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Compiled by  
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Samuel Patterson, in addition to serving as Military Treasurer of New Castle County, and as State Treasurer at least from early in the Revolution until his death in 1785, held a number of other civil and military posts. He was a Justice for New Castle County in 1774 and 1777, a member of the Council in 1778, was designated to recover the captured public records of Delaware in 1778, and was appointed a delegate to the Continental Congress for the year 1784-85, but did not attend. He served in succession as Lt.-Col. (1775) of the Lower Division of New Castle County militia; as a Colonel of the Delaware Battalion in the "Flying Camp" in the summer and fall of 1776; and as Brigadier General of Delaware militia from the summer of 1778 until after October, 1782.

He was a resident of New Castle County throughout the period of his public service, and of the village of Christiana, White Clay Creek Hundred, when he died May 27, 1785. He was a son of William Patterson. He was buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery, Christiana.

At the time Samuel Patterson became the first Treasurer of Delaware, there was not the clear-cut budget system there is today. An examination of the early records shows, however, that during the first year of statehood the sum of 10,000 pounds was authorized by the Delaware General Assembly to defray the expenses of the State and help defend it during the War. This early appropriation would have amounted to approximately \$42,500. It is

interesting that, in this early period of our Country, the paper money became devaluated to such an extent that the Continental currency issued by the infant government was highly inflated. When people used the expression "not worth a continental", they referred to this Continental currency. The paper money of Delaware, on the other hand, lost very little of its value as it was raised through the State Loan Office. By this means citizens of Delaware who had faith in their State's government mortgaged their lands and in return received paper money issued by the State of Delaware. The trustees of the Loan Office were very strict in carrying out the provisions for amortizing these loans with the result that Delaware had little difficulty during the formative period in raising the money for governmental expenses.

[Extract from THE PENNSYLVANIA EVENING POST. July 4, 1778.]

Philadelphia, July 2, 1778.

WHEREAS many of the RECORDS and PUBLIC PAPERS of the Delaware State, and all belonging to the county of Newcastle, have fallen into the hands of the enemy, on the twelfth day of September last, at Wilmington, and afterwards brought by them to this city, where, by information, most if not all of them were left, and have been secured by well disposed persons for the benefit of the state, NOTICE is hereby given, That the subscriber is authorized and empowered by his excellency, Caesar Rodney, esquire, president of said state, in pursuance of a vote of the general assembly, to demand, receive and secure, all such records and public papers from any persons or persons in whose hands they or any of them may be found; and also to pay any charge incurred in securing the same.

It is therefore hoped that every person, having any of the said records or papers in his custody, will carefully deliver or send them to col. William Bradford, at the coffee house, as speedily as possible, who is empowered to receive the same, and pay the charges in my absence. I shall attend myself for four days at said place, precisely at twelve o'clock.

SAMUEL PATTERSON.

William Patterson, of Newcastle county, esquire, and the subscriber, had the misfortune, at the same time and place the records were captured, to have their books and public papers of all kinds likewise taken and brought up to Philadelphia, and as they can be of no benefit but to the owner, all persons who may have been so friendly as to have secured any of them, are earnestly requested to deliver them also to colonel Bradford, and to no other person, who will reward them amply for any trouble or expence.

SAMUEL PATTERSON.

Above copied from a similar paper in the Library of Congress.

May 22, 1925.

*Henry C. Conrad*  
State Archivist.