

The Defender

Fairfax Resolves Chapter Sons of the American Revolution

President, Tom Speelman

Publisher, Larry McKinley, 12158 Holly Knoll Circle, Great Falls, VA 22066

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As you know, the VASSAR Annual Meeting was held in Richmond on February 13-14. Once again, I had the pleasure, along with Larry McKinley, Jack Sweeney, Dennis Hickey, and Dan Rolph, of representing the Fairfax Resolves at the meeting.

I'm pleased to report that our chapter was recognized for *the outstanding community service, youth, historical, and patriotic work that we did last year*. **For the second consecutive year, the Fairfax Resolves Chapter was named the Best Large Chapter in Virginia.** We also received recognition for our programs for Fire/Safety, EMS, Oration, Supplemental Applications, Forgotten Patriots, Revolutionary War Grave Marking, Revolutionary War Grave Registration, Best

Program Initiative (our project to transcribe and make available the Fairfax County and Alexandria Revolutionary War petitions), and Best Newsletter.

President Speelman receiving Best Large Chapter for VASSAR President Art Batten



There are many things that don't show up in the awards but contributed to the awards, such as our very heavy participation in Revolutionary War commemorative events, as well as our work in conducting ceremonies at Veterans' Common in Falls Church to recognize and remember the sacrifices of our veterans of all conflicts, and establishing a Chapter Color Guard. Additionally, this past year, we also recognized our chapter award winners as Teacher of the Year, Citizen of the Year, and Law Enforcement Awards (2), and Chapter Essay Contest winner. The chapter should be justifiably proud of its accomplishments. We're making a difference. (cont'd, page 2)



Top Down: Best Large Chapter; Chapter Excellence; Best EMS program; Best Program initiative; Forgotten Patriots-7 outside VA, 1 inside VA; 1st place Oration Contest; Jennings Flathers=Best Newsletter Award; Revolutionary Grave Registration; supplemental; Best Fire/Safety program; and last black blank=National History Day participation.

The committee chairs have again done yeoman's work and it really shows – not only within the chapter and in VASSAR – but within the community. The great relationships that we've established with multiple schools in the area, the Fairfax County Police Department and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, as well as other service organizations, such as the American Legion and VFW, is establishing working relations that will enable us to continue and expand the service we provide in the community.

The New Year is also off to a great start! We conducted our Oration Contest in January with Matt Retterer of Bishop Dennis J. O'Connell High School winning our chapter contest and following it up with a win at the VASSAR contest. At our February meeting, we benefited from an extremely interesting presentation on the Battle of the Capes by Dr. John Quarstein, and heard our Essay Contest Winner, Hannah Clark of the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology, read her chapter-winning essay that won 2nd place in the VASSAR contest. We've also participated in commemorative events and our newly established color guard has been very active.

We have several upcoming events that I would encourage you to attend, especially if you've not been to a meeting recently. I won't enumerate them here. Check out our excellent chapter website at www.fairfaxresolvessar.org to find our recent and upcoming activities as well as an excellent recap of all our activities.

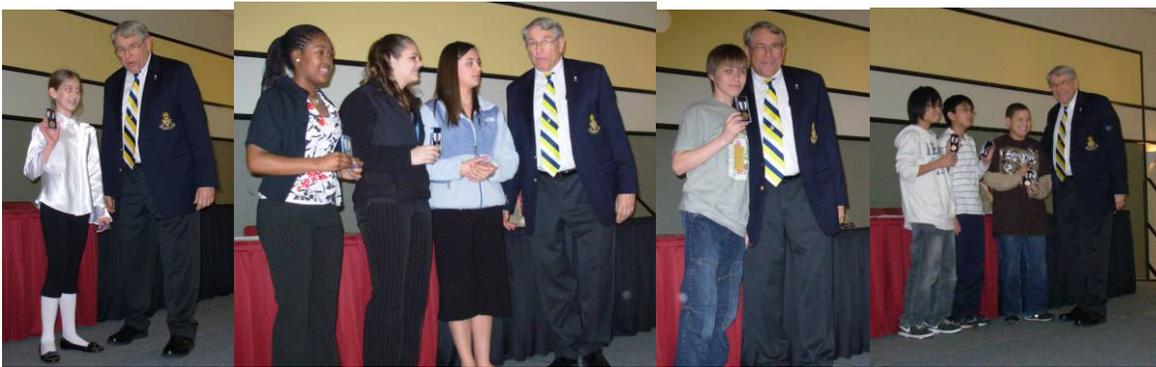
If you've not been to a meeting recently, try and find time to do so. As I hope you can tell, we have great programs that are making a difference in the community and we have a superb venue at Vinson Hall. **You are a member of the most dynamic chapter in Virginia! Come be a part of it!**

Fairfax Resolves joined with Culpeper Minutemen Chapter to Support District History Day Competition in Virginia



Photo: SAR judges John Sinks, Andrew Monahan, Gar Schulin, and John Sweeney with exhibitors Neil Siriwongthawan and Rachel Bryner.

The Annual History Day Competition for District V was held at George Mason University on March 7th. In opening ceremonies, the master of ceremony named those organizations that provided financial support to the level of sponsorship to an auditorium full of history students, their parents, and teachers. Four chapters of the Virginia Society were named: Col. Fielding Lewis, Culpeper Minute Men, Fairfax Resolves, and George Mason. The last four chapters provided eight judges for the competition. The Culpeper Minutemen and Fairfax Resolves Chapters recognized 14 students for outstanding projects in American History 1750-1800. The following pictures are a montage of the Fairfax resolves winners on that great day for history in our district.



All students received a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal from our Chapter as well as a certificate acknowledging their participation and winning in their category in the District. Jack Sweeney is really enjoying rewarding these youth and I don't blame him...they are our future!!!

Color Guard Activities:

Last year we didn't have a Color Guard, but this year it is soooooooo different!! With Darrin Schmidt, Dan Rolph and interim Commander McKinley we march and show the Colors for most requests, some maybe a bit unusual (Color Guard at the Grand Banquet for the Cherry Blossom Festival, Washington D.C.) We're honored to participate in the activities described on the following pages, and also including Valley Forge and Yorktown. Historic celebrations and grave markings are an important part of the SAR's work to inspire the community.



*Congressional Cemetery-Washington D.C.
November 2008*



Dedication of Steps at Congressional with Maryland, SAR & C.A.R. along with our National President General.

Jack Sweeney documented the service of Elijah Harrison immediately following Larry Lamborn's introduction to approximately 25 SAR's DAR's and C.A.R.'s gathered at Congressional Cemetery, November, 2008. President General David Appleby assisted Larry Lamborn in uncovering the SAR marker. Fairfax Resolves Color Guard is standing behind at the ready (we got most of Dan Rolph in didn't we?).



Guilford Courthouse—March 14th—A great Battle of the Southern Campaign



The VASSAR Color Guard representing cities of Charlottesville, Winchester, Roanoke, and our great City and Chapter Fairfax Resolves—you can see Darrin in the middle, Dan 3rd from the right and Larry on the right recently made Color Guard Chairman for VASSAR—we'll pass the leadership around.

Fairfax Resolves Color Guard at Guilford Courthouse, below left with all the wreaths laid in the background. This year's ceremony was the first time in years that the ceremony has been held indoors due to weather.



VASSAR President Bill Simpson, Jr. installed Dan River Chapter President Larry Aaron at Guilford Courthouse. VASSAR Color Guard assisted our President.

Report of the Nominating Committee

By Larry McKinley

The official results are in from the Nominating Committee. Fairfax Resolves is blessed with very committed and talented leaders. It is a pleasure to have such talent from which to draw officers. **Members are invited to the April meeting of Fairfax Resolves where they will elect their new leadership on April 9th.**

President.....**Jack Sweeney**
 First V.P.....**Larry Lamborn**
 Second V.P.....**Darrin Schmidt**
 Third V.P.....**Bob Hampton**
 Secretary.....**Andrew Monahan**
 Asst. Secretary.....**Phil Ray**
 Treasurer.....**Dan Rolph**
 Asst. Treasurer.....**Joshua Myers**
 Chaplain.....**Larry McKinley**
 Genealogist/Registrar.....**John Sinks**
 Asst Genealogist/Registrar.....**Jack Sweeney**
 Historian.....**Rob Engle**
 Parliamentarian.....**John Sinks**

The Board of Managers

Three year Term.....**Tom Speelman**
 Two Year Term.....**Donald Cooper**
 One year term.....**Lauris Eek**

Positions not in our By-Laws for elections but are very important to the running of our Chapter today:

Web Master.....**Darrin Schmidt**
 Publicist.....**Rob Engle**
 Photographer.....**Bill Youngs**

These Compatriots need a pat on the back when you see them, because they are constantly busy ... but not always in the spotlight.

Important Dates/SAR Events

1. **April 4 DAR Gravemarking of Rev. War Ancestor**
 11 a.m. Prince William Resolves Chapter, NSDAR
 Dale City, Virginia
 2. **April 9, 9 a.m. Fire Safety & EMS Awards**
 North Point Fire Station, 1117 Reston Ave., Reston, VA
 See Chapter web-site for details
www.fairfaxresolvessar.org
 3. **April 9, Chapter Meeting & Speaker**
 Washington's Tactical Masterpiece, The Trenton-Princeton Campaign, Speaker LTC Thomas E. Hanson, USA
 See Chapter web-site for additional details.
 4. **April 11, 2 p.m. Gravemarking, Congressional Cem.**
 Fairfax Resolves and the Maryland SAR Society are jointly marking the grave of Benjamin C. Wood.
 5. **May 9, Fairfax Resolves Installation & Awards Banquet**
 6:30 Wine and Cheese, 7 p.m. dinner
 See Chapter website for particulars
 Information detail as to menu choices, etc.
www.fairfaxresolvessar.org
 6. **May 16, McLean Days**
 Fairfax resolves will share a booth with George Mason Chapter, SAR and Freedom Hill Chapter, NSDAR
 Time TBD
- Historic Celebrations, National Activities & Color Guard Activities**
1. **April 13, 10 a.m. Thomas Jefferson Memorial**
 Thomas Jefferson's Birthday, Washington D.C.
 2. **May 9, Wilderness Road State Park 10 a.m.**
 Wreath laying and reenacting the Indian siege of the Fort Louisville, KY, details trc@mounet.com
 Thomas Cocker, President Martin Station Chapter or Fairfax Resolves Color Guard Commander.
 3. **May 25, National Memorial Day Parade**
 Washington D.C. Report Time for Color Guard TBD
 Contact Commander at Dustoff@Verizon.net
 4. **May 29 & 30, Natural Tunnell State Park**
 Tribute to Pioneers and Pathfinders, Siege of the Blockhouse, 6 p.m. on the 29th and continues 9 a.m. on 30th
 5. **July 3-8, 119th SAR Congress, Marietta, Georgia**
 Renaissance Waverly Hotel
 Detail on SAR website: www.sar.org
 6. **July 4, Washington's Tomb, Mt. Vernon**
 Time to report and ceremony times TBD

2009 Chapter Projects

By John Sinks, Chapter Registrar/Genealogist

Last year the Chapter undertook and completed a significant project to make the Revolutionary history of the area more accessible to the public: we transcribed and posted the transcriptions of the Fairfax County, including Town of Alexandria, legislative petitions. This year we are taking steps to make further information about the Revolutionary history accessible to the public, including the history of Loudoun County. The long-run goal that is emerging is to compile a list of Fairfax and Loudoun patriots (Town of Alexandria included) with an accurate description of their service and reference to where the service is documented in early records--not undocumented assertions on the Web. Where the text of the document is of interest and neither a good transcript nor image of the text is widely available, a transcript would be made. This is an ambitious project. This long-range project breaks down into a number of discrete projects, some of which have already been completed.

Thanks to the effort of **Phil Ray**, we have already posted Fairfax and Loudoun County Pension Applications for Services provided during the American Revolution. Further work to add patriots to this page is needed. We are far along in compiling a list of men who performed civil service from the area. **John Sinks** and **Andrew Monahan** have identified Town of Alexandria officials and Fairfax County tobacco inspectors. These will be posted shortly. They are well along in identifying the justices of Fairfax County and the Town of Alexandria.

So far our base of participation has been much narrower in 2009 than it was last year.

There are several more “easy” projects that have not yet started:

- Identifying additional pension applicants

Searching Footnote.Com for the names of known officers from this area and reviewing the applications of pensioners residing in the area at the time of the 1840 census can yield the names of additional pensioners. One volunteer is needed for this work.

- Identifying men who served on juries to appraise estates

Those appointed to appraise estates are identified in the Fairfax County and Loudoun County will books. A first draft can be probably be prepared from published abstracts of will books of Fairfax and Loudon counties, but in the long run we will want to use the original will books to make sure we have spellings and page numbers correct. The published abstracts and microfilm of the original books for both counties is available in the Virginia Room of the Fairfax City Regional Library in Fairfax. There are a lot of pages, but it is easy to pick out the appraisals and all we need is some summary information about the appraisers and their service. Two to four volunteers are needed to identify and document the service of men who served on special juries to appraise estates.

- Identifying Fairfax County petit and grand jurors and other civil service.

There is only one extant Order Book for Fairfax County for the Revolutionary period and it begins in June of 1783. The first 50 pages cover the Revolutionary period. Several petit and grand jury lists as well as re-imburements for other services are listed here. Two volunteers are needed to find services in the Fairfax County Court Order Book, 1783-1788.

Two more difficult projects can use a whole team of volunteers:

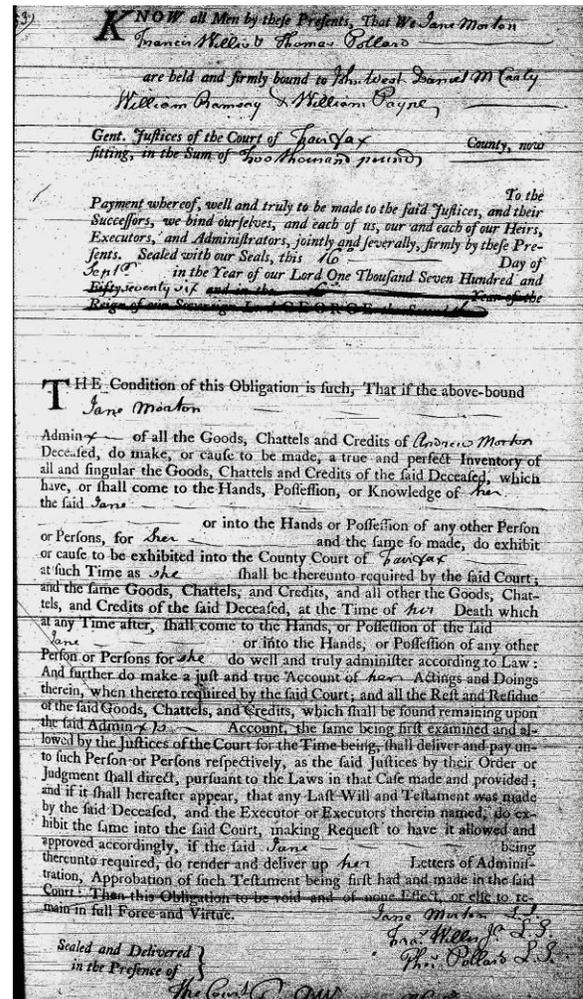
- Identifying those who performed civil and patriotic service in Loudoun County

Unlike Fairfax County, the court record books of Loudoun County for the Revolution are extant. These include the names of justices, supervisors of road work, county officials, juries, reimbursement for services. Over 500 pages need to be examined. These books are on microfilm in the Virginia Room of the Fairfax City Regional Library in Fairfax.

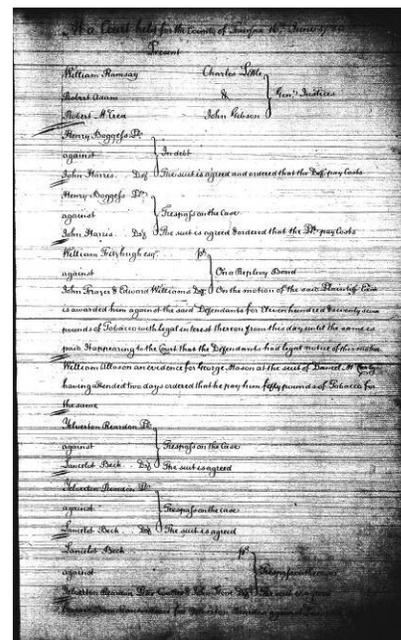
- Transcribing Loudoun County legislative petitions

This project would be similar in size to what we did with Fairfax petitions last year. There were two sets of virtually identical petitions dated 5 Dec. 1781 for and against a division of the county. 507 signed for and 260 signed against. Proof of patriotic service for 767 men for one county at one time is pretty impressive!

This is probably more than enough for us to focus on right now. Last year we involved 13 members in the project to transcribe petitions. With broad involvement, we can accomplish a lot this year, especially since many of the projects involve lists rather than transcriptions.



Examples of documents from our legislative petitions project last year



Registrar's Report



2008 Accomplishments

The Fairfax Resolves Chapter had a very strong year. Thirteen new members were approved by the National Society and fourteen supplemental applications were approved. We were the only chapter in the state that qualified for the streamer for the Supplemental Applications Presidential Initiative, having met the target of 10 supplemental applications approved during the year. We remembered eight Forgotten Patriots—

patriots on whom nobody had joined SAR or DAR with a correct application. We qualified for the Program Excellence streamer for Forgotten Patriots with eight stars—one extra star for remembering a Virginian.

Thanks go to the following members for successful applications approved in 2008.

Member	Ancestor	State of Service	Forgotten Patriot	Date Approved
<i>New Members</i>				
Hall, David	Samuel Bradford	MA		1/14/2008
Eubanks, Brian	John Halstead	NY		2/4/2008
Rolph, Daniel	Thomas Rolph	MD	Yes	2/8/2008
Cranmer, Thomas	Ebenezer Stoner	MA		3/24/2008
Brown, Robert	John George Peiffer	PA		3/28/2008
Ray, Jeremy	Daniel Dees	NC		3/28/2008
Ray, Phil	Daniel Dees	NC		3/28/2008
Johnson, Douglas	James Budden	PA		5/5/2008
Costanzo, Irv	John Ward	NY		5/5/2008
Monahan, Andrew	John Ackiss	VA		5/23/2008
Dorris, Joe	Samuel Dorris	VA, MD		7/14/2008
Schumann, Robert	Samuel Dorris	VA, MD		7/14/2008
Myers, Joshua	Samuel Gann, Jr.	NC		11/17/2008
<i>Supplemental Applications Approved</i>				
Engle, Rob	Conrad Jacoby	PA	Yes	1/15/2008
	Philip Hinkle	PA	Yes	3/26/2008
	Frederick Weitzel	PA		5/1/2008
	Frederick Stamm	PA	Yes	5/1/2008
	Werner Stamm	PA		5/1/2008
Gutowski, Andrew	James Walker	VA		5/12/2008
Sinks, John	Burgess Wall	VA	Yes	3/17/2008
	John Weir	SC	Yes	5/1/2008
	Robert Green	NC	Yes	6/2/2008
Sweeney, John	Jonathan Parker Sr	NH		3/20/2008
	Jonathan Parker Jr	NH		3/20/2008
	Jonathan Stanley	NH		3/20/2008
	Edward Barnard Jr	CT	Yes	3/20/2008
	Elijah Stevens	CT		8/5/2008

Application Status

Since the last issue of *The Defender* we have the following changes in application status.

Member	Ancestor	State of Service	Forgotten Patriot	Date
				<i>Approved by NSSAR</i>
<i>New Members</i>				
Joshua Myers	Samuel Gann	NC		11/17/2008
				<i>Date Received by NSSAR</i>
<i>Applicants</i>				
Brett Sweeney	Robert Hathaway	MA, RI		1/5/2009
Clarke Bursley	Nathan Wing	MA	Yes	1/26/2009
Jack Simms	William Cooke	VA		2/23/2009
William Price	Jonathan Clower	NC		2/23/2009
James Naughton, Sr.	John Davenport	VA		Submitted to state
			Yes	
James Naughton, Jr.	John Davenport	VA		Submitted to state
				<i>Date Approved by NSSAR</i>
<i>Supplemental Applications Approved</i>				
Lawrence Lamborn	Josiah Lamborn	PA		1/7/2009
John Sinks	John Maxey	VA	Yes	1/7/2009
John Sinks	Jeremiah Jacob	NC		1/20/2009
Jack Sweeney	Edward Barnard, Sr.	CT		1/20/2009
Andrew Gutowski	Alexander Spottswood	VA		2/19/2009
Andrew Monahan	Thomas Copenhaver	PA		3/9/2009
				<i>Date Received by NSSAR</i>
<i>Supplemental Applications Submitted</i>				
John Sinks	Nathaniel Barker (Sr.)	VA	Yes	2/6/2009
Tom Speelman	Christian Herring	PA	Maybe	2/23/2009
John Sinks	Edward Laurance (Jr.)	VA	Yes	3/6/2009
Phil Ray	James Ross	NC		Submitted to state
Jeremy Ray	James Ross	NC		Submitted to state
Andrew Gutowski	Alexander Waugh	VA		Submitted to state
Larry McKinley	William Lowther	VA		Submitted to state
Larry McKinley	Thomas Hughes, Sr.	VA		Submitted to state

2009 Goals

We are off to a very fast start in 2009. We already have remembered one Forgotten Patriot. Three and possibly four more applications on Forgotten Patriots have been submitted. The Presidential Initiative for Supplemental Applications is not a permanent program and ends this year. The four “unused” supplemental applications approved last year are carried forward to this year. With the six supplementals already approved in 2009, we have already earned a star for our Presidential initiative streamer and we have submitted eight more on our way to a second star! Do not delay submitting your supplemental applications. Let’s shoot for at least 12 more so we have 30 to our credit by the end of the year.

This year we were the only chapter in the state that qualified for the streamer for the Supplemental Applications Presidential Initiative, having met the target of 10 supplemental applications approved during the year. We remembered eight Forgotten Patriots—patriots on whom nobody had joined SAR or DAR with a correct application. We qualified for the Program Excellence streamer for Forgotten Patriots with eight stars—one extra star for remembering a Virginian.

The Registrar's Corner.... That also belongs to the Genealogist



A small vignette a day helps a man's brain and his sense of humor (so sayeth the Secretary of this Organization)

Vignettes of the American Revolution

“The headquarters were transferred for a time from Fishkill to Fredericksburg, on the Connecticut border, east of West point; then to Middlebrook on the Raritan River, ten miles west of New Brunswick. Here they remained till the following summer, the men going into huts as at Valley Forge, but profiting by the experience of the previous winter to make them more

comfortable. There was also a greater number of farmhouses available for the officers, and Greene as well as other generals had each a house to himself. The ladies again came to camp; Mrs. Washington, Mrs. Greene, Mrs. Knox, Lady Stirling and her daughter Lady Kitty, and others. There were the same amusements as at Valley Forge with which to pass the long winter evenings, but here there were rooms large enough to dance in, and of one of these occasions, in March, Greene writes: “We had a little dance at my quarters a few evenings past. His Excellency and Mrs. Greene danced upward of three hours without once sitting down. Upon the whole, we had a pretty little frisk.” Francis Vinton Greene, *General Greene*, p.123; first published 1893.

“Elizabeth Lemmon who lately came from the State of Maryland to this Town and having affected herself in sanity, but discovering and shewing a base disposition It is therefore Ordered that she be Immediately conveyed to the said State of Maryland from whence she came, and William Ward is directed and Ordered to convey this Order into Execution.” Hustings Court Order Book 1780-1787, Town of Alexandria, 20 Feb. 1783, p. 23. William Ward was a constable for the Town of Alexandria.

The 10,000 Name Petition

by John D. Sinks

The American Revolution was not just a military conflict, but a movement to establish a new government. The Sons of the American Revolution recognizes this broader nature of the American Revolution, crediting Revolutionary service not only those who performed military services, but also those who performed a wide range on non-military activities. Among those recognized as patriots are signers of petitions addressed to and recognizing the authority of the provisional and new state governments. Most petitions to the Virginia legislature from the Revolutionary era were from a limited geographic area: one or two counties or perhaps a parish. A notable exception is a petition, available on-line, establishing service of almost 10,000 Virginians. This is known as The 10,000 Name Petition.

At the beginning of the Revolution the Church of England was the established church in Virginia. Tax revenues supported the Church. Dissenting ministers had to be licensed in order to preach the Gospel and a number of preachers, especially Baptists, were imprisoned for preaching without a license. The Baptists of Virginia strongly supported the Revolution because of religious oppression that they blamed on the British.

The Northern and Southern Districts of the Separate Baptist Association met in a joint session at DuPuy's Meeting House in what was then Cumberland County, Virginia in August 1775 and decided to take a stand against favored treatment for the Church of England. Robert Baylor Semple reported in *History of the Baptists in Virginia* (first published in 1810) that the Association resolved “...to circulate petitions to the Virginia Convention or General Assembly throughout the

State in order to obtain signatures.”[p. 85] Jeremiah Walker, John Williams, and George Roberts were appointed to submit the petitions to the legislature. They also asked to preach to the army, a request that was granted.

Over the next year essentially identical petitions were circulated throughout Virginia. These strongly praised the end to British oppression and called for religious equality. The text of most of these petitions was removed and the signatures pasted together. Almost 10,000 men signed the petition, giving rise to the name, “The 10,000 Name Petition.” Exactly when it was presented to the House of Delegates is not known, but it was mentioned in *The Journal of the House of Delegates* on 16 October 1776.

The 10,000 Name Petition poses a special challenge to the genealogist endeavoring to prove service: how does one know where in Virginia a given signer resided? In many cases the signature of a minister provides a clue. In other cases names can be compared with tax rolls and other records. Many churches served more than one county, complicating this matching process. Some matching has already been published. The petition with signatures was transcribed and published in *The Virginia Magazine of Genealogy* starting in Vol. 35 #2 (Spring 1997) and concluded in Vol. 38 #3 (August 2000) by Jean Pickett Hall. Hall identified pages associated with particular churches and areas, many of which were contributed by readers throughout the country who had expertise in particular areas of Virginia.

The petition was referred to committee, but never reported out. However, this petition was an important step towards the freedom of religion we know today. Those who descend from the signers can take pride that their forbearers helped shape the relationship between church and state and the religious freedom we enjoy today.

Images of the original petition are available at Library of Congress web site.

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=relpet&fileName=000/013/013page.db&recNum=0Service>

A transcription of the petition based on legible sections of the two copies and a reconciliation of minor differences follows:

To the Honorable Speaker and House of Delegates of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Petition of the dissenters from the Ecclesiastical Establishment in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Humbly sheweth

That your petitioners being in common with the other inhabitants of the Commonwealth delivered from British Oppression rejoice in the Prospect of having their Freedom secured and maintained to them and their posterity inviolate. The hopes of your petitioners have been raised and confirmed by the Declaration of Virginia our Honorable House with regard to equal Liberty. Equal Liberty! that invaluable Blessing which though it be the Birthright of every good member of the State has been what your Petitioners have been Deprived of in that by Taxation-- their property hath been wrested from them and given to those from whom they have received no equivalent Your Petitioners therefore having long groaned under the Burden of an Ecclesiastical establishment beg leave to move your Honourable House that this as well as every other yoke may be Broken and that the oppressed may go free that so every Religious Denomination being on level animosities may cease and that Christian Forbearance Love and Charity may be practiced towards each other, while the Legislature interferences only to support them in their just Rights and equal privileges.

And your petitioners shall ever pray.