th Ceremony proceeded as representatives of the thirteen SAR State Associations from the original colonies went forward to the podium to read the names of their signers of the Continental Association in 1774. Finally, the National and State Association representatives went forward to present their wreaths to commemorate the actions and results of the First Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia.

Following the ceremony, the attendees were welcomed into Carpenters' Hall. The tour included the second floor which is not often visited by the public. On one half of the second floor is the library of the Carpenters' Company which is quite extensive. The other half is the area that in 1773 became home to Franklin's Library Company, the first free-lending library which moved in before the building was complete and remained for 17 years.

New Members 7/6/24 to 10/6/24			
New Member	Patriot	New Member	Patriot
Matthew Guy Wismer	Anthony Clippinger	Christian Cameron Hoyt	David Niles
Richard Mallay Chew	Abner Hogg	Tristian Robert Hoyt	David Niles
Miguel Pascual, Jr.	Edward Henderson	Sawyer Christian Hoyt	David Niles
Robert James Hallawell	Zachariah Waldo		

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