



***The Ladies' Auxiliary Times: Ladies Auxiliary Pennsylvania Society
Sons of the American Revolution (LAPASSAR)***
Fall 2022 Newsletter



Becky Hudson Moyer, LAPASSAR President 2020-2024



President's Message

November brings two holidays – Veterans Day which is celebrated on November 11th and Thanksgiving Day, celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. November is a time to remember and be grateful to those who have served God, Home, and Country before us and alongside us. Then it's time for Christmas and the New Year!

The History Behind Veteran's Day

An armistice between the Allied nations and Germany came into existence on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. On November 11, 1919, Armistice Day was commemorated for the first time ever. There were plans for public meetings, parades, and a brief suspension of business activities at 11:00 a.m.

In 1919, President Wilson declared the day should be “filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory.”

In 1926, the United States Congress officially declared the end of World War I and declared that the anniversary of the armistice would be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer.

A congressional act was approved on May 13, 1938, which made November 11th in each year a legal holiday, known as Armistice Day. This day was initially intended to honor veterans of World War I. A few years later, World War II required the most significant mobilization of service members in the history of the United States, and American forces were sent to fight in Korea. In 1954, veterans' service organizations asked Congress to change the word "Armistice" to "Veterans." Congress made this change, and on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to pay tribute to all American veterans, wherever and whenever they had served.



Thanksgiving

Americans can trace the roots of Thanksgiving to 1621 and with settlers at Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts. But do you know when it first became OFFICIAL? Thanksgiving was officially declared a national holiday in York in 1777.

In early October 1777, Gates defeated the British at the Battle of Saratoga. Congress was so eager to celebrate the good news that members drafted a resolution on October 31st that a day of National Thanksgiving should be celebrated on December 18th. The resolution passed on November 1st of that year.

On October 3, 1863, during the Civil War, Lincoln proclaimed that a National Day of Thanksgiving would be celebrated on Thursday, November 26th.

The holiday was annually proclaimed by every U.S. President thereafter, and the date chosen, with few exceptions, was the last Thursday in November. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, however, attempted to extend the Christmas shopping season, which generally begins with the Thanksgiving holiday, to boost the economy by moving the date back a week, to the third week in November. But not all states complied, and, after a joint resolution of Congress in 1941, Roosevelt issued a proclamation in 1942 designating the fourth Thursday in November (which is not always the last Thursday) as Thanksgiving Day.

There are 50 days until Christmas! And then the New Year quickly follows. It is so difficult to believe that the holidays are already upon us! Where did the year go?

My hope for all of you is that you enjoy your families during the holidays, that you have good health! And please stay safe!!

Happy Holidays, *Becky*

Highlights from Board of Management Meeting in Washington, Pennsylvania August 19-20, 2022



Entrance to the David Bradford House

Pictured in pink is Deborah Davis, PSSDAR Honorary State Regent in forefront. To Deborah's left is docent Paula Anderson and the blonde behind her is Maribeth Wilt-Siebert. Left of Maribeth is docent Kate Cuning in white cap



LAPASSAR ladies at the David Bradford House mahogany stairway. Top: (L) Deborah Davis, PSSDAR Honorary State Regent, (R) Karen Neubauer, Washington County DAR; Next level (L-R): Maribeth Wilt-Siebert, LAPASSAR First VP, Jane Miller; Second level: Carlyn Grimes, Jan Showler; First level (L-R): Pat McKim, LAPASSAR Chaplain, Becky Moyer, LAPASSAR President.

“. . . David Bradford was a successful lawyer, businessman, and Deputy Attorney General of Washington County. Construction of his house on South Main Street began in 1786 and was completed in 1788. His home reflected his high social standing, not only by its size, but also by its fittings. The magnificent mahogany staircase and the interior wood finishes show remarkable craftsmanship. It was, and is again today, an 18th Century architectural showpiece. This was all the more striking at the time because Washington consisted largely of small, rustic, log buildings. During restoration of the house, a tunnel was discovered that appears to have led to what was then a steep ravine nearby. It is thought that this tunnel was constructed to provide a means of escape if this obviously wealthy house came under attack. David Bradford and his family lived in this house from 1788 to 1794. However, his residence was cut short because of his involvement in the Whiskey Rebellion. Local residents and landowners had longstanding grievances, caused in substantial measure by their isolation on the frontier. There were many land title issues caused by competing title registries in both Virginia and Pennsylvania, and a host of absentee landlords (including George Washington). There were no local federal courts, which necessitated prolonged and burdensome trips to Philadelphia for trials. The area was still in danger of Indian attacks. And to make matters worse, the federal government imposed a high excise tax on whiskey. This tax was particularly onerous because the cost of shipping local grain to the East for sale was very high. Local farmers could sell their grain crops for more (and lessen their shipping expenses) by converting their grain into whiskey. So high taxes on this product were seen as a blow directed principally at frontier communities like Washington. When federal tax collectors appeared in the area to collect these taxes, local mobs drove them off and worse (including tar and feathering one poor official).

“In 1794, President George Washington decided that the new federal government could not tolerate such lawlessness and ordered 13,000 troops to the Washington area. Upon learning that he would be arrested, David Bradford fled south to Spanish West Florida (which is present-day Louisiana). He took up a new life there and, in 1797, completed a home in St. Francisville. His wife, Elizabeth, and children joined him shortly thereafter. Eventually, David Bradford received a pardon for his role in the Whiskey Rebellion.

“The house had its hard times. It suffered its greatest damage when converted into a furniture and coffin store in the early 1900’s. In 1959, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission assumed control of the house and supervised a complete restoration. The house is again furnished as it would have been at the time it was built. The furnishings also reflect Bradford’s place in society. Landscape work in the rear of the well house led to the discovery of an old well. It was repaired, and a well house characteristic of Bradford’s time was constructed. This fine example of gracious frontier living is complemented by a garden of plants, herbs and flowers, typical of the 18th-century. The Bradford House Museum was originally built without an indoor kitchen, probably to avoid the dangers of fire” (Preceding text was excerpted from the following website: <https://downtownwashingtonpa.com/businesses/david-bradford-house/>).



Becky Moyer and Carlyn Grimes in David Bradford dining room

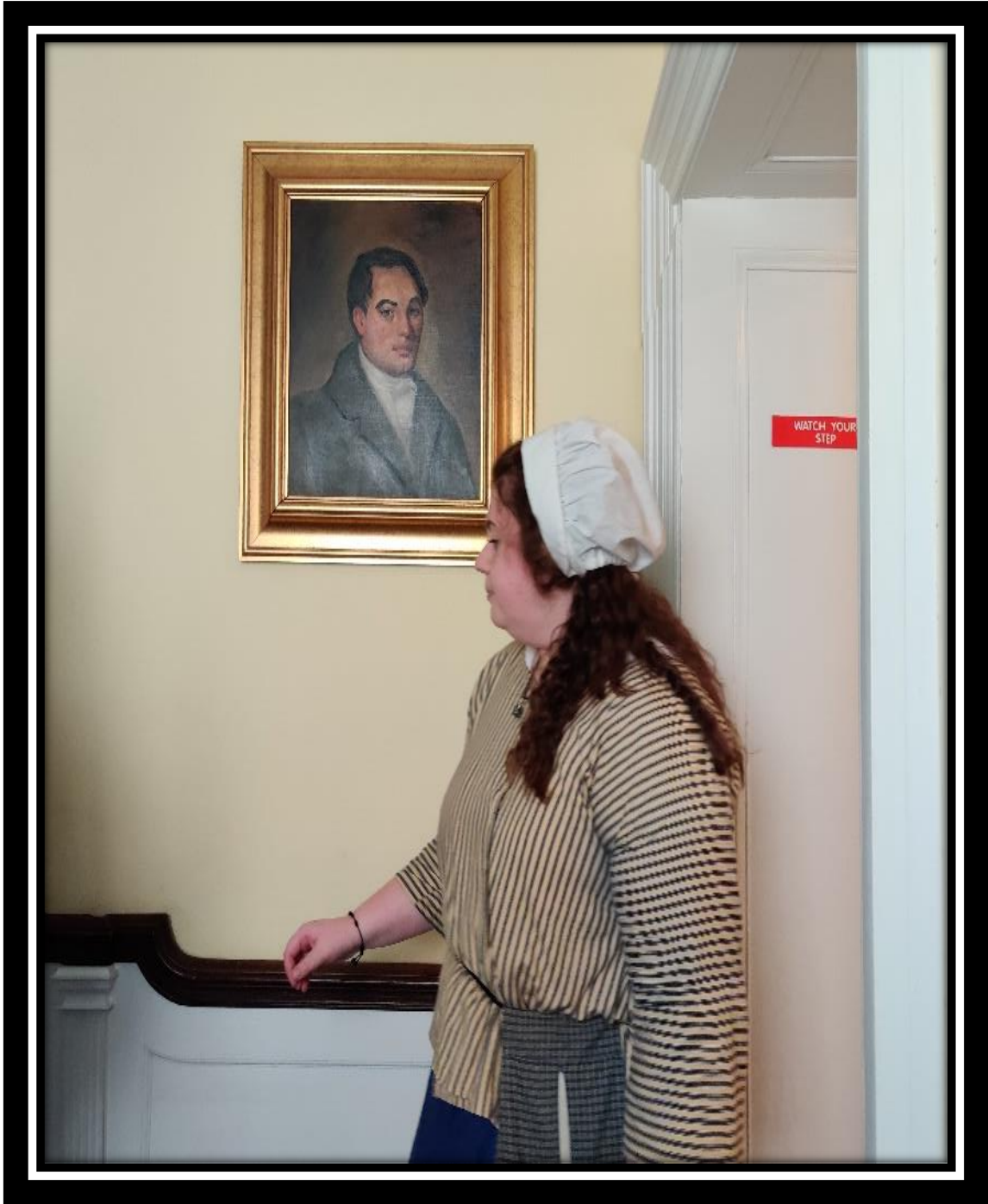


Karen Neubauer (at door), Deborah Davis (in pink), Maribeth Wilt-Siebert (in blue) entering dining room of the David Bradford House.



Deborah Davis and Karen Neubauer examining a bedroom loom





Docent Liz Galligan before a portrait of David Bradford



Docent (and new member) Kate Cunning (background in period dress) with members Jane Miller (right) and Karen Neubauer (facing Kate) checking out the herb garden

Luncheon speaker for this meeting was Special Agent, Patrick Fitch, who presented many stories about his work for our government. During the luncheon, the winning ticket for Jane Miller's beautiful quilt was drawn. Winner was new member Shorty Clegg. Congratulations, Shorty!

PASSAR at Waterford for the Washington Statue Centennial—1922-2022

August 26-28th, Waterford, Pennsylvania



Street-View of Waterford for the Washington Statue Centennial

Washington Under Wraps

This statue of Washington presenting his letter to Captain Saint-Pierre was erected in 1921 and dedicated in August 1922. Designed by C. S. Kilpatrick of Connellsville, PA, the statue's dedication ceremony was attended by 10,000. There were substantially fewer spectators on August 28, 2022. In 1922, Pennsylvania Governor William C. Sproul at that time expressed the importance of the monument as "a constant reminder to citizens of the world, commemorating the spot where the first military duty of the First Soldier of America was performed. Waterford will take its place with Yorktown, Concord, and other points of historical interest in America's early fight for independence" (*Washington State Centennial 1922-2022* booklet, p. 15)



Washington Statue Unveiled and Admired



PASSAR Members Displaying Banner Before the Eagle Hotel, Waterford, PA



Left to right: With flag, Ron Bollenbacher; Reverend David Felts, Past PASSAR and NSSAR Chaplain; Bill Aulenbacher, Past Erie Chapter President; Tom Showler, Past PASSAR President and Vice-President General for Mid-Atlantic District; Raynold Prusia, Past Erie Chapter and PASSAR President; Kurt Winter, Second Vice-President, PASSAR; Charles Tissue; Herb Armes.



Past Erie Chapter President Bill Aulenbacher (L), Ron Bollenbacher R, and Chaplain David Felts ® at the Eagle Hotel for lunch after the Washington Statue Centennial ceremony



Kurt Winter, Second PASSAR Vice-President with his lady Cindy; Cindy's mother Nancy Burne; Dee Dee Prusia and Raynold Prussia, Past Erie and Past PASSAR President

Fall Board of Management Meeting: Altoona, PA Friday, November 4 and Saturday, November 5th

Compatriot Larry Smith was the featured luncheon speaker for this board of management meeting held in Altoona, PA in November. His presentation was entitled “Occupations, Professions, and Offices during the Colonial Period.” His theme supported the idea that language is functional and determined by time and place. So it is not surprising that he would enumerate the many names for functions of footwear and names for those who produced them.

Regarding items of interest that were addressed during the men’s meeting was the revisiting of printed copies of the *Pennsylvania Minuteman*.

LAPASSAR used its members’ meeting time to discuss and work on the 2024 Congress to be held in Lancaster, PA. More specifically, at this Altoona LAPASSAR meeting, the topic of centerpieces for Congress 2024 was discussed, and a decision was made: the next step was to take pictures of them and send them to the National Congress Chairman to forward them to outgoing PG John Dodd in 2024 for his approval. When ladies receive that approval, they will begin assembling the centerpieces. The ladies luncheon and the ladies tea centerpieces will be worked on when PG Dodd’s First Lady, Karen, decides what she wants as the centerpieces.

The youth luncheon centerpiece is featured below (right). Note that the PA state flag (see also below left for a copy of the flag) will be inserted on the opposite side from the American flag, a copy of the U.S. Constitution printed on parchment-looking paper will be rolled, tied with a ribbon, and a card such as below will be put at each place setting. We also will scatter Hershey Kisses on the tables.



The banquet centerpieces for 2024 Congress are shown below: first picture is centerpiece for PG's Banquet.



This picture below is for the Installation Banquet



Thank you to those ladies who have donated mason jars and flowers for the youth luncheon vases. We may need more so if you have some 3.38 wide-mouth quart Mason jars you would like to donate, please let Becky or Maribeth know. Also if you have some miniature 4 x 6 Pennsylvania flags in excellent shape you would like to donate, please let Becky and Maribeth know.

A reminder to all: If you have not yet paid your 2023 dues, please send them to Becky. Dues are \$10.00 and qualifies you for membership not only in LAPASSAR but also in the National SAR Ladies Auxiliary.



Happy autumn birthdays to our members who have celebrated or will celebrate their birthdays this fall season: September 6—Mary Stillman; September 17th—Becky Moyer; **September 30—Randi Fonseca**; October 1—Valerie Lewis; October 11—Karen Westerlund; October 16—**Debra Newell and Irene Walker**; **November 12—Denise Rhinehart**; **November 24—Maribeth Wilt-Siebert**; **December 8th—Cindy Mills**; **December 12—Madina Kopsick**. Have we missed your birthday? **Please contact one of the board members (see next page) with your natal day, so we can include you next time.**

Birthdays up to December 21st marking winter solstice are included in these greetings!

For your convenience, your officers for 2022-2024 are listed here with their contact information. Please don't hesitate to be reach out to your board members with questions, concerns, and ideas.

Officers for 2022-2024

Becky Hudson Moyer., President, <Beckymoyerlapassar@gmail.com> or 301-305-5579

Maribeth Wilt-Siebert., First Vice-President, <mwtseibert@aol.com> or 717-576-4661

Taryn Edmonds. Kennedy, Eastern PA Secretary, <misstaryn7@gmail.com> or 412-554-5616

Debra Newill, Western PA Secretary, <dnewill@zoominternet.net> or 724-423-3053 or 412-554-5616 (cell)

Pat McKim, Chaplain, pmmckim@consolidated.net or 312-736-2672

N.B. Post of treasurer will be absorbed by Becky and Maribeth until a new treasurer is elected or appointed.

Is your husband's chapter involved in activities that highlight the Sons of the American Revolution? Please snap some pictures and write a short description that Jan can feature in future *LA Times* editions. Much appreciated . . . E-mail text and attach jpeg picture to Janice Showler <upenn92@outlook.com>

