

**Benjamin Hyskell (1729-1811) P-331402**  
**Submitted by Richard Kenneth Mahaffey SAR #159505**

Patriot Benjamin Hyskell was born in March of 1729 around Frankford on Main, Germany (Frankfurt am Main). When he immigrated to the colonies he came to live in Pennsylvania. In York, Pennsylvania he wed Margaret Spessard before 1764. Among their children were George, Frederick, Catherine, Mary (Polly), John Frederick, Jane, Elizabeth, and Mary Ann.

Benjamin's work as a tinsmith allows the family to prosper and grow. In 1768 he was commissioned to design and make a weather vane for Elizabeth Town (now Hagerstown). Fashioned after a pre-revolutionary war Hessian soldier, the piece is known as the "Little Hyskell". Benjamin's work survived the war and in 1824 it was moved from the Market House to City Hall. Today it resides in the Hager House Museum.

During his life, Benjamin and his family lived in Hagerstown, Maryland and later Warriors Mark, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. In Maryland in 1778, he took the Oath of Fidelity and Support in front of John Stull. The backing of patriots with skills, professions, and standing in the community like Benjamin Hyskell boosted the profile of the revolutionary cause and showed the determination of its supporters.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, 1811 Benjamin Hyskell passed away in Warrior's Mark Township, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. He was buried in Burket Cemetery in the same town. His wife Margaret was interred in the same cemetery when she passed in 1831.

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