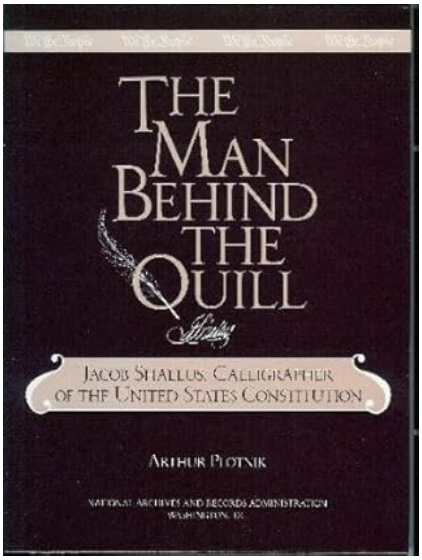
Almost Lost

The Man Behind the Quill

Jacob Shallus (1750 – 1796)





The Man Behind the Quill

by Arthur Plotnik

try a Google search to find a free copy

Stew Saylor ssaylor@earthlink.net

www.ecsaylor.org

www.ggcsar.org

Almost Lost
The Man Behind the Quill
Jacob Shallus (1750 – 1796)

We all recognize the words,
WE THE PEOPLE,
but the man that penned those words was not widely known until 100 years ago. At the time penned, he was known and paid for the work.

His name was Jacob SHALLUS.

He served in the Revolutionary War. Raised a family. Yet, none of his descendants have applied to either the
Sons of the American Revolution or
Daughters of the American Revolution.
While he may have purchased land in Somerset coounty, he is not know to have lived here. He was born in Philadelphia to German immigrants, Valentine and Frederica Shallus, he volunteered for the Continental Army, enlisting with the 1st Pennsylvania Regiment. On January 19, 1776, he was commissioned as an officer under

Colonel John Philip de Haas, a position he held during the regiment's campaign in Canada and its march from Philadelphia to Albany between January and September 1776. As quartermaster, Shallus managed supplies and logistics, a critical role - supporting troops during the failed invasion of Quebec.

Additionally, Shallus contributed to the war effort as a partner in the outfitting of the privateer Retrieve - a vessel used to harass British shipping. His service earned him the rank of captain by war's end.

His later role as assistant clerk to the Pennsylvania General Assembly during the Constitutional Convention make him a trusted figure for engrossing the Constitution in 1787.

Almost Lost
The Man Behind the Quill
Jacob Shallus (1750 – 1796)

Jacob Shallus was the engrosser or penman of the original copy of the United States Constitution. The handwritten document that Shallus engrossed is on display at the National Archives Building in Washington.

Shallus' name appears nowhere on the document itself, but an investigation into the identity of the Penman in 1937 for the 150th anniversary of the Constitution revealed the identity of the transcriber. Shallus was paid $30 for his engrossing work, a sum recorded as for "clerks employed to transcribe & engross." The effort consisted of copying the Constitution of four sheets of vellum parchment, made from treated animal skin and measuring approximately 28 inches (71 cm) by 23 inches (58 cm), probably with a goose quill. Shallus

engrossed the entire document except for the list of states at the end of the document, which are in Alexander Hamilton's handwriting.

Shallus is also credited as Assistant Secretary in the 1790 re-authoring of the State Constitution of Pennsylvania.

If you are reading this and your last name is SHAULIS, if so, you may be related to Jacob Shallus.

Probably through his nephew Sabastian Valentine Schaullis, who is recognized by both the SAR and DAR.