

GEORGE WASHINGTON BICENTENNIAL

Dates of Interest to Lutherans

1732—Conrad Weiser, a Lutheran, became head of the English Indian Bureau. During the French and Indian Wars he swung the colonies from French Catholic to English Protestant control.

1774—The Rev. Peter Muhlenberg, Lutheran pastor at Woodstock, Va., made chairman of Committee of Safety. Sent as delegate to the State Convention, where he met George Washington. Celebrated throughout the Revolutionary War. Christian statesman.

1775—First volunteers to reach Washington at Boston, a company of Pennsylvania Germans (Lutherans) under Col. George Nagel.

1775—The Rev. John Nicholas Martin, Lutheran pastor at Charleston, S. C., banished because he refused to pray for the king's cause.

1776—Col. Peter Muhlenberg organized the Eighth Virginia Regiment, celebrated throughout the Revolutionary War. The Rev. C. Peter Streit, Lutheran pastor, its chaplain.

1776—Pennsylvania Germans (Lutherans) outvoted the Quakers and brought Pennsylvania to support the Declaration of Independence. John Morton, one of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, was born of Swedish Lutheran parents. He cast the deciding vote which placed Pennsylvania on the side of those seceding from England.

1777—Adoption of design of the American flag. According to tradition, the first official flag to receive the salute of a foreign government was made by Sarah Austin and other ladies of the Gloria Dei Swedish Lutheran Church, Philadelphia.

1777—John Treutlen, Lutheran, first governor of Georgia, and a martyr to American independence.

1777—Captain C. Heyer, of the German Lutheran colony in Maine, was honored by being one of Washington's guards when he made his celebrated crossing of the Delaware River.

1778—Von Steuben at Valley Forge. Born of Lutheran parents in Magdeburg, Germany. Washington's right hand man, and drilled a discouraged group into a victorious army.

1778—Dr. Bodo Otto in charge of camp hospital at Valley Forge. Served as "senior surgeon" in the military hospitals of 1776-1782.

1778—Washington dismissed his original bodyguard on evidences of treachery. A new bodyguard of fourteen officers and fifty-three men, all Germans, were recruited from the German counties of Berks and Lancaster in Pennsylvania. All were honorably discharged at the end of the war, twelve of them serving longer than any other American soldiers, and had the honor of escorting their Commander-in-Chief to Mt. Vernon. One of these men was Capt. Ignatius Von Effinger, the grandfather of Mr.

William H. Fletcher, who recently died at the age of ninety-three, having been a faithful attendant at Incarnation Church.

1781—Yorktown, Va. General Peter Muhlenberg, of the First Brigade of Light Infantry, which led the assault that carried the British redoubts.

1781—The United States Congress celebrated the victory over Cornwallis in St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Philadelphia.

1781—John Hanson, a descendant of the early Lutheran Swedish colonists on

U. L. C. A.'S EIGHTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION ANNOUNCED

Notice is hereby given that the Eighth Biennial Convention of The United Lutheran Church in America will be held at Philadelphia, Pa., beginning October 12, 1932. The business sessions of the Convention will be held in the Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Chestnut and Ninth Streets. The Opening Service will be held at 7.30 P. M. on Wednesday, October 12, in the Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion, Chestnut Street above Twenty-first Street, the Rev. J. Henry Harms, D.D., pastor.

(Signed) M. G. C. SCHERER,
Secretary of The United
Lutheran Church in America.

February 18, 1932.

the Delaware River, was elected "President of the United States in Congress Assembled," November 5, 1781.

1789—The First Congress under the Constitution met in New York with Frederick Muhlenberg, Lutheran pastor, the first speaker of the House of Representatives, and Gen. Peter Muhlenberg, a delegate also from Pennsylvania. John Adams said: "The Muhlenbergs introduced the total change that followed in both Houses of the Legislature, and in all of the executive departments of the National Government."

1794—Adolph Wertmueller, Lutheran Swedish artist, paints portrait of George Washington. This portrait has been much praised and was reproduced in the Centennial edition of Irving's "George Washington."

1799—Upon the death of George Washington, Congress on Thursday, December 26, repaired to Zion Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, where General Lee delivered the funeral oration of him who was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Dr. Hibbin, President of Princeton University, wrote: "The Lutheran Church has stood for both religious and civil liberty at the great crises of the world's history, and our American institutions have drawn much of their vitality and strength from the spirit which has animated its followers."—*Our Church Visitor, Washington, D. C., Henry Manken, Pastor and Editor.*

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