



America's First Conspiracy; The Peggy Shippen & Benedict Arnold Story

Bruce Adamson

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This is the Story of Peggy Shippen and about her marriage to Benedict Arnold. Events leading up to the surrendering of West Point. It was the first time in our 220 year history that the country that brothers remained divided. Shall we pay taxes or not to the British Royal subjects. It is easy to condemn those who lost their battle. This author had on his mom's side (Nancy Kissam Ely), eleven or more great grandfathers who fought for the worthy cause. Three paid the ultimate price with their lives. Author is descended from George Calvert who wrote within the Maryland Charter that this colony shall have the freedom of taxation. This clause was removed by the King of England and thus began the beginning of The American Revolutionary War.

The Shippens are related to the Lee's of Virginia and like most families, half of the Shippens were Patriots and half were Tories. Several Shippens great grandfathers founded the first medical school in the US. The town of Shippensburg, PA is named in their honor.

Edward Shippen (born 1639, Hillham, Cheshire, England – died August 1712, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) was the second mayor of Philadelphia. He was appointed to a one year term by William Penn in 1701. In 1702, he was elected to a second one year term, making him the first elected mayor of Philadelphia. From that point, mayors were elected to one year terms, until 1887, when the current term of four years was established. He was also a leader of the Province of Pennsylvania, and served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in 1699.

William was born to Joseph Shippen (1679–1741, son of Edward Shippen, governor of Pennsylvania) and Abigail Grosse Shippen (1677–1716) at Philadelphia. His father was a prominent merchant. William studied medicine and built a large practice in Philadelphia. In 1735 he married Susannah Harrison.

William Shippen joined the vestrymen who founded the First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia in 1742. He joined Benjamin Franklin and other civic leaders to found the Public Academy in 1749 and served as one of its trustees. When it merged with another school to become the College of Philadelphia, he served as a trustee of the college from 1755 to 1779; the College is now the University of Pennsylvania. William's brother, Edward Shippen (1703–1781, grandfather of Peggy Shippen) was one of the founders of Princeton University, for which William served as a trustee from 1765 to 1796.

This author began doing genealogical research in the 1980s and The Shippen Family had intrigued his interest. He did the complete family tree and gave it to Sarah Lee Shippen on her birthday with a clause "a wedding proposal." Little did I know during the 1980s that Sarah Lee was being pursued by Arnold Schwarznegger. Did not find out till 2004 long after the family history was written. The Shippen Family history was edited by her brother Tim Shippen. Book is dedicated to Sarah Shippen because she is the only gal that I ever knew, who could beat me at Basketball. Who sung songs like Carol King or Carly Simon. It should not come as a shock that behind every great man "with a voice" there is a woman with a great voice. Sarah Lee married - Herb Jefferies.

Note that the author has eliminated photographs, engravings and exhibits have been omitted for they throw

text into different directions. You can find it on Amazon.com in hard copy. ISBN 978-1-892501-18-9

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