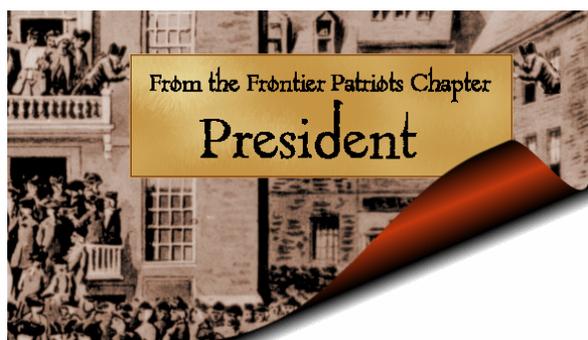


This is NewsLetter Issue No. One ~ For the year 2015



The next meeting of the Frontier Patriots Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will be held at King's Family Restaurant, 3001 W 6th Avenue Road, Altoona, PA on Saturday, March 14, 2015 starting at 12 Noon. I hope you will attend and take part in the activities of our chapter.

A list of all meeting dates for 2015 may be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

I hope you are enjoying the excellent newsletters prepared by Larry Smith. Please feel free to let Larry or myself know if you have suggestions for future newsletters.



## Those D-----d Tories

There probably was not a more hated name that could be found for the American Patriots to label those who continued to support the British control of her Colonies ~ than that of *Tory*.

When we read about our history we read about the British and we read about the Colonists. We read about the Redcoats and we read about the Rebels. We read about Loyalists, those supporters of the British form of

government, and we read about the Patriots, supporters of a government in the making. But curiously, we also read about the Tories ~ who were supposed to be supporters of the British form of government, like the Loyalists.

The names 'British' and 'Colonists' are very easy to understand. The name *British* was derived from the name of Great Britain, and is perfectly understandable. The name *Colonists* was derived from the fact that the people living

on the North American Continent were living in colonies that had been established by Great Britain.

The names 'Redcoats' and 'Rebels' are equally very easy to understand. The name *Redcoat* was a taunting epithet applied by the American Colonists to the British Army troops in particular (as compared to all British subjects). It was derived from the broadcloth coats, dyed red with vermillion, which the British Army troops wore. The reddish color of the coats also provided the basis for the popular nickname of 'Lobsterback.' The name *Rebel* bears the connotation of wrong-doer by the established government: the status quo. But to the individuals who are rebelling against the status quo, the name *Rebel* is often worn like a badge of honor.

The names 'Loyalists' and 'Patriots' are easy to understand. The name *Loyalist* was derived from the fact that the bearers remained loyal to the lawful, the 'de jure' government. Their loyalty was steadfast because they felt honor bound to accept the dictates of the British government, right or wrong. The name *Patriot* was derived from the 15th Century French word *patriote* meaning 'fellow countryman', which itself had been derived from the 6th Century Greek word *πάτριος*, meaning 'one's fathers.' The name *Patriot* was embraced by the Colonists, many of whom, having been first or second generation-born in the Colonies, regarded the North American homeland of their colonial-born fathers and grandfathers as their 'fatherland.' Great Britain was a place to which many of the British Colonists (and their parents) had never traveled. Many of the men and women born between the years 1730 and 1768 (defining the prime age group from which the soldiers in the 'American' army were chosen) probably thought of Great Britain as an alien country no dearer to them than any other European nation.

A few Loyalists were residing in Bedford County when the American Revolutionary War commenced. But since they did not engage in overtly aggressive activities, their existence in this region was quietly accepted, but largely ignored by historians. The tale of Adam and William Holliday riding into the pristine

wilderness and founding the thriving borough of Hollidaysburg is well known in the portion of Bedford County that later was erected as Blair County. The tale that is seldom mentioned in local history books is that the tract of land on which the Hollidays chose to settle was owned by (albeit just previously confiscated from), Harry Gordon. And if Gordon's lands had not been confiscated, and he forced to flee to England for being a Loyalist, the Hollidays might not have come into possession of the particular tract of land on which the seat of Blair County stands today.

The only name left to consider is that of *Tory*. Many people assume that the name was a product, and is now a relic, of the American Revolutionary War. But the name has some history to it. The name *Tory* appeared for the first time in the 1600s in Ireland as *Toraidhe*, from the root *toir*, which meant 'to pursue.' It initially referred to one who was dispossessed of his property and therefore became an outlaw and took up a life of plunder and robbery (and hence, was 'pursued' by the authorities). The name became popular during the English Civil Wars when Oliver Cromwell, leading the Parliamentary Army, embarked on his campaign to subdue the native Irish in 1649. As Cromwell's so-called 'roundhead' army moved from Ireland to Scotland, the name was adopted by Scots who were, in a manner of speaking 'on the run' because they supported the British monarchy. [It must be remembered that the royal House of Stuart had its origins in Scotland.] Clan members in the Scottish Highlands wholeheartedly embraced the name *Tory*, perhaps in a show of solidarity with their Irish cousins. The curious thing about the name is that despite being donned by the outlaw element, it was espoused by those who aligned themselves with the *royalist* government of King Charles I. This was, no doubt, due to the general feeling that King Charles I had been dispossessed of his monarchical birthright by the Parliament. And so right or wrong, if you felt that you were outside the law and supported the monarchy in London, you were a *Tory*.

During the American Revolutionary War the use of the name *Tory* hearkened back to the

fact that its users supported the monarchy in addition to its reference to outlaws. Unlike its sister-name, *Loyalist*, the name *Tory* was applied to British sympathizers who put their sympathies into action. Those who were non-violent and expressed their sympathies to the British Crown through non-aggressive means tended to be known as Loyalists. Yes, they wanted to see the Colonies remain under British control, but they did not always join the British Army to do so. Many Loyalists moved to Great Britain or Canada when the fighting erupted through the Colonies. The Tories, on the other hand, tended to remain at their homesteads, often engaging in subversive activities near those homesteads.

The frontier of Pennsylvania was not immune to the threat of Tory activities. The *Tory Expedition To Kittanning* is the name given to a noteworthy incident involving a band of Tories that took place in the year 1778 within the bounds of Bedford County. The *Massacre Of Philips Rangers* is the name given to an incident that occurred in 1780.

### *Tory Expedition To Kittanning*

In the center of Pennsylvania, in the northern part of the county of Bedford (now Blair), there resided some Tories. Following an unsuccessful attempt by the resident Tories to launch a murder spree, on 04 May, 1778 Col. John Piper wrote to President Wharton (of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania) to inform the authorities of the local Loyalists:

*Sir: An affair of the most alarming nature (and as I believe altogether unprecedented) has happened lately in a Corner of this County and which I could not think myself justifiable in not communicating to the Honorable the Supreme Executive Council of this State. Tis as follows: a Number of evil minded Persons, to the amount of thirty-five (I think), having actually associated together, marched away toward the Indian Country in order to join the Indians, and to conduct them into the Inhabitation, and there united kill, burn and destroy Men, Women and Children*

*They came with a Body of Indians near or at the Kittannings, and in conferring with them, they, the Indians, suspecting some design in the white People, on wch one of their Chiefs shot one Weston, who was the Ring-leader of the Tories, and scalp'd him before the Rest, and Immediately (as if Divine Providence ever attentive to Baffle and defeat the Schemes and Measures of wicked Men) the rest fled and dispersed.*

*A very considerable number of the well affected Inhabitants having, as soon as their combination and march was known, pursued them and met five of them, and yesterday brought them under a strong Guard to the County Goal.*

*They confess their Crime and Intention of destroying both Men and Property; as these People thus in open rebellion are so numerous, there is great Reason to believe them as a part of a greater whole in some dangerous confederacy with the Common Enemy either at Phila or Detroit.*

*Therefore it was as well my own Opinion as that of a Number of the Principal Inhabitants met for that purpose, that the Honorable Council be immediately requested to order in their Wisdom such relief as may appear to be most expedient, either in removing those Prisoners to some Place of greater security, or else order Commissioners for their immediate and speedy Trials, wch last wou'd be the most grateful to the Country, who are extremely incensed against them, and think the prosecution wou'd be more easily effected where the Evidence is on the spot, and perhaps give an immediate Check to so openly avowed Rebellion.*

*In the county of Westmoreland, at a little Fort called Fort Wallace, within some sixteen or twenty miles of Fort Ligoneir, there were nine Men killed, and one man, their Capt'n, wounded last week; the Partys of Indians was very numerous, so that between Indians (and the still more savage) Tories, there backward Counties are in real distress.*

Apparently, the Tories had planned to gain the Indians' cooperation at Kittanning,

after which they would make their way eastward. They would divide the Tory/Indian forces at Burgoon's Gap; half would march through the Cove and Conococheague Valleys and the other half through the Juniata Valley. They would meet at Lancaster, having killed everyone in their path. General Roberdeau notified John Carothers, the lieutenant of Cumberland County, of the situation. In a letter he sent from Standing Stone, Gen. Roberdeau stated that one of the Tories, a man by the name of Hess (John Hess, no doubt) had been captured, and that a confession revealing the plan had been forced out of him. Despite certain exaggerations, such as the number of savages and Tories who were massing in the western regions of the state, the confession was useful in alerting the Patriots of the problem.

According to some accounts, individuals from Path, Amberson's, Tuscarora, Canoe, Hare and Sinking Valleys rendezvoused at a place on Brush Mountain. From there the party traveled via the Kittanning Path to the Indian village of Kittanning. John Weston, who had been elected as the Tory party's captain, and Jacob Hare entered the village and met with the Indians in an effort to encourage them to attack and massacre settlers residing on the Juniata River. The Indians were at first receptive to the idea. They were in the process of beginning to escort the body of Tories into the Indian village, when the tribe misunderstood the reason why the white men did not immediately lay down their guns (as they expected them to do out of tribal custom). The Indians were alarmed and shot Weston. As they retreated into the village, the Tories fled from the area and returned to the region east of the Allegheny Mountain range. Having gotten word of the Tory attempt, scouts from Bedford County scoured the region, and succeeded in capturing six of them. They were taken to the jail in the town of Bedford and held there (although they were eventually pardoned through the intercession of friends).

Richard Weston, a brother of John (the captain of the Tory group), was captured on his return to Bedford County's environs. On the 27th of April, 1778 Richard Weston was sent to the Carlisle (Cumberland County) jail, to await

the decision of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania. Upon being interrogated, Richard Weston told the following:

*That John Weston, his brother, asked him if he would go out to hunt. That he had heard at the Standing Stone that a company of men were going to join the English and the Indians, and his informant was Benjamin Elliot, in conversation with Francis Cluggage. That he refused to go hunting, and that brother John and wife both came and entreated him to go, and he was prevailed on. That last Thursday was a week he set off with his said brother, and the same evening was led by his brother to a company of men whom they met in the woods in Sinking Spring valley, viz., Samuel Berrow, Jacob Hare, Michael Here, Peter Shaver, Peter Daly, Adam Portmerser, Peter Portmerser, and old Portmerser, the father of Adam and Peter, ----- McKee, James Little, John Campbell and William Campbell, William Hamson, James Armstrong, John and William Shilling, and others, whose names he does not remember, making in the whole, with his brother and himself, the number of thirty-one. That McKee, Jacob Hare, and Samuel Berrow, in particular, urged him, with a promise of three hundred acres of land, to pick the same where he pleased, if he would go with the company to Kittanning to join four or five hundred English and Indians, and to return to Fort Pitt, Frankstown, and Sinking Valley, to kill the male inhabitants capable of bearing arms who were in any kind of fort or place of defense, and all others of any sex or age who attempted to escape or elude their search. That if he refused to join said company he would be hung or banished to the Bay of Honduras, if the English prevailed over this country. That he went with the company over Allegheny Mountain. That in their progress, they were met by Indians, and that one of them shot his brother, and another of them scalped him. That after his brother was shot, McKee pulled a letter out of his pocket which he had got from an English officer in Carlisle goal, and with this letter displayed a handkerchief, crying peace, peace, brothers, but that the savages ran*

*off without giving attention. That he immediately returned, with McKee, Jacob and Michael Hare, Little, Adam Portmerser, Peter Portmerser, William and John Shilling, Peter Shaver, William Hamson, and one or two more whose names he does not know. That he parted with some of them at the foot of Allegheny, and with some others in Sinking Valley, all of whom declared they would never return home or surrender themselves, but go to Baltimore, and wait the arrival of the English fleet. That he came and surrendered himself to Capt. John McDonald at Edward Beaty's. That McKee informed the company that he understood a number of English were to join the savages, and about the 10th of next month to come down upon this State. That he was informed by his brother, John Weston, that John Hess was to meet and join the company. That he heard Zebediah Rickets, now a prisoner, say if he knew how to leave his family he would go away, to avoid taking the oath prescribed by the State.*

## Massacre Of Philips Rangers

Two years later, on Saturday, 15 July 1780 a group of settlers who had taken shelter at Shoup's Fort were getting more worried that they might be attacked and not be able to hold out against the Indian invaders. Certain of their group had decided to head east into Cumberland County. Those that remained at the Fort in Woodcock Valley decided on their next course of action. Their decision was to have one of their number travel northward into Morrisons Cove to request a company of the Bedford County Rangers to come aid them in their defense. Joshua Davis was the one chosen to make the trip for help. He set out that morning and found Captain Philips who agreed to take his small company to the Shoup's Fort settlers' aid. Davis started out ahead of Philips' company and while crossing Tussey Mountain was ambushed by a party of Indians estimated at roughly sixty. Davis somehow managed to escape and hurried to the fort to warn the others. They immediately discussed the

situation and agreed to leave the relative safety of the fort and head eastward.

As the rest prepared to leave, one of the settlers, Frederick Sheckler, headed north through the valley to warn the family of Frederick Heater of the impending danger to their safety. The Heater's homestead dwelling was located on Fisher's Summit about two miles north of the Shoup's Fort. Enroute to the house, Sheckler found the Heater's son, John, lying on the ground, dead and scalped. He roused the rest of the family and they headed out of the valley to join their fleeing neighbors.

As Captain Philips and his small company made their way southward through Morrisons Cove they found that most, if not all, of the houses were abandoned by the settlers. No Indians were encountered, though. The troop crossed over Tussey Mountain near the southernmost end of the valley and arrived at the house of Frederick Heater, which, unbeknownst to them, had just been abandoned by the family.

The Bedford Rangers decided to spend the night in the Heater house. They made and ate their supper and then stretched out for a sound and uneventful night's sleep. While their breakfast was being prepared on Sunday morning, July 16th, one of the men, by the name of Skelly, opened up the door and discovered that the house was surrounded by Indians. The estimate given for their number was approximately sixty. Two of them were not Indians at all; they were white men dressed and painted the same as the Indians. It is possible that the two white men traveling with the Indian party were Tory residents of the Morrisons Cove or Woodcock Valley.

A skirmish ensued, stretching into the afternoon, but it was basically a stalemate until the attacking party began to shoot flaming arrows onto the roof of the house. Despite the fact that it had rained the previous evening, the roof was eventually set afire.

Philips' men kept up their vigil against the attackers despite the fact that the roof was burning and threatening to be the cause of their deaths if the Indians arrows didn't succeed. Finally Captain Philips called out for a ceasefire and told the Indians that the Rangers

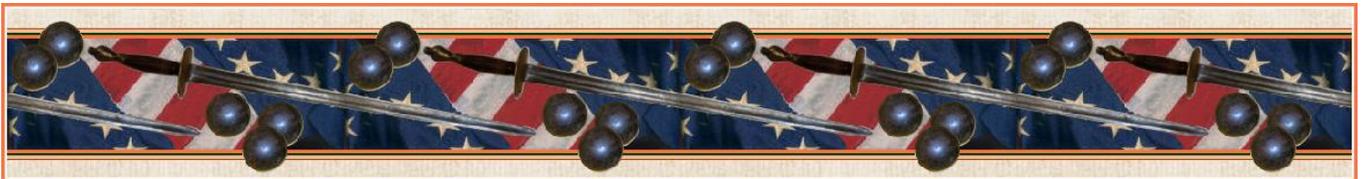
would surrender under the condition that they be treated as prisoners and not injured. The Indians agreed to this, and the Rangers left the building in time to escape the fire which collapsed the roof and consumed the entire structure.

One of the white men who might have been Tories spoke for the Indians demanding that the Rangers' firearms be surrendered. The Rangers, seeing the futility of further resistance, readily assented to this and gave up their rifles and knives. The next demand was that the Rangers agree to have their arms pinioned and tied behind their backs. The Indians were going to take them to Kittanning and they would have to endure the pain and humiliation of being shackled during the whole trip. Although they objected to this second demand, the Rangers finally had to give in. The Indians tied their arms securely and they started on their way in two groups. Five or six of the Indians escorted Captain Philips and his son, Elijah ahead of the others; they would eventually arrive at Fort Detroit where they would be sold to the British and imprisoned there. The second party started out a bit behind the first and after going barely a half mile from the Heater homestead, they came to a halt. The

ten Rangers, with their arms still tied behind their backs, were lashed to some trees. Two or three volleys of arrows were fired into their bodies. The available accounts do not confirm it, but the Rangers had probably been scalped.

On Monday, 17 July, 1780, someone carried the news of Frederick Heater's house being reduced to ashes to Colonel Piper. As he noted in his letter to the president of the Supreme Executive Council, he "*marched with only ten Men directly to the Place, where (they) found the House Burnt to Ashes, with sundry Indian Tomahawks that had been lost in the Action*". By following the tracks made by the party of Indians and their captives, Colonel Piper and his company found Philip's men in a clearing still tied to the trees with numerous arrows protruding from each of their bodies.

The two historical incidents described in this article illustrate the fact that the British sympathizers who were known as Tories, were known as such because they participated in aggressive acts. Unlike the Loyalist, Harry Gordon, who quietly fled to England when his property was confiscated, the Tories plotted death and destruction.



## 2015 Meeting Dates

First Quarterly Meeting	March 14
Second Quarterly Meeting	June 6
Third Quarterly Meeting	September 12
Fourth Quarterly Meeting	December 5

# Officers For The Year 2015

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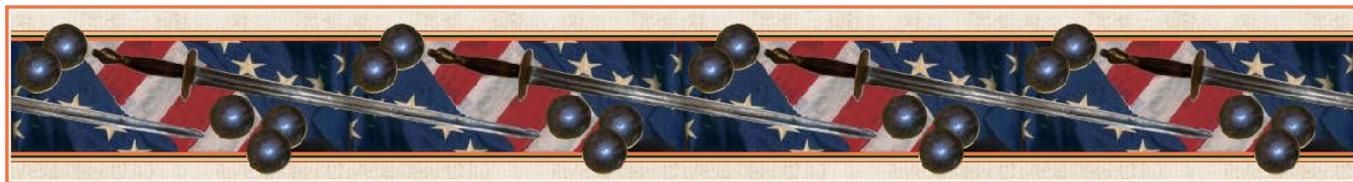
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## Frontier Patriots Chapter Website

In case you are not aware of it, the Frontier Patriots Chapter has a website. The Chapter's website can be found at: <http://www.motherbedford.com/FrontierPatriots.htm> . As the webmaster, I would like to invite our Compatriot Frontier Patriots Chapter members to submit ideas for articles and/or items for inclusion on the website. I am also creating a section on the website devoted to biographical essays about our Patriot ancestors. It will be located at the following address: <http://www.motherbedford.com/OurPatriots.htm> . If you have a biographical essay to share, please contact me at [schmitt@motherbedford.com](mailto:schmitt@motherbedford.com) .

Note: I typed the paragraph above on 19 January 2015. Also on the 19th, I uploaded the first of the new webpages that I created for the biographical sketches to the Frontier Patriots Chapter's website. Then on 23 January, I received an email from Ernest L. Sutton announcing that SAR President General Lindsey S. Brock is requesting biographical essays. I just wanted the Compatriot members of the Frontier Patriots Chapter to know that I had no idea that President Brock would be proposing almost the same project. Be aware that my project (to create webpages from essays submitted by our Chapter's members) is in no way associated with President General Brock's project; it is simply an incredible coincidence. But if you do write up a biographical sketch of any or all of your Patriot ancestors for the NSSAR project, please consider sending a copy to me for inclusion on our Chapter's website.

# Regarding The Death Of The President Of The United States Of America...



George Washington's presidency ended on 04 March, 1797. He returned to Mount Vernon, as he had in 1783 at the conclusion of the War, with hopes of settling down to the life of the gentleman farmer, It was a life that would entail managing the affairs of the farm and overseeing some thirty black labourers. The Mount Vernon Estate contained four farms which adjoined the "Mansion House Farm." In all, the Estate encompassed *"1,207 acres of ploughable land; 879 of which, are in seven fields, nearly of a size, and under good fences; 212 acres (in one enclosure) are, generally in a common grass pasture; and 116 acres more, are in five grass lots, and an orchard (of the best grafted fruit) all of them contiguous to the dwelling house and barn. On the premises, are a comfortable dwelling house (in which the Overlooker resides) having three rooms below, and one or two above..."*

On 12 December, 1799 Mr. Washington made his usual rounds on horseback to inspect the estate. He wrote in his diary that snow began to fall at about ten o'clock in the morning; that it soon turned to hail; and then it settled into a cold rain. When he arrived at the house, roughly five hours after he had gone out, his hair and neck were wet from his exposure to the snow, hail and rain. By the next morning, there was about three inches of snow on the ground. Because of the depth of the snow and the fact that he had started to experience a bit of sore throat, he decided to remain in doors. The sore throat seemed to be a minor irritant; he read aloud from the newspapers during the evening of the 13th.

Shortly after midnight on the morning of 14 December, 1799 he awoke Martha and told her that his throat had become so sore that he could hardly speak. His breathing was difficult. He would not let his dear wife get up in the cold room to summon help, though. He waited until sunrise and then summoned his secretary, Tobias Lear and an overseer, whom he asked to be bled by. It was the prevailing belief at that time, that illnesses were the result of "bad humours" in the blood. The act of "bleeding" someone afflicted by illness was believed to allow those "bad humours" to flow out of the body.

A half a pint of blood was taken from a vein in Mr. Washington's arm by the overseer. At about nine o'clock James Craik, the family's doctor, arrived. He diagnosed the illness as inflammatory quinsy and bled him once more. Two more doctors, who had been called for consultation arrived, and Mr. Washington was bled a third, and then a fourth time. By the afternoon, Mr. Washington thanked the doctors for their attention, but asked that they leave him. He told them *"...let me go off quietly; I cannot last long."*

According to an account left by Mr. Lear, the ex-general and president remained clear of mind throughout the remainder of the day. At about ten o'clock that evening he motioned to Lear that he wished to speak to him, but was too weak to speak above a whisper. He told Lear *"I am just going. Have me decently buried, and do not let my body be put into the vault in less than two days after I am dead."* He asked Mr. Lear if he understood him, and Lear answered *"Yes."* He said *"Tis well"* and in a moment withdrew his hand from Lear's and drew breath no more.