



Fairfax Resolves Chapter,
Virginia Society SAR

Spring Newsletter

June 2016

President's Corner

Whew! I am writing this one-week following the premier Memorial Day Parade of the nation, and I am glad I have had a week to recuperate. We were sweltering in our Continental Soldier uniforms. No SAR Color Guardsmen fell out during the parade, but plenty of other parade participants did fall out, with some requiring emergency response. The Fairfax Resolves Chapter contributed a good proportion of the SAR Color Guard portion of the parade. Judging by the reaction of the 300,000 plus parade observers, the SAR parade unit was a popular attraction in the parade in our colorful Continental Soldier uniforms and led by a trio of fife and drum musicians. We SAR guardsmen busted our buttons with pride marching down Constitution Avenue. When we were not actually marching, folks wanted a photo with us, and I indulged them, even letting them pose with my non-firing replica of a Brown Bess musket. There must have been a hundred who had their photo snapped by family and friends. There were free-lance and professional photographers galore "capturing a moment in time" for posterity - but Dang! If I don't have a single photo to post this hugely patriotic and living history event to the chapter website. Hmm, we could have used a shutterbug from the chapter. *Editor's note – attached photos were found on VASSAR website.*

ELECTION 2016!! It is no secret there is an important election in November of this year. Everyone is talking about it. NO, not the one where folks are yelling and calling each other names. The really important election doesn't care about your party affiliation, or whom you will appoint to the US Supreme Court – the important election only requires that you be a member in good standing of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter SAR, and be willing to spend some time participating in the chapter events. You won't have to debate on national television or release news bulletins explaining what you really meant in your latest news release. Instead, you will expend some personal energy to encourage youth programs, support SAR goals of patriotism, American history, and have some enjoyable moments with fellow compatriots - teleprompters are not permitted. Consider stepping up to work with our programs regardless of your ability to attend monthly meetings. Even members living way outside the Northern Virginia region can participate in judging essays, Eagle Scout awards, and in personally touting the SAR programs. Even if not in the area, you can still apply for supplemental patriots and write articles for the newsletter and website. If you are looking for a way to participate in Fairfax Resolves Chapter activities, contact any of the officers or activity chairmen.

Fraternally,

Vern Eubanks, President Fairfax Resolves Chapter SAR

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Richard Radcliffe,
Founder of Fairfax City



David Wherry Grave marking Ceremony

The SAR Fairfax Resolves, Colonel Henry Hollingsworth Chapters, and DAR Elk Chapter host grave marking at Sharp's Cemetery.

A grave marking ceremony for Revolutionary War Patriot David Wherry, an ancestor of David Cook – Fairfax Resolves member, was held on May 7, 2016 at Sharp's Cemetery in Cecil County, Maryland.

Sons of the American Revolution members of the Fairfax Resolves chapter, Colonel Henry Hollingsworth chapter and Daughters of the American Revolution members of the Elk chapter sponsored the event.

The Col. Henry Hollingsworth Color Guard did the Presentation of the Colors. David Cook, Fairfax Resolves chapter, presided over the ceremony and read his paper, "The Life and Times of David Wherry."

The Life and Times of David Wherry Jr.

Today we honor the life of David Wherry Jr. He was a man born in times of turmoil in Northern Ireland and here in the New World. That turmoil forged in David Wherry the man, a strong feeling of family, of religion and of patriotism.

David and his wife, Mary Leonard along with their three children, James, David and Ann emigrated from Northern Ireland in about 1718. The precise reason for their decision to move to Pennsylvania may remain forever unknown. However, James Leyburn in his book, "The Scotch-Irish" assesses that some quarter of a million Ulster men immigrated to America between 1717 and the Revolutionary War. He states the reasons for this Great Migration were primarily economic but in the first years, religious considerations played a part.¹

The forced settlement of Northern Ireland by the Scots in 1610 proved a great success. The English Parliament, alarmed by the competition of Irish goods, began to impose restrictive measures on the importation of goods. Similarly, absentee English property owners impressed by improvements to their Ulster properties raised rents. In addition, the six years 1714-1719 insufficient rainfall proved a calamitous for farmers.¹

Religious persecution too may have been a factor in causing the Wherry family to immigrate. The Test Act of 1704 excluded Presbyterians from public office and deprived the church's clergy of legal standing, compounding existing difficulties regarding marriage and the law.¹ "Thus the first migration, then, was touched off by a combination of drought, rack-renting, diminished trade in woolen goods, depression and now religious vagary of emotional people; on the contrary, among the first emigrants were ministers, ready to lead their congregations to the New World".¹

David Wherry settled with his family on property purchased in 1721¹ near what is now East Nottingham, Pennsylvania. However, his trials were not over. On 29 October 1730, David Wherry and others were accused of trespass and threats with "unlawful weapons" for clearing land near a tract of land called Mount Hope by William Ramsey, a Maryland neighbor. By virtue of a warrant sworn by William Ramsey's Warrant Maryland, authorities entered David Wherry's plantation and took him before a Cecil County Court. David Wherry refused to enter a plea citing that the court-lacked jurisdiction, as the property in question was in Pennsylvania.

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In response, Governor Gordon of Pennsylvania, in a letter dated 31 Sep 1731 to Governor Calvert of Maryland, sought redress for “found against the poor man for peaceably falling timber to fence the land that had for many years been in his possession. “ He further warned, “...that if a speedy & effectual stop is not put to such measures, I can no longer restrain our inhabitants from doing themselves justice.”¹ The finding of boundary markers laid down by William Penn proved David Wherry’s case.

However, violence continued between settlers claiming various loyalties to Maryland and Pennsylvania. Sometimes known as Cresap’s War, conditions lead to the 1767 survey of the Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania border by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon and the establishment of the Mason-Dixon Line.¹

We believe the Wherry family became members of the Rock Presbyterian Church soon after its founding in Lewisville, Pennsylvania. The Stone Graveyard in Lewisville, the location of the first Church building, contains the graves of David Wherry Senior who died on 13 July 1743 and Mary, his wife, who died on 7 December 1759.



Grave of David Wherry Senior and his wife, Mary.



David Wherry, the son, became a successful farmer. He inherited half of his father’s plantation and on 4 April 1750, David Wherry added an additional forty acres adjoining his present property and along the Little Elk River in East Nottingham Township via a Pennsylvania land grant.¹

David Wherry remained associated with the Rock Presbyterian Church. Church records indicate he was a church elder for many years.¹

David Wherry was a good provider. He fathered 15 children by two wives, Isabella Sharpe, daughter of Thomas Sharpe, who died on 23 May 1760 and Margaret Mackey, daughter of James Mackey. Only two of his children died very young.

David Wherry, Jr. was a patriot. On December 20 1774, David became a member of the Chester County Committee of Observation, Anthony Wayne Chairman.¹ On August 13, 1776, the Committee of Safety selected David Wherry as a person of suitable character to provide for the distressed families of militia members in actual service. On 1 July 1777, he took and subscribed an Oath of Allegiance and fidelity to the American Revolutionary cause before Justice Phillip Scott.¹ On August 1, 1777 The Justices of the Peace for the County of Chester selected David Wherry among others, “... to take an account of all of the wheat flour grain and other stores in the county of Chester, within 20 miles distance” as the British approached Philadelphia. ¹¹

At least three of David’s sons served in the military during the Revolution. Joseph Wherry was a 2nd Lt in Chester County’s East Nottingham Militia Company while, sons James and David served as privates.¹ The son, David later served as an Ensign in the 8th Regiment of the Pennsylvania Continental Line. ¹

David Wherry lived his life on his homestead in East Nottingham, Chester County. He died on July 7, 1800. Margaret, his wife passed away seven years later.

¹ Leyburn, James G, “The Scotch – Irish, A Social History”, 1962, Chapel Hill, NC, p 157.

¹ Leyburn, p.164.

¹ The Scots-Irish Journey to the New World, Dickson, Robert L, “Ulster Emigration to Colonial America, 1718-1775: Belfast (1988), p. 27.

¹ Leyburn, p.168.

¹ Pennsylvania Archives Vol I, Pennsylvania, 1852, p. 293.

¹ Pennsylvania Archives , pp 289-293.

¹ Now I know.com Cresap’s War

¹ Pennsylvania, Land Warrants and Applications, 1733-1952. Harrisburg, PA: Pennsylvania State Archives

¹ Jones, J. H., “A History of the Rock Presbyterian Church in Cecil County, Maryland”, 1872, Oxford, PA., p 24.

¹ Pennsylvania Archives 5th Series, Vol V, “Muster Rolls and Papers Relating to the Associators and Militia of the County of Chester”, p 452.

¹ Williams, Richard T. and Mildred C. “Oaths of Allegiance Chester County, Pennsylvania”, 1974, Danboreo, PA, p 34.

¹ Pennsylvania Archives Vol XIV, Egle, William H. “War of the Revolution, Associated Battalions and Militia” Vol II, 1892, p 144.

¹ Everts, Louis H. “History of Chester County, Pennsylvania with Genealogical and Biographical Sketches”, 1881, Philadelphia, p. 68.

¹ Pennsylvania Archives 5th Series, Vol V, pp 521-522.

¹ DAR RC #237493 – David Wherry

Virginia Dispatches

Newsletter of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

1890 - 2016



2016 National Memorial Day Parade

5/31/2016

0 Comments

30 May 2016

Washington, DC

report by Mike Elston, Virginia SAR 1st Vice President



The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution today honored the hundreds of thousands of men and women who gave the last full measure of devotion to our country in conflicts from the Revolutionary War to the present by marching in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. This was the SAR's 12th consecutive appearance in the parade. Led by Secretary General [Mike Tomme](#) of Georgia, the 39-member SAR unit included members from seven states and France. Chancellor General [Davis Wright](#), Vice President General [Michael Elston](#), Virginia SAR President [Ed Truslow](#), past Virginia SAR Presidents [Reverdy Wright](#), [Don Reynolds](#) and [Larry McKinley](#), New Hampshire SAR President [Brian Anderson](#), past New Hampshire SAR President [Hans Jackson](#), and past Pennsylvania SAR President [Ernie Sutton](#) were joined by C.A.R. dignitaries, including National President [Connor Jackson](#), Virginia C.A.R. State President [Alex Slaughter](#), and Senior National Vice President for the Mid-Southern Region [Rebecca Slaughter](#). The color guard was ably led by Virginia SAR Color Guard Commander [Darrin Schmidt](#). Twenty-three people received the National Memorial Day Parade Medal for their participation. Overcast and 80 degrees was perfect marching weather, and a good time was had by all! Thank you to the George Washington Chapter, Virginia SAR, and its president, [Greg Bodge](#), for providing the administrative support for this national event!

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National Society, Sons of the American Revolution Secretary General Mike Tomme.



Virginia SAR President Ed Trustlow.



Registrar/Genealogy Report

Registrar/Genealogy Point of Contact: David E Cook

Report as of 02 Jun 2016

Continuing Activities:

So far this year the NSSAR Genealogy staff approved eleven new member applications. The Genealogy Staff also approved four supplemental applications since the beginning of this year, four more were submitted to National.

Applications should forward applications with reference documents to David E Cook at cookoo6@verizon.net. David will also accept hard copy reference documents at 4317 Braeburn Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032-1806 but “soft copy” is preferred. David’s tel. nos. is 703-323-7968 (Home) or 703-798-5319 (Mobile) but the mobile phone is rarely used.

Compatriot Cook volunteered to become an Assistant Registrar for VASSAR. In this capacity, he will review new and supplemental applications for nine Virginia SAR chapters.

The Registrar has not received additional guidance for the new method of submitting new member applications. Once instituted the new system will require soft copies of the applications are to be required in addition to hard copy applications and support documents.

The updated Genealogy Committee Policies Manual dated 02 Oct 2015 is available on the NSSAR website. The latest version of the Application Manual has the date 12 Mar 2016. Submit applications in Word format. Source material may be submitted in PDF format but these generally require conversion to JPEG or PNG format in order to enhance clarity and improve contrast.

Chapter recruiting brochures, produced by Darrin and Holly Lynne Schmidt, along with “SAR What’s” brochures are placed in brochure holders at the Fairfax City Regional Library Virginia Room and the DAR Library. New revised “SAR What’s” brochures were ordered to replace earlier versions. The brochures, Chapter website, VASSAR New Member Helper, and DAR referrals result in identification of most prospective members. Compatriots should also provide the name, address, phone nos., & e-mail address of prospective members to the Chapter Registrar.

Newly inducted compatriot Bill Denk tells the story of his patriot ancestor to the assembled membership, May 2016.



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Fairfax Resolves SAR Chapter

Application Status (eff. 02 Jun 2016 NSSAR)

The following is the status of applications:

New Members	Ancestor	State of Service	Member ACN / Number	Date Approved by NSSAR
William Kent Williams	Joseph Coleman	VA	67815/197540	28 Jan 2016
Liam Desmond Williams	Joseph Coleman	VA	67816/197541	28 Jan 2016
Wesley Duane Harlow	John Wagner	VA	68030/194682	16 Feb 2016
Scott Douglass Applegate	John Ashmead	PA	68175/197777	28 Feb 2016
James Philip Briggs III	William Briggs	MA	68176/197778	28 Feb 2016
William John Denk Jr.	John Headley	NJ	68839/198300	12 Apr 2016
Daniel Edward Poore	Samuel Culbertson	NC	69335/198681	18 May 2016
Edward Tracy Poore	Samuel Culbertson	NC	69336/198682	18 May 2016
Richard Oliver Schwab, Jr	David Pinkhm	NH	69334/198680	18 May 2016
Kenneth Lee Bonner	William Bonner	NC	69462/198768	26 May 2016
Kenneth Lee Bonner, Jr.	William Bonner	NC	69461/198676	26 May 2016

New Member Applications being worked:

Christian Mark Richter	Alexander Meek	VA
Erban Jackson Brinson	William Speight	NC

Supplemental Application Approved by NSSAR Patriot		ACN	Date Approved
Jeffery Dean Thomas	Samuel McJunkin	SC 67684/	02 Feb 2016
Jeffery Dean Thomas	Daniel McJunkin	SC 67742/	02 Feb 2016
Delmont (Steve) Gary Stephens Jr.	Richard Bailey	VA 68531/	18 Mar 2016
Delmont (Steve) Gary Stephens Jr.	James Bailey	NJ 68532/	18 Mar 2016

Supplemental Applications at NSSAR Patriot	State	ACN	Date Received
Jeffrey Dean Thomas	Joseph Pitman	NC 70100	18 Apr 2016
Jeffrey Dean Thomas	Matthew Jackson	VA 70101	18 Apr 2016
William Gerald Cochran, M.D.	Nathaniel Cochran	VA 69986	11 Apr 2016
Richard Line Abbot	William Bristow	VA 70099	20 Apr 2016

VASSAR Convention – Richmond, VA



Dave Cook, Richard Abbott, and Jeff Thomas observing the awards ceremonies



Fairfax Resolves had a near clean sweep of 2015 flag streamers



Fairfax Resolves Chapter's 1st place winner placed 3rd at the VASSAR oration runoff.



Richard Abbott and Vern Eubanks show off flag streamers earned in 2015.



Carl and Debby Loveland strut their stuff at VASSAR's formal dinner at the Omni in Richmond.

In February, Fairfax Resolves members participated in the annual Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR) at the Richmond Omni Hotel. Activities included business meetings, oration contest, awards, and a formal dinner.

Richard Ratcliffe, founder of Fairfax City

by ggg-grandson Richard A. Geiger, Ph.D.

If you have never heard of Richard Ratcliffe, think nothing of it. When the bicentennial celebration of Fairfax City began in January 2005, at which an historical marker was unveiled at its founder's plantation Mount Vineyard, I had never heard of Richard Ratcliffe (RR) myself.

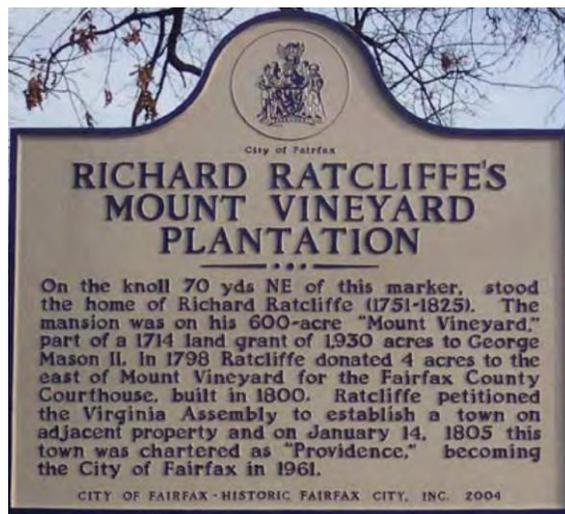
Only later that year while living in Berlin, Germany, did I begin doing genealogical research and happened to read on the Internet that the Fairfax City administration had been searching for the descendants of RR's youngest son Charles Henry Ratcliffe (CHR). Among the latter's children named I recognized only my great-grandfather Charles Theodore Ratcliffe (CTR), whose living heirs and those of his siblings were said to be the present owners of the abandoned 2-acre Ratcliffe Family Cemetery, the city's oldest burial ground, located in the residential area between Oliver and Moore Streets.

Not only was I astonished to find myself suddenly the co-proprietor of a cemetery in a city I had never visited, I was elated to learn of two "new" ancestors. I set out immediately to discover more about RR, CHR and CTR and to determine the names of the other descendants of CHR, as I knew few of them. The next several years were destined to prove more adventurous for me than I could possibly have imagined at the time.

Fortunately, I soon came across research that Constance Ring, archivist of the Fairfax County Circuit Court, had done on RR and published in the 1995 yearbook of the Historical Society of Fairfax County. In the version she presented orally in 1993 to the local Henry Clay chapter of the DAR giving an account of RR's life based on documentary evidence, Archivist Ring somewhat overgenerously called him an "unsung hero."

To summarize briefly: In 1798 RR donated four acres of his land to be the site of the new county courthouse. He then laid out what was later to be renamed Fairfax City and got the town chartered by the General Assembly of Virginia in 1805. His long public service as a magistrate in various functions (as justice, county clerk, coroner, sheriff, tax collector) during the revolutionary period later earned him SAR recognition as a patriot. That service in and for his county along with his part in founding the city was indeed laudable, though scarcely heroic. He had merely done his civic duty in helping to stabilize the nascent republic while not losing sight of his own personal interests.

RR's sons were too young to serve in the military conflicts of the age, but also neither RR nor his father and grandfather seem to have been veterans. This surprising fact might well be due to pacifist convictions in the family. Although the lineage has yet to be exhaustively documented back to the Quaker Richard Ratcliffe (1661-1721), who arrived in Talbot County, Maryland, in 1682, it appears very likely that he was RR's immigrant ancestor. The Ratcliffes have been traced to one of William the Conqueror's Norman allies at the Battle of Hastings, Ivo de Taillebois (Talbot), some of whose descendants settled in Radeclive Manor near today's Radcliffe Township in Lancashire, England. The manor and the town were named after the red cliffs of the River Irwell, and the Talbots who lived there also preferred to be known henceforth by this more English-sounding surname. The spelling *Ratcliffe* is only one of the many versions of the name (*Radcliffe*, *Ratcliff*, etc.) that its bearers have adopted since then.





RR bequeathed Mount Vineyard to CHR, who sold all of it but the family cemetery and died soon afterward in 1835. CHR's widow, Ann Maria née Coleman, removed with CTR and her other children in 1841 to Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and the cemetery back in Fairfax was soon forgotten. After he lost his fortune in the Civil War, my great-grandfather CTR moved his family to Alexandria, Louisiana, where he practiced medicine until his death in 1887. My grandmother Mary (1870-1966), the ninth of his eleven children, lived her long life there, as did my father, Casson Clifton Geiger (1903-1982). Clearly embittered over the hard lot (near-poverty after the Civil War, widowhood three times) which fate had dealt her, Mary in old age seldom mentioned her early life to the family. That basically accounts for my not knowing until 2005 at all about RR and Fairfax or even that Mary's father, mother and several siblings had lived and died and were buried in my hometown. I was thus 65 years old when I stood, all but incredulous, at their graves for the first time. By then I had been living in Germany for some 35 years — but *that* story is of course best reserved for another time.

Upcoming Events

14 June C.A.R./SAR Joint Flag Day & Flag Disposal Ceremony. **Please RSVP to Larry McKinley (dustoff@verizon.net) ASAP** so we can plan a ceremony to include everyone. 6:15PM arrival, 6:30 Ceremony. Freedom Memorial (behind the Great Falls Library off 193 - Georgetown Pike). Rain or shine...

4 July 10:00 a.m. Independence Day ceremony, Mt Vernon, VA

8-13 July 126 Annual National Society SAR Congress, Boston, MA

12-14 August Atlantic Middle States SAR Conference, Albany, NY

8 September 7:00 p.m. Fairfax Resolves Meeting, “An Evening with George Mason”, Falcon’s Landing