

Crossing the Delaware, George's Challenges and Connelly's Role

Washington's Challenges

- Continental Congress
 - reluctant to disperse more money
 - unhappy with battle results and lack of progress
 - political differences between the states

- Amateur forces, citizen soldiers
 - most only signed up for 3 or 6 month enlistments
 - those who enlisted in the Continental Army served between 6 months and 3 years
 - most were farmers, some merchants, family men
 - not motivated by a "national" identity
 - loyalty to their colony or county
 - desertion
 - threats to families, homes, farms, and home communities
 - constant attacks from the British Army and British allied Indians
 - the enemy took advantage of men being away

- Supplies
 - no uniforms, no boots, no socks, no coats, no guns, no ammo
 - food was scarce and poor when available
 - often did not get paid as Congress was slow to fund payroll

- Disease
 - dysentery, small pox, typhus
 - in 1777 Washington ordered that all soldiers at Valley Forge be inoculated

- Weather
 - extreme cold, ice on the river
 - a storm came on around 10:00 PM with high winds sleet and snow
 - frostbite and hyperthermia

December 25, 1776

- Washington needed a win
- the American cause was in danger of being lost
- many enlistments were up on December 31st
- audacious plan to surprise attack on the Hessians Commanded by Col. Johann Rall encamped at Trenton, New Jersey

- "Marbleheaders" - Marblehead Regiment - Massachusetts
 - Commanded by Gen. John Glover
 - integrated regiment - African Americans (free and enslaved), Native Americans, and Whites
 - they had experience navigating the river and had knowledge of the area
 - *The Indispensables* by Patrick K. O'Donnell tells their story

First Battle of Trenton - December 26, 1777

- huge success in spite of obstacles and weather
- spies and Loyalists in the area told Col. Rall the Americans were coming
 - he had a poor opinion of American forces
 - reportedly he said, "Let them come!"

Results of the Crossing

- the Hessians were surprised
 - by Washington's strategic skills
 - fighting skills and bravery of the American soldiers
- huge success in spite of obstacles and weather
- there is no list of the soldiers who crossed with Washington

The Citizen Soldiers

Connelly McFadden

- my 5th great grandfather
 - typical but unique
- Elisha Bostwick - 2nd cousin 7 times removed
- John Justus "Yost" Henkel Sr.
 - 8th great grandfather
 - born in 1706, 70 years old, how can he be a revolutionary war ancestor?
- Quakers, women, camp followers, and noncombatants

Finding your Revolutionary Ancestor

- Where do you begin?
 - confirm the genealogy
 - create a timeline of your ancestor's life events
 - include census, tax info, births, deaths, marriages
 - insert the service records as you find them
 - create a list of the FAN club
 - transcribe the records yourself
- Muster Rolls
 - add names of commanders and men they served with to the FAN club list
 - analyze others on the list to establish connections
- Pay Rolls
 - different information than what is on the Muster Roll
 - shows the amount the soldier is due, what was paid, sometimes other information
- Bounty Land Warrant Applications and Land Grants
 - sometimes found in their service packet
- Pension Records
 - in their service packet
 - Veteran records in other states, ie. Indiana, Ohio, etc.
- Grave/headstone records
 - often in their service packet
 - U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1861 - 1985

- U.S., Revolutionary War Burial Index, 1775 - 1875
- Continental Line or Militia -
 - State
 - each had a Continental force and/or the state militia with different records
 - County
 - search the county before and after the war
 - ex. Northampton County, PA formed 1730 then divided in 1812, creating Lehigh County, PA
 - Township
 - check neighboring towns and communities -
- Research the Generals, Colonels, Lt. Colonels, Lieutenants, Captains, Sergeants
- Research the Units, Battalion, Company and the battles
- Maps
 - regular maps
 - battle maps
- DAR/SAR
- NARA & Fold 3