



Johannes Schwalm Historical Association, Inc.



P.O. Box 127
Scotland, PA 17254-0127

May 2012

Dear Members and Friends of JSHA,

You are cordially invited to attend the 38th Annual Meeting of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association billed as "Hessian Heritage Day" on Sunday, July 15, 2012 at Valley View Park, Valley View, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania beginning at 10:00 a.m. Admission is free to all and all are encouraged to register at the registration booth upon arrival. This event will be held rain or shine as pavilions and trees offer shelter and shade. The event is open to descendants of Hessian soldiers who fought in the American Revolution and other interested persons.

Genealogy, history, folklore, fun, fellowship and food are the ingredients for the Hessian Heritage Day which will this year attempt to connect the American Revolution to the Civil War. The event is open to the public. This year members are encouraged to participate in a Share Fair by bringing their business card, brochure, collection or product and by setting up their lawn chair, card table, canopy or booth to share their hobby, interest or craft. Membership interests include antiques, American Chestnuts, auctions, cooking, diabetes, history, quilting, potatoes, singing and unusual arts. Register by July 1 and fill the space along the driveways of the park with interests for all to see. In addition, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, an encampment has been planned with special recognition being given to descendants of Samuel Schwalm, Frederick S. Schwalm, and Israel Klinger, husband of Caroline Schwalm, (all three grandchildren of Hessian Johannes Schwalm) who fought in the Civil War. Camp demonstrations will be provided by Barry and Faye Stocker of Klingerstown and Mark Schlegel (descendant of Frederick S. Schwalm) who participates in a Coopers Battery Re-enactment Group. Dana R. Osterman of Washington Crossing Park will provide colonial and Civil War era demonstrations of blacksmithing. Luanne Curry Reese will share a reading of the letters of Elizabeth Schwalm, wife of Captain Samuel Schwalm and discuss Native American plant lore. Special recognition will also be given to the Peter Schwalm branch honoring the memory of William (Bill) Tallman who passed away in 2011. Bill Tallman, a JSHA board member, was responsible for bean soup at our annual picnic. Live music will be provided by Banjo Bob of Lebanon from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Banjo Bob will perform

Pennsylvania German folksongs and Civil War Era music throughout the park and on stage. Children's activities include a playground, games, stories, and a piñata party at 1:00 p.m.

This year's journal, *The Hessians*, is filled with an interesting array of well-researched articles from many authors, some familiar to our regular readers, and others published in the journal for the first time. Of particular interest are a transcript of the diary of Johannes Reuber, private in the Grenadier Regt. Rall; a comprehensive account on the Hessen Cassel Feld Jaegers; a story of the Hessians, from soldiers to fur trading voyageurs; an article on German officers at Yorktown; a piece on the Hessen Hanau Jaegers at the siege of Ft Stanwix and the Battle of Oriskany; a description of Von Scheither Recruits in the 35th Regiment of Foot; and an article on the hiring of German troops by the British. Along with the ever popular *All in the Family* as well as fun and familiar recipes, it promises to be a very informative journal.

If you have paid your 2012 annual membership, you will receive your membership card in this mailing and you will be able to pick up your 2012 issue of *The Hessians: Journal of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association* at the annual meeting (or it will be mailed to you the following week). If you have not yet paid your 2012 membership dues please complete and mail the enclosed renewal form! The special monograph entitled *The Civil War Letters and Experience of Samuel Schwalm of the 50th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment* will also be available as well as past publications of JSHA. Mike Gabriel, JSHA board member will have his new book available on the Hessians in Bennington, Vermont. The CD updating the descendants of Johannes Schwalm and Allied families by Don Reed will also be available for \$25. Arrangements can be made to have this CD printed at cost for those not computer savvy.

Exhibits for Hessian Heritage Day include a replica of a Hessian Fusilier Hat, watercolor paintings of the original Schwalm Valley costumes, an actual costume from the Schwalm Valley, Hesse, Germany, original letters of Captain Samuel Schwalm and more. Family members are encouraged to bring items for display, especially everyday items from the past. A special table will be entitled "What is it?" and will be located near the guessing games of the day. Items need to be brought to this table by 10:30 a.m. Other guessing games will help defray the cost of the day's events. The sales booth will offer the 2012 Journal, the Samuel Schwalm Monograph, *The Hessians of Lewis Miller*, the autobiography of Theodore R. Schwalm, *Memories of My life*, JSHA Journals from 1977 through 2012, badges and other related items including yellow caps and t-shirts with the JSHA logo.

Other than the British National Archives in Kew, England, JSHA is the only source of the minutes of the British Navy Board for the Revolutionary War period. JSHA continues to research and film material, including the Navy Board minutes from The National Archives (TNA) in Kew, England. JSHA welcomes donations to continue this project. Donations above and beyond the annual dues may be sent to JSHA at the above address.

Many attendees bring their own picnic lunches. Traditional bean soup is cooked in a large iron kettle and hot dogs and beverages are available for sale. The day will conclude with a business meeting and program beginning at 1:30 p.m., followed by a “Kaffeeklatsch” with coffee and punch provided. Donations of cookies, pies or cakes would be appreciated to share with all following the program.

Valley View Park is located in Valley View, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, 8 miles west of I-81, Exit 112. Follow Route 25 toward Hegins to Gap Street in Valley View and turn left toward the gap in the mountain. Directional signs will be posted. For further information and to register to participate in the Share Fair, contact N. Daniel Schwalm, JSHA Vice-President and Annual Meeting Coordinator, at shamokinschwalm@verizon.net. We hope to see you and your family at the Annual Meeting and Share Fair on Sunday, July 15, 2012.

Sincerely,

Linda B. Schwalm

Membership Chairperson and Annual Meeting Committee

P. S. For those arriving in the area on Saturday, Klinger’s Church, Erdman, PA (where Johannes Schwalm was treasurer in 1803) has its annual picnic open to the public on Saturday evening with a Chicken Barbeque (also soups, sandwiches and homemade pies) from 4:00 p.m. - ? To attend, follow Route 25 to Sacramento to the brick church, bear right and follow Fearnot Road along the ridge until you see Klinger’s Church on the opposite ridge in the middle of the Valley (about 5 miles). Turn left and follow this road past Klinger’s Church to picnic grove on the left (about 1/2 mile from the church). Ample parking is available in the field opposite the grove. Check the JSHA website for lodging suggestions. Exits on I-81 with lodging include Pine Grove, Gordon, and Frackville.

NDS/lbs