



#5 1994

A Chronology Of The Revolutionary War

with emphasis on Bedford County, Pennsylvania's role

Continued

1775

Conciliation was what William Pitt, the Earl of Chatham, wanted Parliament to entreat the colonies with as 1775 dawned. His *Provisional Act* was introduced to the House of Lords on 01 February, 1775. The Provisional Act, if it had been accepted by Parliament, might have deterred the war that was brewing because it was intended to allow the British Government to retain a general sovereignty over the colonies while empowering them with certain rights such as the right to levy their own taxes. The Provisional Act contained the following clauses: 1.) official recognition of the Continental Congress, 2.) a pledge by the Parliament that no revenues would be levied against the colonies without the expressed consent of the provincial assemblies, 3.) the recognition, by America, of Parliament as the "supreme legislative authority and superintending power", 4.) agreement on the part of the colonies to levy, collect and submit a revenue for the crown. It might be noticed that the Provisional Act was similar in certain respects to Galloway's Plan of Union. The House of Lords rejected the Provisional Act. Thus ended the elder William Pitt's political career; The Provisional Act was the last attempt he made to convince Parliament that war should be averted.

Despite the failure of Pitt to convince Parliament to pass the Provisional Act, Lord Frederick North submitted, on 20 February, 1775, a plan of his own. This plan called for Parliament to desist from levying any type of regulatory taxes upon any American colony whose own assembly would agree to tax itself for the support of its own defense and civil government. The primary argument the colonial assemblies had with being governed by Parliament was with the issue of being taxed to provide the support for the British army stationed in the colonies. This plan of Lord North, while still insisting that the colonies pay for the maintenance of the army (through their own tax levies), at least carried with it the promise that no additional taxes would be levied. The House of Commons agreed to endorse the plan.

On the same day that Lord North's plan was introduced, 27 February, the *New England Trade And Fisheries Act*, the bill that would become popularly known as the New England Restraining Act, was introduced to Parliament. This act forbade the New England colonies to trade with any nation other than Britain. The ban on trade would take place on 01 July and then on 20 July the second part of the bill ~ the barring of New England fishermen from the North Atlantic fisheries ~ would take effect. The debate over this act continued over a span of a couple months. On 22 March Edmund Burke, the Dublin born secretary of Lord Rockingham, delivered an impassioned speech to Parliament pleading for reconciliation with the colonies. The substance of Burke's address called for Parliamentary sovereignty over the colonies only with their consent. Burke attempted to point out that such a relationship would be found to be economically beneficial to both sides. Despite the passion of the arguments presented by individuals such as Burke in efforts to ward off armed

conflict through some sort of conciliation, the Restraining Act was passed and received the royal approval on 30 March, 1775.

During the debate on the New England Trade And Fisheries Act, aimed specifically at New England, word was received at London of the ratification of the Continental Association by the thirteen colonies. On 19 March Lord North introduced another bill to extend the scope of the act to include the southern colonies. On 13 April, 1775, the provisions of the act were extended to apply to Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina.

Charles Manners, the Marquis of Granby, delivered a address to Parliament on 05 April, in an attempt to halt the flood of anti-colonial sentiment that the North ministry was advocating. In that speech he declared *"In God's name, what language are you now holding out to America! Resign your property, divest yourselves of your privileges and freedom, renounce every thing that can make life comfortable, or we will destroy your commerce, we will involve your country in all the miseries of famine; and if you express the sensations of men at such harsh treatment, we will then declare you in a state of rebellion and put yourselves and your families to fire and sword..."*

A day after the Restraining Act was extended to include the whole of the American colonies General Thomas Gage received a letter sent on 27 January from William Legge, the 2nd Earl of Dartmouth, who was the Secretary of State for the colonies. The instructions Gage received ordered him to implement the Coercive Acts with force.

On the North American Continent the storm clouds were amassing although the news of the debates in London had not yet reached the colonial ears. On 26 February British troops landed at Salem with the intention of seizing the military supplies stored there. As word spread through the colonies, the provincial assemblies met to discuss their options. On 23 March, 1775 Patrick Henry delivered his famous "Liberty or Death" speech to the Virginia House of Burgesses.

Although there is some question as to the authenticity of Patrick Henry's address to the Virginia Convention of 1775, it contains the most often recited phrase of the American Revolutionary War. The full text of that speech, as quoted by William Wirt, in his book, *Life Of Henry*, is as follows.

"Mr. President: It is natural to man to indulge in the illusions of hope. We are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth - and listen to the song of that syren, till she transforms us into beasts. Is this the part of wise men, engaged in a great and arduous struggle for liberty? Are we disposed to be of the number of those who, having eyes, see not, and having ears, hear not, the things which so nearly concern their temporal salvation? For my part, whatever anguish of spirit it may cost, I am willing to know the whole truth; to know the worst, and to provide for it.

I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided; and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging of the future but by the past. And judging by the past, I wish to know what there has been in the conduct of the British ministry for the last ten years, to justify those hopes with which gentlemen have been pleased to solace themselves and the house? Is it that insidious smile with which our petition has been lately received? Trust it not, sir; it will prove a snare to your feet. Suffer not yourselves to be betrayed with a kiss. Ask yourselves how this gracious reception of our petition comports with those warlike preparations which cover our waters and darken our land. Are fleets and armies necessary to a work of love and reconciliation? Have we shown ourselves so unwilling to be reconciled that force must be called in to win back our love? Let us not deceive ourselves, sir. These are the implements of war and subjugation - the last arguments to which kings resort. I ask gentlemen, sir, what means this martial array, it its purpose be not to force us to submission? Can gentlemen assign any other possible motive for it? Has Great Britain any enemy in this quarter of the world, to call for all this accumulation of navies and armies? No, sir, she has none. They are meant for us: they can be meant for no other. They are sent over to bind and rivet upon us those chains which the British ministry have been so long forging. And what have we to oppose them? Shall we try argument? Sir, we have been trying that for the last ten years. Have we anything new to offer upon the subject? Nothing. We have held the subject up in every light of which it is capable; but it has been all in vain. Shall we resort to entreaty and humble supplication? What terms shall we find which have not been already exhausted? Let us not, I beseech you, sir, deceive ourselves longer.

Sir, we have done everything that could be done to avert the storm which is now coming on. We have petitioned - we have remonstrated - we have supplicated - we have prostrated ourselves before the throne, and have implored its interposition to arrest the tyrannical hands of the ministry and parliament. Our petitions have been slighted; our remonstrances have produced additional violence and insult; our supplications have been disregarded; and we have been spurned, with contempt, from the foot of the throne. In vain, after these things, may we indulge the fond hope of peace and reconciliation. There is no longer any room for hope. If we wish to be free - if we

mean to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long contending – if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our contest shall be obtained – we must fight! – I repeat it, sir, we must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of Hosts is all that is left us!

They tell us, sir, that we are weak – unable to cope with so formidable an adversary. But when shall we be stronger? Will it be the next week or the next year? Will it be when we are totally disarmed, and when a British guard shall be stationed in every house? Shall we gather strength by irresolution and inaction? Shall we acquire the means of effectual resistance by lying supinely on our backs, and hugging the delusive phantom of hope, until our enemies shall have bound us hand and foot? Sir, we are not weak, if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. Three millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations; and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged. Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable – and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come!

It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, "Peace! peace!" – but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

This chronological history of the Revolutionary War will be continued in a future newsletter.

Veteran Compatriots Honored

This is a long overdue item. I thank all of the Blair County Chapter Compatriots who shared the information about their war service with us. At the July 11, 1992 Quarterly meeting of the Blair County Chapter SAR, Acting President, Compatriot Irvin J Boslet read a letter from the National Headquarters that asked that all local Chapters honor the living veterans of all wars by presenting them War Service Medals. A discussion followed which led to the following motion:

Item: That medals be ordered upon receiving the applications that the editor of the newsletter, Compatriot Larry D. Smith would include in the next Newsletter.

The NSSAR's suggestion was discussed and put into the form of a motion which was made by Compatriot E. Merle Glunt, and seconded by Compatriot Larry D. Smith. The motion was approved by the members present without dissent. The notice and application form were included in the next Blair County Chapter Newsletter. At the regular Quarterly meeting held at Kings Family Restaurant on October 10, 1992 a motion was made by Compatriot Joseph Ramsey to purchase and award the War Service Medals; the motion was seconded by Compatriot E. Merle Glunt and was approved by the members present.

The following Compatriot members of the Blair County Chapter were awarded the War Service Medals:

Irvin J. Boslet served in World War II in the Marine Corp as MC Air Wings Instructor in Bomb Sight and Auto Pilot Instructor. He served from March 1943 to June 1946 and November 1947 to January 1951 and was discharged as a Staff Sergeant.

Edward Philip DeHaas served in the front lines with the First Engineers Battalion of the Marine Corps in Korea. He was discharged as a Staff Sergeant.

Arnold C. Emerson had a tour of duty in World War II with the Navy From January 1941 through 1946. He spent one year on the USS New York (a battleship) and the rest of the tour on destroyers, spending 1943 and 1944 in the South Pacific. He was separated from service in 1946 as Chief Petty Officer.

C. Herbert Foutz was a member of the U S Army Signal Corps in World War II serving with the 63rd Battalion, 5th Army Headquarters from October 1942 to December 1945 and was discharged as a T/5.

CDR Elliott H. Glunt served in both World War II and the Korean Conflict in the Navy and retired with the rank of Commander. He served as a Telecommunication Officer from 1940 until 1969.

E. Merle Glunt served Pre~World War II and during World War II in Naval Security. He was discharged April 1946 as RM 2nd Class.

Edgar R. Hartt, another veteran who served in World War II, was in the Army of Occupation in Korea. His Organization was the 7th Division. He was separated as Private in 1947.

William B. Lower was a Aviator with the Patrol Bomber Mariner, Squadron #32 & VP-18 He had 30 years active duty in World War II, serving as a Lieutenant Commander in the US Navy. He retired from active duty in 1965.

Richard C. Murray had a tour of duty in World War II as a Medical Corps Flight Surgeon with the 13th Air Force in the Southwest Pacific and was discharged November 6, 1946.

Alfred L. Rhett served in the U S Army in World War II in Co G, 101st Infantry, 78th Division for a period of four years. He was discharged with the rank of Corporal.

Bernard R. Smith was assigned to Special Services as a Counter Intelligence Operator, and served in several areas as assigned by Army Headquarters. He served in World War II and was discharged in May of 1946 as a PFC.

Dr Joseph M. Stowell, a veteran of World War II, served in the Medical Corps of the Navy having the rank of Lt Senior Grade. His tour of duty was in the South Pacific, and he was discharged in 1946.

Ben F. Van Horn was discharged with the rank of Captain after having served in the U S Army in World War II. His four year enlistment was spent in CMP (Military Intellegence). Compatriot Van Horn passed away on April 22, 1993, but he did receive the War Service Medal.

Herbert T. Wolf Jr. saw duty with the 3rd Armored Division in the Korean Conflict, and attained the rank of Corporal.

Paul E. Woodward served in World War II in the Navy as a Petty Officer 1st Class. He was discharged January 27, 1946.

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THE 1994 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Blair County Chapter, SAR will be held this year on Saturday, December 3, 1994. The dinner~meeting will be held at the Daves Dream Restaurant at Hollidaysburg. The meal, which will consist of roast turkey, whipped potatoes, glazed carrots, garden salad, fruit cup and pie for dessert, will begin at 12:00 noon. The election and installation of the chapter's officers will be conducted at this meeting. The cost of the meal will be \$12, payable to:

Larry D. Smith, Treasurer
RD #1, Box 704-A
East Freedom, PA 16637

As with the past Annual Meetings, you may bring a guest. You are requested to let Larry or Bernard Smith know if you plan to attend, and how many will be in your party so that proper arrangements can be made. You may pay either in advance by mail or at the door. Please respond by November 30, 1994.

When this newsletter was begun, Compatriot Edgar Hartt was able to have the copies made at his place of employment. For that he deserves our sincere thanks. Since his retirement that convenience has not been possible. As a result, the funding to have the newsletter printed will need to be acquired in some other way. I brought the subject up at a recent meeting and suggested that if a few Compatriot members would each agree to donate the cost to print a future issue, no single individual would be burdened. Compatriot Joseph Ramsey funded the Issue #4, 1994 and this issue has been funded by Compatriot Alvah J. Williams. Thank you both for your generosity. If any other members would wish to help out in the future, please assume that the amount of \$20 would be sufficient to cover the cost. Thank you to any Compatriots who will participate in this endeavor.