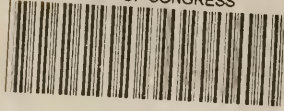


E 268

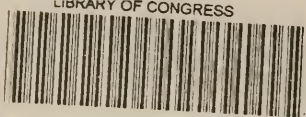
.K27

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 005 319 596 9

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 005 319 596 9



Hollinger
pH 8.5
Mill Run F3-1955

THE HESSIAN PRISON CAMP.

Reading, Pennsylvania,

1776-1783.

Proceedings attending presentation of
Gold Medal at the Girls' High School by

Mrs. DeB. Randolph Keim,

on

Washington's Birthday,

February 22, 1910.



E 268
.K 27

C O N T E N T S.

-oOo-

Mrs. De B. Randolph Keim, Regent, Berks County (Reading) Pennsylvania Chapter and Honorary Vice President National Society D. A. R.	Frontispiece.
How we kept the Hessians on our mountain side,	5
Mrs. Keim's Washington's Birthday address on presenting the Chapter Gold Medal to the Girls' High School winner of the prize for the best essay upon an American Revolution subject,	7
Miss S. Helen Ahren's Prize Essay,	19
Wellington Bertolet's Address,	45
Judge Stephens' Remarks,	47
Comments,	49

MS
Mrs De B. R. Keim



Mrs. Randolph Keim.



5.

HOW WE KEPT THE HESSIANS

ON OUR MOUNTAIN SIDE

MRS. KEIM TELLS OF DARK DAYS
OF REVOLUTION, WHEN OVER
1000 HIRED SOLDIERS LIVED
IN HUTS ON MT. PENN—CON-
GRESS SHOULD TAKE NOTICE.



THE READING HERALD

Established 1881.

WILLIAM McCORMICK.....Editor and Proprietor

HERALD BUILDING, 13 N. 5TH ST.



READING, PA., FEBRUARY 22, 1910.

At the Girls' High School this morning, Mrs. DeB. Randolph Keim made a stirring address on the part that Reading played in the Revolution. She said:

As we gather in commemorative celebration of the birth of the hero of heroes to whom we owe the liberty and independence of this great republic it is remarkable that the event has no recognition by enactment of the American Congress.

Of all the governments of the world the United States is the only one without a distinctively National holiday made so by royal order or statute. Notwithstanding the festive occasions we enjoy in the course of the year not even the Fourth of July, the day of all days in our National calendar, is made an occasion of observance by National legislation.



It does seem that the patriotic spirit of the American people should see that formal statutory recognition be given to events like the birth of Washington and the Declaration of Independence but the composite form of our government and partisan harping upon constitutional abstractions would probably interpose obstacles and controversy which the people of continental United States have removed by giving these patriotic assemblies the prestige of state law and universal consent. Each state, however, has its own holidays under its own laws

ALL THE STATES OBSERVE IT.

Although thus limited in our own particular enjoyment of this happy occasion 45 other states, the Federal District and two territories are with us in a spontaneous outburst of patriotic fervor signaling the destiny shaping event associated with the birth of George Washington, a son of the old Dominion and common heritage of us all.

This assemblage of youth and beauty and their elders as witnesses of their advance in education and true American spirit shows that the beacon of patriotism is ablaze in the schools, among the people of Reading and upon every hill-top of Berks.

In the preliminaries of war with the crown, Berks was in the front rank, sending six deputies to represent it in the provincial meeting at Philadelphia on July 15, 1774, about nine months before the Lexington clash of arms.

BERKS TO THE FRONT.

When he took command in July, 1775, of the unorganized fighting material besieging Boston, Washington was 43 years of age. As I have shown upon a former occasion the spirit of the independence of Berks was represented on the battle front within 15 days of his assuming command by report of George Nagle's company of Riflemen, where they acted as sharp-shooters picking off British officers to such an extent that they became the pride of the army.



11.

In all the activities of war which followed Berks county and Reading were important factors. Although never within the area of actual fighting they were decidedly within the sphere of influence which contributed substantially to results. Something has been said along this line in a local way but let us see what the Continental Congress had to say. The Journal of that body on Feb. 19, 1776, five and a half months before the Declaration of Independence entered upon its minutes an indebtedness of 11 pounds, 14 shillings and 6 pence due to the committee of Berks county for provisions, ammunition, etc., furnished the rifle companies.

On the 30th of the same month \$900 were advanced to Captain Nelson's company of rifles on their march to Reading on the way to Albany for service in Canada where they were to join a regiment. An additional \$700 was sent to the committee of inspection at Reading with orders to pay one month's wages to non-commissioned officers and soldiers of that company upon their arrival at Reading.

PRISONERS SENT TO READING.

On Feb. 6, 1776, the Continental Congress mentions a letter announcing the arrival of a number of prisoners at Reading and a request to know how they were to be supported. The next day a committee of Congress had a conference with David Franks about victualling the king's troops lately brought to Reading. In order to comply Franks was authorized to sell his bills for that purpose.

On the 28th of the same month Congress, by resolution, authorized the committee of inspection and observation of Berks county in Pennsylvania to contract for the subsistence of prisoners in Reading not supplied by Franks together with the women and children belonging to all the prisoners there. Also to supply them with firewood and

other things absolutely necessary to their support.



The following May the committee of Berks county was charged by Congress with \$758 for military purposes.

WANTED MORE OF OUR TROOPS.

In July Congress passed a resolution asking the committee of Berks to hasten the march of troops to the front with power to muster them and draw one month's pay.

Owing to the reverses around New York and retreat across New Jersey the occupation of Philadelphia by the enemy being threatened on July 10, 1776. Congress ordered all prisoners of war in the town of Reading to be removed to Lancaster for greater security.

Realizing the importance of a master stroke of arms in order to keep his army together and revive the courage of the people, much disheartened by the events of the year, Washington suddenly crossed the Delaware on Christmas night of 1776 in a wild storm of snow and drifting ice with 2400 Continentals, and surprised 1200 Hessians at Trenton, New Jersey, while Rall, their commander, and a party of friends were enjoying an all-night bout of wine drinking and cards. The surrender to Washington of over 1000 Hessians and death of Rall was accomplished with the loss of but two soldiers killed and two frozen.

HESSIANS WERE SENT HERE.

The Hessians taken at Trenton, in order to prevent being recovered by the British, who were in force at Princeton and points nearby, were conducted by Washington on his return march for the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware and for their better security were sent under guard to the interior. The entire captured force comprised 750 soldiers, one lieutenant colonel, two majors, four captains and 15 subalterns, besides material of war, three standards, six cannon and 1000 stands of arms.

These Hessian prisoners were first marched to Lancaster, whence they were sent to Reading and placed in prison barracks under guard in the southern part of the town. On April



15.
26, 1777, the Continental Congress reported due John Biddle \$955 for weekly allowance paid to officers and men prisoners of war and their women and children at Reading, at the rate of ten pence per ration.

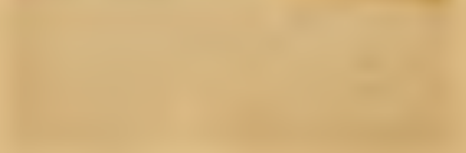
LAID UP STORES FOR ARMY.

In February of the following year Congress, deeming it expedient and necessary to lay up magazines of provisions for the support of the army, directed eight thousand barrels of flour to be deposited at or near Reading. Under this requisition, the Assembly of Pennsylvania appointed commissioners in Berks to purchase or seize wheat flour and other provisions. In March, 1778, the Continental Congress requested the government of Pennsylvania to station 500 militia, under active and prudent officers, 200 of whom were placed at Reading for the defense of the magazines and other stores, and to hold themselves in communication with the main army and secure from sudden incursion of the enemy until the board of war or General Washington could discharge them.

Although Reading had the care of prisoners of war and furnished the prison guard from among its own citizens from the beginning of military operations, the Hessians captured at Trenton were the first in large numbers sent there for safety. At one time the Continental stable at Reading, a structure about 175 feet long and 20 wide, with a store house adjoining almost as large, were suggested for prison barracks, but the annoyance of such a large body of captured Hessians in the town led to a proposition from President Reed, of Pennsylvania, that huts be built and a prison camp established a short distance from Reading, where wood and water were convenient.

CAMP MADE ON MT. PENN.

Colonel Morgan is mentioned as having urged a piece of ground which had belonged to the Proprietaries. This led to the selection of the tract about



a fair mile east of the town, on the southern declivity of now Mount Penn, where huts were erected, to which the prisoners were removed and a guard stationed over them.

In 1780 the prisoners of war at Reading, nearly all Hessians, numbered 100. In the summer of 1781, 1100, all Hessians except 63 English, were delivered at Reading, and six companies of the enrolled militia of Berks were called out as guard.

1781

At the surrender of the British army at Yorktown, Virginia, 1921 Hessians were among the 8100 prisoners of war captured. Washington sent the entire force, under strong escort, to Frederick, Md., and soon after to Lancaster. A number of these Hessians were transferred to the prison camp at Mt. Penn, Reading.

KEPT HERE TILL WAR ENDED.

In February, 1872, the county lieutenant of Berks was ordered to call out the first class of county militia to guard them. The camp was maintained until the final determination of peace in 1783 and the last foreign soldiers had left the soil of the free and independent United States of America.

1782

As late as 1841 many of the prison huts of the Hessians were standing. This interesting spot is to this day known as the "Hessian Camp." As the Congress of the United States has now before it a bill for the building of two memorial arches at Valley Forge, at a cost of \$50,000, it would be very proper to make proper recognition, in some suitable way, of the services of the citizens of Reading in forming, out of their own number, a guard sufficient to secure more than 1100 prisoners of the army taken in battle and covering a period of seven long years.



ESSAY THAT WON PRIZE

IS THAT OF MISS AHRENS

SHE GIVES AN INTERESTING
STORY OF THE PART PLAYED
BY INDIANS IN REVOLUTION
AND OF THE BLOODSHED THEY
CAUSED TO THE AMERICANS.

Miss Helen Ahrens wrote the prize-winning essay in the D. A. R. contest at the Girls' High School yesterday. It is as follows:

As the French formed an alliance with the Indians during the war of 1755, so now the British sought an alliance with those whom twenty years before they attempted to destroy. The American colonists feared this union, for they knew the nature of Indian warfare.

They knew that an Indian was not a brave, open fighter, but a cowardly, treacherous one; he would lie in concealment for days, sometimes for weeks, awaiting a chance of shooting his foe unseen, rather than forming into ranks and fighting face to face. With him a flame of hatred was quick to kindle the fire of revenge; and as every white man knew, an Indian, once aroused, was untiring in seeking the destruction of his enemies and merciless in dealing with his captives.



INDIANS LOVED WAR.

In this struggle between the American Colonies and their mother country, the Indians should have, of course, remained neutral. The quarrel did not concern them. But they loved war. To an Indian war was a delight, an accomplishment, and even more than that; it was the very source of all things honorable and glorious. Yet in the first year of the Revolution the Indians were not especially active. It may have been that they were undecided, for appeals were constantly being made to them from both sides.

The Americans were the first to realize the important part which the Iroquois might play if the quarrel came to a clash of arms. Even before the battle of Lexington, the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts formed a company of Stockbridge Indians as minute-men. They also made an address to the Mohawkee, requesting them to "whet the hatchet" for war against the English.

TRIED TO HIRE INDIANS.

The Continental Congress, too, declared it "highly expedient to engage Indians in the services of the United Colonies." Authority was conferred upon Washington to employ 2000 Indians in Canada; the Six Nations were to be engaged upon the best terms possible; and instructions for devising ways and means were given to the committee on Indian affairs.

Up to this time the English seemed reluctant to make use of the savages; but declaring that they were simply following the example of the colonies, by June, 1775, the British agent, Sir William Johnson, was already winning over the powerful Six Nations. In an address to the Indians, Halimond said: "Now is the time for you to help the King. The war has begun. Assist the King now and you will find it to your advantage.

ACTS OF PROVIDENCE.

"Go now and fight for your possessions and whatever you lose of your



property during the war, the King will make up to you when peace returns." George III and his ministers, more than any other Englishmen, favored this plan of engaging the services of the Indians. "His majesty," one of his advisers said, "wishes to take advantage of every means which Providence places in his hands." Evidently he considered the wholesale slaughter of innocent women and children, the burning of their homes and the devastation of property, acts of Providence.

Very soon the employment of Indians was undisguised on both sides. In the colonies Schuyler was made the head of the Indian commission which tried to counteract Johnson's influence with the Indians. They convened a council at which five hundred Indians, finely dressed, were present. Gifts were distributed among them and they agreed not to take up arms for either side.

BRITISH WON THEM.

Four other tribes, in an address to the President of Congress, said that they hoped a state of friendship might "continue as long as the sun shall shine and the waters run." Yet the British, by promises of magnificent rewards, succeeded in winning for themselves the majority of the Indian forces. They maintained that the Indians adhered to them because of a personal attachment to the Johnson's and an earnest loyalty to the crown; the Americans insisted it was because of a selfish desire to support the side on which there was most to gain and least to lose.

The English ministry had great hopes of its Indian allies, who were to play an important part in Burgoyne's invasion, spreading death and terror along the line of march. The King himself insisted that no restraint be put upon the natural impulses of the red men; and they were even encouraged in their bloody work, for the British government paid for every scalp they secured. Burgoyne, however, was not quite so barbarous.



SCALPED THEIR ENEMIES.

He commanded them not to scalp their enemies unless they were dead. The Indians promised, but when they got to work, with no red-coated officer to look after them, they went on in their old way; and Burgoyne was no longer particular to inquire whether the victims, whose scalps were brought to him, were living or dead.

The news of the result of Burgoyne's invasion caused unusual excitement, for the British had taken the savages into their service, professing to be able to control them, and now they showed that they had not the least influence upon them. This feeling of disquiet was heightened by a pathetic tragedy which occurred just at this time. "A beautiful young woman, Jane McCrea, engaged in marriage to a member of Burgoyne's army, was on her way to join her love, when she was killed and scalped by a band of Indians and her beautiful tresses carried into the

British camp as a trophy."

INDIANS MAKE TROUBLE.

Disturbances were experienced at times all along the frontier, but until 1779 affairs were not serious. Now, however, the Indians plunged into the conflict in earnest. They began to concentrate their forces in the valley of Wyoming. Rumor after rumor reached the settlers that the Indians were preparing an attack. They repeatedly asked Congress to send home the soldiers who were absent in the Continental army, but were refused each time.

One day two Indian spies came to Wyoming, pretending a visit of friendship. They were suspected and closely watched. An old companion of one gave the Indian so much drink that his tongue was loosened and all their plans revealed. People in the outer settlements fled to the forts and the wives of the soldiers sent messengers begging them to come home. Still Congress could not let the companies go.



PEOPLE WERE BUTCHERED.

Now came the attack on the little band of old men and boys and the few soldiers left, made by a number of Tories with a large force of Seneca warriors, commanded by the Tory leader, John Butler, a man as merciless as the most ferocious of the Indians. For a time the defenders bravely kept up the unevenly matched struggle, but at

a critical moment they were thrown into confusion by a mistaken order; then a sudden charge of the Indians caused a panic. Women and children, seeing the disaster that had overtaken the soldiers, fled to the woods and mountains, many of them dying of starvation. The retreating army pressed towards the river. A few swam to safety. Others were shot down in the water. Many were lured to the shore by the promise of quarter and then butchered.

There were several narrow escapes. One man running through the woods, pursued by Indians, crept into the trunk of a hollow tree lying on the ground. Immediately a spider began weaving its web over the opening. The Indians came up and sat down on the log. One even stooped to look inside, but the spider's web satisfied him that nobody had passed within and he did not investigate further.

GIRL RAISED BY CAPTORS.

One of the captives taken during the massacre was a little girl whose brothers survived the dreadful day. They often wondered concerning her fate. Sixty years passed by, the brothers had become wealthy men, when they heard that a captive woman was living with Indians in the far away Illinois country. They traveled thither, inquired for her and recognized their long lost sister. She was invited to

return with them, but, knowing only an Indian's life and having been kindly treated, she desired to spend her last days with her captors.



Other sections besides Wyoming suffered. Urged by British agents, who stopped at nothing, the savages struck whenever opportunity offered. Joseph Brant, the famous Mohawk chieftain, a relative by blood of Johnson, promised to aid the English, and true to his promise, gave valuable assistance.

BURNED THE SETTLEMENTS.

In November during a driving snow storm, a force of Tories, under Walter Butler and Indians under Brant, descended upon Cherry Valley, which was unprepared for defence. Sixteen soldiers were put to death and twice as many women and children. Forty were taken prisoners and led, only half clad, on a long march through a bitterly cold storm, suffering untold misery. Following this attack, the Indians burned the settlement of Laxawaxen, besides other houses in the Delaware Valley, and appeared on the Mohawk, killing and capturing a few there.

To punish the atrocities of the Indians at Wyoming and other places, Sullivan was sent into the Indian country in center New York against the Iroquois or Six Nations, nearly all of whom had been guilty of frightful outrages. In August, 1779, the battle

of Newton was fought between Sullivan's army and the Iroquois under Brant.

FOUGHT LIKE VETERANS.

Fire was opened by Sullivan's artillery, a form of warfare especially terrible to an Indian, for whom the noise of a cannon had exceptional horrors. Brant's conduct in this conflict was worthy of great praise. Such was the commanding presence of the great Iroquois captain, and such the confidence he inspired, that his undisciplined warriors fought like veterans, as shot went whizzing through the tree tops and ploughing the earth beneath them.

At last the Indians were forced from behind the rocks and trees where they



had fortified themselves, but under Brant's skillful leadership, made a hasty retreat and were saved from destruction. Sullivan now burned more than forty Indian villages, destroyed the Indian power and laid waste the harvest fields so ruthlessly that what had once been a fertile and well-cultivated country, was now a dreary desert.

LASTED TO END OF WAR.

During the next year of the war, 1780, the Indians descended on the frontier again and again, leaving it as desolate as their own land had been. The main war scenes were centered in

the Mohawk and Schoharie Valleys; but all these are not by any means the only struggles in which the Indians were participants. Those raids, invasions and battles would be far too numerous to mention here, for up to the very end of the war the Indians served their party constantly and faithfully.

The Americans, it is true, gained no military advantage by the employment of the Indians. The number which remained loyal to them, only 230, was so small as to make but little difference. For this reason, authors generally omit the part played by the Indians on the American side during the Revolutionary war.

But with the English it was different. They could use their large force of Indians, nearly 1600, to the greatest advantage, for they were in the enemy's country. The natural impulse of the red men to murder and scalp, burn and devastate, wherever they went, could injure only the colonists. Yet England showed the basest ingratitude to her savage allies. The magnificent promises made at the beginning of the war were not fulfilled, and no sooner was the war ended, than she lost all interest in those who had aided her so well.

SATISFIED WITH BLOODSHED.

The Indians had fully satisfied their cravings for active warfare in this long struggle, and now, reduced in numbers



and suffering severe losses, but still dauntless and undismayed, they returned to their homes, some to build anew the villages and huts and restore the crops among which the ravages of war had worked such havoc, others to resume their more peaceful labors and hunting sports, or to follow more closely in the foot steps of their neighbors, the white men.



35

NOW THEN FOR A MODEL CITY

WASHINGTON MADE ONE

MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO—IT
IS NOT TOO LATE FOR READING
TO RISE TO THE OCCASION—
MR. BERTOLET MAKES AP-
PEAL FOR A BETTER TOWN.

At the Girls' High School celebra-
day Wellington M. Bertolet drew a
splendid lesson from George Washing-



Wellington M. Bertolet.



tion of Washington's Birthday yesterday and applied it to Reading. His address in full was as follows:

We Americans have faith in great men. A century of history has produced for us a list of great names that a nation thrice as old would be proud of. To appreciate and publicly to honor our national heroes has become a distinct and proper part of our education. And yet, perfect faith and the most devout hero worship will bear but scabby fruit unless rooted in such detailed study of the acts and thoughts of the men we worship as will liberate and enliven our own sleeping minds.

HERO WORSHIP A FARCE.

The general idea of greatness is, of course, inspiring, but if we want really to profit by the life of a great man, we must become industrious diggers into the details of his life. There we shall often be surprised and delighted to find acts done and thoughts expressed that just fit our own purposes. Under the guidance of our heroes we are filled with confidence and we advance. When this happens our faith is justified and immensely profitable. If it does not happen, we find ourselves looking up to a few heroes surrounded by a world of "unheroes," and hero-worship becomes a pitiable farce.

This birthday that we are celebrating finds the progressive portion of the citizens of Reading deeply interested in the development of a healthier and more beautiful city. We are tiring of a vista of red roofs; narrow, filthy, nauseating streets; public buildings—the Library, City Hall, Court House, this school—choked by adjoining buildings. We are tiring of seeing children chased like little criminals from the streets, their only playgrounds.

TIRED OF UNPLEASANT THINGS.

We are tiring of everything that makes our city unpleasant and unhealthy to live in. In this mode, is it not encouraging to find that the man we honor today selected the site and personally approved the plans of the



model city of this country and one of the most beautiful in the world?

The founding of our Federal capitol is an interesting chapter in American history, too hastily disposed of in school histories by the phrase, "The capitol was removed from Philadelphia to Washington." As a matter of fact the planning of the city and the building of the first capitol was so thoroughly and wisely done that we cannot afford to pass it by without close study.

With the government organized and Philadelphia considered only a temporary Federal home, Washington became intensely interested in the selection of a permanent capitol. He naturally

turned to the low hills along the Potomac, ground where he had hunted and surveyed as a youth.

EVEN READING WANTED IT.

He persuaded Jefferson of the great possibilities of the location, pictured the capitol surrounded by an amphitheatre of hills with the Potomac at its feet, and finally won congressional approval of the site. This was not accomplished, however, without a long and trying fight. Pennsylvania wanted the capitol at Philadelphia; New York at New York; Massachusetts at Boston. Our own Mr. Keim is authority for the fact that the citizens of Reading presented a petition to Congress asking that the Federal capital be located here.

But Washington's judgment in establishing it away from commercial interests and influences of the larger cities has certainly been vindicated.

With the site chosen Washington at once called upon Pierre Charles L'Enfants, a noted French architect, who came to America with Lafayette. Under Washington's personal supervision this Frenchman drew plans for the city. He avoided the chess-board effect, so rigidly adhered to in most of our cities, by cutting broad avenues all converging at the plot set apart for the capitol building.

WASHINGTON AT HEAD.

He provided public parks in various



parts of the city, and these parks to-day are just where L'Enfants placed them in his plans in 1791. The actual laying out of the city and the construction of the first capitol building was done under the supervision of three commissioners, but Washington was in constant touch with the work, and his many letters to the commissioners and trips to the Federal city show what a keen interest he took in it.

On September 18, 1793, Washington as President and as a past master of the Masonic order, laid his hand on the foundation of the first capitol, a building of marvelous grandeur, simplicity and convenience, suggested by the purest of all architecture, the Parthenon.

It typified the noble simplicity and strength of the American people at that time when they must have realized that to perpetuate the government they must build solidly and well. Washington, despite the absorbing duties of his office, found time personally to oversee the construction of the capitol building. Every chance he got, he slipped over to the Federal city and viewed the work, with all the interest of a man building his first house.

NEVER SAW IT FINISHED.

He pressed for an early completion, saying, "It is the progress of that building that is to inspire or depress public confidence." Unfortunately, when he last beheld the city shortly before his death in 1799, the capitol was unfinished, but he had laid his plans so well that it rose as a model of thoroughness, foresight, judgment and genius in city building that is a credit to the whole nation.

A century ago Washington provided for the Federal city public parks and

wide streets that we of Reading are now demanding. When the city of Washington wanted playgrounds for its children, spacious lots for its public buildings, it found them on L'Enfant's plan.



When the city of Reading wants playgrounds for its children or vacant lots around its public buildings, it is confronted by petty political considerations, lagging charity and much discouragement from the very sources that control the immediate situation—all difficulties which strongly organized public sentiment alone can overcome.

WOMEN CAN DO MUCH.

In creating public sentiment not only with the capacity, but with the energy to bring about civic improvement, I can think of no more certain influence than that of the women of our city, especially the young active women.

Women have a way of getting what they want by some secret process unknown to men. If they don't get it, it's because they don't want it hard enough. I wish they would all want clean, broad and well-paved streets. I wish they would all want a new library, a new court house and a new city hall. If they really want these things and make their wants publicly known, the men who have the great privilege of representing us in our electoral bodies will soon acquiesce and public sentiment will be marshalled beyond denial.

A SERIOUS HANDICAP.

Of course we start with a serious handicap. We have lived together so long that we have grown to be like each other. It seems to be pretty well recognized that many years of companionship not only make husband and wife think alike, but actually look alike. At the present time the people of Reading are certainly afflicted with a sameness of thought, at least, to a remarkable degree—a thought willing to tolerate civic backwardness. If we keep on living together in this mode we shall not only grow alike in our thoughts, but we shall all melt into a lump of capacity without energy.

Our problem is to avoid this lump by communing with great men so that we too may take on greatness of thought and manner.



MEDAL FOR MISS AHRENS

Went to Ready & a
SHE WRITES BEST ESSAY
Feb 22 1910

ON HISTORICAL SUBJECT AND IS
PRESENTED WITH GOLD MEDAL
BY BERKS D. A. R.—PLAN TO
MARK AN HISTORIC LOCAL
SPOT IS ALSO ANNOUNCED.

Despite unfavorable weather conditions, scores of patriotic and public spirited citizens flocked to the High School for Girls to attend the D. A. R. exercises in honor of the birthday anniversary of the "Father of Our Country," this morning.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. William E. Harr. The entire school then joined their voices in singing "Speed Our Republic." Miss Rose C. Kessler then favored the audience with the piano solo "Liebestraum," by Liszt and "Pasquinade," by Gottschalk. Miss Ethel Staples then followed with a vocal solo, "The Flower of Dumb-lane." "Impromptu in A flat," by Schubert was rendered by Miss Carrie M. Cramp.

Here Miss Mayer, principal of the Girls' High School, introduced Wellington M. Bertolet as the speaker of the day. He spoke in part as follows:

TAUGHT US FAITH.

"During the past 14 years the D. A. R. of Berks county has taught us how to have great faith in our noble men.



We have many great heroes and greatness in itself is an incentive to faith. But this greatness is increased all the more by learning completely the facts of history surrounding these men.

"We are now in the presence of a movement which clamors for a better, cleaner city. We are tiring of the narrow streets, tiring of children being chased out of the streets, their only playground.

"Washington was an advocate of the noble and beautiful in homes and public buildings. He supervised the building of the capitol at Washington, one of the most beautiful buildings in the country. He chose the site—the hills along the Potomac.

MADE THINGS BEAUTIFUL.

"On Sept. 18, 1793, Washington laid his hand on the foundation of the first capitol building in this country. It was a noble building, modeled after the Parthenon. Playgrounds were provided for the children and everything was in good order.

"When we of Reading want playgrounds we are confronted with petty political fusses, with parsimonious charity and with numerous other drawbacks. We must appeal to the women in this work. The women always seem, in some way or other, to be able to get whatever they want. But probably they are not interested enough in the work. We have lived so long together in Reading that we have grown to be like each other. We fail to realize our needs.

"Now let us commune with great men like Washington and endeavor to take on the greatness of their thought and manner."

The Girls' High School chorus then rendered "Be Glad Lass and Lad," by Gumbert. Two more numbers were demanded of them by the audience.

THE ESSAY WINNERS.

Hon. William Kerper Stevens was then introduced as the chairman of the examining committee in the prize essay contest held by the D. A. R. He



commended highly the efficiency of the essays and congratulated the members of the faculty to whom much of the credit for the good showing in the contest was due. He then announced that essay No. 4 was adjudged best and essay No. 6 was given honorable mention.

Miss Sara Spang Miller then rendered "A Love Song" by Roma, and "Rockin' in de Wind," by Neidlinger. She was ably accompanied by Miss Elsie Hansen.

Mrs. DeB. Randolph Keim, regent of the Berks County Chapter, D. A. R., then told of the history of the chapter. She said that it was sixth in point of organization in the United States. Ever since its beginning it has been doing things.

"The society has been organized to recognize the work and perpetuate the memory of the foremothers of our country. In searching history we can find records of splendid heroism on the part of our foremothers."

HESSIAN CAMP MEMORIAL.

She then said that the chapter proposed erecting a memorial at the Hessian camp the historic landmark on Mt. Penn. This will be done within a year from now.

Mrs. Keim's admirable historical sketch appears elsewhere.

Mrs. Keim then introduced Miss S. Helen Ahrens, contestant No. 4, and presented her with the D. A. R. medal. Miss Elizabeth Van Haagen proved to be contestant No. 6. The other contestants were Misses Sarah Lins, Ruth N. Moyer, Francina Kurtz and Bertha Stoudt.

The prize essay was read by Miss Ahrens who was followed by Miss Van Haagen.

"America" was then sung by the entire audience.

#













LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 005 319 596 9