

THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN !

Located in the historic center of Philadelphia and birthplace of the first Continental Congress, the Presbyterian Historical Society may be of interest to those planning trips to the east coast as a “not to miss” destination. In addition to housing a master archive containing over 250,000 documents and artifacts dating from 1517, the building grounds feature a sculpture garden of six, nine-foot tall figures of prominent individuals in Presbyterian history designed by Alexander S. Calder. These magnificent stone sculptures have recently been renovated and will be rededicated in the courtyard garden on May 5, 2017. If you’ve been considering a trip east, this would be a wonderful event to attend. This occasion will be highlighted by a specially curated exhibit from the American Revolution and feature area restaurant and winery tastings. Tickets are available online (dstuart@history.pcusa.org) or by phoning 215 928-3865.

James Caldwell



Known as the “Fighting Parson,” James Caldwell became a pivotal figure during the Revolutionary War. When Continental troops ran out of gun wadding at the Battle of Springfield, Caldwell passed out Watts Psalm books, exhorting the troops to “Put Watts into them, boys!”

John Witherspoon

John Witherspoon sailed from Scotland to America in 1768 to become president of the College of New Jersey—today’s Princeton University. While a delegate to the Continental Congress, he was one of twelve Presbyterians to sign the Declaration of Independence, and the only active clergyman.



John McMillan



The “Father of Presbyterianism in Western Pennsylvania,” John McMillan was a circuit riding preacher. In 1780 he founded The Log School in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, the first educational institution west of the Alleghenies. McMillan played key roles in the founding of Washington-Jefferson College and Pittsburgh Academy—today’s University of Pittsburgh. * John McMillan was like our own Rev. George McVey

Marcus Whitman

A medical doctor, Marcus Whitman traveled with his wife Narcissa to Oregon Country in 1835 and there started a school that taught Cayuse Indians to read and write their native language. He led one of the first wagon trains along the Oregon Trail. Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, is named for the Whitmans.



Francis Makemie



The native of Ireland is remembered as an early crusader for religious freedom. When the British magistrate Lord Cornbury arrested him in New York for preaching without a license, Makemie invoked the British Tolerance Act of 1689. After Makemie's acquittal, New York enacted legislation preventing such persecution in the future.

Samuel Davies

A leading figure during the first Great Awakening, Samuel Davies preached in favor of educating all of God's children, insisting that persons of faith must be able to hear and read the word of God. Davies was one of the first ordained ministers to preach directly to slaves and the first American-born hymnist.



There is much to see from the PHS extensive collection of exhibits to the back-stage areas where the work of preservation is done. Guided tours are provided by the staff and may be arranged in advance by contacting Lorraine Brown at (215) 928-3886, or at lbrown@history.pcusa.org. The online gift shop can be reached at <http://www.zazzle.com/presbyterianhistory>