



GENIE BYTES

Volume 6, Issue 1

Grand Strand Genealogy Club

February 2025

Message from the Editors

Bonnie Kishpaugh & Ann Hamilton

Editor & Assistant Editor, Genie Bytes, GSGC Members of the Board

We've completed year six since publishing our first issue of *Genie Bytes*! We received an article from the Arizona Genealogical Advisory Board who found us on *Cyndi's List* under Societies. To quote Charlene, "We're famous!" We couldn't have accomplished this without our members supporting us with articles, tips/tidbits, books, and websites. Thank you!

In this issue we begin our year-long salute to our ancestors who've served our country in time of war by showcasing letters written by and to them and much more. We begin with the Revolutionary War and continue to the Vietnam War and — if communications surface — beyond. The salute will culminate with a PowerPoint presentation, readers' theatre, and sharing table at our November meeting. Feel patriotic? You will by year's end!

Email your siblings, aunts, and cousins! We need letters or other forms of communication written by or to soldiers during WWI, the Korean War, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc. Thank you to all those who've submitted thus far. ♦

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American Revolution (1775-1783)

Total U.S. Servicemembers ¹	217,000
Battle Deaths	4,435
Non-mortal Woundings	6,188

NOTES:

1. Exact number is unknown. Posted figure is the median of estimated range from 184,000 – 250,000 – America's Wars.

Communication During the Revolutionary War

Ann Hamilton

Assistant Editor, Genie Bytes, GSGC Member of the Board

Centuries-proven nonverbal techniques assured accurate communication between generals and their troops on and off Revolutionary War battlefields. Distinctive, brilliantly-hued flags pinpointed the center of a unit's location and identity. Flags were also a rallying point for a unit in disarray. Drums maintained the cadence of marching troops as well as their formation. With the right beat, troops could march many more miles than without one. Troops were fluent in the "language" of the drum which included calls for assembly, attack, fire, and retreat. Buglers, trained musicians and among the most talented in the field, sounded commands, replies, and announcements like reveille. When a bugler blew, soldiers responded immediately. Fifers, mere boys and so noncombatants, played signals during battles to notify the troops of formation changes. The cheerful sound of the fife also boosted morale during long marches.¹

Important, too, were uniform colors and details. They evolved significantly during the eight-years-long conflict. For example, in 1775, the Minutemen had no uniform at all but wore hunting shirts made of buckskin or from homespun linen. Styled as either a long loose overshirt or as a loose wraparound jacket, both allowed ease of movement. They often had rows of fringe and were comfortable to wear. They also wore leggings or

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breeches and stockings. As the war progressed, enlistees from each state — from each regiment within that state -- had their distinctive coat color. These colors gave an officer visual cues as to what unit was in what position. Facings, too, told a tale. There were different colors for artillery, cavalry, and infantry. The way the tails of the coat were hung showed whether or not the uniform was that of an officer or an enlisted man.²

Finally, officers did send coded letters and even some in invisible ink via trusted messengers to their peers when the need to discuss strategies for victory arose. A wax seal was not sufficient protection for such important parchment missives.³

Enlisted men were not so lucky as their superiors. Unfortunately for them, lack of an affordable national postal service and prevalent illiteracy made communication between Revolutionary War soldiers and their families nearly impossible. A soldier's family and friends believed that when he went to war, he might never be heard from again. He could die on the battlefield or, more likely, from disease.⁴

No one less than Benjamin Franklin, known for innovation and efficiency, helmed the United Colonies Postal. Nonetheless, with this service still in its infancy, mailing letters was too expensive for the common man who instead opted to send a letter via a trusted friend travelling to its destination.⁵

Not all soldiers were parted from their families. While George Washington prohibited women of questionable repute from accompanying his army, some soldiers' wives and children were allowed to become camp followers. These "followers" boosted morale and relieved soldiers of some of the more mundane tasks. Women received half rations; children, quarter rations.

The army was drawn from the working class of merchants, farmers, and mechanics, where few were literate. A lawyer or minister would have to read a letter's precious pages to its recipients. Furthermore, the recipients' homes were humble and ill-furnished. A rare letter, no matter how valued, was unlikely to survive a decade, let alone two centuries.

Casualties were many. Notifications to families that their soldier was dead or missing in action were few. Those families who were notified, received the news from a messenger, usually a fellow soldier or a local

rider, who would deliver a handwritten letter or verbal message directly to the family home. There was no established system for official notification. Information was more often than not spread by word-of-mouth.⁶

¹L., Will. "[The World History of War and Peace](#)." Online posting. 22 Jul 2021. *Quora*. 11 Dec 2024.

²Madden, Tim. "[Revolutionary War Uniforms](#)." Cincinnati Chapter of the SAR, 19 May 2022, pp. 1-4.

^{3,5}_____. "[Letters of the Revolutionary War](#)." Smithsonian National Postal Museum, 11 Dec 2024.

⁴Chlodio. "[What is the history of...communication between soldiers... with family...?](#)" Online posting. 26 Aug 2022. *Historicum*. 11 Dec 2024.

⁶_____. "[The Fighting Man of the Continental Army: The Daily Life as a Soldier](#)." American Battlefield Trust, 26 Jul 2024. ♦

Libraries: Where My DAR Dreams Came True

Ann Hamilton

Assistant Editor, Genie Bytes, GSGC Member of the Board

Claire Fleming as told to Ann Hamilton

The 1999 baptism of John Paul, Claire's first grandchild, attended by nine of his eleven living ancestors, was cause for both celebrating and immortalizing. Camera in hand, Claire did both. That day, Claire found her passion. This new Myrtle Beach resident was off to "dig up" more ancestors. Ignorant, she sought out like-minded, tool-armed people to help. Where to look? Libraries.

At the Waccamaw Neck Branch Library in Pawley's Island, Claire partnered with amateur genealogist John Eveleighly. She defined her goal: to find a patriot ancestor after completing research that qualified for membership in the DAR for herself and her female descendants. They began to work their way backwards along this and that branch of her tree. No luck.

Then, *The Sun News* announced a meeting of the DAR at Chapin Library. Claire shared her frustration with DAR registrar and, like Claire, future GSGC member, Marge McNeil. "Pursue your German line," suggested Marge, "German immigrants fought in the Revolutionary War."

Claire buckled in for the 10-hour drive to Nazareth, PA, and the Moravian Archives. This, her third library, held a dusty box labelled with the surname of her German line: "ETTWEIN." Filled with dusty books and dusty papers, it was a treasure trove! Six generations back

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she found her patriot ancestor, Christian Ettwein!

Son of John Ettwein, Moravian Bishop and so a pacifist, it is John, Claire's seventh generation ancestor who liaised between the new American government and the Moravian Church during the Revolutionary War and so received the letter from George Washington that we reproduce here. Read on...

John Ettwein: Church to State Liaison

Ann Hamilton

Assistant Editor, Genie Bytes, GSGC Member of the Board

Who was this John Ettwein whose request deserved Washington's consideration?

Born in 1721 and the son of a German cobbler,¹ in 1734 he discovered the Moravian Church with its emphasis on communal living, pacifism, and missionary outreach. He began instruction in 1739² and completed one of several mission assignments in England where he also learned the language. Married to Johanetta Maria Kymbel in 1746 and ordained a deacon that same year,³ John's responsibilities increased year by year as did the size of his family with the arrival of a daughter, Anna, in 1749, and the aforementioned son Christian in 1752.⁴



In 1754, the family sailed for America aboard the Moravian ship *Irene*. During the month-long voyage, John and Johanetta were fortunate to have the portraits you see here painted by Moravian artist John Valentine Haidt.⁵ They settled in Bethlehem, PA, and for the next two decades John travelled on horseback to 11 of the 13 original colonies sharing his faith with all who would listen.⁶

In 1766, as assistant to Bishop William Seidel in Bethlehem, Ettwein's command of the English language won him the additional — and very influential

— position of liaison between the Moravian Church and the American government.⁷

By early 1777, many battle-worn American soldiers passed through the nearby Moravian village of Lititz. Citizens willingly gave them food and blankets. By year's end, much more would be asked of the citizenry.⁸

As was the Moravian custom, unwed young women and men dwelt in buildings to the east and west of the parsonage termed the Sisters' House and the Brethren's House. As the Revolutionary War intensified, increasing numbers of now camp-fever-infected soldiers arrived, necessitating that the latter be turned into a hospital.⁹ Soon epidemic, 110 dead were buried in hastily dug unmarked graves at the edge of the community. Lititz' two doctors sickened and so could not dispense medicine. A German doctor from Saxony arrived followed by the superintendent of all hospitals in the region.¹⁰

The village's situation now critical, on March 1, 1778, about 60 healthy soldiers rendezvoused in Lititz. Their behavior was described as "pretty wild and ill-mannered." Meanwhile, word travelled through the community that residents were to vacate the village and settle with like-minded people in Bethlehem and Nazareth so that a general army hospital could be built in Lititz. This, thought Lititz' Bishop Hehl, would cause the thus far hospitable citizens "pain and serious trouble."¹¹

At this point, liaison John Ettwein intervened. He aired the concerns of the citizens of Lititz in his now lost letter of March 25, 1778, to General Washington.

Washington's response of 28 March, transcribed below, was dictated to his secretary, and signed in his own hand. It is notable for its "calm dignity and kindliness" and "reflects the serenity of a great soul."¹²

^{1,2,4,7} Hamilton, Kenneth G. *John Ettwein and the Moravian Church during the Revolutionary Period*. Bethlehem, Pa: Times Pub. Co., 1940, Print, pp.101, 102-103, 107,108.

³Onofrio, Jan. *Pennsylvania Biographical Dictionary*. St. Clair Shores, MI: Somerset Publishers, 1999. Print, p. 368.

⁵_____. "Paintings." *Bethlehem Digital History Project*, 2000-2009. Accessed 14 Jan 2025.

⁶Powell, William S. *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*: Vol. 2. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1986. Print, p. 167.

^{8,9,10,11,12}Beck, Herbert H. *The Military Hospital at Lititz, 1777 – 78*. Lancaster, PA, 1919. Print, pp. 6, 5, 8, 9, 10.

(continued on next two pages)

Headquarters, March 28, 1778

Sir:--I have received your Letter of the 25 inst. by Mr. Haase; setting forth the injury that will be done to the Inhabitants of Letiz by establishing a General Hospital there—it is needless to explain how essential an establishment of this kind is to the Welfare of the Army, and you must be sensible that it cannot be made anywhere, without occasioning inconvenience to some set of people or other—at the same time it is ever my wish & aim that the public Good be effected with as little sacrifice as possible of individual Interests—and I would by no means sanction the imposing any burthens on the people in whose favor you remonstrate, which the public Service does not require. The Arrangement and Distribution of Hospitals depends entirely on Dr. Shippen, and I am persuaded that he will not exert the authority vested in him unnecessarily to your prejudice—it would be proper however to represent to him the circumstances of the inhabitants of Letiz; and you may if you choose it, communicate the Contents of this Letter to him. I am Sir Your most obedt.

Servt.

Go. Washington

Afterword: By 1780, Reverend John Ettwein was the minister at Lititz.¹ In 1782, as the War drew to a close, George Washington and his entourage visited nearby Bethlehem on their way to Philadelphia. At the invitation of Bishop Seidel, John, and other Moravian dignitaries, they dined together. In the evening, Washington attended a service where Reverend Ettwein delivered the sermon.² In 1784, John Ettwein was consecrated Bishop and succeeded Seidel as President of the Governing Board of the Moravian Church in America.³

¹Transou, Plez A. Transou, a Family History: Picardie to Mutterstadt to Pennsylvania to Wachau, Documentation, Hypothesis & Hearsay. Dallas, Texas: The author, 1998. Print, p.15.

²Alderfer, E. G. Northampton Heritage: The Story of an American County. Easton, Pa: Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society, 1953. Print, p. 159.

³Schultze, Augustus. Guide to the Old Moravian Cemetery of Bethlehem, Pa., 1742-1910. Lancaster, Pa: The Society, 1912. Print, p. 5. ♦

Missing an Ancestor? Look West!

Linda McCleary

Vice President, Arizona Genealogical Advisory Board (AzGAB)

Many times, while researching our ancestors, they just “disappear” from where they “should be” located. Is this true with your ancestor? Perhaps the young man or woman in your lineage decided to heed Horace Greeley’s quote, “Go West, young man, go West and grow up with the country.”¹ Opportunities abounded with cheap land; the lure of gold, silver, and precious gems; religious freedom; or just the opportunity to start a new life. Perhaps your ancestor came to Arizona for one of these reasons?

The Arizona Genealogical Advisory Board (AzGAB) is honoring those people and their descendants who lived in the geographical area of what is now Arizona prior to statehood on 14 February 1912 with an [Arizona Pioneer Descendant certificate](#). Certificates will be awarded to a descendant who submits evidence acceptable to AzGAB (vital records, territory or federal census, church records, brand books [livestock markings], city directory listings, etc.). Records showing relationship from the pioneer to the applicant are required for the certificate.

For those ancestors/relatives who lived in Arizona from statehood until 01 April 1950, a [Second Wave Certificate](#) is available. The same chain of descendency is required.

Not sure if your ancestor “was” in Arizona on their way to California, Nevada, or points West? Please use the [Arizona Pioneers Database](#) on the AzGAB website, to see if their names appear. Female names as well as male names are mentioned.

This is a meaningful way to honor your ancestors that includes a print record for descendants. The approved application forms, photos, and accompanying documentation are housed in the Arizona State Archives. A modest fee for the certificate is expected at the time of submission. If two certificates are requested for the same ancestor from different descendants, there is a reduced fee for the second certificate.

Questions? Contact the Arizona Pioneer Descendant Administrator, Peggy Morphew, at certificates@azgab.org

¹[The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations](#). Oxford University Press, TME. 1999. p.351. Retrieved 12 October 2023. ♦

Featured Website

[JewishGen](#) is a free site for Jewish researchers in Eastern Europe and beyond. Non-Jewish people may also be listed on some databases. Collections include East European towns, Jewish surnames, Holocaust victims, a gazetteer of nearly four million localities in 63 countries and so much more. It even includes records preserved from war-torn Ukraine. ♦

Featured Book

Lennon, Rachel Mills. *Tracing Ancestors Among the Five Civilized Tribes*. Genealogical Publishing Company, 2009. Have you had trouble tracing your Native American roots? This is a great reference/resource book to peruse with an excellent bibliography. Find that elusive Native American princess or warrior your grandmother told you about! ♦

Did You Know?

According to Gail Reynolds, [Godfrey Memorial Library](#) in Connecticut offers remote access to online digital content for various inexpensive membership fees with access to many services including, *MyHeritage*, *AGBI*, *HeritageHub* obituary database, books, website links, tens of thousands of unique records, etc. You might find something useful for your research. ♦

**Have a tip/tidbit you'd like to share? Please submit it to genieclub2002@gmail.com – Subject: “Tip/Tidbit.” We'd love to hear from you. **

State Guides

Alabama

(Source: State Guide Alabama by Martin, S. Originally published in the Jan/Feb 2023/Vol.24, Issue 1, P. 33 of *Family Tree Magazine*)

Statehood: 1819

First federal census: 1830

Birth and death records begin: 1881 (county); 1908 (state)

Marriage records begin: varies (county); 1936 (state)

Contact for vital records:

AL Public Health, Center for Health Statistics. ♦

Oregon

(Source: State Guide Oregon by Handsaker, J. Originally published in the Jan/Feb 2023/Vol.24, Issue 1, P.37 of *Family Tree Magazine*)

Statehood: 1859

First federal census: 1850

Birth and death records begin: 1903 (state)

Marriage records begin: 1906 (state)

Contact for vital records:

OR Health Authority, Center for Health Statistics. ♦

Dear Miss Genie

No questions received this quarter. ♦

**Do you have a question for Miss Genie? Why not send it to her at genieclub2002@gmail.com – Subject: "Miss Genie." She would love to hear from you. **

SOUTH CAROLINA GRAND STRAND GENEALOGY CLUB (SCGSGC)

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► Become involved. Shadow a Board member. We welcome you. ◀

Lanyards (\$5 ID Badge Holder + 2 Ribbons. Additional Ribbons \$.25 each) – See Marie Peacock or email the Club at genieclub2002@gmail.com to order

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GSGC MONTHLY MEETINGS

PLACE: CHAPIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY/VIA ZOOM

TIME: 10 A.M.

PRESENTATIONS:

- February 8: Naturalization: Rules, Records, and Repositories — Katherine Wilson
- March 8: Researching State and National Archives — Christine Davis
- April 12: ZOOM ONLY PRESENTATION: One-Step Website — Steve Morse

GENEALOGY MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

The International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (ISBGFH) Caribbean Research for Your British Ancestors – March 24, 2025. Virtual Spring Conference 2025 with a focus on Caribbean research. Join experts Dan Poffenberger and Todd Knowles as they instruct attendees on how best to research Caribbean ancestry. Registration now open. Check website for details. ♦

International German Genealogy Partnership (IGGP) 2025 Conference – June 12 – 15, 2025. IGGP's 5th biennial conference hosted by The Palatines to America German Genealogy Society (PalAm) being held both virtually/in-person in Columbus, Ohio. Learn about and celebrate your German-speaking ancestors from top experts in the field of German genealogy. Check website for details. ♦

** Please visit **ConferenceKeeper** for the most complete "Calendar and Collection of Genealogy Events" on the Internet. This is your chance to attend a meeting virtually you may have been unable to attend onsite because of its distance or cost. **

MEETINGS

2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at:

Chapin Library (*FamilySearch* Affiliate Library)

400 14th Avenue North, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Meetings held both at Chapin Library and via ZOOM

Email - genieclub2002@gmail.com

Website - www.scgsgc.org

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Note: Please send your questions/suggestions/feedback to genieclub2002@gmail.com - Subject: "Newsletter."

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