



***The Ladies' Auxiliary Times: Ladies Auxiliary Pennsylvania Society
Sons of the American Revolution (LAPASSAR)***
Summer 2023 Newsletter



Becky Hudson Moyer, LAPASSAR President 2020-2024

President's Message July 2023

Having just returned from the NSSAR 133rd Congress, I am diligently catching up with all my work. But, hey, it was worth it! There were approximately 550 who attended this Orlando Congress: compatriots, wives, and a few children, including our two grandkids and our eldest son. Attendees from Pennsylvania included Eric and Stephanie Troutman; Gene and me; Mike and Maribeth; Tom Showler; Fred and Randi Fonseca; George Clark; the Bostick brothers, MacRay and Sherwin; Andrew Lick; Davis Wright. Attending, but not in our Pennsylvania picture (page 3), are our two newest members to LAPASSAR and their husbands: Linda Robinson and her husband, Peter Moller and Kendra Roberts and her husband, Harry. Welcome to all but—especially—to our newcomers!

DAR President General (PG), Pamela Wright also attended this Congress. She attended the orations competition, enjoyed dinner with PG Bruce Pickett and his wife, attended the youth luncheon and then departed. With her busy schedule, we were delighted that she found time to visit ladies in the hospitality room and to attend the NLSAR board meeting.

Aside from our reacquainting with so many attending ladies, another benefit of spending time in the hospitality room was in gaining insight into its workings. This Orlando Congress gives us some prospective as to what to expect at ours in Lancaster. The number of baskets, colonial clothes and other items for auction in the hospitality room was probably the largest display I have ever seen at any previous Congresses. Former LAPASSAR treasurer, Jo Anne Mengle donated her husband Don's colonial uniform, and the winning bid for that was \$750.00! That sum becomes part of NLSAR's pot: it donated \$5,000.00 to the SAR.

My friend Susan Brown, whose husband was Past National Color Guard Commander and now serves as a member of the Congress 2024 Planning Committee, helped me count numbers of tables in the banquet room to help determine how many centerpieces we would need. I was amazed at the number of tables on the dais. Rumor has it that even more attendees are expected in Lancaster where our Pennsylvania society will host a projected 600 compatriots and guests. The number of tables in the Orlando banquet room also seemed greater than I remember. We will need more centerpieces if the numbers that are expected in Lancaster are realized.

We also will need volunteers not only to host the hospitality room, but also to display the centerpieces for the banquets, so please consider volunteering. You can sign up by going to <http://passar.org/>, clicking on the Congress button, and scrolling down to the Sign-Up Genie. We already have two of our members signed to volunteer, Kendra and Linda, as well as Jerre Robertson, a Missourian.

We have only three meetings to assemble our centerpieces, so we need many hands. I will ask for volunteers who might transport a few centerpieces home to assemble, and I will collect completed ones at future meetings.

I am still working on Congress sales' sheets for both PASSAR AND LAPASSAR, but a tentative treasury account is listed on page seven. Our necklace and earrings sold well, and our shirts sales were fair.

Our next events include board of management meetings in State College (Aug 4-5), and in Pittsburgh, PA (Nov. 3-4), then the Atlantic Middle States Conference (Aug. 11-12) at Tarrytown, NY.

I am looking forward to greeting everyone at State College, including our friend and former treasurer, Jo Anne Mengle, who will attend that meeting.

Becky



Pictured left-right, front row: Mac Bostick; former President General, Davis Wright; PA LAPASSAR President and NLASAR Third Vice-President, Becky Moyer; PASSAR State President, Eric Troutman; former LAPASSAR President, Stephanie Troutman; Randi Fonseca; and Sherwin Bostick. Rear row (left-right): George Clarke; Unidentified Compatriot; Former PASSAR President, Michael Siebert; Chaplain, Eastern PA, William Header (behind M. Siebert); former PASSAR President, Andrew Lick; former Vice-President General Mid-Atlantic States and former PASSAR President (two terms), Tom Showler; and Fred Fonseca, Captain Philadelphia Continental Color Guard

Highlights of 2023 Congress: Orlando, Florida



Ladies take time from hospitality to pose for this photo. Left-right: LAPASSAR President and NLASAR Third-Vice-President, Becky Moyer; DAR President General, Pamela Wright (whose company manufactured our mountain laurel necklaces and earrings); Venie Hinson, NLASAR Historian, and Mary Addington



Gene Moyer and the SAR Color Guard awaiting President General Bruce Pickett's inspection of the troops



Presentation of Colors is always a magnificent sight! Carrying the Pennsylvania flag in frontier garb is Fred Fonseca, Philadelphia Continental Chapter; David Hoover (two compatriots down on right from Fred), Former National Color Guard Captain (Maryland Chapter and husband to Susan Brown); Gene Moyer (two down from David and carrying the Maryland flag), Maryland (primary member) and Pennsylvania (dual) chapters



Cayden Moyer proudly dons his SAR tee-shirt while grandpop Gene Moyer and other compatriots hang out. Cayden is a lifetime member of the SAR!

Report of Treasury: July 25, 2023

CD-\$5,000.00

General Operating Fund-\$3,172.76

Hospitality room-\$2,200.53

Money Market Checking \$5,787..81

Total all accounts \$16,161.10



NLASAR Board Members (Top Photo). Front (L-R)--Becky Osborn, 1st VP; Pat Wilson Perkins, President; Pamela Wright, DAR President General; Diane Ungvarsky, 2nd VP. Back Row (L-R): Becky Moyer, 3rd VP; Caroline Payne, Parliamentarian; Jacqui Miller, Chaplain; Cyndi Weissinger, treasurer; Venie Hinson, Historian; Laurie Bredenfoerder, Secretary.

Martha Washington Award Recipients (Bottom Photo). L-R--Becky Moyer, Diane Ungvarsky, Becky Osborn, and Pat Perkins being honored by President General, Bruce Pickett with Martha Washington Medals. Congratulations, ladies!

Quarterly PASSAR Board of Management Meeting
Friday, August 4-Sturday, August 5, 2023
Super Motel 8 by Wyndham
1663 South Atherton Street
State College, PA 16801

Our LAPASSAR meeting will be held on Saturday, August 5th between 10:00 a.m. and noon in the Atrium of the Wyndham. Centre County Chapter Treasurer, Gary Wiser has planned an engaging session for us ladies: Terry and Tom Martin will discuss their book titled *Warpath* about pre-Revolutionary War relations between settlers and Indians. The couple will also discuss their Revolutionary War roots. Tom Martin is a member of the Centre County Chapter of the SAR.

Reminders--If you have any purchased red, white, and blue carnations and silver sparklers to donate, please bring them to the meeting with you. Also if you have any colonial era recipes to share, please bring those with you and/or e-mail them to Jan Showler <upenn92@outlook.com>. She also requests any trivia questions you may want to share about the American Revolution. Either bring those or send them to her via e-mail. Thanks in advance for your time and effort.

Looking forward to seeing you in State College! Mark your calendars for future SAR events: board of management meeting in Pittsburgh, PA (Nov. 3-4); Atlantic Middle States Conference (Aug. 11-12) at Tarrytown, NY.



Spotlight: Re-enactor Noah Lewis AKA Ned Hector

If the picture of Noah Lewis on the next page looks only vaguely familiar, readers may more definitively place him by his Revolutionary War garb taking on the persona of Ned Hector. Attendees at the King of Prussia SAR board of management meeting held February 5, 6, 2021 enjoyed Noah's presentation of Hector. In fact, your *LA Times* editor featured him in its Spring 2021 edition from which the second picture is excerpted. Interestingly, Lewis was featured that same month in an *Atlantic Monthly* (Feb. 9, 2021) feature article titled "Stories of Slavery, From Those Who Survived" by Clint Smith which your editor shares with you below.

First some context The source of original narratives derives from the Federal Writers' Project (FWP) initiative that provided more than 10,000 American jobs during the Great Depression. Established under the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935 (specifically July 27, 1935), WPA provides what some consider a "unique self-portrait of America" through publication of guidebooks of the (then) forty-eight states. The Slave Narrative Collection upon which this *Atlantic Monthly* article draws was one such notable FWP project, culminating in over 2,300 first-person accounts of slavery and 500 black-and-white photographs of former slaves. The following is excerpted verbatim from the *Atlantic Monthly*.

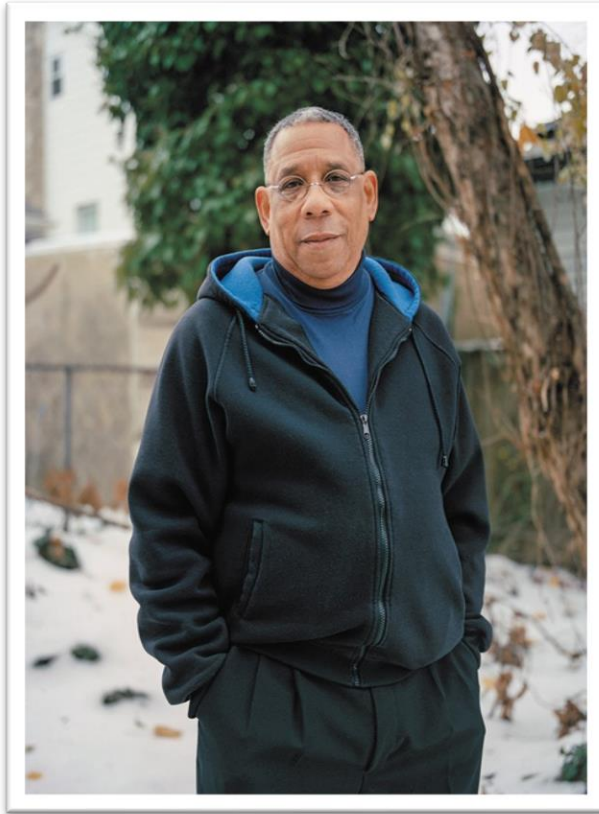
"Noah Lewis had been doing genealogical research for years, trying to learn as much as possible about his family history, when he discovered that his great-great-grandfather, a man named William Sykes, had been interviewed as part of the Federal Writers' Project ex-slave-narrative collection. He wanted to see the original documents himself, so he traveled from his home in Philadelphia to Washington, D.C., to visit the Library of Congress.

"'t was an amazing experience,' he told me. 'I had never seen photographs of him before ... That was just mind-blowing all by itself.'

"In the black-and-white photograph of William Sykes that accompanies his narrative, he is 78 years old and facing the camera, his eyes hidden behind a pair of dark glasses. He has a white mustache that stretches over his mouth and a long goatee that hangs from his chin. He appears to be furrowing his brow.

"'He kind of reminds me of my older brother, Jimmy,' Lewis said.

"Lewis had read books that detailed the physical and psychological violence of slavery; he had seen photos of enslaved people and understood the brutal conditions in which they worked. But there was something different about reading the narrative of his direct ancestor—someone from his own family who, only a few generations earlier, had been in chains.



Noah Lewis (pictured left) from the *Atlantic Monthly* feature and right at the February SAR board of management meeting hosted by the Philadelphia Continental Chapter on February 5-6, 2021.

“In his narrative, William Sykes describes being a child in North Carolina and seeing the soldiers of the Union Army make their way into Confederate territory. Sykes’s enslaver, fearful for his own life and worried that the Union soldiers might confiscate his human property, escaped with his enslaved workers into the mountains.

“While we wus dar one day, an’ while Mr. Jim Moore, de Jedge’s daddy am in town de missus axes my cousin Jane ter do de washin’.

“Jane says dat she has got ter do her own washin’ an dat she’ll wash fer de missus termorrer. De missus says “you ain’t free yit, I wants you ter know.

“I knows dat I’s not but I is ‘gwine ter be free,’ Jane says.

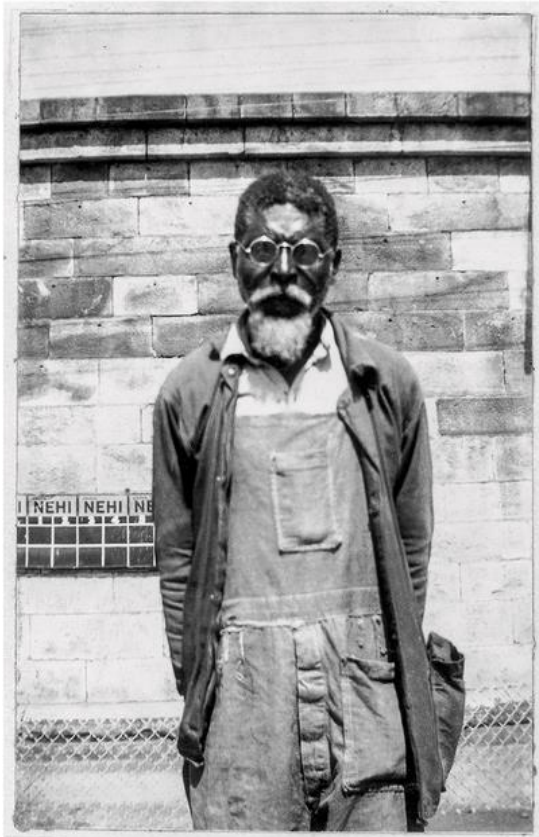
“De missus ain’t said a word den, but late Sadday night Mr. Jim he comes back from town an’ she tells him ’bout hit.

“Mr. Jim am some mad an’ he takes Jane out on Sunday mornin’ an’ he beats her till de blood runs down her back.

“Sykes was a child; the detail of blood running down Jane’s back stayed with him the rest of his life.

“Lewis said that, like me, he’d grown up with an incomplete understanding of slavery. ‘As a young child, I remember thinking to myself, *You know, hey, if slavery was so bad, why didn’t my people fight harder to try to get out of it?*’ Jane’s story showed that it wasn’t so simple.

“Lewis himself was born in 1953 on an Army base in Heidelberg, Germany, where his father was stationed. His family returned to the U.S. when he was just 10 months old. When he was 13, they moved to Aldan, Pennsylvania [sic *], a suburb of Philadelphia. As far as Lewis knows, his was the first Black family in Aldan, and he says they were not welcomed with open arms.



Noah Lewis’s great-great-grandfather William Sykes (*left*) was interviewed for the Federal Writers’ Project. *Above right*: Lewis’s parents in 1952, before moving to Germany. (Library of Congress; courtesy of Noah Lewis)

“A couple days after we moved in, we woke up that morning, and somebody had written on our car windshield *i hate niggers.*’ His father came out of the house with a shotgun and yelled loud enough for everyone in the neighborhood to hear: ‘I don’t care if you don’t like me, but if you start playing with my property, there will be trouble.’

“Lewis said that while the FWP narratives can be emotionally difficult to get through, he’s also found ‘a certain joy’ in reading them. ‘This is your relative, and it’s them speaking, and it brings them to life. They remind you that they were a person, not a stat, not a little side note, not a little

entry in a genealogical chart. They were a real, living, breathing human being. That's what that document kind of really hits you with.'

"But not everyone feels the way Lewis does. Six years ago, he attended a family reunion in New Jersey and decided to share what he'd discovered. Standing in front of about 30 people in folding chairs in a relative's backyard, Lewis read Sykes's words. Some of those present were old enough to have known Sykes when they were children—and some felt deeply hurt, and embarrassed, by parts of what Sykes was portrayed as having said.

"For example, some sections of his narrative implied that life under slavery was good: 'I knows dat Mister Long an' Mis' Catherine wus good ter us an' I 'members dat de food an' de clothes wus good an' dat dar wus a heap o' fun on holidays. Most o' de holidays wus celebrated by eatin' candy, drinkin' wine an' brandy. Dar wus a heap o' dancin' ter de music of banjoes an' han' slappin'. We had co'n shuckin's, an' prayer meetin's, an' sociables an' singin's. I went swimmin' in de crick, went wid old Joe Brown, a-possum huntin', an' coon huntin', an' I sometimes went a-fishin.'

"Read one way, these sorts of details might be seen as softening the horrors of slavery, making the gruesome nature of the institution more palatable to readers who aren't prepared to come to grips with what this country has done. Read another way, though, they might reveal the humanity of those who were enslaved and show that despite circumstances predicated on their physical and psychological exploitation, they were still able to laugh, play, celebrate, and find joy.

"Other sections of Sykes's account, however, are more difficult to reconcile. Toward the end of the narrative he's depicted as having said:

"'We ain't wucked none in slavery days ter what we done atter de war, an' I wisht dat de good ole slave days wus back.'

"'Dar's one thing, we ole niggers wus raised right an' de young niggers ain't. Iffen I had my say-so dey'd burn down de nigger schools, gibe dem pickanninies a good spankin' an' put 'em in de patch ter wuck, ain't no nigger got no business wid no edgercation nohow.'

"After Lewis finished, some of his relatives told him that he shouldn't have read the narrative to them. They felt that Sykes's words reflected poorly on them as a family and on Black people in general. But they didn't just blame Sykes; they blamed the white person who'd interviewed him, who they believe must have manipulated Sykes or changed his words. 'A typical example of white people trying to make us look ignorant,' they told him. . . .

"Lewis understood his relatives' concerns. Still, he couldn't help but feel disappointed that they didn't appreciate how remarkable it was that this narrative existed at all. For Lewis, it was a piece of history, a piece of them. It was like finding treasure—even if the jewels aren't cut as cleanly as you'd like, they're still worth something.

"Lewis's interest in history would ultimately change the course of his life. As he was doing his genealogical research, he went all the way back to the American Revolution, trying to discover

whether he had relatives who had been enslaved in the British colonies. He came across the book *Black Genealogy*, by the historian Charles L. Blockson. There, Lewis encountered the story of a man named Edward ‘Ned’ Hector, a Black soldier who fought in the Revolutionary War, one of thousands of Black people to fight on the side of the Americans. During the Battle of Brandywine, in September 1777, Hector and his regiment were under attack and ordered to abandon their guns and retreat for safety. Hector, however, seized as many abandoned guns as he could, threw them in his wagon, and warded off British soldiers to salvage the only equipment his company had left.

“Learning about Hector was transformative for Lewis. He thought this history of Black contributions to the American project should be taught in his children’s classrooms—but not just through books or lectures. The history had to be brought to life. It had to be made real. ‘So I figured it would be a much better way of getting across to the kids *about* Hector if I came *as* Hector,’ he said.

“His first presentation was in his daughter’s fifth-grade classroom, in a makeshift costume that he still laughs about today. His pants were blue hospital scrubs, with a pair of long white socks pulled over the bottoms of the legs. He wore a yellow linen vest, a souvenir-shop tricornered hat, and a woman’s blouse. ‘It was very bad, extremely bad,’ he said. Still, the teachers and students loved his presentation, and he was asked to come back again. And again. After a while, one of the teachers said, ‘You got something really good here. Maybe you might want to consider taking this more public, out to other schools and places.’ I thought about that. And I said, ‘You know, that’s not a bad idea.’

“About three years later, Lewis decided to leave his full-time job running an electronics-repair shop so he could dedicate more time to his reenactment work, which he had begun getting paid to do. Since then, he’s performed as Ned Hector in classrooms, at memorial sites, and at community festivals and has become a staple of the colonial-reenactment community.

In a video of one performance, he’s dressed in a blue wool jacket—typical of those worn by American soldiers during the Revolutionary War—and a matching tricornered hat with a large red feather. In his hands, the musket he holds is not simply a musket, but an instrument that helps him transport the audience back more than two centuries. It becomes a paddle, rising and falling in front of his chest as he tells the story of Black soldiers helping other American troops cross a river during battle. He places it just below his chin as if it were a microphone amplifying his story, or a light meant to illuminate his face in the darkness.

“In another video, Lewis stands in front of a school group. ‘How would you like to have your families, your loved ones, dying for somebody else’s freedom, only to be forgotten by them?’ He pauses and scans the crowd. ‘If you are an *American*, you share in African American history, because these people helped *you* to be free.’

“Watching Lewis, I was impressed by how he brought the Revolution to life in ways that my textbooks never had. How he told stories of the role Black people played in the war that I had never heard before. How in school—except for Crispus Attucks’s martyrdom during the Boston Massacre—I don’t think I had ever been made to consider that Black people were part of the American Revolution at all. It reminded me of how so much of Black history is underreported, misrepresented, or simply lost. How so many stories that would give us a fuller picture of America are known by so few Americans” (Smith, Clint. “Stories of Slavery From Those Who Survived, *Atlantic Monthly*. 2021. 9 Feb.

[https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2021/03/federal-writers-project/617790/>](https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2021/03/federal-writers-project/617790/))



Growing wings is easier if one is firmly rooted: Lewis’s story is remarkable in that he can trace his roots.

- Editor’s Note (page 12). Aldan is a borough about six miles west of Philadelphia in Delaware County (PA) and includes Chester, Media (county seat). It was established in 1893 and has about 4,3000 residents. It is not to be confused with Alden, PA which is a city in Luzern County in Newport Township, southwest of Nanticoke.



August

PASSAR Former First Lady, Melanie Lick—August 4
Denise Harry, August 5
Diana Prusia—August 9
Carol Strasbaugh—August 12
Rosalind Ashmun—August 17
Nancy LeFevre—August 19
Diana Watson—August 25

September

PASSAR President and NLASAR Third VP—Becky Moyer—September 17
Randi Fonseca—September 30

Did we miss your birthday? Please send month and day to either Taryn or Debra (see page 17) for future inclusion. Thanks very much!

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.

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.

Are you or your husband involved in outreach encouraging participation in the SAR Youth Awards programs? If so, Janice wants to hear from you. Please send information and a picture (if possible) in jpeg form documenting your invitation to young folks in your community. We are encouraging more participation from the Pennsylvania society. Send via e-mail: Janice Showler <upenn92@outlook.com>

