



This is NewsLetter Issue No. Four ~ For the year 2020

## Fire Starting At Camp

Being a soldier in the 1700s, and being hungry meant that you would probably need to cook something. Sandwiches of 'lunch meat' and sliced cheddar or provolone cheese were a few years in the future. Salads were out of the question also because men needed protein to give them energy. A soldier's meal was usually some type of meat either roasted on a spit over an open fire or boiled in a pot with some root vegetables.



So who has any matches to get the fire going? In the American Revolutionary War, no one had matches. Self-igniting matches would not be invented until 1805. In the meantime, someone discovered that iron or steel struck against a piece of flint rock would produce sparks. The sparks

would expand into flames when introduced into some flammable material.

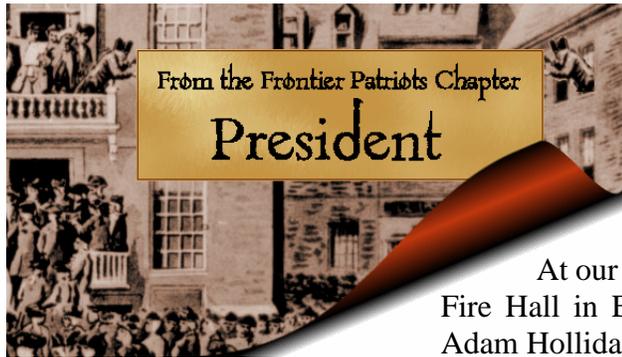
The fire striker shown here was developed as a way to easily hold a piece of iron by a couple fingers. It could be struck against a piece of flint without resulting in smashed fingers.

In order to use the fire striker, two fingers of one hand would be inserted into it so that the straight edge of the fire striker was positioned over the knuckles. Holding a piece of flint with the other hand above a pile of tinder, the striker would be brought down against the piece of flint as shown in the photo below to create sparks.



The fire striker shown here is an authentic American Revolutionary War artifact. It is shown slightly larger than actual size. I could just barely get the index and middle fingers of my left hand into it.

The curled ends of this fire striker served no practical purpose. The miniscule curls were simply the creative touch of the blacksmith who made it.



The next meeting of the Frontier Patriots Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will be held at the King's Restaurant at 201 Sierra Drive, Altoona on Saturday, 10 October 2020 starting at 12 Noon.

At our first Quarterly Meeting, held at the Freedom Township Fire Hall in East Freedom on 13 June, it was announced that the Adam Holliday Chapter, DAR had invited the Compatriot members of the Frontier Patriots Chapter to attend a dinner with them on Saturday 12 September 2020. The continuing restrictions imposed by Covid-19 resulted in the cancellation of that dinner. Hopefully we will be able to hold a joint dinner with the DAR during next year.



## 1st Notice of Proposed Amendment to the Frontier Patriots Chapter ByLaws

In order to bring the ByLaws into line with actual practice, the following change is proposed for Item "No. 6 Fees and Dues", Section 6.02 "Chapter fees".

The current ByLaw states: *All Chapter fees for activities requiring the services of the Registrar are ten dollars (\$10.00) per application, payable to the Chapter Treasurer.*

This refers to the amount charged by the Chapter at the time that an original application for membership is filled out and submitted. In actual

practice over the past few years, the Chapter fee has been \$14. It apparently had been increased over time without being confirmed by amendment to the ByLaws. This proposed amendment is intended to rectify the discrepancy between the stated and actual fee amounts.

The proposed amended Section 6.02 would be worded thusly: *All Chapter fees for activities requiring the services of the Registrar are fourteen dollars (\$14.00) per application, payable to the Chapter Treasurer.*

# 2nd Notice of Proposed Amendment to the Frontier Patriots Chapter ByLaws

This proposed amendment is intended to reward elderly Compatriot members of the Frontier Patriots Chapter who have been loyal members for at least 35 years and deserving of a benefit.

Currently, the Chapter Dues portion of the Annual Dues amounts to \$4.

The current ByLaw states: *A member who has paid individual dues for at least thirty-five years, and who has attained the age of sixty-five years, and whose circumstances have been reviewed and certified at a Chapter Business Meeting as to his inability to pay full dues, may be permanently exempted from Chapter dues.*

In view of the facts: (1.) that a review of any Compatriot's 'circumstances' might constitute an invasion of privacy (if the Compatriot has not approached us with the request for the benefit), and (2.) that this benefit should be applied equally to all Compatriots regardless of their individual circumstances, the proposed amendment for ByLaws Section 6.05 would be wordly thusly: *A member who has paid individual dues for at least thirty-five years, and who has attained the age of sixty-five years, may be permanently exempted from Chapter dues.*



## Veterans Take Notice

In the last newsletter I noted that the War Service Medal was available to any and all Compatriot members of the Frontier Patriots Chapter who had been veterans in any conflict in which the United States had been involved. We received only two responses. I am astounded. I honestly thought that there were more than only two veterans in our chapter!

Perhaps you didn't understand the purpose of the article in the previous newsletter. Or perhaps I did not explain it accurately. I was not a veteran, and therefore perhaps I did not know the semantics and particular names necessary to state it properly.

As I previously noted, in 1992 the National Society, Sons of the American

Revolution wanted the local chapters throughout the United States to honor ALL veterans who were compatriot members. I'll repeat that ~ ALL VETERANS.



War  
Service

Military  
Service

That did not mean only 'active duty, wartime veterans' if that is how you interpreted my words. It meant that if you put on the uniform of any branch of the service of the United States of America at any time prior to today, you deserve one of the medals ~ at no cost to you.

After receiving only two responses and expressing my concern about it at an earlier meeting, I was told by a Compatriot of whom I had seen a photo of him in his uniform, that he had not responded to it because of the

technicality that although he had served during the time of the Vietnam War, he had been stationed outside of the boundaries of Vietnam. Therefore, he felt that he did not deserve the *War Service* medal. He pointed out that there was a 'War Service Medal' and a 'Military Service Medal' and that although he felt that he did not qualify for the former, his service would have qualified him for the latter medal.

That may have explained why no more than two of you responded previously. And if that was the case, I apologize to you for not knowing how to

express myself more accurately. The fact of the matter is that in 1992 only one medal existed: it was titled the *War Service Medal*. It covered all aspects of service to the United States of America. In 2006, a second medal was created. It was called the *Military Service Medal*.

In the spirit of the 1992 presentation of the War Service Medal to all Compatriot members of the Frontier Patriots Chapter who were veterans in any manner and at any time, I am repeating this call to our Compatriot veterans. Please respond to the following survey questions.

If you are a veteran of the United States of America at any time and any place, please submit the following information to the Secretary of the Chapter by email to: [melvin.mcdowell@gmail.com](mailto:melvin.mcdowell@gmail.com) or by USPS to: Melvin McDowell, P.O. Box 93, Everett, PA 15537. You might wish to photocopy this back page and mail it, or simply note your information on an email message. If you send it by email, please note: "SAR Veterans Survey" in the 'subject' line.

Please do not be modest in your sharing of the information. We are proud of you and want to have this information on file. Please note which of the two medals you feel would best describe your service.

War Service Medal

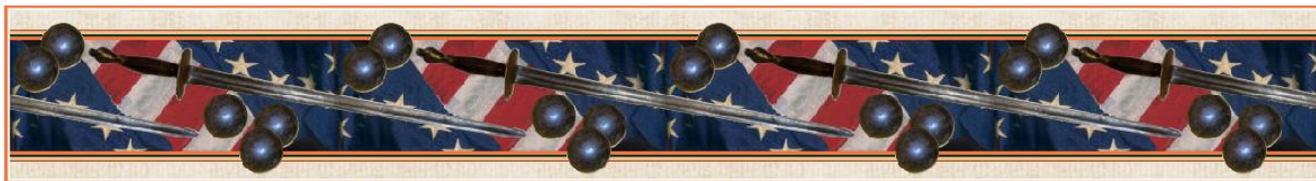
Military Service Medal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ War Served During: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Rank Attained: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Served: \_\_\_\_\_

Action(s) Participated In (if applicable):



Frontier Patriots Chapter website: <http://www.motherbedford.com/FrontierPatriots.htm>

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