

SENIOR CITIZENS SURVEY

The Historical Society is working on a Senior Citizen Survey, in which they would like all senior citizens who are county residents to complete a biographical data sheet on themselves.

This information will be housed in the Southern Maryland Room at the Charles County Community College and will be available to anyone who is doing research. The purpose of this project is to help local researchers and to preserve this information on the people of Charles County.

The form the senior citizens are asked to fill out contains such information as: Date and place of birth; parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters and childrens names; date and place of marriage and address.

This project began in February and so far four hundred forms have been distributed through the college, the Aging Service Office at the Charles County Courthouse, and Senior Citizens Clubs.

Contact the Editor, Record, P. O. Box 273, La Plata, Md. 20646 for a copy of the form.

GENEALOGICAL DATA REQUESTED

Mrs. Josephine Moore of Suburban Acres #168, Rural Route #9, Warsaw, Indiana 46580 has sent the following letter and earnestly desires additional information. Please contact Mrs. Moore directly if anyone has the information requested:

"My Charles County interest is in the genealogy of the early families of Peter Cartwright and wife Judith Slye, and parents of

the latter, Robert Slye, II and second wife Priscilla Goldsmith Slye. She died \_\_\_\_\_?

Peter Cartwright lived in the Chaptico area, deceased November 25, 1748 (will proved July 22, 1751). Any record of the son, Robert Cartwright, would be appreciated — sale of his 100 acres of inherited land, church records, etc. He may have left the area with eldest brother, Matthew Cartwright and younger brother, Thomas. Aeneas Campbell married Lydia (?Cartwright) Vadry. These children of Peter and Judith appeared in early records of Fairfax County, Va., area becoming Loudoun County, Va., (ca. 1757 or so).

Robert and Priscilla Slye 'lived right across the line from St. Mary's County. It is possible that they married in Charles County and that she died there. Later, Goldsmiths were active in All Saint's Parish Episcopal near Chaptico.'

The names of Priscilla Goldsmith Slye's parents are desired."

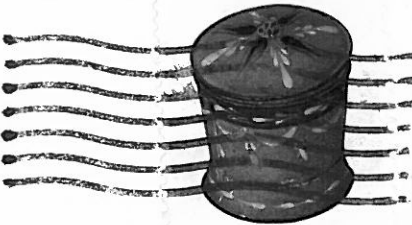
FALL MEETING NOTICE

The Fall Dinner Meeting of the Society will be held on October 13, 1979, at Wayside Church.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Articles of historic interest on Southern Maryland are needed for future issues of the Record. Please send articles and other communications to: Editor, The Record, P.O. Box 273, La Plata, Maryland. 20646.

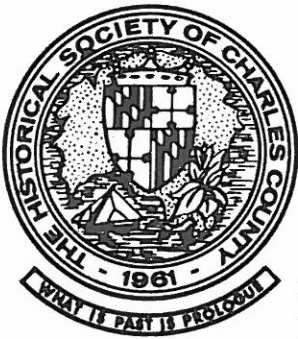
The Historical Society of Charles County  
Port Tobacco, Maryland 20677



Pennsylvania Teleware  
Folk Art USA 15c

38998

Mr. Michael ~~Moore~~  
Rt # 1, Box 65  
Indian Head, Md. 20640



George C. Dyson, President

The RECORD

Publication of the Historical Society of Charles County, Inc.

May 1979

Charles G. LaHood, Jr., Editor

THE REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS  
OF CHARLES COUNTY

by Susan Shaffer\*

Early and Independent Companies  
*Resolves of the Maryland Convention  
of December, 1775*

1 January, 1776

*"Resolved, That this province be immediately put in the best state of defence.*

*Resolved, That a sufficient armed force be immediately raised and embodied under proper officers for the defence and protection of this province.*

*Resolved, That 1444 men, with proper officers, be immediately raised in the pay and for the defence of this province.*

*Resolved, That 8 companies of the said troops, to consist of 68 privates each, under proper officers, be formed into a battalion.*

*Resolved, That the remainder of the said troops be divided into companies of 100 men each.*

*Resolved, That two companies of the said troops, to consist of 100 men each, be companies of matrosses, and trained as such."*

*14 January, 1776, Resolves were passed which authorized the troops to consist of a battalion of 9 companies, 7 independent companies, 2 companies of artillery and 1 company of marines. The officers were selected and their pay fixed. The Council of Safety was empowered to order these troops into Virginia, Delaware, and Pennsylvania.*

This Resolution was the beginning of Maryland's Revolutionary Army. The colony had not resigned herself to declaring independence — that would come later in July of 1776. However, she saw nothing wrong in being prepared for any eventuality.

*\*Susan Shaffer, who has a B.A. in History from the Univeristy of Maryland, is a Charles County native. One of her hobbies is historical research and she has been working on this project for several years.*

With this first call to arms, many men enlisted. Their reasons were varied but probably fell into three categories — patriotism, sense of adventure and economics. In the beginning of our rebellion the first two, patriotism and the desire for a bold adventure were foremost. After all, Charles County had not been directly affected by the last war, the French and Indian. Ergo, there were few who really remembered the truth about warfare.

Many of our upper class Countians enlisted in the beginning and became officers. They were already the natural leaders within Charles County for they had education, property and many had held positions within the county government. These men were probably motivated by patriotism and the seeking of adventures. In many cases these very men served on the early Committees of Correspondence and other extralegal anti-tyranny groups.

The middle and lower classes had their share of patriots, and adventurers, too. However, at that time in our history it was good economics to join the army. A soldier was paid regularly, given food and clothes and a bounty when he signed up. This made a lot of sense to the young men especially as steady employment with the prospect of some excitement was rather hard to find. Unfortunately, everyone discovered the grim truth of warfare all too soon when the fighting began and Maryland troops were in the thick of it.

This article tries to describe some of these soldiers, as Charles County had an amazing number of soldiers for its size. (The Charles County Census, 1775-1778, listed 1800 male persons 18 or older.) Our purpose is to study some of these men and perhaps learn more about our heritage through them and their lives. This list is far from complete, but rather represents people from all levels of our 18th Century society.

Daniel Jenifer Adams

b. \_\_\_\_\_ Charles County

d. November 1796

m. \_\_\_\_\_

He joined the 1st Independent Maryland Company as a 3rd Lieutenant, January 1776. From 27 August to 1 December 1776, he was Brigade Major to General Beall of the Maryland Flying Camp. On 10 December 1776, he was made a Major of the 7th Maryland. On 8 June 1779, he resigned.

William Adams

b. \_\_\_\_\_ probably Charles County

d. \_\_\_\_\_

m. \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Adams began as an Ensign enrolled by Thos. Hanson and passed by Saml Hanson Jr. on July 19, 1776. This was the Flying Camp he joined and he served in it until December 1776. On 10 Decem-

ber 1776, he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant of the 4th Maryland; then transferred to the 1st Maryland 1 January 1783. He was retained in the Maryland battalion April, 1783, and served to 15 November 1783. Finally he made Brevet Captain on 30 September 1783.

**Benjamin Berry**  
b. prior to 1755, Charles County  
d. 1804 - Charles County  
m. Ann Lovejoy

Mr. Berry served as a private in Captain Smallwood's Company of Militia, 26th Battalion, Charles County, Md. He subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance in 1778 before Judge Daniel Jenifer in Charles County.

Children: John Nally b. between 1770-1780, m. Mildred Robey Joseph Lender Bayne, b. about 1777 Fielder 4 others but the names are unknown

Benjamin Berry is listed in the 1775-1778 census for Port Tobacco, Upper Hundred. He is again listed in the 1790 census as having a household of 2 free white males over 16 (including the head of the house), 3 free white males under 16, 6 free white females and 2 slaves.

**Charles Bryan**  
b. 1754  
d. \_\_\_\_\_  
m. Catherine Stone, October 6, 1783 in Charles County  
Charles Bryan served in the Second Regiment beginning January 1778 as a Private. He was discharged 10 January 1780. The Army's remarks: time out while on furlough.

**Zachariah Burch (also Burck)**  
b. 1757  
d. \_\_\_\_\_  
m. Mildred Robey, December 22, 1776 in Charles County  
Mr. Burch served in the Maryland Line. He enlisted 26 May 1778 for three years. He was discharged 12 April 1781. He applied for a Revolutionary War Pension.

**John Carrol (1)**  
b. Charles County, probably 1754  
d. \_\_\_\_\_probably Kentucky  
m. \_\_\_\_\_

John Carrol (1) joined the Maryland Line on 11 September 1778 as a substitute for 9 months. On February 1, 1790, John Carrol received 100 acres of land as a Federal Bounty Land Grant. Warrant #11,091. On August 20, 1832, when he was 78 years old he applied for a pension. He was living in Jessamine County, Kentucky.

**Chapman, Henry Hendley**  
b. 9 June 1764 near Port Tobacco, Charles County  
d. 5 December 1821 at Georgetown. Buried at Oak Hill Cemetery, Georgetown  
m. Eleanor Hanson  
Mr. Chapman was an Ensign in the 2nd Regiment 4 September 1781. Then he became 2nd Lieutenant 4 October 1781. Deranged,

1 January 1783, but retained in Gunby's Battalion 12 April 1783 and served to 15 November 1783. Lt. Chapman was for many years a member of the House of Delegates, Speaker 1798-1800, 1814-1816. He was an original member of the Society of Cincinnati. In the 1790 census a Hendley Chapman is listed as having 2 free white males over 16 (including head of household), 1 free white female and 7 slaves.

**William Cox**  
b. \_\_\_\_\_probably Charles County  
d. \_\_\_\_\_  
m. \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Cox was enrolled in the Maryland Flying Camp by Thos. Hanson in July 1776 as a Private. On 20 August 1781, 2nd Regiment he was an exchanged prisoner who received a sum of 5 pounds from Robert Denny. He was an American prisoner on the British prison ship "Jersey". (Author's note: the "Jersey" was a most notorious prison ship which held 1,000 or more prisoners in a veritable death trap.) On December 22, 1794, William Cox received 100 acres of land through the Federal Bounty Land Grant. Warrant #11,064. A William Cox is listed in the Charles County Census of 1775-1778 in the Port Tobacco Hundred and another in the East Hundred. 1790 census lists William Cox, Junr. (might be our man) as having a household of 2 free white males over 16 (including the head of the household), 4 free white males under 16, 5 free white females and 13 slaves.

**Francis Dunnington (Dunington)**  
b. 1746  
d. 14 November 1820, Charles County  
m. 1773 Margaret Perry

Francis Dunnington enrolled in Charles County in the 3rd Maryland Regiment 1780. He was enrolled by Capt. Joseph Marbury and Lieutenant Samuel Hamelton for Captain Marbury's Company. He was marked as present on 1 January 1782 on the muster rolls for 4th Company, 1st Battalion.

Children: Alexander b. 1804 m. Louise Sellers Roger b. 1774 m. Alice Nettle Thomas Francis m. Miss Coby William P. b. 1787 m. Anne Gantt Reynolds John Britt m. Alice Lanier Hezekiah Nathan b. 1776/1778 m. Mary Anne Carpenter Henrietta m. Dr. W. M. Dunnington Nancy or Anne b. 1778 m. Golden II Brunnet

In the 1775-1778 census there are many Dunningtons listed in lower hundred, Durham Parish, but not Francis. Then in 1791 Francis Dunnington is listed as a contributor to the Durham building fund. In the 1790 census Francis Dunnington is listed and his household consisted of: 1 free white male of 16 or older (himself), 4 free white males under 16, 3 free white females and 5 slaves.

**George Dent**  
b. 1756 at "Windsor Castle" the English name given to "Clarke's Inheritance" on the Mattawoman.  
d. 1813  
m. Anne Magruder

At the outbreak of the Revolution George served as First Lieutenant of the Third Battalion of the Flying Camp and saw active service in the early fighting around New York. After the disbandment of the Flying Camp in December 1776, he returned to his home in Charles County, and was commissioned a first Lieutenant of Captain Thomas H. Marshall's Company of Militia. On May 9, 1778, he was promoted to the rank of Captain to the 26th Battalion. In 1778 he took the Oath of Allegiance under his father John Dent. From 1782 to 1790 George served as a member of the Maryland State Legislature, being speaker pro-tempore in 1788 and speaker in 1789, and unanimously re-elected speaker in 1790. The next year he was elected to the State Senate and served as president of the latter in 1792, in which year he resigned his seat. Entered the U.S. House of Representatives on March 4, 1793 and served until March 3, 1801. At various times he was speaker pro-tempore. On April 4, 1801, he was appointed by Thomas Jefferson marshal of the District of Columbia, and it is said that for his staunch support of Thomas Jefferson against Aaron Burr he expected a more lucrative appointment than marshal. He held it only for a brief period and then removed to Georgia about 1802 with his brother Thomas Marshall Dent. He settled about 12 miles from the town of Augusta. George Dent was thrown from his horse, the injuries of which caused his death on December 2, 1813. He was interred upon his plantation. The 1790 census lists George Dent, Esquire as having 1 free white male of 16 or older (himself), 2 free white males under 16, 5 free white females and 20 slaves in his household.

**Joseph Fearson**  
b. 1759  
d. \_\_\_\_\_  
m. Elizabeth Shaw, 11 April 1791 in Charles County  
Mr. Fearson was a Private in the Maryland Line and had been a prisoner. He is listed in the 1790 census all by himself. On December 30, 1834, he received 100 acres of land under the Federal Bounty Land Grant. Warrant #2,089.

**James Fernandis (Fernandez)**  
b. 1755 - Charles County, Maryland  
d. 1790  
m. Ann Elizabeth Wallace  
He enlisted 30 January 1776, as a cadet in Smallwood's Battalion, where he became an Ensign in May 1776. He participated in the battles of Brooklyn Heights, Harlem Heights, White Plains and the Retreat of Long Island, where he was taken prisoner on 27 August 1776 and was exchanged 24 March 1777. He became a Lieutenant of the 1st Regiment 1 March 1778 and resigned as a Captain 15 July 1779.

Children: Samuel b. 1779 m. Ann B. Stuart Walter b. 1782 m. Mary Dorsey Anne b. 1786 m. James Biseve

The 1775-1778 census doesn't list James Fernandis, but does list list Peter Fernandis as the Constable of Port Tobacco West Hundred.

**Benjamin Green**  
b. 1730  
d. 16 April 1808, Harford County, Maryland  
m. Elizabeth Thomas

Benjamin Green is listed as a 9 month volunteer substitute for the Continental Army on September 11, 1778.

Children: Teresa b. 1779. Henrietta Elanora Leonard Elizabeth Benjamin Clement Sarah Anastasia

This partial list represents a small portion of our soldiers and further research is supplementing the existing facts. If anyone has information on Revolutionary War soldiers from Charles County they would like to share, or if you have spied any discrepancies in what you have read here, please contact the writer.



EARLY AMERICAN FURNITURE FOR SALE

The Historical Society of Charles County is offering for sale the three items listed below. Please contact Mary Ellinger 645-0396 for details.

**American Cherry Hepplewhite**  
Bow Front Chest of Drawers, Circa 1780-1800 with "tiger" maple and holly inlaid bands. The bureau has graduated drawers, flairing french feet, and beading around the drawers. Price \$1,100.00

**Hepplewhite Mahogany Card Table**  
with holly, satinwood and poplar inlays, circa 1790, secondary woods of yellow pine and white oak on "flying rails". The unique 180 degree hinge allows the table to be used either as a side (pier) table or as a card table seating four people, or with the top resting vertically against a wall as a display of figured mahogany. Price \$1,100.00.

**American Sheraton Mahogany Sideboard**  
Circa 1825. Price \$800.00.

NEW MEMBERS

The Board of Directors is pleased to report enrollment of the following new members: Dr. and Mrs. Robert Borkowski; Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Bridgett; Mr. and Mrs. Ronald G. Brown; Mr. James Randolph Carrico; Ms. Elizabeth Dailey; Mr. Danny Flubart; Julie C. Ford; Mrs. Joseph Gardiner, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. William E. Garvey, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hampton; Mr. and Mrs. John A. Herbert; Mrs. Kathryn V. Hickey; Mr. and Mrs. Alva E. Jones; Mr. and Mrs. Michael Middleton; John R. and Eleanor Moody; Kenneth and Jean C. Roby; Mr. and Mrs. Dale Speake; and Paul D. Weaver.