

Society Conducts Grave Marking Ceremony October 27 2018

Assistant Grave Marking Chairman, Charles Belfield contacted a property owner in Northumberland County to find the cemetery where Private Samuel French was buried. The cemetery no longer existed but he found the gravestone of his second wife and a footstone marked "S F" which indicates he was buried there. He then arranged with a local church where other descendants of the Samuel French family are interred in their cemetery to place these stones. He then assisted a second great granddaughter of Samuel to apply and receive a Veterans Administration gravestone and had that erected adjacent to the other stones.

On October 27, 2018 at the Henderson Methodist Church Cemetery in Northumberland County, the society conducted a War of 1812 gravestone and grave marker unveiling ceremony for Private Samuel French. This endeavor was supported by the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society. Below the program and photos that were taken are shown:

**GRAVE MARKER UNVEILING CEREMONY
HENDERSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERY
72 Henderson Drive, (off Route 202), Callao Virginia
October 27, 2018 at 11am**



**Honoring
Private Samuel French 1778-1843
Conducted by
The Society of the War of 1812
in the Commonwealth of Virginia
Supported by the
Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society**

PROGRAM

11am Call to Order:*Mike Lyman Past President, War of 1812 Society in VA*
Invocation:*Charles Belfield, Councilor War of 1812 Society in VA*
Forwarding & Presentation of Colors:*Virginia Society War of 1812 Color Guard*
Performed by Charles Belfield, Mike Lyman, Hugh Markham, and George Beckett
Pledge of Allegiance by all: *led by Dick Fickling, member War of 1812 Society, VA*
Color Guard Post Colors: *VA Society Color Guard*
Introduction of Attendees and Opening Remarks: *Charles Belfield*
Greetings Northern Neck of VA Historical Society:...*Kathy G Schuder, Executive Director*
Greetings/Remarks by Descendant of Veteran: *Bonnie Sauze*
Veteran Being Honored Information: ...*Mike Lyman, Past President, War of 1812 Society In VA*
Unveiling of Marker Ritual:*Past President, Mike Lyman & Registrar Hugh Markham*
Plaque Unveiling:*Descendants and selected Society members*
Wreath Presentations By Representatives of Societies Present:
Society of War of 1812 in VA: Represented by *George Beckett, member*
Northern Neck of VA Historical Society: Represented by *Kathy Schuder, Executive Director*
US Daughters of 1812, Rappahannock Chapter: Represented by *JaAnn Fickling, President*
Musket Salute and TAPS:*Charles Belfield, Color Guard Commander*
Benediction: *Charles Belfield*
Closing Remarks & Adjournment.....*Charles Belfield*
Group Photos & Sale of War of 1812 Society Burial books

Note: President Stuart Butler was able to attend and substituted for Mike Lyman in the Call to Order, the Unveiling of Marker Ritual and as Master of Ceremonies.

Samuel French was born in Northumberland County. His birth was recorded in St. Stephens Parish Record as Samuel France, son of George and Hannah, his wife. He was born 15 December 1778, as the second son born to this couple. William had been born in 1775, and a daughter, Judith, was born in 1777. As the 1783 Heads of Households enumeration shows that there were then only four white persons in George's household. Hannah might have died. In any case, Hannah died before 1792, because George married Ann Winters that year. A daughter, Elizabeth Linsa France, was born to them in 1795.

Samuel married Margaret Longley [possibly Langley] before 1824, according to information found in his widow's pension application. Where the wedding took place has not been discovered. On 6 January 1824, Samuel, then a widower, married Elizabeth Haydon at her residence in Richmond County. She was the daughter of John and Winifred Davis Haydon. Samuel and Elizabeth had, at least, two sons, William Henry French, who was born circa 1831, and Samuel G. W. French, born circa 1841. In 1870 and 1880, Elizabeth was living with her elder son. During the period 1878 to 1881 her pension records indicate she was residing in Lottsburg.

In the War of 1812, Samuel served under Captain Foushee G. Tebbs in the Richmond County Militia's 41st Regiment but during the period Jul 21 1814 until September 25 1814 his company was attached to Westmoreland County's 111th Regiment commanded by Colonel Parker. In his widow's pension application she indicates Samuel was also in the Navy (Virginia), perhaps at Lower Machodoc Creek when the British attacked and burned a vessel.

During onboard fighting he received a serious wound causing him to be bedridden for forty days. She was not sure if this naval service was before or after the militia service. However military records indicate on July 26 1814 while he was in militia service that at the Narrows between Machodoc and Nomini Creeks the British marines from 22 launched barges burned six schooners. It is suspected that is the period when he was wounded. She applied and received pension number WO-32366 and an updated one WC-22622 in 1881. In 1855 while residing in Polk County, Florida she received a bounty land warrant, number 114721 for 160 acres (Perhaps she was not residing in Florida but the bounty land was for that location.)

Samuel French, in 1836, was in poor health, and was excused by the Court from paying taxes in Northumberland County. On 7 August 1843, he died at his home in Lottsburg. Elizabeth survived him by many years, dying on 28 August 1892. Her son, William H. French, reported her death. She was buried on her parents' farm in Richmond County. A stone marks her grave.



Some of the photos taken below were by Kathy Schuder, Executive Director of the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society



Above Charles Belfield talks about how the graves stones were found and were reset in the cemetery of the Henderson Methodist Church where this ceremony was conducted



Above Kathy Schuder, Executive Director of the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society gives greetings.



Above Bonnie Sauze talks about her and her family's relationship to Samuel French



Above and below Mike Lyman talks about Samuel French





Above Hugh Markham and Stuart Butler read the ritual for unveiling the gravestone and grave marker and below Mike Weyler of the society with descendant Seuze await to remove the covers



After the removal the gravestone and marker is revealed



Below the wreaths are being presented by Laura Hazel representing the Rappahannock Chapter U.S. Daughters of 1812 and George Markham representing the War of 1812 Society in VA



The Musket Salute Party is Hugh Markham and Charles Belfield



After the ceremony the attending members of the War of 1812 Society gather for a photo



L/R: Charles Belfield, Hugh Markham; George Becker, Mike Weyler, Stuart Butler and Mike Lyman