

PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES

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THOMAS LYNCH MONTGOMERY

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE
HON. ROBERT MCAFEE,
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COUNTY OF YORK.

CAPTAIN DANIEL EYSTER'S COMPANY. (a.)

From York county. In service in the Jerseys from September, 1776, to January, 1777.

Philip Miller.
Peter Kiefer.
John Shiver.
Paul Drüy.
Valentine Starr.
Herman Oberdorff.
John Scheiter.
Nicholas Meyer.
Jacob Geiger.
Christian Grieff.
Casper Werfel.
Anthony Zidnier.
Abraham Herb.
George Reber.
Matthias Frey.
Jacob Pott.
Jacob Delong.
George Shiver.
Henry Hefner.
Adam Huber.
Christian Reiff.
George Reiss.
George Gerber.
→ Henry Sowasch.
Melchoir Schaum.
Jacob Hefner.
Andrew Helwig.
Michael Satler.
Jacob Langalt.
Michael Carl.
George Oberdorff.

Jacob Becker, Jr.
George Foulk.
Jacob Long.
Adam Sweiger.
Andrew Ziegler.
John Eburrr.
Jacob Hüder.
Herman Emerick.
Christian Hoch.
Daniel Sowasch. →
Abraham Lemritz.
Sebastian Herb.
Christian Gerber.
Conrad Reiss.
Christian Reiss.
Thomas Hunt.
Philip Shiver.
Jacob Shöfer.
Adam Zidnier.
George Huber.
John Schuler.
Michael Reider.
Henry Reiff.
Christopher Foulk.
Carl Geiger.
John Albrecht.
John Shiver [Shier.]
Nicolas Lemritz.
George Druy.
Philip Wanemacher.

verse, the physician alone feels himself a stranger in thought, in language, and in action. Whatever may be his stock of knowledge when he begins his career in practice, he soon discovers, if he was not before aware, that he has been taught a science and a language not intelligible to any one out of his profession. To avoid the imputation of pedantry, he retreats within himself, and is in danger of losing not only the principles but even the very nomenclature of his science. To counteract such tendency by creating a spirit of generous emulation, to elevate the profession by exciting a thirst for general knowledge, and to cultivate a taste for observation and inquiry by combining the efforts and skill of physicians in various parts of the country, are surely objects worthy of our institution.

ISAAC HIESTER, M. D., *President*.

Attest: CHARLES BAUM, *Secretary*.

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA
1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107

BRIEF SKETCH OF THE HIESTER FAMILY.

The name of Hiester is so extensively connected with the general and State governments, that a brief sketch of the family may not be uninteresting. Their remote ancestors were of Silesian origin. From that country they were distributed throughout Austria, Bavaria, Saxony, Switzerland, and the countries bordering on the river Rhine. The immediate ancestors of the present race of that name in this country, emigrated from Witzenstein, in Westphalia, and arrived in America in the early part of the 18th century. They consisted of three brothers, Daniel, John, and Joseph, who all took up their residence in the first place at Goshen-hoppen, then in Philadelphia, now in Montgomery county. Here Daniel at once purchased a farm which was somewhat improved. After exploring and becoming better acquainted with the country, they united in purchasing from the Proprietary government, between two and three thousand acres of land in Bern township, now Berks county. Here John and Joseph settled, while Daniel remained at the old homestead. Having thus, with the characteristic prudence of those primitive days, first secured the means of supporting families, they next, in due time, formed matrimonial alliances with American women, and "set themselves down, each under his own vine and fig tree," to enjoy, in the pursuit of Agriculture, the fruits of their virtuous enterprise.

As they had been induced to leave their own native country by the vassalage of an oppressive government, which exacted,

not only onerous taxes, but also a portion of the time and labor of its subjects, they naturally cherished in the minds of their descendants, a lofty spirit of freedom. Accordingly, when the revolutionary war broke out, they were among the first to enroll themselves in the list of "Associaters." The efficient services of this class of citizen soldiers, which were organized by electing two Brigadier Generals at Lancaster on the 4th of July, 1776, afterwards rendered in the campaigns of N. Jersey, N. York, Delaware, and the lower parts of Pennsylvania, is a well known matter of history. Daniel, of Montgomery, John, of Chester, and Gabriel, of Berks, the three eldest sons of Daniel, entered the service as field officers, the two former with the rank of Colonel, and the latter with that of Major. William, the fourth and youngest son of Daniel, although also enrolled, did not, on account of his extreme youth and the infirmity of his aged parents, serve more than one campaign. Joseph Hiester, afterwards Governor of Pennsylvania, the only son of John, entered the service as a captain in the "Flying Camp," and having been made a prisoner at the battle of Long Island, and confined on board the notorious Jersey Prison Ship, New Jersey, he was, after his exchange, promoted to the rank of Colonel. After the war, he and his two cousins, Daniel and John, were elected to the rank of Majors General of the militia in their respective districts. The popularity these men gained by their devotion to country, and the public spirit during the eventful struggles of the revolutionary war, never forsook them. After the conclusion of peace, they all enjoyed, by the suffrages of the people, a large share in the councils of the State, and general Government. General Daniel Hiester was the first representative in Congress, under the present constitution, from Berks county, of which he had in the meantime become a citizen. In 1796 he removed to Maryland, where he was again repeatedly elected to the same office, from the districts composed of Washington, Frederick and Allegheny counties, until the time of his decease, which occurred at Washington city, in the Session of 1801—2. Joseph Hiester was elected a member of the convention which met in Philadelphia, in November, 1787, to consider and ratify, or reject the present constitution of the United States; and in 1789, he was a member of the convention which formed the second constitution of this State. Under that constitution, he and Gabriel Hiester, who had also

been a member of the convention which formed the first State constitution, were repeatedly elected to the legislature, the former continuing either in the Senate or House of Representatives uninterruptedly, for nearly thirty years. General Joseph Hiester, after the removal of Daniel to Maryland, represented the district, composed in part of Berks county, in Congress, about the same time General John Hiester, was also chosen member of the same body from Chester county. Both were re-elected for a series of years—the former, until he resigned in 1820, when he was elected Governor of Pennsylvania, and the latter until he declined a re-election, and retired to private life.*

* See pages 175 to 180, *antea*.



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