

Patriotic Display

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**Descendants of
Peter Mantz view a
display at Heritage
Frederick.**

Freedom in America began with a revolution—brave people willing to put themselves in danger to stand up for the rights of their neighbors and friends—and a melting pot of immigrant families from many parts of the world, looking for a better life, hopeful but not yet sure what being American would mean.

Peter Mantz was 23 years old in July 1776. Raised in Frederick, he was one of nine children of German immigrants Johann Casper and Anna Christina Heim Mantz, who ran a general store on East Patrick Street.

Following the signing of the Declaration of Independence 250 years ago, Maryland patriots at the request of the Continental Congress began organizing the Flying Camp, an active-duty militia of 10,000 men from the colony, as well as from Pennsylvania and Delaware. The militia would be constantly on the move to support the Continental

Army, wherever needed, with Peter Mantz selected to lead one of 10 local companies. Mantz, with just over 80 men, supported the movements of Gen. George Washington and the Continental Army in defense of New York City as well as their retreat through New Jersey and across the Delaware River.

Following his Revolutionary War service, Mantz went on to be a militia recruiter, a land surveyor and speculator, a tax commissioner, a Maryland legislator, and the county sheriff. After marrying Catherine Hauer, the couple raised 11 children in Frederick. Heritage Frederick's "Cultivating Independence: Frederick County in the Revolution" exhibit includes the war sword of Mantz and a leather wallet that belonged to him later in life. Earlier this year, Mantz descendants Joan and Bonnie Burrier, along with their mother, Helen Burrier, viewed their own history after being identified and contacted by Heritage Frederick staff. **FM**