

This is NewsLetter Issue No. One ~ For the year 2017



The Destruction Of The Flour Mills

On 31 August 1777, George Washington wrote a letter from his headquarters at Wilmington to Colonel Mordecai Gist. The last paragraph in his letter stated: *“There is one thing more, which I would wish to mention, Viza. If there should be any Mills in the Neighborhood of the Enemy, and which may be liable to fall into their hands, the Runners should be removed and secured, this can be of no injury, or but a temporary one to the proprietors, while it will effectually prevent the Enemy from using the Mills. Grain too, should be carried out of their way, as far as circumstances will admit.”* The General also wrote to Brigadier General James Potter in October

instructing him to take a number of wagons to three mills in the vicinity of Chester and Wilmington for the purpose of removing the stones and any flour at the mills. His letter of 01 February 1779 to Major John Jameson noted that the British in Philadelphia were well supplied with local ground flour, and that Jameson was to: *“disable all the Mills upon Pennepack, Frankfurt and Wissahicken Creeks...”* Washington instructed him to *“take off the spindles and saw off the spikes of the water wheels.”*

Although it was temporarily cruel for the mill owners, the destruction of their mills was a necessary offensive tactic.



The next meeting of the Frontier Patriots Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will be held at King's Family Restaurant, 3001 6th Avenue, Altoona, PA on Saturday, March 4, 2017 starting at 12 Noon.

I would like to reinstitute holding at least one meeting a year ~ on a special date, such as September 3 (our true ‘independence’ day) ~ with the local DAR chapters during which we would have a speaker to discuss some aspect of the American Revolutionary War. I would also like to have a “Learn Your History” program developed, presenting ten projects devoted to teaching young people about our local involvement in the American Revolutionary War, to be given to schools in our region in the form of an interactive DVD. That’s just two things that I would like to see under-

taken by the Frontier Patriots Chapter. But what ideas do the rest of you have? Even if you are not able to attend the Quarterly Meetings, your ideas are invited and welcome. Please email or write to either myself or Melvin McDowell and let us know any ideas you have ~ whether simple or complex. No matter how difficult you think it might be to accomplish, an idea you have might be achievable by someone else, so please let us know any and all ideas you can come up with. We'll evaluate all ideas for feasibility and possibly put them into action. ~ Larry



2017 Meeting Dates

First Quarterly Meeting	March 4
Second Quarterly Meeting	June 3
Third Quarterly Meeting	September 2
Fourth Quarterly Meeting	December 2

Officers For The Year 2017

President ~ Larry D. Smith
schmitt@motherbedford.com

1st Vice-President ~ John W. Betting
scubys@pennswoods.net

2nd Vice-President ~ Robert D. Williams
pspwill@hotmail.com

3rd Vice-President ~

Secretary ~ Melvin C. McDowell
melvin.mcdowell@gmail.com

Treasurer ~ David G. Hammaker
dhammaker@aol.com

Registrar ~ Larry D. Smith
schmitt@motherbedford.com

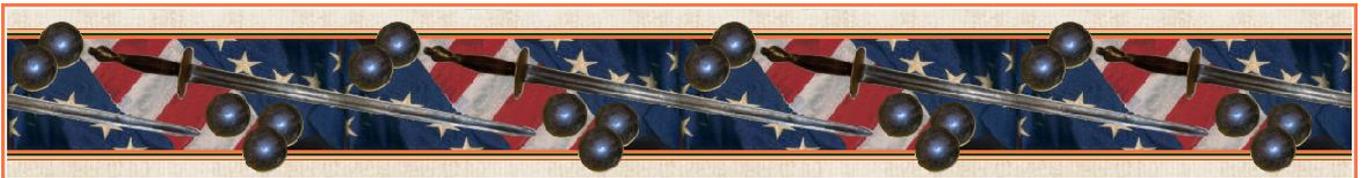
Chaplain ~ Melvin C. McDowell
melvin.mcdowell@gmail.com

Historian ~ Larry D. Smith
schmitt@motherbedford.com

Chancellor ~ Melvin C. McDowell
melvin.mcdowell@gmail.com

Genealogist ~ Larry D. Smith
schmitt@motherbedford.com

Chapter Webmaster ~ Larry D. Smith
schmitt@motherbedford.com



For those of you that receive this newsletter by US mail, if you have an email address, we would appreciate you sending it to us to use for future newsletters. Printing and mailing these newsletters is very expensive. Please send to our Secretary Melvin McDowell at melvin.mcdowell@gmail.com



The final two panels from the exhibit *Bedford County In The Revolutionary War* are included on the next two pages.

American Revolutionary War



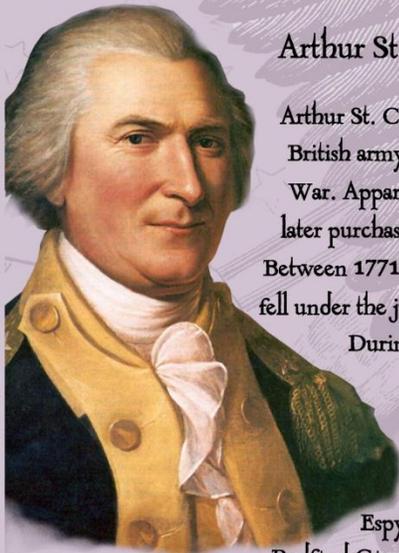
Bedford County Miscellaneous

1758 ~ 1783

Committee of Correspondence

Throughout the colonies, as early as 1770, groups of like minded men met in secret, apart from the colonial legislatures, and formed what eventually became known as *Committees of Correspondence*. They shared news and information about British overreach in their respective colonies, and they identified who among them shared their concerns and were willing to support the *Patriot* cause. It was the Committee of Correspondence of Maryland that coordinated the calling together of delegates from the other colonies to convene in the First Continental Congress. The Committees of Correspondence were, essentially, the beginnings of *Patriot* legislatures which would replace the *Colonial* governors and their Parliament-controlled assemblies and councils.

Bedford County was erected out of Cumberland County in 1771, and in 1775 formed its own Committee of Correspondence. Bedford County's Committee consisted of Samuel Davidson, David Espy, George Funk, Thomas Smith and George Woods.



Arthur St. Clair

Arthur St. Clair served as a lieutenant in the British army during the French and Indian War. Apparently, he liked the region and later purchased land in the Ligonier Valley. Between 1771 and 1773, the Ligonier Valley fell under the jurisdiction of Bedford County.

During those years, Arthur St. Clair served as the Bedford County Prothonotary and the Register and Recorder. He set up an office in the basement of the Espy House. He resigned from the Bedford County court system in 1773 when

Westmoreland County was erected out of the western half of Bedford.

During the American Revolutionary War, Arthur St. Clair served as a Major General in the Continental Army.

'Squat' or 'Onion' Wine Bottle
of the type used in the 18th Century



Liberty Pole

The *Liberty Pole* was a symbol of freedom and independence around which men who embraced the Patriot Cause could gather. News from adjacent counties within their own colony and from other colonies would be exchanged and communiques from the Pennsylvania provincial Committee of Correspondence would be read beneath the Liberty Pole.

The pole itself consisted of either a hand hewn beam or simply a slender, tall tree with its branches removed. In either case, a hole would be dug into which the pole would be set upright. At the top of the pole would be placed a red cap.

The cap was known as a *phrygian* cap after the region in Asia Minor where it was popular for centuries. The placement of the cap at the top of the pole is the element that changed the piece of wood from just a pole into a *Liberty pole*.

When a slave gained his freedom in Ancient Greece, he would don the conical shaped, brimless cap. The cone was longer on the back causing the tip to fall over toward the front. The wearing of the cap was a sign that the man was a freeman and eventually the cap itself became a symbol of liberty and of independence. The pole on which it was placed therefore was called a Liberty Pole.

In Bedford County, a Liberty Pole was erected beside the Old Forks Inn, now known as the Jean Bonnet Tavern.

