



## LANCASTER COUNTY CHAPTER

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## Summer 2023 ACTION Newsletter

### Message from the Vice President...

### The Struggle for Freedom Continues by Paul Keller

On July 4th, 1776 the Declaration of Independence was signed and passed by the General Congress assembled in Philadelphia Pa. This was only the beginning of the seven year struggle for independence from England.

The battles were not all fought on the battle fields with guns and swords. A much more grueling war raged in the hearts, minds and souls of the new Americans and their experiment with liberty and individual freedom.

Their ideas and forms of government which were taking root since the days of the Plymouth Plantation in the 1620's were in jeopardy. Their knowledge of government and how it originated from God to benefit the citizenry was not something that a Godly conscience could surrender. Their understanding of God and their commitment to keep the benefits of biblical principles in their government and their daily lives gave them great courage and assurance that they could see victory even against the greatest earthly power that existed in the world at that time, Great Britain.

The confidence of the Colonists was widespread due to a whole generation of the students of theologians, scholars and statesmen such as William Blackstone. Blackstone taught that laws should be based on the Laws of Natures Creator (God the Creator). Blackstone wrote: "Law of Nature... for as God, when he created matter, and endued it with a principle of mobility, established certain rules for the perpetual direction of that motion: so when he created man, and endued him with free will to conduct himself in all parts of life, He laid down certain immutable laws of human nature, whereby that free will is in some degree regulated and restrained, and gave him also the faculty of reason to discover the purport of those laws." Blackstone then goes on to explain that Natural Law is revealed by studying the Bible; "...The doctrines thus delivered we call the revealed or divine law, and they are to be found only in the Holy Scriptures. These precepts, when revealed, are found upon comparison to be really a part of the original law of nature as they lend in all their consequences to man's felicity (happiness)...

Upon these two foundations, the law of nature and the law of revelation, depends all human laws; that is to say, no human law (or government) should be suffered to contradict these."

The Colonists universally agreed that the direction the early settlers had taken in governing the new world was God the Creators plan. They saw the new laws and restrictions being forced on them by Britain as a hindrance to Gods plan for America. They believed that God had a purpose for America.

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*"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."*

Edmund Burke

## The Price They Paid

Have you ever wondered what happened to those men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured as traitors by the British and were tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured. Nine of the Fifty-six fought and died from wounds or the hardship of the Revolutionary War.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants. Nine were farmers and large plantation owners – men of means and well-educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured. They signed, and they pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals, soldiers or both looted the properties of Ellery, Clymer, Hall, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge and Middleton. Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

At the Battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr. noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. The owner quietly urged General George Washington to open fire, which was done. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and grist mill were laid waste. For more than a year, he lived in forests and caves, returning home after the war to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Morris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians; they were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of the Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

They gave us an independent America! Can we keep it?

– Christian Beacon

# JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST!

## Lancaster County ACTION Quarterly Breakfast Meeting

**Saturday, July 8, 2023 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

Eden Resort - Presidential Ballroom - 222 Eden Rd, Lancaster



### Our Speaker: Dr. Mike Myers

**Why do we celebrate Independence Day?**



Mike Myers was a public school science teacher when he discovered that there is a biblical worldview of education while attending Regent University in the mid-1980s—a life-altering encounter. Upon earning his master’s degree, Mike returned to Lancaster to found Dayspring Christian Academy as a Principle Approach school, where he served for 34 years. Over the years Mike has trained teachers, students, and parents in America’s Christian history, including the biblical principles of government and education. In 2008, Mike attended Regent University to earn a doctoral degree in Christian Education Leadership.

Mike is the author of the book, *It’s Time to Remember, America*, which is based on the radio spot, “Remember, America,” which began airing on WDAC in 1993 and still continues today. Mike continues to serve on the Dayspring school board and is assisting with the project to build a campus for the school in Mountville. He also serves a Director of School Leadership for the Foundation for American Christian Education, the founding organization for the Principle Approach®.

Please reserve your seat at the quarterly breakfast by calling the ACTION office (717-847-0902) or emailing [LancoAction@gmail.com](mailto:LancoAction@gmail.com) by Saturday, July 1, 2023.

The cost is \$25.00 per person, \$20 for members, and may be paid by cash, check or zelle. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

## A Message from the Treasurer - Is Your Membership Current?

ATTENTION - ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES POLICY CHANGE

The LCA “membership annual dues” is \$20.00 per family membership. In the past, dues were calculated by the members’ anniversary date. The new policy is that annual dues will be scheduled to be paid based on January 1st of each calendar year. Each membership payment is due at that time. Please check your mailing label. If your membership is current, 2022 will appear on the label. Exp means your membership has expired and payment for 2022 is due. Thanks for your support!

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## The Struggle for Freedom Continues *continued from Page 1*

As one militiaman wrote a few months after the Battle of Breeds Hill (later named Bunker Hill); “The series of divine dispensations, from the infant days of our fathers in America are big with importance in her favor, and point to something great and good. If we look around the world, and view the nations with their various connections, interests and dependencies, we shall see innumerable causes at work in this growing country. Nature and art seem to labor, and as it were, travail in birth to bring forth some glorious events that will astonish mankind and form a bright era in the annals of time.”

In other words, more than economics and taxes on tea were at stake here. The major reason these men and women took up the fight against the Great British Empire was their steadfast belief that they were an intricate part of Gods plan. Religious conviction gave them the strength needed to persevere in the seven year war for American Independence.

Today, like in 1776, the invaders of the true America, are trying to change the traditional ways and ideas that have proven to be credible and crucial to our personal and social stability. We like the early Protestants must not be lulled to sleep by the titillating words of the politically correct, or apathetically allow the status quo of the decline of America. The struggle for American ideals continues (as Ben Franklin said, ”A Republic, IF WE CAN KEEP IT “) not at Concord or Bunker Hill but in the hearts and minds of the people. In this arena, Christians have the upper hand. We have the mind of Christ. With love and truth we will win. By Paul Keller, Vice President



**Noah Webster**

“The religion which has introduced civil liberty is the religion of Christ and His apostles, which enjoins humility, piety, and benevolence; which acknowledges in every person a brother, or a sister, and a citizen with equal rights. This is genuine Christianity, and to this we owe our free Constitutions of Government.”



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