

Middletown Presbyterian Church
Colonial Day
Sunday, September 17, 2017

Middletown Presbyterian Church celebrates Colonial Day the third Sunday of each September. The day starts with a colonial style worship service open to all, complete with the pastor in full costume and powdered wig, a tithingman who keeps order during the service, and timely music. Free outdoor activities and demonstrations start after the service and delicious colonial-inspired food and drinks are for sale.

Participants include: the Lazaretto (yellow fever), the Thomas Massey House, the Middletown Township Historical Society, the Bethel Preservation Society, Revolutionary soldiers, a blacksmith, lace tatting, a colonial peddler, yarn spinning, sheep shearing by hand), needlework and quilting. colonial dancers, colonial music by the Marple Newtown Community Band, crafts and games for children and adults, a quilt raffle and cemetery tours with portrayals of Persifor Frazer and wife Mary,

Middletown Presbyterian Church was founded in 1720. Cemetery graves include: a slave and soldiers from every war, starting with the Revolutionary War (including “a lost and unknown soldier. Prominent families buried include Bernard VanLeer (the oldest in the cemetery – he died January 26, 1790 at the age of 104 and practiced medicine until the age of 102), the Leipers, the Riddles, the Habbersetts, and perhaps the most notable, Brigadier General Persifor Frazer and his wife Mary.

Frazer became a leading regional figure resisting the growing British power in the colonies. During the American Revolutionary War, in early 1776, he was elected as the captain of Company A, Fourth Battalion and later promoted to Lieutenant colonel of the Fifth Pennsylvania Line (originally known as the 4th Pennsylvania Battalion, which was raised December 9, 1775 at Chester, Pennsylvania for service with the Continental Army). Both the Fourth Battalion and Fifth Pennsylvania Line were under “Mad Anthony” Wayne.

The year is the 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Brandywine where Persifor Frazer was captured and held as a prisoner of war in the Walnut Street prison in Philadelphia until his parole. He was later appointed as a brigadier general in the Pennsylvania militia, which fought in conjunction with General Washington and the Continental Army along the Delaware River. Frazer and his wife are buried in the cemetery.

Please contact Sharon Reed sereed2@verizon.net with any questions about Colonial Day.