

Peter Muhlenberg – Pastor & Patriot

On Sunday, January 24, 2021, the Virginia Society, OFPA was recognized in a hybrid ceremony commemorating the part that the Reverend Peter Muhlenberg played in our nation's fight for independence.

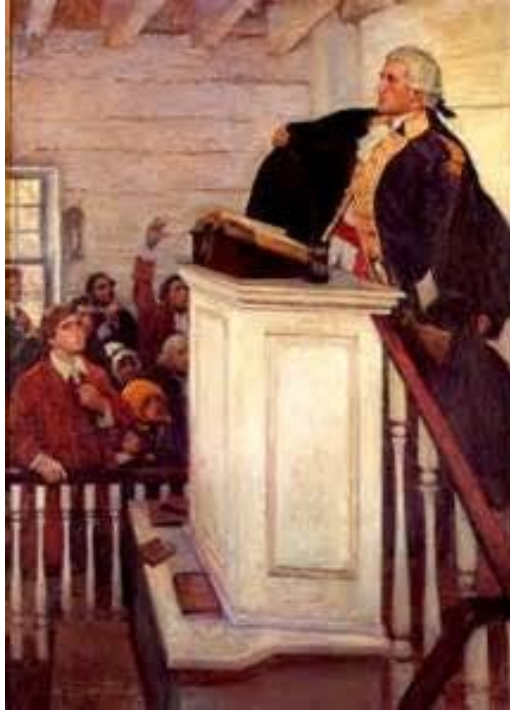
The Colonel James Wood II Chapter of the Virginia SAR was the host for the ceremony, the in-person portion of which took place in the courtyard of the Shenandoah County Historical Society in Woodstock, Virginia, with virtual wreath presentations from numerous lineage societies in several states. Virginia Society Governor Michael E. Weyler gave greetings and presented our society wreath during the virtual part of the ceremony.



Virginia Society Governor Michael E. Weyler with our OFPA Wreath

On January 21, 1776, in the Lutheran Church in Woodstock, Virginia, Pastor Muhlenberg was preaching from Ecclesiastics 3 where it is written, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted...."

At the end of his sermon, Pastor Muhlenberg declared, "In the language of the holy writ, there was a time for all things, a time to preach and a time to pray, but those times have passed away." He then declared, "There is a time to fight, and that time has now come!" Muhlenberg then proceeded to remove his robes revealing to his congregation, the uniform of a Continental Colonel.



Reverend Johann Peter Muhlenberg throwing off his robes, by Stanley Massey Arthurs

Marching to the back of the church he declared, "Whom among you is with me?" Many in the church rose. On that day he recruited 162 men from his congregation. By the next day he led 300 men in what eventually became the 8th Virginia Brigade, fighting for liberty.

Peter Muhlenberg rose to the rank of Major General, having served well and faithfully during the war. Serving in both war and peace, he eventually became a Representative and then a United States Senator from Pennsylvania.