

human being to create, just as he was created. We discovered that you could convey communications and data far more effectively with something other than copper—glass fiber-optic material made from sand, hardly a substance in short supply.

The May 1981 issue of *Scientific American* predicted that by 2000 cars would get 90 miles to the gallon or we'd all have to walk to work. If there ever is a shortage of gasoline it will be no more relevant than the predicted shortage of whale oil in the 1800s, before Edison perfected the incandescent lamp and a system for distribution of electrical power. The philosophy of shortage is wrong, insidious and dangerous. Our wealth comes from our creativity in our minds and souls. *

* A second belief relates to ~~private property~~. During the years of the Soviet Union the 10 percent of its land allotted to privately owned farms produced more than 80 percent of the food its people ate. Why was that? Because society works better with the preservation of private property. That idea is in disrepute in America today and being debated on most university campuses. In some areas the matter has been settled: private property is evil. Property rights are not as well-guarded as our Founding Fathers wanted them to be. Do you remember that the original wording was not "pursuit of happiness" but "pursuit of property"? Private property, its protection and accumulation, is a legitimate enterprise for a free nation and one that contributed to America's being a vast and populous land and one of gigantic economic opportunity. Human nature being what it is, all of us work differently when it's for our own property than when it's for the common good.

Currency is akin to property. "In God We Trust" is on our currency for an important reason. Money only works in a system of total trust. When currencies fail, it is because of a crisis of confidence. Without faith, there is no money. This is the only country in the world that puts "In God We Trust"—not on the churches or synagogues—but on the money. You don't need it on the houses of worship; all who go there know in God we trust. You need it on the money to remind us that without good faith, money is worth nothing.

T here is one other crucial thing our Founding Fathers understood and which today is up for debate: the beauty of the economic transaction.

It is based on something as fundamental as the fact that each of us is unique, with different goals and desires. The free market transaction has a beauty that enhances human interaction. When the seller receives more than the item cost him to make, and the buyer considers the price fair for something he wanted, each man is happy. There are those who believe that economic transactions not regulated by the government are intrinsically unfair, that somebody is getting ripped off. That is something our Founding Fathers had no misgivings about whatsoever.

Looking around this room I feel transported back 200 years. I recognize by your elegance, your dedication and your adherence to the values of your organization, that you are validating and making meaningful the lives, and even the deaths, of those men who brought our country into being. I salute you. ★

General Edward Hand Physician, Soldier, Politician

by Paul H. Ripple, MD

A Lancaster County, Pennsylvania native, Paul H. Ripple is a graduate of Franklin & Marshall College, the School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania and the U.S. Air Force School of Aviation, where he became a flight surgeon. He was for 25 years chief of the Department of Ophthalmology at Lancaster General Hospital. Dr. Ripple is a past regent of the Lancaster County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society and was first president of the Edward Hand Medical Heritage Society.

Edward Hand was born to a prominent family in Clyduff, Kings County, Ireland, in 1744 and studied medicine at Trinity College, Dublin.

King George III appointed him a surgeon in the 18th Royal Irish Regiment of Foot, which sailed from Cork to Philadelphia in 1767. Five years later he purchased an ensign's commission and accompanied his regiment to Fort Pitt, where he served as supply officer for Captain Benjamin Johnson's company. It was then he met George Washington, who was also serving in the British army. On returning to Philadelphia in 1774 he assisted George Croghan, deputy agent for Indian affairs, in the sale of Iroquois lands ceded to the crown in 1768. Hand made enough money to buy 1,423 acres in western Pennsylvania.

Because of increasing opposition to the crown, Hand resigned from the British army. He sold his commission for £400 in 1774 and decided to settle and practice medicine in Lancaster, a bustling town with few physicians. As a well-to-do young man it was natural for him to marry well—to Catharine (Kitty) Ewing, a niece of Judge Jasper Yeates, one of Lancaster's leading citizens. Hand developed a good medical practice, but one that was to be short-lived.

In June of 1775 when news of Bunker Hill caused Congress to order citizens to arms, Hand's friend George Ross (later a signer of the Declaration of Independence) persuaded him to enter the colonial service. Hand was made a lieutenant colonel in the 1st Battalion of Pennsylvania Riflemen, commanded by an old friend, Colonel William Thompson. Thus began an illustrious military career that took Hand from company officer to George Washington's adjutant general.

At that time southern Lancaster County was populated by Scotch-Irish settlers who were always ready to fight the British. They may have been short on discipline but they were very accurate with their long-barreled rifles, most of which were made by local German gunsmiths. Hand was among the first Americans to understand the importance of these Pennsylvania rifles as military weapons.



Brigadier General
Edward Hand, MD

Hand's troops participated in the siege of Boston and he was soon made a full colonel. In 1776 the volunteer companies of riflemen were reenlisted as the 1st Regiment of Pennsylvania. The first general action in which that regiment took part was the Battle of Long Island in August 1776. Hand's rough-and-tumble riflemen were among those who held off British troops long enough for Washington to escape. A letter from a Colonel Chambers of the 1st Regiment to his wife described some of the action at the Battle of Long Island a week earlier:

. . .From all I can learn we numbered about twenty-five hundred and the attacking party [British and Hessians] not less than twenty-five thousand, as they had been landing for days before. Our men behaved as bravely as ever men did, but it is surprising that with the superiority of numbers they were not cut to pieces. They behaved gallantly, and there are but five or six hundred missing—our loss is chiefly in prisoners.

It was thought advisable to retreat off Long Island, and

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on the night of the 30th it was done with great secrecy. Very few of the officers knew it until they were on the boats, supposing that an attack was intended. . .

The Pennsylvania troops were done the great honor by being chosen the corps de reserve to cover the retreat. The regiments of Cols. Hand, Magaw, Shee, and Hazlett were detailed for that purpose. Never was a greater feat of generalship shown than in this retreat, to bring off an army of 12,000 men within sight of a strong enemy, possessed of as strong a fleet as ever floated on our seas, without any loss and saving all the baggage. Gen. Washington saw the last over himself.

above written from Camp at Delancey's Mills three miles above Kings Bridge NY Sept. 3, 1776

During the crossing of the Delaware on Christmas Day, 1776, Hand fell into the water and was kicked in the face by a horse, but remained in command of his troops. He and his riflemen participated in the capture of Hessian troops in Trenton, although he subsequently lost his right eye. Hand and his regiment helped delay the British advance from Princeton to Trenton early the following year. By firing from the woods his marksmen caused the British losses of 1,600 killed or captured, while less than a hundred of his troops were lost.

Hand was promoted to brigadier general in March 1777 and was ordered back to Fort Pitt to deal with the Indian tribes who were attacking small settlements in the area.

General Hand commanded one of four brigades in General Sullivan's expedition against the Iroquois Six Nations in July and August 1779. Its purpose was to avenge the Wyoming Valley massacre in northeastern Pennsylvania the previous year. During the expedition many Indian villages were destroyed, including a settlement at Newtown, near Elmira, New York, where more than a hundred houses, many orchards and hundreds of acres of grain were burned. This expedition was credited with crushing the Tory and Indian power in the area and encouraging the resumption of new settlement along the frontier.

By March 1780 General Hand was at Washington's winter quarters in Morristown to participate in a court martial of Dr. William Shippen, chief physician and director general of the Continental Army hospitals, charged with inefficiency and financial irregularities. (Dr. Shippen was acquitted.) Hand also sat on a board to determine the fate of British Major John André, accused of being a spy. André was hanged but his fellow conspirator and traitor, Benedict Arnold of the Continental Army, escaped punishment. Hand remembered André, who had earlier been a prisoner in Lancaster.

When Adjutant General Alexander Scammell wished to resign to return to line command, George Washington recommended Hand to succeed him. Elected in 1781 as adjutant general, Hand became the chief administrative officer for the army and inspector general, responsible for security.

In the summer of 1781 the French Navy under De Grasse arrived to blockade Yorktown. In September Washington,

Rochambeau and Hand saddled up and rode to Virginia. On October 19 the Battle of Yorktown was over. After the British surrender Hand went with Washington to Mount Vernon and then to Philadelphia, where he continued his military duties.

Hand was an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati. He was discharged from the army as a major general in 1783 after the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which ended hostilities.

The esteem in which he was held by his commander-in-chief is indicated by the following letter:

Mount Vernon, Jany 14, 1784

Dear Sir

When I left Philadelphia I hoped to have had the pleasure of seeing you at Annapolis before my departure from thence, and to have had an opportunity previous to my resignation of expressing to you personally, amongst the last acts of my Official life, my entire approbation of your public conduct, particularly in the execution of the important duties of Adjutant General.

Notwithstanding I have been disappointed in that expectation, and have it now in my power only as a private character to make known my sentiments and feelings respecting my military friends, yet I cannot decline making use of the first occasion after my retirement of informing you, my dear Sir, how much reason I have had to be satisfied with the great zeal, attention, and ability manifested by you in conducting the business of your



Rock Ford, the plantation of Brigadier General Edward Hand, is located on the Conestoga River south of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Rock Ford was purchased in 1958 by the Junior League of Lancaster and subsequently restored to its original condition. The Georgian-style mansion is open to the public. The sketch is by Paul Ripple, author of this article.

Department, and how happy I should be for an opportunity of demonstrating my sincere regard and esteem for you. It is unnecessary, I hope, to add with what pleasure I would see you at this place, being, with great truth,

My dear Sir
Y^r real friend &
Most Obed^t Serv^t
G^e Washington

The Hon^{ble}
Gen^l Hand

Now a civilian and a Federalist, Hand was elected to the Congress of the Confederation, where he voted to ratify the peace treaty on January 14, 1784. While in Congress Hand was a proponent of the Northwest Ordinance, which was adopted later, in 1787. In 1785 Hand was elected an assemblyman in the Pennsylvania State Legislature. He served in 1787 and 1788 as chief burgess of Lancaster. The following year Hand was voted a member of the Electoral College to choose the nation's first president and addressed the new Congress.

In 1789 and 1790 Hand represented Lancaster at the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, called to bring the state's constitution in line with the new federal document. Along with other dignitaries, on July 3, 1791 Hand went to Columbia on the Susquehanna River to escort President George Washington to Lancaster, where he was to celebrate the Fourth of July and to have tea with Mrs. Hand.

Major General Hand accompanied Washington in 1794 on the campaign to put down the Whiskey Rebellion. When trouble with France erupted in 1798, President John Adams appointed Washington commander of the provisional army and he in turn requested that Hand be commissioned as his adjutant general and Hand accepted. Fortunately, diplomatic negotiations soon ended successfully and the provisional army was not needed.

General Hand had relatively little time to enjoy his plantation, Rock Ford, which he built on the Conestoga River south of Lancaster and to which he moved his family about 1794. He and Kitty had five daughters and three sons. Their second son, Jasper, graduated from the School of Medicine at Princeton and Jasper's grandson, Edward, was also a physician.

General Hand was an original trustee and physician for the Lancaster Alms House, the second-oldest hospital still standing in America. He died at home September 3, 1802 and is buried in St. James Episcopal Churchyard in Lancaster, where his tomb is inscribed, "Ed. Hand M.D." ★