

FRANKFORD CHRONICLES

Agent Lydia Darragh - Intelligence Operative

In the past 235 Decembers (give or take a few days), several narratives have been authored about a spy during the Revolutionary War named Lydia Darragh.

Her legend began as historians & fiction-writers sensationalized numerous accounts.

As her legend goes, on December 2, 1777, Lydia Darragh overheard a British Plan of Attack. The following day walking to a grist-mill in Frankford, Pennsylvania, she then passed encrypted letters, notes or messages to warn George Washington of an intended surprise attack by Sir William Howe & the British Army.¹

The bickering began with claims & counterclaims, averring that Lydia simultaneously travelled to both Frankford and to the Rising Sun Tavern on Old York Road. One theory - it was impossible for an old woman to walk that walk;² others disagree.³

George Washington employed a number of agents to gather "secret intelligence,"⁴ however many still fail to accept Lydia Darragh as one of his operatives.

Missing from all previous narratives are the other mills & grist-mills on Frankford Creek. Those unmentioned mills were very significant.⁵

All past & present accounts have failed to recognize a Rising-Sun Tavern stood near the Frankford Mill, or that it's name matched the "other" Rising-Sun Tavern.⁶

The headquarters of the British Army in October 1777, was at Philadelphia. The Queen's Rangers were posted about four miles from Philadelphia, on the road leading to Frankfort, a village on Frankfort Creek, about five miles from headquarters.⁷

By December of 1777, the American Army occupied Camp Whitemarsh, starving for the want of food, while the British Army occupied Philadelphia in comfort.

November 12, 1777

I have intelligence almost every day from the city. Howe is the best Whigmaker in the United States. He has converted many from the evil of their ways, and turned them unto the country. Distress and want is likely to abound in the city. I am told the poor would have suffered before this time, if General Washington had not allowed them to get flour at the Frankfort mills. Friend Howe is not a partial man. He uses Whig and Tory alike, which is the best thing I can say of him. - General Potter⁸

November 24, 1777

The poor people have been allowed for some time past to go to Frankford Mill, and other Mills out that way, for Flour. Abraham Carlisle, who gives them Passes, has his door very much crowded every morning.

-Elizabeth Drinker⁹

Elizabeth Drinker & her husband were Quakers who had a summer-home¹⁰ in Frankford close to his business partner, Abel James's home at Chalkley Hall.¹¹

The traveller's directory S.S. Moore & T.W. Jones. 1804



NiceTown Lane & Bristol Pike Showing a Rising Sun Tavern

December 11, 1777

Benjamin Davis, who says he came out of Philad'a the 13th of Nov'r, having been taken Prisoner at [his House, the Sign of the Rising Sun,] Frankford. That he was kept under Guard 2 or 3 days, & then released.¹²

Did Lydia Darragh obtain a pass to travel to the Frankford Grist-Mill near the Rising Sun Tavern, or a pass to any grist-mill on the Frankford Creek?

Entries from Elizabeth Drinker's Journal in 1777 highlight that there were no secrets on the streets of Philadelphia. Her entries are consistent and support those from various military journals.¹³ She could have just as easily been a spy.

Sept. 26. Well! here are ye English in earnest; about 2 or 3000 came in through Second street, without opposition or interruption—no plundering on ye one side or ye other. ... Cornwallis came with those troops to day— Genl Howe is not yet come in. - Drinker

At eight o'clock on the morning of September 26th Lord Cornwallis set out for Philadelphia with two English and two Hessian grenadier battalions (von Linsing's and von Lengerke's), six 12-pounders, and four howitzers, and arrived at eleven. - Baurmeister Journal

October 31, 1777

"An express is arrived from General Burgoyne, with an account of his having been obliged, from untoward circumstances, after fighting the rebels twice at vast odds, to sign on the 20th of October a convention; by which himself and army, are not to serve against the Americans during the present contest." - Contemporary British Account

November 1. Accounts in Town to day are that Gen Burgoyne with 5000 men, has surrendered. This account seems to gain credit. - Drinker

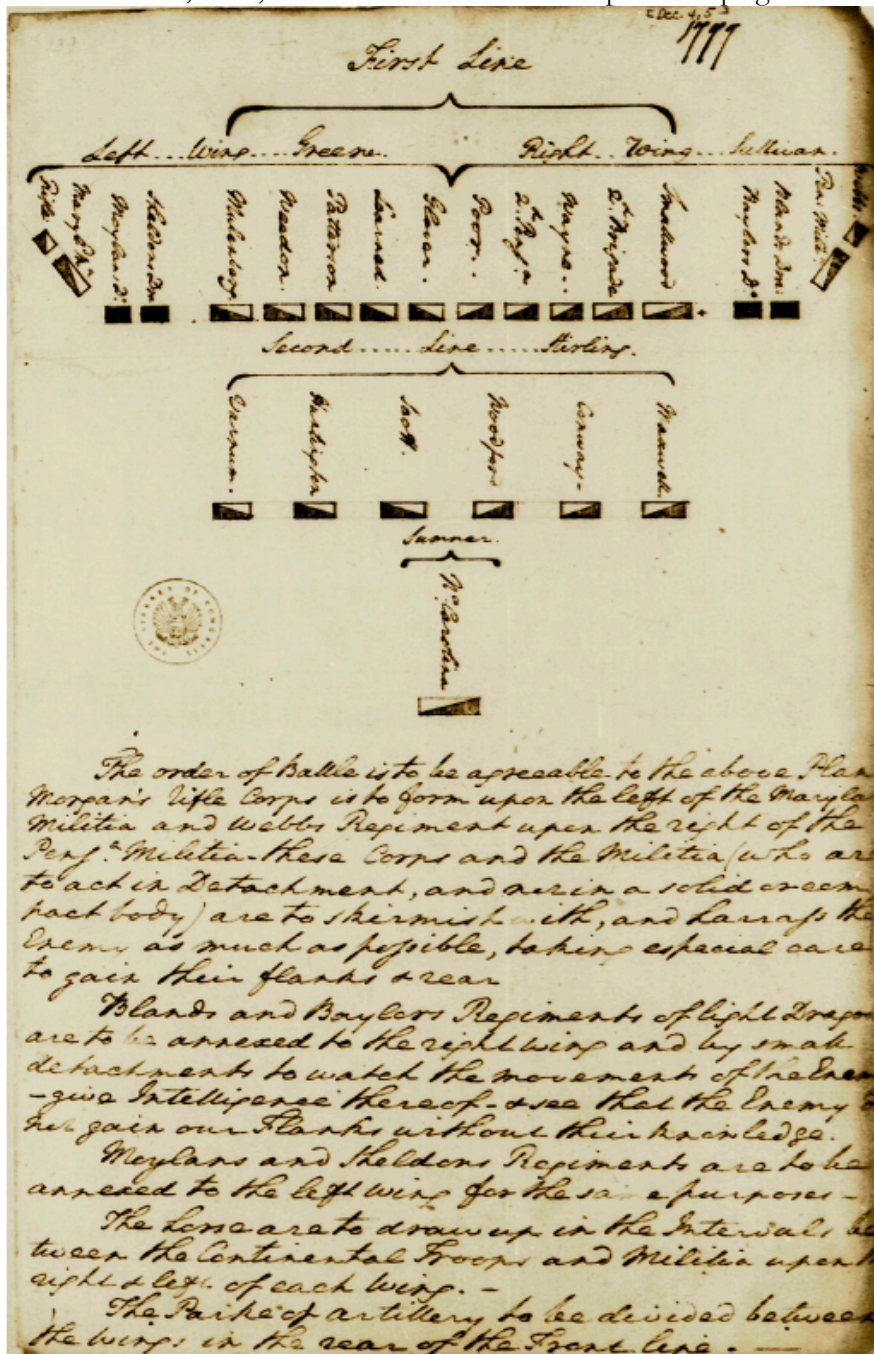
December 1. There is talk to day, as if a great part of ye English army were making ready to depart on some secret expedition. - Drinker

On the 3rd of December the army was to have set out in accordance with orders previously given. We do not yet know the cause for this delay. The reports coming into the English headquarters are always uncertain and undependable. The highways from Philadelphia to Germantown and Frankford, and the road to Trenton by way of Jenkintown, are open to anyone. Some Philadelphians have been appointed to give passes to loyalists, who are then permitted to pass the pickets. - Baurmeister

At the same time Lord Howe planned a stealth attack on Washington, other evidence reveals Washington was planning an offensive to liberate Philadelphia, or maybe not.

December 3, 1777.

Sir: I wish to recall your attention to the important matter recommended to your consideration sometime ago; namely, the advisability of a Winters Campaign, and practicability of an attempt upon Philadelphia with the aid of a considerable body of Militia, to be assembled at an appointed time and place, particular reasons urge me to request your Sentiments on this matter by the Morning, and I shall expect to receive them accordingly by that time. I am, etc. Geo. Washington¹⁴



Dec. 5. A number of Troops have gone out of Town, and 'tis said they are this afternoon at Chestnut Hill. Fine winter weather. - Drinker

Burgoyne's defeat at Saratoga began to appear in the newspapers on October 23rd,¹⁶ but were not published in Philadelphia until October 31st.¹⁷ Burgoyne's surrender must have influenced the future terms of engagement between both armies.

It soon became common knowledge that the War could end in Philadelphia, as Washington was in an excellent position to "envelope"¹⁸ the city & trap the British.

The Order of Battle was possibly propaganda and intended to be intercepted, as Washington (in order to locate a leak) would often send false intelligence, just to see how long it took for the British to make a move.¹⁹

The British jumped first, but the armies never engaged in the middle, as expected.

Darragh's reputed mission of passing information must have become instantly notorious. British Intelligence picked it up a day late. In order to minimize their own embarrassment they were forced to publish a rebuttal message to embarrass Lydia.

December 6, 1777, this post-dated letter²⁰ was published in Philadelphia:

The following letter was found in a bag of Indian meal, which was picked up on Saturday the fourteenth of last month, was supposed to have been dropped by some of the women who were coming into town, when the skirmish happened between the pickets.

Sir, **Frankford, Nov. 14, 1777**

I Am much obliged to you for your last letter. You cannot conceive what spirits you have given your friends ...

Fail not to tell them, at the same time, how greatly they are obliged to the American Army for the liberty of going into the country, and purchasing fresh provisions.

As it is uncertain whether it will be in our power to attack the British army this winter, not only having never yet recovered our heavy loss at Germantown, but our army are getting very sickly, we depend greatly upon the success of this scheme of depreciation, and finally destroying the legal money, as the raucally Tories used to call it.

Our distress for clothes, salt, and medicines, is inexpressible. The former article our battalion has, in some measure, supplied themselves with, by taking the best wherever they found two of any sort, so they may hold out a month longer or so, but that is just as frost happens, so shoes were very hard to be found, even amongst people in good circumstances.

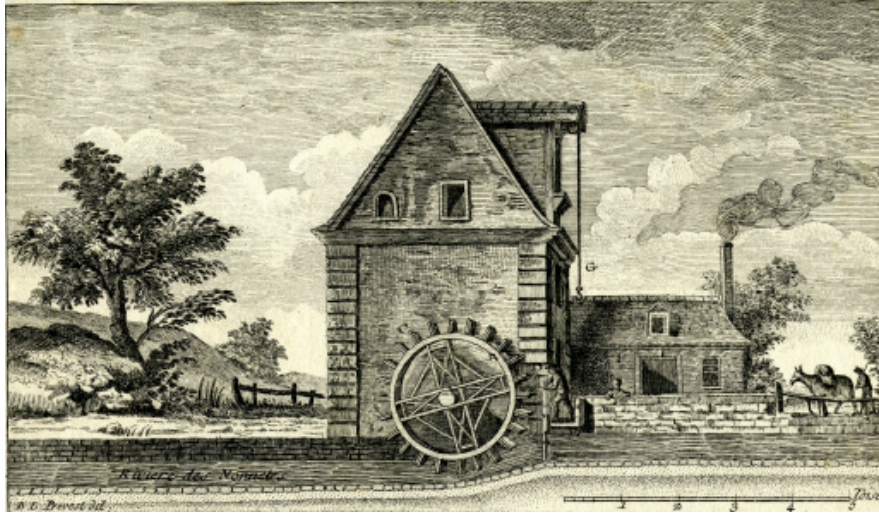
I have given a poor woman, whom we both know, some Indian meal. To convey this letter to you; as she will put it into the bag, with the meal, I hope you will receive it safe. I am your's &c.

P.S. We have not heard from congress these three weeks. What they are about, God knows! Gen. Washington was much pleased with your last letter; but I am sorry he is not so pleased with some other people and things. – I should have told you before, that the Tories in every part of the continent will be ruined, if we succeed in destroying the Pennsylvania legal money, as it will be a precedent for all other of the same kind. (end)

Dec. 8. We are informed that since 10 o'clock this night, a part, if not all ye army have returned, which carries no very agreeable appearance with it. - Drinker

The Mills of Frankford

A Typical 18th century Grist-Mill



The Frankford Mill was much larger than the above illustration.²¹

To fully appreciate historical accounts dealing with roads or creeks or mills or taverns, it would be a great advantage to either live in the area or have a map or two.

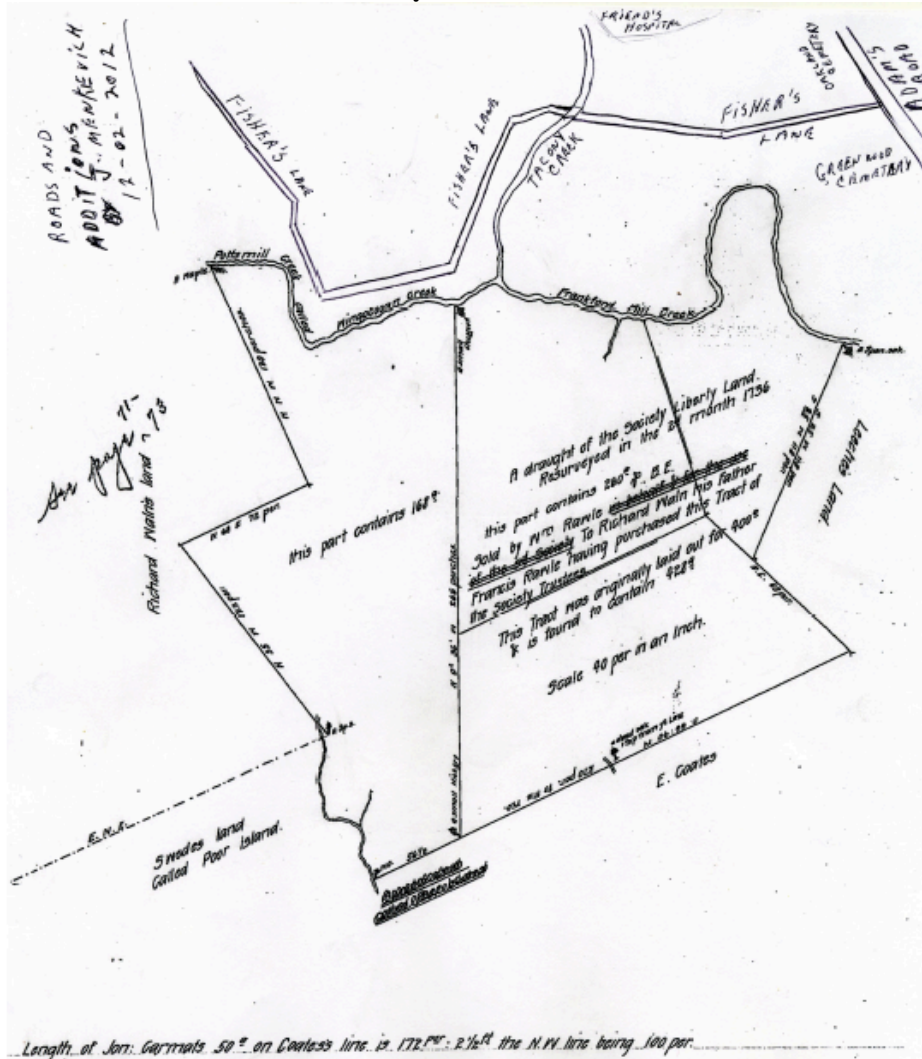
After William Penn purchased the Frankford Mill from the Swedish and sold it to the Society of Free Traders. A large tract above Frankford was called "The Mill Land."²² It bordered a 400 acres parcel on the Northern Liberties side of Frankford Creek.

Wingohockin (Potts Mill Creek) meets the Tackony & the Frankford Creeks



<http://www.archives.upenn.edu/WestPhila1777/map.php>

1736 Survey of the same area



The town of Frankfort, which is about fifteen miles from Bristol, and five from Philadelphia, is pretty considerable.

A creek runs in the front of this town, over which are two stone bridges; for it divides itself into two branches, one of which appeared to me to be artificial, and destined to turn a great number of mills, that furnish Philadelphia with flour.

These mills, so necessary for the subsistence of the two armies, made the town of Frankfort for a long time an object of contention, which brought on several skirmishes; but the position is such as to be advantageous to neither party, for the river runs in a bottom, and the ground is of an equal elevation on both sides.

- Marquis de Chastellux²³

On Fisher's Lane, Robert Morris (Miller) of Bristol Township owned the grist-mill located on the Tackony Creek just above the junction of the Wingohockin.²⁴

The Robert Morris Mill, as well as all the are mills were in close proximity to Oswald Eve's Gun Power-Mill.²⁵ Topography proves they were almost within eyeshot.

Map of a reconnaissance of the approaches to Philadelphia U.S. Coast Survey - 1863



During the fall of 1777 & spring of 1778, all the British & the Americans intelligence reports failed to confirm the existence of Eve's Power-Mill. They are all missing or do not exist!

Oswald Eve was very likely an secret operative working as a double agent. The volumes of missing records have a fingerprint & signature. An odour of intelligent design still lingers.²⁶

In contradistinction, the British paid special attention to Robert Morris's Grist-Mill.

GEN. SIR WILLIAM HOWE'S ORDERS

HEAD QUARTERS, Camp at German Town, 27th. Sept., 1777.

Nicholas Kearney, Private Soldier in the Queen's Rangers, found guilty of Desertion, to suffer Death, is to be executed on Monday next, the 20th. Instant, between the Hours of Ten and Twelve, at the Head of the Artillery Park.

The Commander in Chief has ordered a reward of 200 Dollars for the discovery of the Person or Persons concerned in the Robbery committed on the House of Robert Morris, Miller near Frankfort, on the Night of the 25th. Instant.²⁷

The Mills After Lydia Darragh

General Washington settled into Valley Forge. The mills were operating & supplying the British Army with flour while the American Army suffered. In desperation Washington attempted to starve the British Army and Philadelphia.

George Washington to Israel Angell

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 1, 1778.

Sir: I am favoured with yours of Yesterday. As it is my wish to cut off the intercourse with Philadelphia, as effectually as possible, I desire that no passes may be granted by you to any persons, upon any pretence whatsoever, and that you will do all in your power to apprehend those who attempt to go into the City with Marketting. There is no way so likely to put a total stop to this practice, as making an example of some notorious offender. If therefore you can hear of any person who has made a practice of going to Philadelphia with Provisions or Horses, I would wish you to take pains to have him apprehended. I am, etc.²⁸

George Washington to John Jamison

Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 1, 1778.

Sir: The quantity of provision, Flour especially, that is carried into Philadelphia is by all accounts so great that the British Army is well supplied with almost every Article. The committee of Congress now here having expressed a desire that this pernicious intercourse may be cut off as effectually as possible, I know of no other way to prevent the supply of Flour, but disabling the Mills, as we have not Guards sufficient to stop all the Roads. You are therefore, in concert with Genl. Lacey to fix upon a certain time and attempt to disable all the Mills upon Pennepack, Frankfort, and Wissahicken Creeks, beginning Morris's at Frankfort, Vanderen's on Wissahicken and Lewis's at Pennepack and proceed as far as the people usually come out for Flour. As it will be impossible for you to remove the Stores, I am advised to take off the spindles and saw off the spikes of the water wheels. This you will therefore do as soon as possible. The whole must be began upon the same time, that you may have proceeded some distance before the Enemy can get notice. You must be fully sensible of the necessity of secrecy, and therefore none should be intrusted but the Officers who are to execute the business, and those should be such who have no connections in the part of the Country where the Mills are. Nothing will convince the Market people that we are in earnest, till an example is made of one of them, and I therefore desire you will use your endeavours to apprehend some notorious offender, against whom there will be proof and send him here for trial; seize all the provision and the Horses, and Carriages drove by Women and Boys, many of whom are employed, as they think indulgence will be allowed on account of Sex and Age. I am, etc.²⁹

John Jameson to George Washington

Wrights Tavern Feb.y 2d 1778

Sir I Rec.d your's of Yesterday and shall executed your Commands as soon as Possible. I have not been able to see Genl. Lacey these several days The Militia on this and on the ridge Roads have abandoned their Posts since Saturday and not yet replaced. I shall go in search of Genl. Lacy tomorrow, and fix on a day to do the business you have Ordered. The Mills on Pennipack and Frankfort have furnished a great Quantity of Flour which it has not been in my Power to prevent with the Men that are on this side The River unless I could be with them day and night as they are a set of the greatest Villains I ever heard of many of them I believe have rec.d bribes to let the inhabitants Pass but no Proof against any but one Flood and one Reade both of whom deserted last Wach upon my Ordering the Officer's to collect all the Men to this place. Others have Rob.d People on the Road two of which I have found out but have not as yet confined them as there are not three of the Men that I could with any degree of safety trust my life with am therefore waiting for the Relief of which I expect every day before I do anything with them as I am not certain but what many of them would desert if they knew any enquiry was making into their conduct. The mills on the Wissakicon I do not believe have furnished any Quantity of Flour to the City, as there's none of them that have their bolting Cloths except Vandarans Mathars's and Meradiths all of whom have promised not to sell any to the inhabitants of the Town. but shall execute your Orders as soon as I can find Gen. Lacy if not countermanded Cap.t Howard has took about one hundred People going to Market last week Mostly Women there are about ten tolerable Horses which I shall send to the Quartermaster Genl. There is one Tyson a notorious Villain that I shall send as soon as I can get him and the Witnesses. I have not been able to write since the 20th of last Month owing to my having received a wound in my fore finger that day I received a Letter the 15th. of last Month from Count Pulaski to repair to the West side of the Schuylkill and take the Command of all the Horse on the lines on both sides the River in consequence of which I repaired to Capt Lea's Quarters to see what was necessary to be done & also to know what sum of Money he might want for the expenses of his party and intended waiting on your Excellency but hearing that you had sent an express to this side the River with a Letter for me therefore immediately on my return from Pursuing the British Horse on the 20th. I set of[f] for my Post on this side the River and have been ever since trying to find out what you therein recommended Now I understand and that I am charged with being absent from my Post believe me Sir if I had but once thought that Count Pulaski would have Ordered me to any place without your Excellency's knowledge After knowing that you had given me Orders to remain on this side I should not have been absent without your Permission I am not conscious Sir of having (willingly or wantonly) lost one hours duty since the first of my entering into the service which was as early as any Man were raised except the Rifle Regts in the State from which I came

I am with all respect
Your Excellancys humble Servant,
John Jameson.³⁰

Who was Lydia Darragh?



In this research, Lydia Darragh's business relations were examined & cross-referenced with Friends and people in Frankford. The one person that she may have encountered in 1777 was a woman named Mary Peters.³¹

Mary Peters was *feme-sole* trader, who received permission from Nicholas Waln to dam the Frankford Creek. There was also an arbitration hearing in order for Richard Whitman and Mary Peters to form the Partnership.³²

Between November 25, 1773 to November 24, 1784, Mary Peters built & operated a small grist-mill on Frankford Creek.³³

But ... like the old phrase "birds of feather flock together," Lydia should be remembered by what company she kept.

Lydia Darragh was involved with some of Philadelphia's most notables.

In 1764 Lydia's husband Charles Darragh was a Tobacco and Snuff Manufacturer operating at the Corner of Taylor Alley, in Second street, Philadelphia; "Where he makes and sells by Wholesale and Retail, Superfine Scotch Snuff."³⁴

In 1766, Lydia & her husband were still living on Second Street:

THE Subscriber, living in Second street, at the Corner of Taylor Alley, opposite the Golden Fleece Tavern, takes this Method of informing the Public, that she intends to make Grave Clothes, and lay out the Dead, in the neatest Manner; and as she is informed a Person in this Business is much wanted in this City, she hopes, by her Care, to give Satisfaction to those who will be pleased to favour her with their Orders. - Lydia Darragh.³⁵

On October 17, 1774 “a clever little Irish woman named Darragh” treated Jacob Hiltzheimer by using a clyster.³⁶

Records indicate that on April 22, 1787 Lydia Darragh , a widow, purchased a home on the West side of Second Street from clock maker, Peter Stretch Esq.³⁷

On March 14, 1790, William Darragh, her son & a silversmith sold her property to Christopher Marshall Sr..³⁸

Christopher Marshall, jr., the druggist, had this to say:

Sister Sally . . . almost constantly with him . . . her Bodily fatigue is much lessened by having Aunt Lydia Darragh here who heard dismal accounts of Sickness amongst us induced her to come out of 'Town, so y' its great Ease to all our minds to have her here, as thou knows she's so tender hearted, skillfull & willing to do any thing about a Sick person.³⁹

If any readers are still curious about Lydia Darragh's coming & goings, it would be most prudent to ask Christopher Marshall, Jacob Hiltzheimer, or Ol' Peter Stretch.

As I wearily close my investigation of Lydia Darragh, I will set sail in exploring another mystery of local history.

Fiñus~Fiñus

© 2012 Joseph J. Menkevich, all rights reserved

No part of this may be used for profit with out permission of the author.

Preferred Citation:

Menkevich, Joseph J. Frankford Chronicles Agent Lydia Darragh - Intelligence Operative, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (self-published), 2012

The author reserves all rights to revise, with corrections, additions or deletions.

This document is a compilation of my many years of research on the Philadelphia area - with focus on Philadelphia tax records, deeds, maps, Benjamin Rush, Oswell Eve and all things Mill or Gunpowder. Several images are my private collection, while others are in public domain. The opinions expressed are my own. I clam no ownership on materials I used which came from public domain. The use of copyrighted materials in this compilation falls under fair use as it is for comparison & education. Hyperlinked websites & their materials are the responsibility of their host.

FOOT NOTES

¹Darrach, Henry. *Lydia Darragh, One of the Heroines of the Revolution*. Philadelphia: The Society, 1916. <<http://www.frankfordgazette.com/doc/darragh3.pdf>>

²Bakeless, John. *Turncoats, Traitors, and Heroes*. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1960., 210 <<http://archive.org/stream/turncoatstraitor010545mbp#page/n217/mode/2up>>

³1845. "HEROIC WOMEN OF AMERICA. QUAKER HEROISM". *Godey's Lady's Book*. XXXI, Accessible Archives: <<http://www.accessible.com/>>

⁴Rose, P. K. *The Founding Fathers of American Intelligence*. [Washington, D.C.]: Directorate of Operations, Central Intelligence Agency, 1999. <<https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/csi-publications/books-and-monographs/intelligence/pers.html>>

⁵Chastellux, François Jean, George Grieve, George Washington, American editor, and English gentleman. *Travels in North-America in the Years 1780-81-82*. New-York: [s.n.], 1828., 88 <<http://archive.org/stream/marquistravels00chasrich#page/88/mode/2up/>>

⁶Moore, S. S., T. W. Jones, and S. S. Moore. *The Traveller's Directory; or, A Pocket Companion, Shewing the Course of the Main Road from Philadelphia to New York: And from Philadelphia to Washington ... From Actual Survey*. Philadelphia: Printed for Mathew Carey, no. 122 Market-street, 1804. - Author's Personal Copy.

⁷Read, D. B. *The Life and Times of General John Graves Simcoe Together with Some Account of Major André and Captain Brant*. Toronto: Virtue, 1890. <<http://archive.org/stream/lifetimesofgener00read#page/18/mode/2up>>

⁸Linn, John Blair. *Annals of Buffalo Valley, Pennsylvania, 1755-1855*. Harrisburg, Pa: L.S. Hart, printer and binder, 1877., 146 <<http://archive.org/stream/annalsofbuffalov01linn#page/146/mode/2up>>

⁹Drinker, Elizabeth Sandwith, and Henry D. Biddle. *Extracts from the Journal of Elizabeth Drinker, from 1759 to 1807, A.D.* Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Co, 1889., 52-70 <<http://archive.org/stream/extractsfromjou00dringoog#page/n55/mode/2up>> Cited as Drinker

¹⁰Menkevich, Joseph J. *Frankford Chronicles The First Fourth of July*, Philadelphia, self publication, 2010., 9, 10 <<http://frankfordgazette.com/wp1/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Frankford-Chronicles-The-First-Fourth-of-July.pdf>> Drinker's Summer Home in Frankford

¹¹Thompson, David Garrison Brinton. *John Thompson of Nether Compton, Dorset and Philadelphia, Quaker Schoolmaster and Merchant, and His Philadelphia Descendants*. 1964.,149

¹²Linn, John Blair, and William Henry Egle. *Pennsylvania Archives Second Series*, vol. iii, Harrisburg: Lane S. Hart, 1879., 127 <<http://archive.org/stream/pennsylvaniaser203harruoft#page/126/mode/2up>>

¹³Various Military Journals used in this research

Baurmeister, Carl Leopold von, and Bernhard A. Uhlendorf. *Revolution in America Confidential letters and journals 1776-1784 of Adjutant General Major Baurmeister of the Hessian forces*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1957., 117, 134 <<http://www.jaegerkorps.org/reference/BaurmeisterJournal.pdf>> - Cited as Baurmeister

Seybolt, Robert Francis. *A Contemporary British Account of General Sir William Howe's Military Operations in 1777*. Worcester, Mass: American Antiquarian Society, 1931., 91 - Cited as A Contemporary British Account

Simcoe, John Graves. *Simcoe's Military Journal A History of the Operations of a Partisan Corps, Called the Queen's Rangers, Commanded by Lieut. Col. J.G. Simcoe, During the War of the American Revolution ; Illustrated by Ten Engraved Plans of Actions, &c., Now First Published, with a Memoir of the Author and Other Additions*. New York: Bartlett & Welford, 1844.<http://archive.org/stream/cihm_40682#page/n33/mode/2up/search/Frankfort> Cited as Simcoe

[Note] Simcoe's Journal gives a good account of the Queen's Rangers. Patrolling the Bristol Pike between Philadelphia to the Poquessing Creek in Bucks County. There are many entries for action in Frankford. Many entries are not specifically dated. Frankford is mentioned between pages 22 to 38.

Scull, G. D., John Montrésor, and James Gabriel Montrésor. *The Montresor Journals*. New York: Printed for the Society, 1882. Internet resource: <<http://books.google.com/>> Not Cited in this paper.

¹⁴Library of Congress, Manuscript Division
The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.
<<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/mss/mgw/mgw3f/001/198197.jpg>>
<<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/mss/mgw/mgw3f/001/199198.jpg>>

¹⁵Library of Congress, Manuscript Division
<<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/mss/mgw/mgw4/046/0100/0140.jpg>>

¹⁶Headline: Extract of a Letter from a General Officer, Dated Camp Saratoga October 13, 1777; Article Type: News/Opinion
Paper: Continental Journal, published as Continental Journal.; Date: 10-23-1777;
Issue: LXXIV; Page: [2]; Location: Boston, Massachusetts <<http://www.godfrey.org/>>

¹⁷Headline: Philadelphia; Article Type: News/Opinion
Paper: Pennsylvania Evening Post, published as The Pennsylvania Evening Post;
Date: 11-08-1777; Volume: III; Issue: 420; Page: 532; Location: Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania <<http://www.godfrey.org/>>

[Note] Compare the dates of the newspapers accounts of Saratoga with Elizabeth Drinker & the Contemporary British Account to those below for variation.

25th of October, 1777

p.s. What we hear about General Burgoyne and what General Clinton's adjutant reported to us on the 17th of October, your Lordship will hear from Major von Eschwege. - Baurmeister, 128

On the 3d of November the news of the surrender of General Burgoyne's army was communicated by general orders - Simcoe, 29

¹⁸Extract: Letter, French, manuscript; Haiti, 26 November 1777
- Library of Joseph J. Menkevich.

By November 1st 1777, the news of Burgoyne's surrender traveled through various seaports. It was believed that if General Howe did not soon break through the Chevaux de Frise that his army would be lost in Philadelphia as he would be cut off from the sea and trapped in Philadelphia. - Why? Had France already made a (secret) decision?

¹⁹FORD, Worthington Chauncey. *Defences of Philadelphia in 1777. Collected and Edited by W. C. Ford. (From the "Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography," 1894-1897.)*. Brooklyn, N.Y.: Historical Printing Club, 1897. 99, 131, 145, 146, 147, 152, 204 <<http://archive.org/stream/defencesofphilad00ford#page/98/mode/2up>> - Not Cited individually - numerous letters of Col. Craig (in Frankford) to Washington.

It is this author's opinion, based on my comparing the various published letters with those unpublished manuscripts in the Library of Congress, that Washington was obsessed with passing disinformation in order to locate its point of origin - as the same disinformation found its way back to him.

²⁰Headline: The following Letter Was Found in a Bag of Indian Meal, Frankford, Nov. 14, 1777; Article Type: News/Opinion
Paper: Pennsylvania Evening Post, published as The Pennsylvania Evening Post;
Date: 12-06-1777; Volume: III; Issue: 429; Page: 570; Location: Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania <<http://www.godfrey.org/>> Transcribed by Joseph J. Menkevich

²¹Headline: [No Headline]; Article Type: Advertisement
Paper: Porcupine's Gazette; Date: 04-06-1799; Volume: IV; Issue: 649; Page: [1];
Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, <<http://www.godfrey.org/>>

"By Public Auction, Frankfort Mills ... Large Stone Building - within it's walls two water wheels, has four pair of stones ... situated on tide water, so that shallows can lay along side so as to discharge and take in cargo."

²²March 3, 1725
Philadelphia Deed Book F.5.251 Francis Rawle to Richard Bury (400 Acres) -

Beginning at a Corner of Enoch Coates in a Line of a piece of Land called The Mill Land ...

²³ibid, Chastellux, François Jean, George Grieve, 88

²⁴The Pennsylvania Gazette, May 28, 1788

BY virtue of a writ of Venditioni Exponas to me directed, will be exposed to sale by public vendue, at the Coffee House, in the city of Philadelphia, on Wednesday, the 4th day of June next, at seven o'clock in the evening, all that large two story stone messuage or tenement, a stone mill-house, a water grist-mill, with three pair of mill-stones, the whole in good order, a stone cooper's shop, a barn and stable, and sundry out-houses, and five tracts, pieces or parcels of land; situate partly in Oxford and partly in Bristol townships, and county of Philadelphia, viz.

Containing 31 acres (more or less) situate in Bristol township, and bounded by lands of John Atkins, Thomas Busby, William Philpot, and by Frankford and Wingohiccon creeks. There is on said land a large meadow of the best clover grass, an orchard, &c. about six miles from Philadelphia, and one from the village of Frankford, where there is a water carriage to the city, &c.

Taken in execution as the property of Robert Morris (miller) and to be sold, by JOSEPH COWPERTHWAIT, Sheriff. <<http://www.accessible.com/>>

²⁵Bell, Whitfield J. *Patriot-Improvers: Biographical Sketches of Members of the American Philosophical Society*. Philadelphia: The Society, 1997.,466<<http://books.google.com/>>

²⁶Oswell Eve as a Double Agent
Author's opinion, based upon ten years of ongoing unpublished research.

²⁷Kemble, Stephen. *The Kemble Papers 1. 1773 - 1789*. New York, NY: New-York Historical soc, 1884., 506 <<http://archive.org/stream/collectionsforye16newyuoft#page/506/mode/2up>>

²⁸Library of Congress, Manuscript Division
The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources,
1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor. [Note 53: The draft is in the writing of Caleb
Gibbs.] <<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/mss/mgw/mgw3b/005/030029.jpg>>

²⁹Library of Congress, Manuscript Division
The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources,
1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor. [Note 54: The draft is in the writing of Caleb
Gibbs.] <<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/mss/mgw/mgw3b/005/031030.jpg>>

³⁰Library of Congress, Manuscript Division
The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources,
1745-1799, transcribed & edited by Joseph J. Menkevich
<<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/mss/mgw/mgw4/047/0200/0216.jpg>>
<<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/mss/mgw/mgw4/047/0200/0217.jpg>>

³¹Egle, William Henry. *Provincial Papers: Proprietary, Supply, and State Tax Lists of the City
and County of Philadelphia for the Years 1769, 1774, 1779.* 1897.

1774 Provincial Tax for South Ward, Philadelphia County, tax a Mary Peters, widow.
She appears to be a neighbor to Christopher Marshall and Peter Stretch.
<<http://archive.org/stream/proprietarysupp00pagoog#page/n256/mode/2up>>

1774 & 1779 Provincial Tax for Oxford Township show Mary Peters and Richard
Whitman taxed for 1/2 of a Grist-Mill. Is the same Mary Peters?
<<http://archive.org/stream/proprietarysupp00pagoog#page/n420/mode/2up>>
<<http://archive.org/stream/proprietarysupp00pagoog#page/n690/mode/2up>>

³²November 25, 1773
Philadelphia Deed Book D.37.429 & 430 Mary Peters Bond to Richard Whitman

Know All Men by there presents That I, Mary Peters of Philadelphia,
Shopkeeper am held firmly bounded unto Richard Whitman of Oxford in the
same County in the full and just sum of six hundred pounds lawful money ...
with my seal dated this 25th day of November in the 14th year of his Majesties
reign Anno Domini 1773 ... A Certain Partnership in Building of a Grist Mill
in Consequence of a certain agreement made between them the said Richard
Whitman & Mary Peters) The writings whereof were made in the names of her
Brother John Miller [Milnor] & the said Richard Whitman ... find that the
Building the said Mill there Built in Partnership between them including a pair
of Burrs (that are bargained for) and one horse one mare one wagon two pair
of Chains & Quillers two pare of harness & two halters a cutting box and two
Shovels one Spade two Quarry Picks two Wheel Barrows and Sledge one cog
and ten Bags amounts to the sum of Six hundred & seven pounds eleven
shillings & ten pence half penny ...

³³November 24, 1784

Philadelphia Deed Book D.23.289 John Milnor and Mary Peters to William Davidson

Between John Milnor (Cooper) and his sister Mary Peters Feme-Sole trader and William Davidson ... for a certain Wooden Messuage or tenement & two Lots or Pieces of Land in Oxford Township, County of Philadelphia ... One of them beginning at a Corner Stone standing on the line of land laid out for a Mill Race ... containing thirty three perches and also the one full and equal and undivided Moiety of half part of the whole into two equal parts to be divided of and in all that Grist Mill with one pair of Stones under one Roof ... (on the Frankford Creek) [the other piece containing two acres and twenty perches] ...

Related Deeds:

March 5, 1772

Philadelphia Deed Book D.41.329 Richard Whitman to John Milnor

[Two lots of Land] beginning at a Corner Stone standing on the line of land laid out for a Mill Race ... (mentioning distances to a Grist-Mill & road to Frankford)... containing three road and twenty-seven perches ...

March 7, 1772

Philadelphia Deed Book i.10.354 Richard Whitman to John Milnor

One full and equal and undivided Moiety of half part of the whole into two equal parts to be divided of and in all that Grist Mill and Piece or Parcel of Land with one pair of Stones under one Roof ...

³⁴The Pennsylvania Gazette, August 30, 1764

Title: WILLIAM DARRAGH, Tobacco and Snuff Manufacturer

<<http://www.accessible.com/>>

³⁵The Pennsylvania Gazette, Date: December 4, 1766

Title: THE Subscriber, living in Second street, at the Corner of Taylor Alley

<<http://www.accessible.com/>>

³⁶Hiltzheimer, Jacob, and Jacob Cox Parsons. *Extracts from the Diary of Jacob Hiltzheimer, of Philadelphia 1765-1798*. Philadelphia: Press of W.F. Fell, 1893., 32

<<http://archive.org/stream/cu31924088940006#page/n39/mode/2up>>

³⁷April 22, 1787

Philadelphia Deed Book EF.7.444 Peter Stretch to Lydia Darragh

Lydia Darragh , a widow, purchased a home on the West side of Second Street from Peter Stretch Esq.

³⁸March 14, 1790

Philadelphia Deed Book D.27.148 William Darragh to Christopher Marshall
William Darragh, her son & a silversmith sold her property to Christopher Marshall Sr.

³⁹S., T., Jabez Bowen, Benjamin Marshall, Charles Marshall, and Christopher Marshall. 1893. "Correspondence of the Children of Christopher Marshall". *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*. 17, no. 3: 336-347. < <http://archive.org/stream/pennsylvaniamaga17histuoft#page/342/mode/2up>>

Marshall, Christopher, and William Duane. *Extracts from Diary Kept in Philadelphia and Lancaster During the American Revolution, 1774-1781*. Albany: Munsell, 1877.,179
<<http://archive.org/stream/extractsfromdiar00marsuoft#page/178/mode/2up>>.
(Entry: January 6, 1778, relative to Lydia Darragh. Was not cited in this paper)

Illustrations

View of Frankford

Moore, S. S., T. W. Jones, and S. S. Moore. *The Traveller's Directory; or, A Pocket Companion, Shewing the Course of the Main Road from Philadelphia to New York: And from Philadelphia to Washington ... From Actual Survey*. Philadelphia: Printed for Mathew Carey, no. 122 Market-street, 1804. - Author's Personal Copy.

Typical 18th century Grist-Mill

Original Engraving by Prevost, Benoit Louis (Paris, circa 1760)
Author's personal collection

Interactive map - Researched and prepared by J.M. Duffin

<<http://www.archives.upenn.edu/WestPhila1777/map.php>>

University Archives and Records Center, University of Pennsylvania

1736 Survey

The Commonwealth Land Office Division of Pennsylvania Archives
<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17-114CopiedSurveyBooks/Books%20B1-B23/Book%20B-22/Book%20B22%20152.pdf>

Map of a reconnaissance of the approaches to Philadelphia U.S. Coast Survey

<<http://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/>> - Library of Congress Map Division

George Washington

Botta, Carlo, George Alexander Otis, and Alexander Anderson. *History of the War of the Independence of the United States of America*. Cooperstown, N.Y.: H. & E. Phinney, 1840. - Author's personal copy

Lydia Darragh

Image, Courtesy of Accessible Archives

Philadelphia Deeds are available via Microfilm:

Philadelphia Department of Records search site for Historical Land and Vital Records
<<http://www.phila-records.com/historic-records/web/>>

All excerpts from Philadelphia Deed Books used in this paper were transcribed by the author.

The author reserves all rights to revise, with corrections, additions or deletions.

This document is a compilation of my many years of research on the Philadelphia area - with focus on

Philadelphia tax records, deeds, maps, Benjamin Rush, Oswell Eve and all things Mill or Gunpowder.

Several images are my private collection, while others are in public domain. The opinions expressed are my

own. I claim no ownership on materials I used which came from public domain. The use of copyrighted

materials in this compilation falls under fair use as it is for comparison & education. Hyperlinked websites

& their materials are the responsibility of their host.

© Joseph J. Menkevich 2012 all rights reserved