

Republic Reporter

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April Meeting

At our April meeting we discussed the proposed by-laws and constitution for the Republic Chapter.

President's Comments

It is May already. Next month during our June meeting, we are scheduled to vote on a Constitution and By-Laws for the Republic Chapter. In this newsletter, you should find the draft copies of each. I encourage you to attend all meetings. However, I encourage you to make a special effort to attend our June meeting to cast your vote on the adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws.

Adopting a Constitution and By-Laws is part of our effort to provide continuity to our organization. As new people get involved, it is always good to have some idea about who does what and know where responsibilities lay.

We have openings for programs in the second half of 2011. If you have not presented you patriot ancestor to the membership or can present a topic concerning the American Revolutionary War or the founders of our Country, let me know when you can present a program. In addition, if you know of an organization that has a program to present, let me know so we can schedule a date.

Next Chapter Meeting May 21, 2011

The Republic Chapter of the National Sons of the American Revolution

Our meetings are generally the third Saturday of the month. We meet at the Sizzler Restaurant located at 1151 Lancaster Drive NE in Salem, OR. We start our meetings at Noon.

We have a variety of interesting speakers and our own members give presentations on their Patriot Ancestors.

Upcoming meetings:

May 21, 2011
Home Emergency Preparedness

June 18, 2011
Compatriot Keel presenting on his Patriot Ancestor.

Important May dates in 1778

May 1 - Engagement at Crooked Billet PA

May 3 - Washington received word from Franklin that France will be an ally

May 8 - Battle of Bordentown NJ

May 15 - Congress passed the measure recommending that all colonies form independent governments

May 15 - Congress voted to give half-pay for seven years to officers who will serve until end of the war

May 16 - Massachusetts voted to form its own government

May 18 - The British staged a "Mischianza" at Philadelphia

May 20 - Unsuccessful attempt of British to surround Lafayette's troops at Barren Hill

May 20 - Engagement at Barren Hill PA

May 31 - Engagement at Tiverton NJ

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orrcsar/>



Name: Crooked Billet

Region: Philadelphia and its Countryside/Lehigh Valley

County Location: Montgomery

Marker Location: Meadowbrook Ave. at Crooked Billet Elementary School in Hatboro

Dedication Date: May 1, 1965

Marker Text

Named for a tavern once standing nearby. Scene of Revolutionary War clash during British occupation of Philadelphia. Militia of Gen. John Lacey, assigned to cut off British supplies encamped here on May 1,

1778, when, surprised by British troops, they were defeated and driven off with heavy losses.

Behind the Marker

The entry for Crooked Billet in Mark Boatner's exhaustive Encyclopedia of the American Revolution describes the minor skirmish as a "microcosm" for "the impact of war upon society near a British-occupied city." The story illustrates the inadequacies of the state militia forces, the extent of Loyalist sentiment, estimated at more than one-third of the population, and the ferocity of what was arguably a civil war as much as a revolution.

The Pennsylvania militia had been responsible for patrolling the grounds north of Philadelphia and east of Valley Forge. In January 1778, the militia's commander went home on leave and state officials named 25-year-old John Lacey, Jr., a miller from Bucks County, to replace him. A former Quaker, Lacey had been expelled from the pacifistic Society for his participation in the militia.

The young commander, however, also encountered problems as a member of the American military community. General Anthony Wayne had ordered him court-martialed during the winter of 1776-77 for getting involved in a fistfight. General Washington criticized him in the spring of 1778 after Loyalist forces raided an American supply train within his patrol area. Embarrassed by the repeated raids and by the reports of Tory farmers openly trading with the British, Lacey rashly ordered an evacuation of civilians north of Philadelphia. Residents complained to Washington who quickly overruled the decision.

Feeling pressure from his superiors and steadily losing men to desertion, Lacey engaged in a series of maneuvers that brought his remaining men to Crooked Billet in early May. British Rangers under Major John G. Simcoe then attacked and routed Lacey's tired, frustrated force. There were reports of savage atrocities – several of Lacey's soldiers maintained that the British rangers burned some of their comrades alive. Shortly after the battle, Washington relieved the controversial young commander.

Source: <http://explorepahistory.com/hmarker.php?markerId=1-A-D4>

Demise of Billy James William Hermann

Compatriot Willis Meisenheimer reported that a Past-President of the Republic Chapter had passed away. Compatriot Meisenheimer assumed the duties of President when Compatriot Hermann had to step aside due to health reasons. Compatriot Hermann donated some of the Tri-Corner hats and great coats to the Chapter. Below is the notice that was published in the *Statesman Journal* on April 2, 2011.

Billy James William Hermann

July 18, 1948 - March 31, 2011

SALEM - Memorial services in Roseburg, OR. are pending. Arrangements are by Virgil T. Golden Funeral Service.

Upcoming Events

Chapter meeting, May 21

Chapter meeting, Jun 18

Color Guard and others, Volcanoes Ball Field, July 2

Sounds of Liberty program, replica Liberty Bell, west side of Capitol, Salem, July 4, 10:30 AM

Chapter meeting, Sep 17