

# Harrisburg Chapter

Harrisburg Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was founded May 19, 1894. Twelve women—charter members as they were called—came together to serve God, home, and country and named the chapter after their city, which was named by John Harris, Jr. in 1785. The Charter Members are:

Mary Hall Jordan - Founder	Martha W. Buehler - Registrar
Sarah Carson Wyeth - Regent	Caroline Pearson - Historian
Elizabeth Rutherford Kunkel - 1 <sup>st</sup> VR	Mary Pollock Buehler
Emilie Fisher Alricks - Recording Sec.	Sara Pollock Carlton
Ellen Hall Wright - Corresponding Sec	Ada Hoffman McAlarney
Isabelle Hamilton Hamilton - Treasurer	Caroline Hummel Haldeman

Today's daughters are continuing the 131-year-old tradition of honoring Revolutionary War Patriots through historic preservation, educational programs, and patriotism, as we approach our Nation's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2026. Two hundred daughters serve the community through projects with veterans, active military service members and their families, new citizens, school children, and many others.

The America 250! Committee, formed May 9, 2022, planned activities to commemorate the Semiquincentennial. Committee daughters are Joyce Black, Jane Hack, Twila Hallam, Margaret Lee-Williams, Ginger Lowe, Cindy Sobkowski, Anne Wain, and Co-Chairs Gail Dubs and Teri Fegley. By December 2025, Harrisburg Chapter will have honored over 200 patriots of past and present daughters through cemetery patriot markers, written biographies and table cards presented at monthly meetings, and patriot yard signs. A second marker will be placed at Stroh's Cemetery April 12, 2025 to honor two patriots buried there.

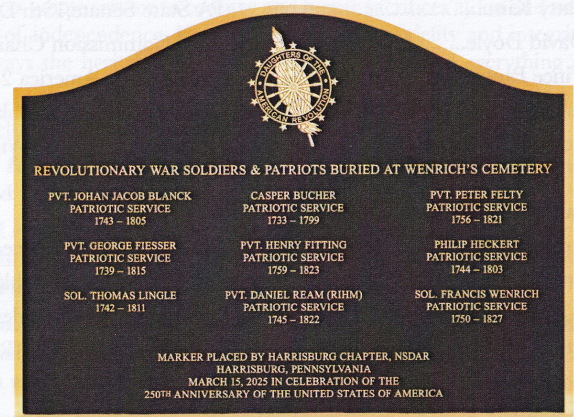
The 2022 - 2025 Harrisburg Chapter Officers:

Regent	Teri Fegley
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Regent	Jennifer Stratton
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Regent	Anne Wain
Treasurer	Linda Hartzell
Recording Secretary	Karen Hopple
Chaplain	Cindy Sobkowski
Registrar	Deborah Hershey
Historian	Cheryl Desmond/Ginger Lowe
Librarian	Ginger Lowe/Dominish Miller



## HARRISBURG CHAPTER, NSDAR AND ST. THOMAS UCC

### DEDICATE A HISTORICAL MARKER HONORING PENNSYLVANIA REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS BURIED AT WENRICH'S CEMETERY



Wenrich's Cemetery, Linglestown,  
Dauphin County, PA

**March 15, 2025 @ 2:00 pm**

# Program

Musical Prelude.....The St. Thomas Dulcimer Society

## CEREMONY - SANCTUARY

Welcome.....Teri Fegley, Regent

Presentation of the Colors.....Pine Grove Area JROTC

Opening Prayer.....Cindy Sobkowski, Chaplain

## DAR Rituals

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of  
the United States of America.....Joyce Black

The American's Creed.....Twila Hallam

Preamble to the United States Constitution..Ginger Lowe, Historian

The National Anthem.....Jane Hack

## Greetings

Edy Sarnoff.....PSSDAR SC District Director

Patty Kim.....PA State Senate, 15th District

David Doyle.....Lower Paxton Historical Commission Chairman

Vince Paese.....Dauphin County, America 250!PA

Historic Preservation Award.....Cindy Sobkowski

Recognition of Patriots.....Gail Dubs/Margaret Lee-Williams

## MARKER UNVEILING - CEMETERY

Dedication and Unveiling of Patriot Marker.....Patriot Descendant

Benediction.....Cindy Sobkowski

TAPs and Gun Salute.....American Legion Post 272, Linglestown

Retiring of the Colors.....Pine Grove Area JROTC

Photographs

*Following the unveiling, please join us for light refreshments in the fellowship hall.*

# Rituals

## THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

- Originally composed by Francis Bellamy

## THE AMERICAN'S CREED

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my Country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

- By William Tyler Page

## PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

- By Gouverneur Morris

## THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER (First Verse)

Hand Over Heart, in respect, as we sing...

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight  
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,  
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

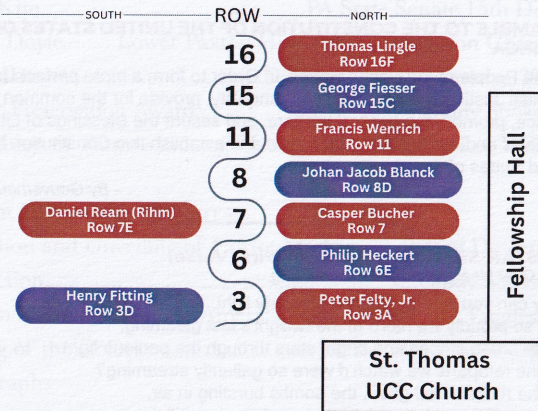
- By Francis Scott Key

# Recognition of Patriots at Wenrich's Cemetery

These nine American Revolutionary War Patriots found their final resting place here at Wenrich's Cemetery, located in the churchyard of St. Thomas United Church of Christ. A short biography of each man is presented in this program to further honor their commitment to serving the colonies in the fight for independence.

- **Johan Jacob Blanck\*** - Private and Patriotic Service
- **Casper Bucher\*** - Patriotic Service
- **Peter Felty, Jr.\*** - Private and Patriotic Service
- **George Fiesser\*** - Private and Patriotic Service
- **Henry Fitting** - Private and Patriotic Service, NSDAR # A208996
- **Philip Heckert** - Patriotic Service, NSDAR # A054081
- **Thomas Lingle** - Soldier, NSDAR # A070671
- **Daniel Ream (Rihm)** - Private and Patriotic Service, NSDAR # A093977  
Updated Patriotic Service for paying supply tax
- **Francis Wenrich** - Soldier and Patriotic Service, NSDAR # A131327  
Updated Soldier and date of birth

## Wenrich's Cemetery Revolutionary War Patriots



\* These men meet the qualifications to be recognized as NSDAR patriots. However, without proven lineage to a descendant, their names cannot be added to the NSDAR Genealogical Research System (GRS). If you are a descendant or know of one, please contact Harrisburg Chapter at harrisburgdar@gmail.com so these men may receive the recognition they rightfully deserve.

# Johan Jacob Blanck

Private and Patriotic Service

b. 5 Jun 1743 Europe

m. 16 May 1769 Magdalena Boesshaer

d. 20 Apr 1805 Lower Paxton Township, Dauphin Co., PA

Jacob was first recorded at the State House in Philadelphia 24 Aug 1765, where he took and subscribed to the "usual qualifications," having arrived aboard the ship *Polly* from Rotterdam, last stopping at Cowes, England. A baptism record places his birth in Ittlingen, Germany. In 1778, he swore the Oath of Allegiance in Lancaster County, PA thereby earning distinction for Patriotic Service.

As a private, Jacob served in the Lancaster County Militia, his name appearing: 1779 (Ninth Battalion), 1781 (Second and Third Battalions), and 1782 (Second Battalion). Additionally, he paid supply tax in 1779 while residing in Jonestown, Lancaster Co., (now Dauphin Co.) PA further bolstering his record of patriotic contributions. On 4 Mar 1805, Jacob penned his will in Lower Paxton Township, Dauphin Co., PA and died that same year. Johan Jacob is buried in North Row 8 D.

# Casper Bucher

Patriotic Service

b. 1733 Europe

m. Catharine

d. 11 Jun 1799 Dauphin Co., PA

Casper was first documented at a Philadelphia courthouse 15 Aug 1750, after arriving aboard the ship *Royal Union* from Rotterdam via Cowes, England, and taking the Oath of Allegiance. From 1768 to 1781, six of his children were baptized at Falckner Swamp Reformed Church in New Hanover Township, Montgomery Co., PA six miles from Colebrookdale. While residing in Colebrookdale, Casper paid supply taxes supporting the war effort in 1779, 1782, and 1783, earning recognition for Patriotic Service.

In 1790, he purchased 200 acres of land in Middle Paxton Township, Dauphin Co., PA. His German headstone reads: "Here rests the bones of Casper Bucher, who was born (sic) [died] the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 1799 at the age of 66." He is buried in North Row 7.

## *Peter Felty, Jr.*

Private and Patriotic Service

- b. 8 Mar 1756 North Annville Township, Lebanon Co., PA
- m. Christina
- d. 13 Feb 1821 Lower Paxton, Dauphin Co., PA

Peter Felty, Jr. was born in North Annville Township and baptized as Joh. Peter on 21 Mar 1756. In 1781, he served as a private, fourth class, under Captain Daniel Bradley in the Seventh Company, Ninth Battalion, Lancaster County Militia. He rendered service again in 1782, this time as a private, third class, under Captain George McMillan in the Second Company, Tenth Battalion, Lancaster County Militia.

On 30 May 1778, Peter swore the Oath of Allegiance in Lancaster County. In 1782, he paid supply tax in Paxton, Lancaster Co., (now Dauphin Co.), PA, on 116 acres, two horses, and four cattle. The following year, in 1783, he rendered the same tax payment, both acts earning him Patriotic Service.

Peter Felty left no will but a land sale in his name was recorded in Dauphin County 8 May 1818. The 1820 U.S. Census lists him as residing in Dauphin County. Peter died in 1821 and is buried in North Row 3 A.

## *George Fiesser*

Private and Patriotic Service

- b. 11 Apr 1739 Europe
- m. Dorothea Heft
- d. 26 Jun 1815 Lower Paxton Township, Dauphin Co., PA

Johann George Fiesser was first recorded in America 13 Oct 1766, where he took an Oath of Allegiance having arrived aboard the ship *Betsy* from Rotterdam, last from Cowes, England. He took another Oath of Allegiance 30 May 1778 in Lebanon Township, Lancaster Co., PA. George also paid supply tax in 1779 and 1783 on 200 acres while living in Bethel, Lancaster Co., PA. These latter two activities earned him Patriotic Service. George's military service was in 1782 where he served as a private in the Second Battalion, Lancaster County Militia.

George purchased 150 acres of land in Lower Paxton Township, Dauphin Co., PA 23 April 1791. He wrote his will 20 Jan 1812 in Lower Paxton Township. George died in 1815 and is buried in North Row 15 C.

## *Henry Fitting*

Private and Patriotic Service, NSDAR # A208996

- b. 12 Feb 1759
- m. Anna Maria
- d. 12 Sep 1823 Lower Paxton, Dauphin Co., PA.

Henerich (Henry) Fitting arrived in the U.S. in 1764 and lived with his parents (Peter and Catherine) as identified in his father's will.

In 1779, when he was twenty, Henry served as a private in the Sixth Battalion, Lancaster County Militia. In 1781 and 1782, he served in the Ninth Battalion of the same militia. On 1 May 1779, Henry took the Oath of Allegiance earning him Patriotic Service. This record lists Henry living with his father, Peter Fitting, in Hanover Township, Dauphin Co., PA. By 1790, Henry is established on his own with a wife and one son and they continued to live in Hanover Township. On 22 Mar 1803, Peter Fitting makes an agreement with his son, Henry, giving him his "Plantation."

Unfortunately, Henry died 12 Sep 1823 intestate, in West Hanover Township, Dauphin Co., PA. The heirs of Henry Fitting filed a document 26 Feb 1825 claiming heir to the "Plantation." Henry is buried in South Row 3 D.

## *Philip Heckert*

Patriotic Service, NSDAR # A054081

- b. 15 Oct 1744
- m. 27 Jan 1767 Anna Maria Hain
- d. 18 Sep 1803 Dauphin Co., PA

Philip first appears on a church record in Berks County, PA in 1765. He took the Oath of Allegiance 30 May 1778 in Berks County. In 1779, 1780, and 1781, Philip paid supply tax in Heidelberg Township, Berks Co., PA, earning him Patriotic Service. He owned 150 acres and was listed as a blacksmith.

Baptism records for a niece and his children from 1765 through 1782 at St. John's (Hain's) Reformed Church, reflect residence in Berks County. He purchased 188 acres of land in Paxton Township, Dauphin Co., PA on 7 Jun 1786.

In 1803, Philip Heckert of Lower Paxton Township, Dauphin Co., PA died intestate leaving a wife and nine children. Petitions were filed in Dauphin County, Orphans Court on behalf of the widow and minor children. Philip is buried in North Row 6 E.

## Thomas Lingle

Soldier, NSDAR # A070671

b. 1742

m. 26 Apr 1774 Anna Maria Fagen

d. 1811 Dauphin Co., PA

In 1765, Thomas Lingle, a Berks County, PA native, purchased land in Paxton Township, Lancaster Co., (now Dauphin Co.), PA and laid out a ninety-plot community for European Settlers. He named it "The Town of St. Thomas" after the Christian apostle, but the name soon became "Lingle's town."

In 1774, two years before the start of the war, Thomas married Anna Maria Fagen in St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in Berks County. He served as a private in 1780, 1781, and 1782, in the Sixth Battalion, Berks County Militia. Following the war, Thomas purchased 180 acres in Lower Paxton Township, Lancaster Co., (now Dauphin Co.), PA 1 Jul 1784, known as the "Homestead." In 1790, Thomas Lingle had a wife and nine others living with him in Dauphin County, PA.

Thomas died in 1811 and is buried in North Row 16 F. In 1922, Nevin Moyer, a local genealogist, surveyed Wenrich's Cemetery. Nevin replaced Thomas's original gravestone with a United States Veteran gravestone, application dated 5 Aug 1940.

## Daniel Ream (Rihm)

Private and Patriotic Service, NSDAR # A093977

b. 28 Sep 1745

m. Marie Elizabeth

d. 27 Feb 1822 Dauphin Co., PA

Daniel paid supply tax on fifty acres in Donegal Township in 1779 and in Derry Township in 1783, both in Lancaster County. These payments earned him Patriotic Service. He also served as a private in 1782 in Captain Abraham Scott's Company, Seventh Battalion, Lancaster County Militia.

On 24 April 1784, Daniel bought 187 acres called "Harmony" in Lower Paxton Township, Lancaster Co., PA, which in 1785 became Dauphin County. Daniel and his wife, Maria Elizabeth, sold "Harmony" 10 May 1802. Over a decade later, the couple also sold four tracts of land in 1815 in Lower Paxton Township, Dauphin Co., PA. Daniel died in 1822 and is buried in South Row 7 E.

## Francis Wenrich

Soldier & Patriotic Service, NSDAR # A131327

b. 1750 Berks Co., PA

m. 1769 Elizabeth Kreiger

d. 1827

Francis appears first in Berks County, PA at the age of 21 on a 1771 jury listing. Francis resided in Tulpehocken Township, Berks Co., PA in 1775, 1780 and 1783 as evidenced by the baptismal records of his first three children at the church, The Evangelical Southern Congregational.

Verifying his service as a soldier, an original 1781 document has been located for Francis documenting a discharge of service dated 17 Dec 1781 and signed by Lieutenant Nicholas Seibert, Eighth Battalion, Berks County Militia. Although the current day gravestone of Francis Wenrich states, "Served in Battles at Brandywine, Germantown," documentation supporting his involvement in these two battles, which occurred in 1777, has not yet been located.

Francis earned Patriotic Service when he took the Oath of Allegiance 23 May 1778 in Berks County, and also paid the 1779, 1780, 1781 and 1784 supply tax on 120 acres of land in Tulpehocken Township. Francis continued to own this land until he sold it 30 Apr 1803.

As recorded in a Dauphin County, PA deed book, Francis purchased 201 acres of land in Lower Paxton Township on 26 April 1784. Francis bought the Berryhill family farm east of Linglestown, which was named "The Running Pump Farm" because of the spring that supplied water to the house through hollow logs. This land included a structure used as the first house of worship for St. Thomas UCC. Francis paid Dauphin County tax on this property in 1785, 1786, 1788 and 1789 and the 1790 U.S. Census lists Francis with his wife and five others residing with him in Dauphin County.

In 1792, Francis sold 2 3/4 acres of this land, including the house of worship and a spring, to the four congregations using the house of worship. That deed was signed by Phillipp Heckert, Leonard Umberger, Jacob Planck, and John Gaverich. The building was then identified as Wenrich's Church. By 1975, the church was known as St. Thomas United Church of Christ.

Francis wrote his will 14 Feb 1826 in Lower Paxton Township. Francis died in 1827 and is buried in North Row 11. The current gravestone for Francis was placed in 1923 by Dora Wenrich Stoner who joined the church in 1893. She was the great granddaughter of Francis, the donor of the cemetery grounds. This 1923 gravestone replaced the common mountain stone originally marking his grave.

## Sponsors

Harrisburg Chapter daughters have generously donated money towards this marker:

### RED (\$100)

Amy Taylor Avery  
Joyce Black  
Dana Stroh Christensen  
Elizabeth Cooper  
Joan Douglas  
Twila Hallam  
Shirley Hoffman  
Karen Hopple  
Nancy Leuschner  
Virginia Lowe  
Victoria Orlando  
Lauren Silvers  
Sherry Stout  
Dian Tedesco  
Pat Wiley

### WHITE (\$50)

Marsha Davis  
Cheryl Desmond  
Hazel Fry  
Mary Hess  
Amy Korman  
Lisa Lugovich  
Sue Mitchem  
Donna Reichard  
Cindy Sobkowski  
Joann Walker  
M. Sandra Wood

### BLUE (\$25)

Loretta Baum	JaneHack	Gail Owens
Sandra Boncarosky	Lori Houser	Janice Reid
Jane Carnell	Evelyn James	Eleanor Schneider
Dawn Culp	Mary James	Kimberly Sokoloski
Sandra Daily	Marcella Kehler	Jennifer Stratton
Cheryl Desmond	Brigid Khuri	Anita Weikel
Gail Dubs	Martha Mannix	Dee Wojdylak
Mary Lou Evans	Pam Neill	Stephanie Zimmerman

Dauphin and Cumberland County businesses donated items for our Silent Auction in November 2024 that raised over \$1,200 towards this marker:

AACA Museum	JoJo's in Hummelstown
Armitage Golf Club	Karns Foods, Mr. Scott Karns
Costco	Lake Tobias Wildlife Park
Country Club of Harrisburg	Meadowbrook Gourds
Dunkin Donuts - Lemoyne	Omni-Naturals Aromatic & Massage
First Watch Restaurant - Camp Hill	Royers Flowers
Giottis Restaurant	Nissley Vineyards and Winery Estate
The Hershey Company	Sherwin-Williams
Ironworks Inn - an Air BNB	Treasures on Main - Hummelstown
Jersey Mikes Subs (Linglestown Rd)	Trader Joe's

## Heartfelt Thanks

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who played a role in the planning and execution of today's ceremony and dedication. This includes our distinguished speakers and presenters, generous sponsors and donors, and dedicated NSDAR daughters.

A special note of appreciation goes to Harrisburg Chapter Daughter Margaret Lee-Williams, whose countless hours of research ensured these nine patriots received the recognition they so deeply deserve. We are grateful to Ken Frew and Frank Grumbine for their support in advancing the submission of this important research. We are also appreciative for the work done by St. Thomas UCC Historian Kathie Gifford in opening the church's records, being a supporter in this history, and for coordinating approval with the church's trustees. A big thank you to Kit Gee for generously donating her time to photograph our event, ensuring we have a lasting record of the day's activities. Finally, we thank Pine Grove Area High School JROTC cadets for their exemplary presentation of the colors, adding a meaningful touch to today's event.

## National Society

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) was founded October 11, 1890, during a period characterized by a fascination with the early history of the United States of America and a resurgence of patriotism. A group of pioneering women met in the nation's capital, formed this patriotic organization, and NSDAR has carried the torch of patriotism ever since.

Today's NSDAR is a non-profit, non-political, volunteer, women's service organization dedicated to the three service pillars of historic preservation, education, and patriotism. NSDAR has partnered with America250! to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States and the patriot marker being dedicated today is one way chapters across the nation are honoring those patriots who served during the American Revolution.



This insignia pin, the official emblem of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, is displayed above Harrisburg Chapter's charter. Donated by the heirs of Ruth Isabelle Louise West, who joined the chapter in February 1945, the pin is crafted from 14-carat gold and features a central diamond.

## Marker Unveiling Ceremony

*Chaplain:* Eternal God, with hearts filled with love and gratitude, we gather to ask your blessing on this marker placed in honor of the following Revolutionary War Patriots:

Johan Jacob Blanck  
Casper Bucher  
Peter Felty  
George Fiesser  
Henry Fitting

Philip Heckert  
Thomas Lingle  
Daniel Ream/Rihm  
Francis Wenrich

The unequalled liberties enjoyed in America today are the legacy of brave, strong patriots. Their deep faith and belief in Thy guidance, together with the hope of living freedom, fortified them throughout the War of Independence. We give you thanks, O Lord, for your many blessings and ask that Your Holy Spirit be with us always. May we never forget those who fought for the freedom of their new country. Amen.

*Regent:* In remembering the past, we honor the men and women who gave their lives for the preservation of our freedom and our future.

*Chaplain:* Let us pray. Father, we thank you for the lives of these Revolutionary War Patriots whose service to country and heroic sacrifices aided and advanced the cause of independence. Help us recognize that fidelity and integrity must guard always the heritage bequeathed by those who had everything to lose. Amen.

*Regent:* Help us to be worthy of our noble dead.

**All: Our forefathers put their faith in You, O Lord, and You have delivered them to this land of plenty.**

*Chaplain:* Let us pray. Almighty God, bless our country. May we, its citizens, be thankful for the blessings You have bestowed upon us. Keep our country, home and family under your loving protection. Amen.

**All: History tells us that what is needed today is not just a show of greatness and a parade of power, but a dedication to great ideals and high endeavor.**

*Regent:* Therefore, we the members of the Harrisburg Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, now dedicate this marker in grateful recognition of the service of our nine patriots of the American Revolution who are buried here at Wenrich's Cemetery.

*Marker Unveiling*