

MICHIGAN SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION OAKS CHAPTER



THE ACORN: JUNE 2011

Mission Statement:

Promote in our youth and community a sense of commitment to the ideals of American patriotism, to encourage participation in the political process and maintain camaraderie of the membership.

NEXT MEETING

Our next general membership meeting will be held on Thursday June 9, 2011, at Brandy's of Bloomfield Hills at 6:30 pm

FLAG AWARDS & CERTIFICATES

Compatriot Robert Koller has awarded three flag certificates recently.

Certificates were awarded to Chris Whitefield, Bruce Allen, and Crissman Lincoln, Inc.

COMPATRIOT HERB PETERS

We are saddened to announce that Compatriot Herb Peters passed away on April 24, 2011 at the age of 95 years. Herb was the oldest known native resident of Rochester, graduating from Rochester High School in 1932, and was known fondly to most Rochester residents. Herb served his country in France in World War Two where he met his wife Madeleine. He is also survived by three children including Congressman Gary Peters.

Herb spent most of his career as a teacher in the Rochester School District and also served as sports editor for the Rochester Clarien newspaper for many years. Herb was a man of many interests and always enjoyed sharing his stories of local history. He was particularly proud of becoming a member of the Sons of the American Revolution in 2010. The Oaks Chapter extends its sympathy to Herb's family.

SAVE THE DATE!

There is a Picnic being planned for all Oaks Chapter members and their guests for August 13, 2011 at the home of Gary Grout. Please save the date and plan on attending. Details will follow.

SERVICE MEDALS AWARDED

At the Oaks Chapter annual meeting held on April 14, 2011, Compatriot Rod Wilson awarded service medals to the following individuals:

- **JOHN MATTHEWS:** War Service Medal for Vietnam
- **JIM KEMLER:** Military Service Medal for service in Lebanon
- **TOM CODDINGTON:** Military Service medal for service in the US Air Force
- **HERB PETERS:** WWII Service in France (awarded posthumously)

We extend our sincere appreciation to these men for their service to our country

The following article was submitted by Compatriot Mike Garey:

THE STORY OF TIMOTHY HOWE IN THE AMERICA REVOLUTION

IT STARTED WITH A GUN. A REVOLUTIONARY WAR PISTOL TO BE exact. Trying to determine lineage of a person is hard enough, but of a pistol is something else. Family lore said it belonged to William Howe, 5th Viscount Howe, Revolutionary War General, but if it did, how did we get it? In an effort to trace my lineage back to the Revolutionary War and hopefully the pistol's owner, I discovered one of my patriots, Timothy Howe. There were two Timothy Howes that served in the War, the father (also known as the Elder) (born 6 Oct 1742) and son (born 27 Jun 1765). They are my 4th and 5th grandfathers. I chose Timothy "the elder" as his life was more interesting than his son's. So let's begin the story.

TIMOTHY HOWE "THE ELDER" WAS BORN IN 1742 IN Marlborough, Middlesex, Massachusetts the son of Bazaleel Howe and Anna Foster. He was the Great Great Grandson of immigrant John Howe (see John Howe Immigrant and Prelude to the Wayside Inn). He shared his father's wanderings and he would end up living among three colonies. Timothy moved westward to the Hudson-Champlain valley where he either joined or accompanied the British army (there isn't any formal record). Shortly before his death in 1758, George Augustus Lord Howe, 3rd Viscount Howe (a division commander and brother to Admiral Richard Howe, 4th Viscount Howe and Sir William Howe, 5th Viscount Howe) learned that there was a man who shared his name among his forces and called Timothy to his tent. Lord Howe inquired about Timothy's lineage and was told all that Timothy knew. Lord Howe declared that they were kin (Is this where the pistol came from?). In 1759, James Wolfe captured Quebec as a part of the Seven Years War and a victory crusade swept many colonists including Timothy into service. It is thought that Timothy next served under Lord Jeffrey Amherst involved in the capture of Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point; then pushing to and gaining Montreal for the British following General Wolfe's capture of Quebec. Timothy would reflect on several occasions that during this campaign he had run into an old Frenchman at Oswego that told of a treasure buried in the well at Fort Ontario. He told this story several times to his sons and one tried in vain to find it.

AFTER THE SURRENDER OF CANADA, TIMOTHY SETTLED IN Stillwater, New York (about sixty miles south of Ticonderoga) where he married Elizabeth Andrus (a heroine I will describe latter). He enjoyed living among the "Yorkers" versus living in Massachusetts, and Timothy became a lay-preacher in the Baptist church. They had twins, Timothy and Titus and six other children of which three died in infancy by 1772. They then decided to move to Wyoming on the Susquehanna River. The area which now resides in Pennsylvania was then the western most outpost of Connecticut. Wyoming was free from taxation of the New England Church which also appealed to the Baptist's. They settled into Forty Fort and by 1776 they had two more children.

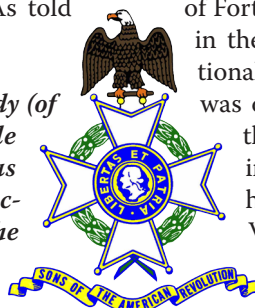
IN 1776, THE OUTBREAK OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR DREW OFF the able bodied men leaving Forty Fort poorly defended. After the Battles of Saratoga, and General Burgoyne's surrender, the Tory leaders on Lake Ontario (Johnson and Butler) developed a campaign of revenge on Forty Fort. As told later by Timothy Howe to his son Bezaleel:

"About a year and a half before the terrible tragedy (of 1778), there came a poor and destitute couple (named Windecker) to the settlement. There was no house where the man and his family could be accommodated and he sought help of my father on the

ground of his being a Baptist, in pity to a destitute brother my father took them in his own house, although at great inconvenience, and kept the family through the winter. Then they went sixty or seventh miles up the Susquehanna River. The following spring this man in a canoe returned to the settlement and said his family were in a starving condition. The settlers remonstrated (protested) with the man for remaining in those perilous with them, so far from his family surrounded by Indians. The man said he would go back to his family if the settlers would furnish him what was needed for present necessities. The settlers then furnished him liberally with food and clothing and he went back up the Susquehanna to his family. He returned no more to the settlement until with (Colonel John) Butler and his savage Indians and Tories he came to murder the inhabitants and destroy the settlement. His pious wife returned with him"

ABOUT 1200 MEN CONSISTING OF RANGERS AND ROYAL GREENS from Fort Niagara on Lake Ontario and Iroquois Indians under the command of Colonel John Butler arrived in the Wyoming area. They easily captured Wyoming's outlying forts, and the settlers took refuge in Forty Fort. Forty seven year old Colonel Zebulon Butler (who had served in Abercrombie's army at Ticonderoga, the capture of Havana and served in the Continental Army) was in command. Early in the morning of July 3, 1778 Colonel John Butler sent under a flag of truce and the escort of an Indian and a Ranger, a message delivered by Daniel Ingersoll who had been captured at Fort Wintermute. The message demanded that all forts, all Continental troops and all public stores in the valley be surrendered with the militiamen being placed on parole and not to fight for the rest of the war. In return, he would guarantee the safety of all the inhabitants. The militia met to debate the advantages and disadvantages of an immediate attack. They discussed that in a few days Captain Spaulding with the remainder of the Durkee and Ransom companies would arrive, and more help from Fort Baldwin and Fort Augusta would also arrive (earlier, Zebulon Butler had sent Isaac Baldwin with a message to the Board of War at Philadelphia). They didn't know the number of the enemy but felt that it was a large number, all experienced in warfare. Lazarus Stewart spoke passionately about attacking, and charged Butler with cowardice and threatened to lead the others against the Indians and the British.

AT 2:00 P.M. THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE MEN MARCHED OUT of Forty Fort to the fife and drum's playing "St. Patrick's Day in the Morning". They carried the "Stars and Stripes" national flag for the first time. Colonel Zebulon Butler, who was on leave from the Continental Army at the time, led the small army with Colonel Nathan Denison second-in-command. Colonel John Butler put his Rangers behind a log fence extending westerly to a point above Wintermute Fort. The Indians hid in the swamp beyond



the western end of the fence. When the British Colonel John Butler saw the colonist forming a battle line he set fire to Fort Wintermute and ordered the same to be done to Fort Jenkins. He then removed his uniform and the insignia of his rank and tied a black handkerchief around his head to identify himself. Advancing toward the log fence, the Americans halted to fire three volleys, moving forward after each. When they halted to fire a fourth, the British opened fire and the Indians then engaged the Americans from the right. The Rangers rose from the ground and withdrew a short distance which the Americans mistook for a retreat and moved forward. They were then attacked from the left. Colonel Denison ordered the men to wheel back and form an angle to the main line, but the inexperienced farmer boys, not accustomed to the blood curdling yelps of the Indians were thrown into a state of panic, misunderstood the order and began to retreat. They took the left wing and the center with them. Finally, the rest of the line gave way and all the men tried to retreat. Men were killed as they ran or when they halted and tried to surrender. The battle was over in less than forty five minutes. Colonel Denison later reported that at least 301 men were killed.

THE MASSACRE THAT FOLLOWED HAS BECOME LEGENDARY. Initially, Queen Ester Montour (an Indian) was reported to have danced around a rock by the firelight and bashed out the brains of her captives. She was infuriated by the death of her own son a few days earlier by a settler named Zebulon Marcy. This part of the massacre epitomized to the Americans the savagery of the Indians and eventually led to reprisals against the Six Nations by General Washington the next year.

LIEUTENANT TIMOTHY HOWE WAS ONE OF NINE MEN WHO SURVIVED from the company of Captain Dethick Hewitt who was slain. He returned to Forty Fort about midnight. The next day, the 4th of July, a flag of truce came to the fort and British officers demanded an unconditional surrender. Colonel Denison and Timothy were the only surviving officers in the fort and went out and met with the British officers. Upon learning of the terms, Timothy realized that there wouldn't be any favor to anyone who was in the battle the previous day. He immediately returned to the fort and advised the other eight survivors in his company, gathered some provisions, got into a scow (flat bottom boat with a blunt bow) down on the river and escaped leaving his wife and seven children to the mercies of the Indians. On the way down the Susquehanna River, Timothy told Colonel Zebulon Butler who lived on the bank of the river what had happened and the Colonel immediately mounted his horse and fled with his wife and children. Timothy wasn't seen again for over a year.

BACK AT THE FORT, WINDECKER HAD NOW RETURNED WITH HIS wife. As told by Elizabeth Howe, Timothy's wife:

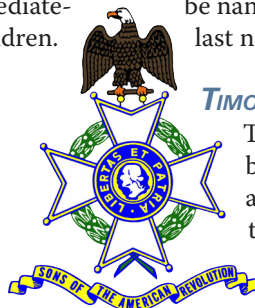
"A man named Shoemaker escaped to the river, and being an expert swimmer hoped to find a place of concealment. He was discovered by the spy Mr. Windecker and hailed. This villain invited Shoemaker to come on shore. 'I dare not,' replied Shoemaker, 'for you will kill me.' 'I will not' said the wretch, 'I am your friend and I will protect you.' By his persuasion he (Windecker) induced Shoemaker to come on shore. Extending his left hand as if to aid him, the villain with his right hand knocked Shoemaker on the head with a tomahawk and shoved his body back into the river. The next day the body of Shoemaker was seen floating alongside the fort."

IN THE MEANTIME THE WIFE OF WINDECKER WENT TO ELIZABETH who was with her children standing near the few items of necessity she had hastily brought from the fort and told her, "Sister Howe, I'm going to do just as I've a mind to, and if you know what is good for yourself you won't open your mouth." The woman then took what ever she wanted from Elizabeth's possessions. The Tory couple, because of the friendship that Timothy and Elizabeth had shown them the previous winter, secured for Elizabeth and the children from the Indians the mark of life which was red mark on the face. Some of the children did not understand the red marks and washed them off. The Indians were very angry and told them that if they washed it off again, they would be killed.

WITH ALL THE CONFUSION AT THE FORT, ELIZABETH SAUNTERED out the gate with her children as if they didn't know what to do. They meandered towards the woods and when they thought they were out of sight, the older children took the younger ones on their backs and headed into the wilderness. They travelled until dark and then slept the night without food in the forest. They continued for three days eating only what they found, primarily berries. They went through the Pocono Mountains to the Delaware water gap, fording the Delaware River at Minisink and entered Orange County, New York. They then ferried at Hudson at Poughkeepsie and went into what was then called the Great Nine Partners tract in Dutchess County at Tower Hill. She completed the 200 mile journey retracing much of the ground she had travelled six years earlier and was considered a heroine by her children who all survived the trip. Many of the grandchildren would be named after Elizabeth and her son, Darius, would add her last name as his middle name.

TIMOTHY, THE ELDER EVENTUALLY RETURNED TO HIS WIFE AT

Tower Hill, but was absent again when his wife gave birth to Bezaleel on July 14, 1780. She died two hours after the birth. The smaller children were taken until they could be provided for. Bezaleel was taken in by



Benjamin Fowler and lived with the family until he became of age. Timothy was the only one of the four Howe brothers that had children that also served in the revolution. The twins Timothy, Jr. and Titus joined the militia in New York at the age of eighteen.

IN JUNE 1832 THE BONES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE WYOMING Massacre were found in a common grave on the farm of Fisher Gay. On July 3rd of the same year Fisher gave the land for a monument to be erected in memory of those who died. One year later, July 3, 1833 the corner stone was laid by Elisha Blackman, a veteran of the battle and a box was deposited by another veteran Samuel Carey which contained the history of the settlement, a list of those who died and the final report of the battle by Colonel Zebulon Butler. The monument today is sixty-two and a half feet tall made from dark gray stone. It is rectangular in form with four equal sides. The names of those who died as well as the survivors appear on three sides. The bones of those who died are contained in the foundation.

TIMOTHY, THE ELDER HAD THREE BROTHERS THAT ALSO SERVED in the Revolutionary War. Darius Howe (born 1746) was a Minuteman. He fought with his younger brothers in Long Island and was at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777-1778. He achieved the rank of Lieutenant before resigning in May 1781. Baxter Howe (born August 1748) was also a minuteman. He participated at Bunker Hill, Long Island and was with his brothers at Valley Forge. After many other campaigns Baxter was promoted to Captain. His last campaign was with Lafayette in Virginia where he got a fever and died September 1781. The third brother was Bezaleel Howe (born 1750). He served at Bunker Hill and was at Valley Forge. Bezaleel was wounded at the Battle of Freeman's Farm, but recovered to serve again. By the end of the war he was a Captain and his final assignment was to transport all of General Washington's possessions and papers from Rocky Hill, New Jersey (the last headquarters of the Revolution) to his home at Mt. Vernon.

The following article was submitted by Compatriot L.T. Herman. Article written by Fred Anderson and Andrew Cayton. Published in Delanceyplace.com April 27, 2011.

OUR REVOLUTION STARTED BECAUSE OF LAND MORE THAN TEA

IN TODAY'S EXCERPT – BEFORE THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, ONE of the biggest businesses in Virginia, Pennsylvania and other colonies was land speculation and development – it was comparable in its importance and prestige to that of the energy businesses in the twentieth century and internet businesses in the twenty-first. So when London tried to prop up the near bankrupt finances of the East India Company by granting it a monopoly on tea, one belligerent colony – Massachusetts – staged a “tea party” but the vested interests of other colonies caused them to continue to look for ways to reconcile with Britain. Then the Scotsman Lord Dunsmore, the Crown's appointed governor of Virginia, acted ill-advisedly to invalidate the claims of George Washington and others to the land they had worked strenuously to acquire in the west, and the revolution began:

As colonel of the regiment (during the 1763 French and Indian War), George Washington was entitled to claim 20,000 acres of land on the south bank of the Ohio, or 10 percent of the 200,000 acres the House of Burgesses had reserved for the veterans. He supplemented this handsome reward by buying up the land warrants of scores of his fellow veterans, eventually realizing the rights to an additional 25,000 acres. From September 1767 he employed an old subordinate from the Virginia Regiment, Captain William Crawford, to identify tracts on the Ohio that he might acquire when the land grants were finally made... (Washington, along with many others continued to actively acquire land in Pennsylvania and what is now Ohio and Kentucky).

Because Virginia governor Lord Dunsmore initially acted to support the colonist's land speculation, it should not surprise us that Washington remained in contact with the governor through the spring of 1775, even after he had served as a delegate to the First Continental Congress and even as he was preparing to depart for Philadelphia as a delegate to the second. His fellow delegates in the two Virginia chose him for these assignments precisely because he was not a firebrand like Patrick Henry or an impassioned writer like Thomas Jefferson but rather a moderate man, known more for the sobriety of his views than for his readiness to make a public issue of them.



From the late summer 1774 through the spring of 1775, Washington continued to look for accommodation. On the one hand, he believed that Parliament's measures (such as the Stamp Act and the Coercive Acts) were “not only repugnant to natural right, but subversive of the law and constitution of Great

Britain itself” on the other, he supported the campaign against the Shawnees (to enable additional land acquisition), kept up friendly relations with the royal governor who promoted it, and nursed the hope that the king and parliament would back down from their position in Massachusetts and restore a sensible balance in imperial governance. Only in retrospect did it appear that those beliefs and actions were self-contradictory.

It took a series of events in the spring of 1775 to destroy Washington’s hope that harmony could be restored without the loss of colonial rights. The first development was the rumor that Dunmore had disallowed the surveys that William Crawford had made on Washington’s behalf in the Ohio country on the grounds that Crawford was not properly licensed as a Virginia surveyor. Astonished, Washington wrote to the governor on April 3 to ask if this “altogether incredible” information could possibly be accurate. His Lordship’s curt reply, dated April 18, did nothing to dispel his fears; on the contrary, Dunmore essentially confirmed the rumor.

That the governor would casually invalidate years of effort and expense mystified Washington as much as it offended him. Was this a reprisal for his participation in the two Virginia conventions and the Continental Congress? An attempt to bully him into taking sides against his fellow planters? Or was it an effort to snatch away lands that he had already surveyed and on which he had begun to seat settlers, in order to bestow them on the governor’s supporters? Washington had no way to know, but when word of a second incident arrived shortly after, he found it impossible to believe that the mercurial Scot was up to anything but mischief.



THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!

If you have news, items of interest or stories of your patriots you are invited to submit them for inclusion in the newsletter. Please email them to John Crissman at johncrissman17@gmail.com
