

The Virginia War Cry



“EVER FORWARD”
The Newsletter of the
SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812
IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



Finding and Preserving History For America

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Editor: David A. Vazquez



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The opinions expressed by the authors of signed articles reflect the personal views of the writers and are not necessarily a statement of Virginia Society policy.

A Message from Stuart L. Butler, our Society President



Defenders,

I would like to express my very good wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah and a prosperous New Year to all members and their families.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many members over the past year who have stepped forward and made sacrifices in time and cost to make the Society’s activities as successful as they were. I fully understand that our members cannot participate in all the Society’s activities, but would like to encourage as many members to participate in activities that are located within a reasonable driving time of their residences.

I have made tentative arrangements for the February 2019 meeting in Richmond in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution. As agreed to in our last meeting in Charlottesville, I have arranged for a ten o’clock meeting on Friday, February 8, 2019, at the Omni Hotel in Richmond. A tentative agenda will be sent out by January. I welcome any suggestions for topics for consideration for this meeting.

We continue to receive new applications for membership and hope soon perhaps by the end of next year to approach the three hundred mark.

Sincerely,

Stuart L. Butler
President
Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia
srtb@widomaker.com
www.1812va.org



Final Roll

Morgan David Howard
Virginia Society Chaplain
October 11, 1946 – October 23, 2018

Morgan David Howard, 72, of Lynchburg (Boonsboro) died on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at Lynchburg General Hospital after an extended illness. Born October 11, 1946 he was the son of Warren David Howard and Lorraine Dance Howard. He was predeceased by his parents and first wife, Marjorie Ellen Proffitt Howard. He is survived by his wife, Becky Bane Howard of Boonsboro; brothers, R. Leon Howard (Linda) of Forest and Douglas W. Howard (Patricia) of Amherst; sister, Deborah H. Hunt (Mike) of Madison Heights; nephews Tyler Hunt and Cameron Hunt, R. Leon "Lee" Howard (Tracy) and their sons, Logan and Trevor and niece Jennifer H. Betchel (Jeffrey) and their daughters, Alexis and Autumn.

David was a long-time resident of Boonsboro, a graduate of E.C. Glass High School ('65) and Lynchburg College ('77 B.A. and '82 M. Ed). He was a U.S. Air Force veteran serving his country during the Viet Nam War as a medic. He was an educator for 35 years at Central Virginia Training Center, Lynchburg City Schools and Nelson County Schools as a teacher of special needs students.

David's long-time interest in family genealogy lead him to memberships in the Garland-Rodes Camp -Sons of Confederate Veterans, Fincastle Resolutions Chapter - Sons of American Revolution, Virginia Society -Sons of the War of 1812, and the Jamestowne Society.

David was an active member of Masonic Lodges – Marshall Lodge #39, Chamblissburg #179, and Forest # 245 A.F. & A.M. and served as Masonic Home Ambassador for the 24th District for many years. He was a member of Kazim Shriners, Lynchburg Scottish Rite, and Amherst Chapter - Order of the Eastern Star.

He was a long-time member of Rivermont Avenue Baptist Church serving as deacon and presently a member of Peakland Baptist Church, Lynchburg.

A celebration of his life was held on Saturday, October 27th at 11:00 AM at Peakland Baptist Church, Lynchburg, with Dr. Martha Dixon Kearsse officiating. Interment was on a later date at Fort Hill Memorial Park, Lynchburg, VA.



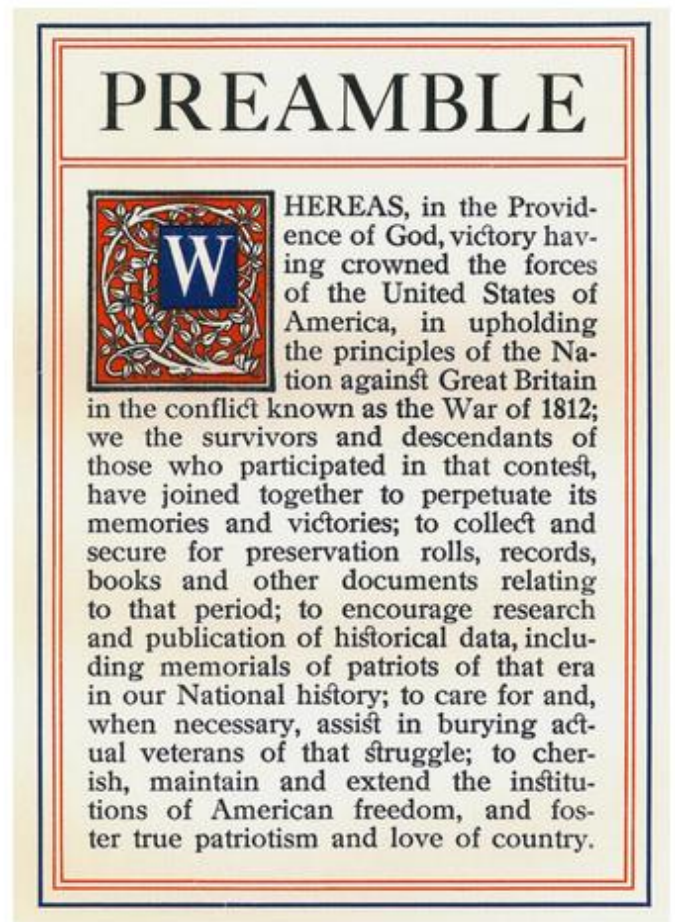


The website of our General Society is found at: www.gsw1812.org

Objectives of the General Society

The objectives of the Society are the collection and preservation of rolls, records, books, and other documents relating to the War of 1812; the encouragement of research and the preservation of historical data, including memorials to patriots of that era in our national history; the caring for the graves of veterans of the War of 1812; the cherishing, maintenance and extension of the institutions of American freedom; and the fostering of true patriotism and love of country.

In carrying out these objectives, the State Societies hold meetings for their members and guests at which programs relating to the War of 1812 and intelligent patriotism are presented. Over the years, the membership has been fortunate in attracting gentlemen of high caliber, intelligence, and gracious demeanor. The General Society and its affiliated State Societies are sensitive to the high ideals espoused by our Founding Fathers and they feel the duty that ever vigilant defense of our nation and its Constitution entails.





From the Editor

Defenders & Friends,

As you may have already noticed, your newsletter has quite a different look to it.

I hope you like the changes. Due to the increasing size of the publication, I've added a Table of Contents and organized the newsletter into distinct sections and added new ones, such as:

Letters to the Editor—Self-explanatory, and I look forward to receiving your comments and ideas, including about the articles and the newsletter itself, and publishing them here.

Book Reviews— If you've read a book (or periodical article, or scholarly paper) about the War of 1812 or its era, and you found it particularly good or particularly dismal, or would otherwise like to share your thoughts on it with others, please submit your review, even a brief one!

Field Dispatches— In this section will be showcased your efforts in *the field*, such as activities in historical preservation (such as physically locating, cataloging, and cleaning gravesites, or preserving memorials or historical sites); or your discoveries and researches in *the field* of genealogy or individual military histories that help us to learn about the lives and achievements of our veteran ancestors and our connections to them.

I've also taken the liberty to solicit relevant material from experts and scholars, the first examples of which you will find in this issue. I believe that including contributions from 'outside' scholars will not just anchor our efforts in historical fact and educated perspectives, but also transition our publication toward a format that anyone (such as educators, students, the intellectually curious, and potential recruits) might pick up and find even more engaging. It will also encourage readers to send in their comments and thoughts in response, and therefore encourage continued readership and contributions.

And now for an opinion bound to be controversial but that I would like to voice, as I now happen to live in West Virginia. Veterans of the War of 1812 buried here need your help, as it appears that at this time, they have no official advocates. There is no Society for West Virginia. My several queries to the General Society, as to whether there ever was, and if not why not, have so far gone unanswered. We should work hard to welcome and recruit into the Virginia Society descendants of the War of 1812 veterans who live here, as well as to locate, catalog, and mark their ancestors' final resting places, just as has been done in the Commonwealth. After all, it *was* Virginia then; and many veterans who lived, settled, died, and were buried in what is now West Virginia served in Virginia units, such as the Virginia Brigade. Your opinions on the matter would be most welcome.

My own War of 1812 veteran ancestor, Robert Hall of Richmond County, served in the 111th Regiment of Virginia Militia. Robert's father-in-law, my 4th great grandfather Revolutionary War veteran Samuel Templeman, served together with Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee as Westmoreland County judges for years, if my reading of the order books is correct. (I like to imagine they were friends, but I've yet to uncover any evidence of personal correspondence or interaction between them).

A distant relative of Samuel's built a house that still stands in Georgetown called the Prospect House (or Lingan-Templeman House), later purchased by one James Lingan. If that name vaguely rings a bell, there is a reason—the fate of that same James Lingan and of "Light Horse Harry" were linked. In July of 1812, during a riotous attack in Baltimore, General Lee was beaten severely by an angry mob somehow enflamed by the outbreak of the war, and James Lingan was killed. That terrible event and its causes, which puts today's far tamer incidents of unrest into perspective, might be explored in a future issue.

A word about graphics. If you are like me, you grew up being inspired by the outstanding military artwork of Don Troiani. I was fortunate enough to speak with him by phone recently, and he graciously granted us use of his 1812-related artwork, provided, in his words, "it is not being sold". So you may begin to notice some of his art appearing in our newsletter. **However, if you have artistic ability or know someone who does, please do consider submitting it so we may publish it!**

In closing, I would like to thank the Society for the privilege of serving you as your new newsletter editor. I sincerely hope that our purpose, 'to find and preserve history', has been served with this issue.

With warm regards,

Your newsletter editor.
Editor1812va@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor



Help us fill this space with your comments. Your ideas and opinions are always welcome—from member and non-member alike.

A banner with a parchment-like background, featuring the text "The War of 1812" in a stylized, cursive font.

The War of 1812

From the Secretary's Pen

The Society conducted its Board of Direction meeting, the notes from which are below. Reports that were submitted for review and discussion, and pictures from the event may be found at:

<http://1812va.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Society-Holds-Board-of-Direction-Meeting-in-Charlottesville-Sep-15-2018.pdf>



Minutes Board of Directors Meeting 2:00 PM, 15 Sep 2018 Holiday Inn, Charlottesville, VA

- 1) Meeting was called to order by President Stuart Butler at 2:00 pm with 13 members in attendance
- 2) Invocation was given by Dave Howard
- 3) Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Chuck Poland
- 4) The minutes from the 9 Jun 2018 Annual Membership Muster in Richmond were approved
- 5) Officers Reports
 - a) President Stuart Butler
 - i) Unable to attend National War of 1812 meeting in Jacksonville in November as he is teaching a course on the War of 1812 in VA on Oct 6, Nov 2 and Nov 9 in Saluda, VA
 - ii) He wrote 3 weeks ago to the Mayor of Richmond's staff (Mr. Felkes) regarding their policy on not allowing markers in Shockhoe Cemetery. No response to date.
 - iii) There was a discussion on how the VA Society can get increased coverage in the War of 1812 National Newsletter, the War Cry
 - iv) The National War of 1812 website also needs to be updated with current state officer information
 - b) 1st Vice President Shane Newcombe, absent, no report
 - c) 2nd Vice President James Green, no report
 - d) Registrar Hugh Markham
 - i) Since our June 8 Muster, four members have joined
 - (1) Timothy Francis Ahlgrim, North Portsmouth, VA
 - (2) Joshua Shawn Willber, Fredericksburg, VA
 - (3) James Allen Long, Monroe, VA
 - (4) Peter Swift Seibert, Williamsburg, VA
 - ii) One new membership application is being processed and several more are promising
 - iii) Registrar Markham will provide fees for submitting a supplemental application
 - e) Treasurer Shane Newcombe, no report
 - f) Quartermaster James Thacker
 - i) Following items for sale:
 - (1) VA Society necktie, \$30; VA Society Medals, \$25; Rosette, \$15, General Society large bronze gilt medal \$135; Blazer patch \$21
 - (2) Blazer patches ordered on Feb 9 were received Aug 22

- (3) At the June Muster, we sold 4 neckties, 2 VA Society Medals, 1 Mini Bronze insignia, and provided 14 rosettes for new members
- (4) 9 ROTC medals on hand; Bob Shortwood is our coordinator for this award
- g) Chaplain Dave Howard-no member deaths have been reported. It was reported that Charles Belfield's mother is very ill
- h) Historian Peter Broadbent, absent, no report
- i) Color Guard Chairman, Charles Belfield (absent)
- i) 9 Jun 2018: Color Guard consisting of Warriors Lyman, Markham, and Belfield presented the colors and gave a musket salute at the Shockhoe Hill Cemetery in honor of Major Bolling Branch, Major Phillip Triplett, and Private John Roland
- ii) 23 Jun 2018: Color Guard consisting of Warriors Fritts, Markham and Belfield presented the colors at the Bicentennial Tribute to Judge Paul Carrington of Mulberry Hill
- j) Publications Committee, Mike Lyman, Chairman
- i) First Addendum to society book, “Burials of War of 1812 Veteran in the Commonwealth of Virginia”. Seventy-eight copies were received 30 Jul 2018. Ordered was 75 copies. By verbal agreement our society was to be able to purchase the addendum at one-half of retail price of \$20.50 or \$10.25 each. An invoice from the publisher, Heritage Books for payment was not received by 22 August so it was decided to send them a payment of \$799.50 (78X\$10.25). This amount was paid by the treasurer and no answer of disagreement has been received as of 8 Sep 2018.
- ii) In 2009 our society furnished eleven selected libraries a free copy of the society burial book., thus these same libraries should also receive now the addendum They are: Library of Virginia (2 copies); Virginia Historical Society; Swem Library; William and Mary; Alderman Library; UVA; Roanoke Public Library; DAR Library; Library of Congress; St. Louis County Public Library (NGS Collection); Allen County Public Library (Ft. Wayne, IN); New York Public Library; Family History Library (2 copies- 1 Richmond and 1 Salt Lake City).
- iii) Per the minutes of the annual membership meeting it is desired that members present the addendum to these Virginia and DC libraries. Peter Broadbent has indicated he will provide the two copies to the library of VA. Stuart Butler has agreed to make the presentation to the Swem library. Volunteers are needed for the others. I will bring the inventory of the addendums to the 15 Sep meeting for members to receive.
- iv) It is desired that all members dedicate books to other libraries for the society. The cost to do so is a discount price of \$22. For personal use the addendum is \$17.50 for members
- v) Burials of War of 1812 Veteran in the Commonwealth of Virginia: Fifty more copies were purchased and received by the undersigned for the society. Heritage books has been paid for these at one-half of the retail price of \$45 or \$22.50 each. These books will be brought to the meeting for purchase by members. For libraries without the book the discount price is \$25. For personal use the price is \$37.50
- vi) Additional burials of 1812 veterans in VA are being identified by the undersigned that are not in the book or the addendum. An insert for the addendum of 53 more burials is being provided as a donation by the undersigned. Twenty-five of these have been identified from the scans of the burial cards from Hollywood Cemetery
- k) Grave Marking Committee, Mike Lyman, Chairman
- i) On October 6, 2018 at 11 am at the Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg, VA in a dual ceremony with the VA Society Sons of the American Revolution, two plaques will be unveiled. One will list forty-seven War of 1812 veterans interred in the cemetery and the other will list sixteen Revolutionary War patriots. The ceremony is open to the public and descendants of the individuals shown on the plaques

are especially invited. Members of the society are asked to attend and participate with the unveiling, musket salute and wreath presentations. At the unveiling of the plaques information about each patriot will be provided in a handout by the undersigned. Mark Day of the Thomas Jefferson Chapter VASSAR at e-mail OSCMBB64@msn.com is preparing the program. The entrance to the cemetery is at the junction of 4th and Taylor Streets in Lynchburg. The War of 1812 plaque was designed and purchased by our society. The names for the plaque were taken from our society burial book and its addendum by the undersigned. We requested a grant from the General Society of \$1000 which was approved. See our society website for a photo of the plaque.

- ii) On November 4, 2018 at 2pm at the Burnt Chimney’s House on Lively Hope Rd (Route 617) in Westmoreland County near the Village on Route US 360 a sign with a plaque purchased by our society will be unveiled. The unveiling ceremony will be conducted by the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society in coordination with our society. It is at this house that has two chimneys remaining from the British incursion and burning of the residence in the War of 1812 that will be unveiled. This event is open to the public and a special invitation is given to the descendants of Captain William Henderson who resided in the house during the War of 1812. To view the plaque and its wording see our society website. We desire all of our members that can attend to do so and also participate and we will include you on the program. The undersigned will coordinate with the historical society in developing the program. Charles Belfield in coordination with the land owner has set the sign and is making the arrangements for the ceremony which will include the color guard and wreath presentations. Newspaper articles and publicizing will be provided by the historical society.
 - l) Website Committee, Mike Lyman
 - i) 20 postings so far this year, and 1 response to a query
 - ii) Mike’s son has been maintaining the website with Word Press
 - iii) Mike has been working with Dale Carey to take possession of his collection of records for preservation
 - iv) Stuart Butler will write a summary of War of 1812 encounters in Virginia for publication on the website. 300 encounters have been documented
 - m) Newsletter, David Vazquez has offered to take over the newsletter
- 6) Old Business
- a) The Virginia Society of the War of 1812 Handbook has not been updated since 2014. The Bylaws and Constitution may need updating as well. Secretary Paul Walden will send an electronic copy to the Board of Directors for review and proposed changes to be discussed at annual muster
 - b) High School Essay Contest
 - i) Contest Criteria have been sent to a number of public schools in Virginia
 - ii) Deadline for entries is 31 Dec 2018
 - iii) Members are encouraged to share the contest criteria with high schools in their area
 - iv) The criteria are available on the War of 1812 in Virginia website
 - v) Due to the generosity of a member who wishes to remain anonymous, the 1st place prize has been increased to \$750, 2nd place prize to \$500 (at the 9 Jun 2018 Annual Muster the society had approved \$500 for 1st place and \$250 for 2nd place)
 - vi) Judges are Paul Walden, Charles Belfield, Dennis Fritts, and John Walenta
- 7) New Business
- a) War of 1812 and Revolutionary War Plaques: A motion was made by Chuck Poland, Second by Mike Weyler, to erect a plaque in a prominent public place in each county or independent city in Virginia to

memorialize all War of 1812 and Revolutionary War Veterans buried in that county or independent city. The motion was approved

- i) Dale Corey is working with Warren County on such a project and will have a template available
- ii) 1st VASSAR Vice President Pete Davenport has agreed to work with us on this project
- b) June Membership Muster Location: A motion was made by Thad Hartman, Second by Mike Weyler, to investigate holding the June membership muster in Norfolk given its historic significance related to the War of 1812
 - i) This motion was made as the result of a discussion introduced by Dennis Fritts that we have been informed by VASSAR that all future meetings held in conjunction with VASSAR will be held on Saturday afternoons. Our preference is to have our meetings on Friday mornings. We will have to investigate the cost of booking a meeting room at our own expense. 2nd VP Green, who lives in the Norfolk area, can investigate potential meeting sites.
 - c) Mike Weyler discussed the new visitor center at Ft. McHenry
- 8) Chaplain Dave Howard gave a benediction
- 9) Meeting was adjourned at 3:58 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Walden
Secretary



QUESTION:

Would you like to honor a family ancestor who is buried in another state, and who participated in the War of 1812?

You can!!! Purchase a grave marker from the 1812VA Quartermaster General and we'll help you plan your event. Take a lot of pictures and send a report and pictures for our newsletter.

Contact the editor at: editor1812va@gmail.com



See page 38 for information about the new marker!

WANTED: Members have previously been alerted that the Society needs to get more publicity in local media throughout Virginia (and West Virginia). That includes every event we participate in and every event where our members are being honored. With the diversity of skills and talents within our membership, we need you to contact President Butler and volunteer to assist with this very important Society function. Email contact may be made to the following email address:

Editor1812va@gmail.com

THANK YOU!!!



Be a part of Finding and Preserving History For America

Captain Humphrey’s Riflemen “To the Rescue”

By Patrick L. O’Neill

The British Army landed at Benedict, Maryland, and marched towards Washington City in mid-August 1814. Several militia units from Maryland and Virginia were ordered to come protect Washington from a British attack, and most of the militia from northern Virginia responded (Figure 1).¹ John S. Gallagher², from Martinsburg in Berkeley County, Virginia (now West Virginia), joined the Volunteer Rifle Company of Captain George W. Humphrey and remembered well when they received word they were needed to fight the British and protect the nation’s capital. He detailed the march towards Washington where they would become a pivotal unit in the Battle of the White House near Mount Vernon.

The company of volunteer riflemen to which I belonged (though then a mere boy of less than eighteen years) was commanded by Captain George W. Humphrey, of Jefferson County, as gallant an officer and liberal gentleman as I have ever met with. On the afternoon of the 22d of August, 1814, a letter was received at Charlestown, by express, from Captain (afterward General) Henry St. George Tucker, advising that the British troops had been landed from the fleet at Nottingham, and were on their march to Washington. He invoked him to raise volunteers without delay, and come to the rescue. Thomas Griggs, Jun., an eminent lawyer and influential and popular citizen, mounted a block, and read the letter to the eager crowd who had been waiting for news.

A shout, “To the rescue!” immediately went up after a brief address from Mr. Griggs; the drum and fife were sent through the streets to beat up volunteers, and before sunset, a company of over fifty men was raised, although the county had then in service, at Norfolk, two or three companies of militia. There was no time to furnish ourselves with uniforms; knapsacks were speedily provided by the ladies of the town; and each man was on the ground at roll-call the next morning.

On the 23rd, we marched to Harper’s Ferry, eight miles distant, to procure arms and to increase our forces. Here we found a company of about fifty of the armorers and citizens enrolled under the command of the superintendent of the armory (Colonel Stubblefield), and the two companies were consolidated into one, and furnished mostly with the short rifles then in the arsenal, a weapon at that time deemed sure and deadly in the hands of a good marksman.

Early on the 24th of August, we embarked upon two flour-boats down the Potomac, a stream then rugged and difficult of navigation; but we were in charge of two or three of the Striders, skillful boatmen and enterprising men in everything they undertook. A few hours after starting, we landed to have a regular election of officers, and concluded that the superintendent of the armory and some of his most skilful workmen should return to carry on the manufacture of arms, a duty equally as important as fighting.

The following officers were then chosen: George W. Humphrey, captain; Thomas Griggs, James L. Ransom, Joseph Blackburn, and Samuel Russell, lieutenants.³

¹ O’Neill 2014

² Evans 1928; John S. Gallagher was from Martinsburg, Virginia (now West Virginia). He was connected with newspapers of Martinsburg and Charles Town, and the *National Intelligencer*.

³ Gallaher 1856

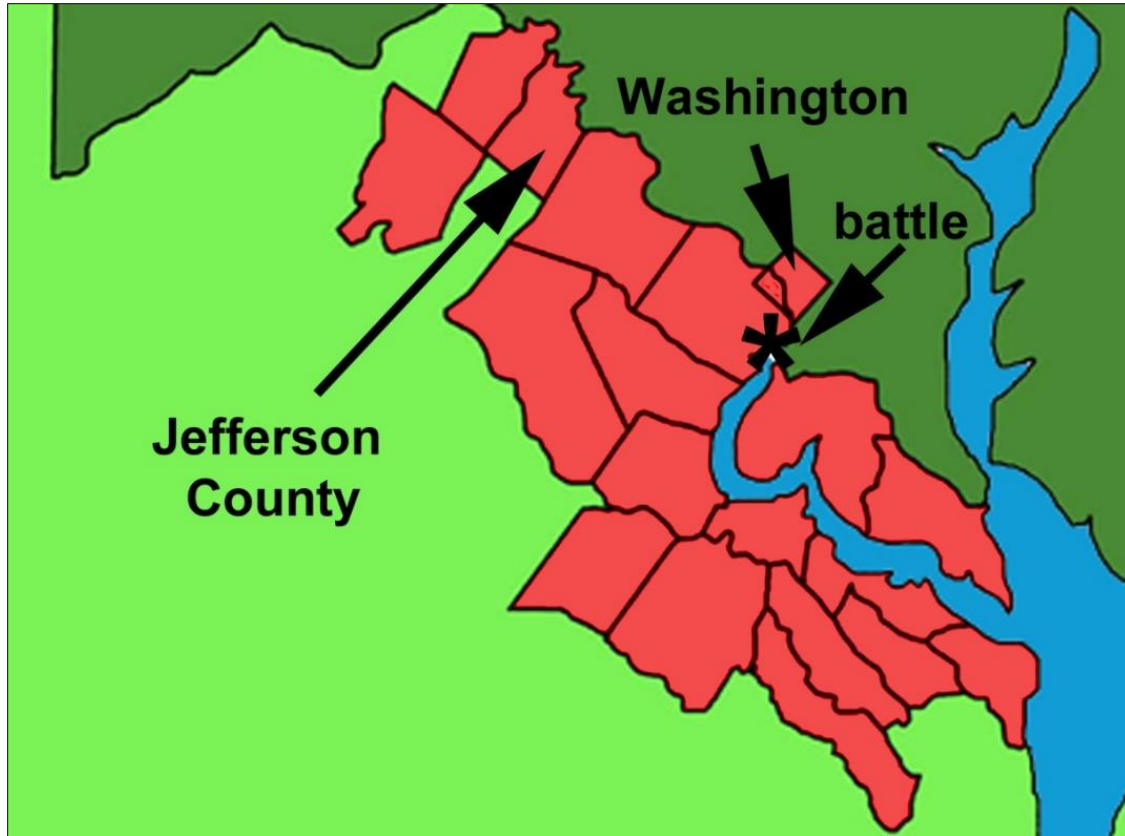


Figure 1: County militia units participating in the Battle of the White House (O'Neill)

Humphrey's Riflemen were part of the 3rd Division of the 16th Brigade.⁴ When the Jefferson County militia were mustered and moved towards Washington, only the British Army posed a threat to the city. By the time the riflemen arrived, the British Army had already invaded, burned, and left Washington by noon of August 25th, and a small fleet of British warships arrived on the scene.

Seven British warships, referred to as the Potomac Squadron, sailed up the Potomac River to aid in the British attack on Washington, but arrived too late, on August 27th. The British Army had left the area two days earlier, but the Potomac Squadron was not yet aware of this situation. The squadron fired on Fort Washington, which exploded after the American forces spiked the guns and powder magazine. The squadron then advanced on Alexandria on August 28th and began to empty warehouses full of goods and supplies as long as the city did not resist.

When Humphrey's Riflemen arrived on the outskirts of Washington sometime on August 27th, they camped with other militia units at Camp Hill (a.k.a. Windmill Point and Camp Windmill Hill) near the President's House, awaiting orders (Figure 2).⁵ Brigadier General Young's Alexandrian troops, who had guarded Alexandria during the Battle of Bladensburg, moved to Georgetown and also camped at Camp Hill near the President's house in full view of the Potomac Squadron at Alexandria.⁶

⁴ Butler 1988:114

⁵ Butler 1988:114

⁶ Thirteenth Congress 1854:1647



Figure 2: Camp Hill near the President's House (O'Neill)

Brigadier Major McKenney, of the District militia, wrote to General Winder on about troop movements and the bombarding of Fort Washington. He also mentioned Humphrey's Riflemen.

Georgetown, DC, August 27, 1814 - Dear Sir, Advising of the understanding between General Smith and General Stansbury, the former with the District troops and Captain Humphrey's rifles have moved to that place and await orders.⁷

After the British Army returned to their ships on the Patuxent River, the American forces regrouped and devised a plan to send Captain David Porter USN and crew with Brigadier General John Hungerford's Virginia militia down to the White House Bluffs on Belvoir Neck to erect batteries and attack the Potomac Squadron as it left Alexandria. Captain Humphrey's Riflemen would be a tremendous asset to the planned offensive at the White House.⁸ However, getting to the fight was not as easy as it would seem, as shown in a letter from Brigadier General Thomas McKenney of the District of Washington militia to President Madison. The riflemen were not able to procure enough horses and might have to travel on foot.

Camp Windmill Point Sept 2 1814 McKenney

To His Excellency The President Of the U States

...The call for the Riflemen, I am sorry to say, is not complied with, owing to the improbability of procuring but a partial number of horses, and this result falling in with an opportunity to communicate with the commanding Genl, Genl. Smith thought it best as a corps of mounted infantry had meanwhile to delay the pushing off of two on a horse, 'til he should hear from G. Monroe. He now wants to know (and he expects and answer any moment) if the corps shall proceed on foot.

⁷ James Madison Papers, Library of Congress

⁸ Butler 1988:114

This explanation is due to myself, inasmuch as I had given you to understand that part had gone down in which was the determination when I left Wind Mill Point last night on other duties. With great regard I have the honor To be Dist W Most ob svnt, Tho McKenney
 PS The enemy we have this moment been informed has dropped down below Alexandria. The Rev. W. Brackenridge brings the intelligence⁹

Over five days, the Battle of the White House raged between the Potomac Squadron on the river and the Navy and militia on the bluffs above the White House Landing, from September 1st through the 5th. Captain Porter and 250 seamen and Brigadier General Hungerford and almost 3,000 Virginia and District militia, kept a constant pressure both day and night by engaging the ships with hot shot, a few small field pieces, and mainly muskets. The infantry arm of Hungerford’s Virginia militia was indeed utilized during the battle, but they had to be cautious when exposed to the full force of the squadron on the bluff edges. Armed mainly with muskets, they were sometimes in awe of their position.

It is a rather mortifying thing to be obliged to stand as we were, and be fired at without the power (being armed only with muskets) to retaliate, the vessel being nearly a mile distant.¹⁰

It is exactly because of this lack of American firepower that Humphrey’s Riflemen were desperately needed. To engage the enemy ships at a distance or when they came close to shore to attempt a landing, or fire on the militia along the bluffs causing them to scatter. But the real effect of the riflemen was felt towards the end of the battle.

On the afternoon of September 5th, after five days of fighting, the Potomac Squadron decided to attempt to sail past the batteries, along with 21 prize vessels they had taken from Alexandria. The larger warships were lined along the bluffs and broadside to fire at point blank range on the bluffs to keep the American forces from attacking (Figure 3). The prize vessels sailed behind the warships in the shallower waters to get past the batteries.

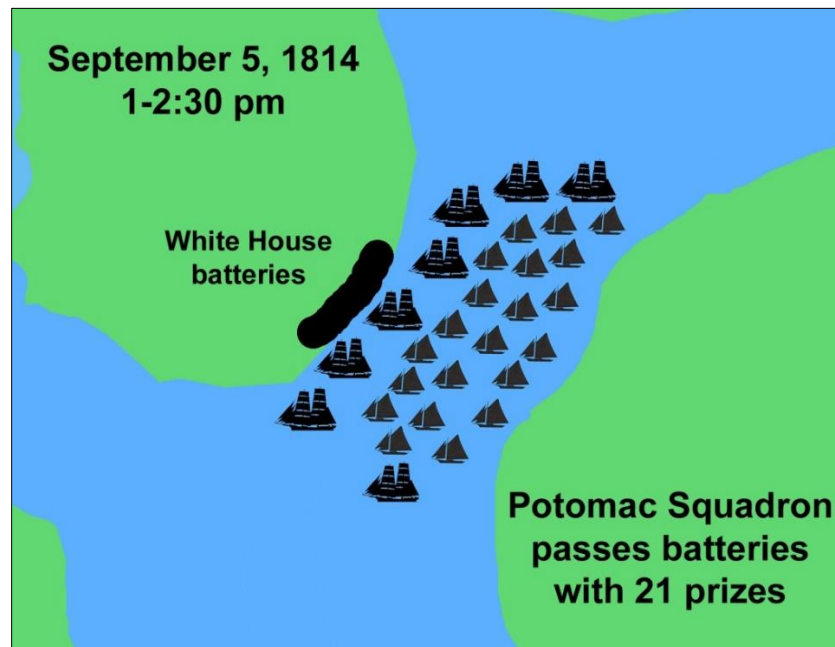


Figure 3: Warships and prize vessels passing batteries

⁹ James Madison Papers, Library of Congress; probably referring the Reverend John Brackenridge, who was at the time serving as the Chaplain to the U.S. Senate, Bryan 1905.

¹⁰ Norton 1814

After five days of battle, Hungerford's Virginia militia had proved their worth to everyone, including the enemy of the Potomac Squadron.¹¹ Hungerford wrote about the final effort to stop the ships from passing the White House, which included special mention of Humphrey's Riflemen.

Headquarters, Camp at the White House, VA., September 6th, 1814

Sir, Yesterday morning about 2 o'clock, the enemy's squadron discontinued the bombardment which had been kept up with little intermission for three days, weighed anchor, and stood down the river, commencing a heavy fire on the battery, and across the neck of land through which the militia were compelled to march to its assistance. The rifle companies under captains Humphries [Humphrey], [Thomas] Tebbs¹², and Fields, were immediately ordered down to the battery, which orders were promptly obeyed.

Captain Porter, having tried desperately to sink at least one of the British vessels, threw everything at his disposal at the squadron as they tried to pass. He related the events that unfolded, including praise for Humphreys Riflemen.

As the Enemy approached, a well directed fire was kept up from the battery with hot and cold shot and my brave officers and men stood the broadsides of the ships with unparalleled firmness. I anxiously expected the militia would open their fire of musquetry but was disappointed, the cause was not explained until after the firing ceased. Finding that the whole of the enemy's fire was directed at my force and that in a few minutes all his force would be brought to bear on me and (entertaining no hopes of preventing his passing) as some of my men had already been killed and wounded, I determined not to make a useless sacrifice; and when the enemy was on the point of anchoring abreast of the battery, after sustaining his fire one hour and a quarter, I directed the officers and men to retire behind a hill on our left and be in readiness to charge the enemy if he would land to spike our guns.

The two frigates anchored abreast, the bomb sloops and smaller vessels passed outside them, all pouring into the battery and neighboring woods a tremendous fire of every description of missile. In the woods on the left a company of riflemen from Jefferson County, Virginia, under Capt George W. Humphrey greatly distinguished themselves by a well directed fire on the enemy's decks, as did a company of militia under the command of Captain Gena [Janney?] who was posted by me on the right. The first lost one man killed, and one sergeant and four privates wounded; the latter two privates killed.¹³

Three of the eight squadron captains were wounded when the squadron bombarded the White House batteries at close range during the last hours of the battle, showing the effect Humphrey's Riflemen and the other sharpshooters had on the fighting. The injured captains were Captain Bartholomew of *Erebus* (the rocket ship), Captain Napier of *Euryalus* (38-gun frigate), who received a musket ball in the back of the neck, and Captain Baker of *Fairy*, (dispatch vessel), who was severely wounded in the face resulting in a scar he would carry for the rest of this life.¹⁴

¹¹ Butler 2013

¹² Captain Foushee G Tebbs's Riflemen from Richmond County, Virginia; Butler 1988:187

¹³ *Alexandria Gazette* September 15, 1814

¹⁴ Crawford *et al.* 2001:271; Alexander F. I. Cochrane papers, Reel No. 2, MS 2328-2330, National Library of Scotland, on file at the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; Long 1895; Baker's scar was painted on his portrait by Gilbert Stuart in 1817.

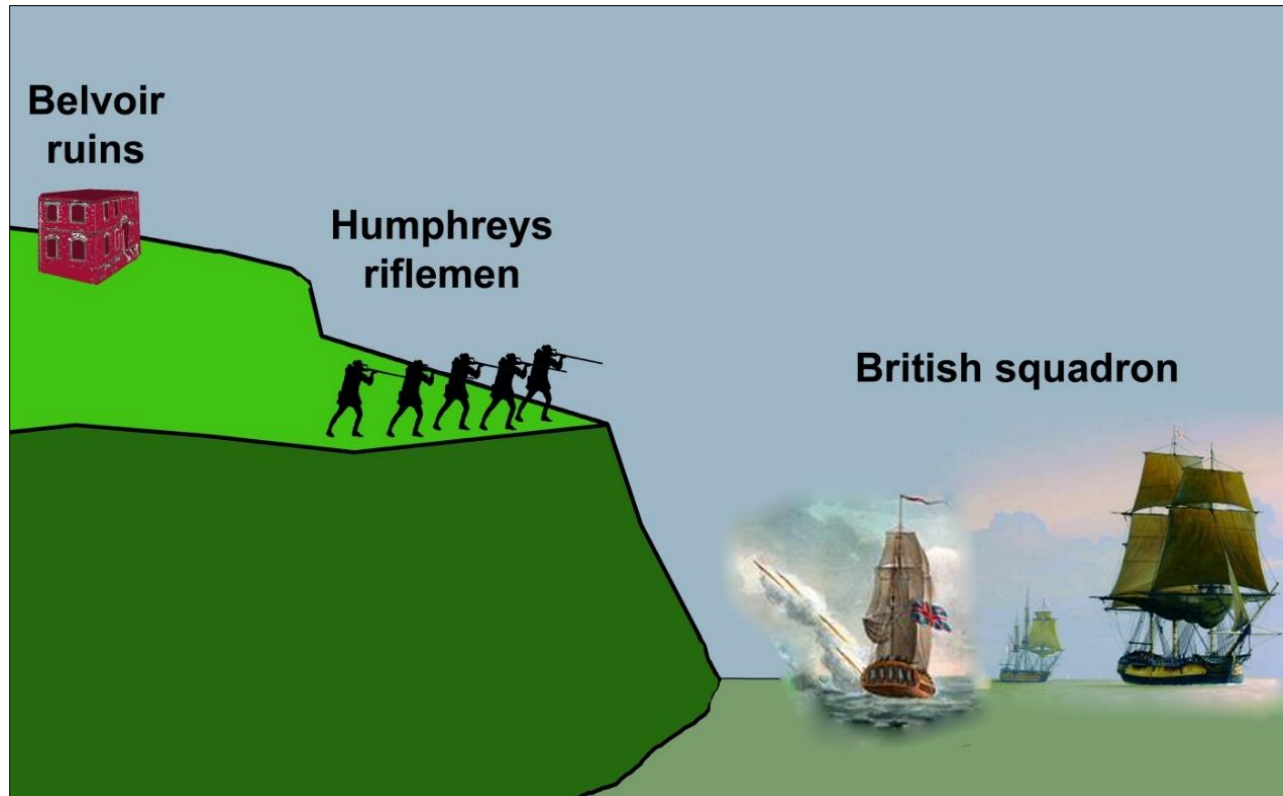


Figure 4: Riflemen fire as the British war ships line up and fire at the White House batteries

It was remarkable that between the devastating musketry fire towards the ships and the firing of dozens of mortar shells, solid shot, grape shot, *et al.* at the Virginia and Maryland militia and naval forces on shore, only a few men were killed and only a few dozen were wounded during both the Battle of the White House and Indian Head. Almost 43 years afterwards, John Gallagher of the Humphrey's Riflemen wrote about the injured from their unit.

The fire of grape and shells was incessant for more than two hours, while the riflemen of Captain Humphrey's were down at the water's edge, aiming at the decks and rigging as long as a man was to be seen on either.

The private killed in Captain Humphrey's company was David Harris, of Shepherdstown, a mostly worthy young man, who left a mother and other relatives in that gallant town, celebrated for the quota of fighting men furnished in the Revolutionary era. Sergeant David Humphreys (a merchant of Charlestown, and long an efficient magistrate) had his right arm shattered with a grape-shot, and it was found necessary to have it amputated. Hugh McDonald was shot through the body with a grape-shot, but survived. William Phielding was wounded in the fleshy part of the thigh; Thomas Stedman had one of his fingers injured, and Lieutenant Blackburn had his cheek grazed with a ball. There are now not fifteen survivors of the company within my recollection.¹⁵

The *National Intelligencer* reported the following casualties on Tuesday September 20, 1814. It is not known if any of the wounded were transferred to the hospital set up near the Capitol the week before the beginning of the battle.

Killed and wounded in the action of the White Hse in Capt Humphrey's Company of Vols Riflemen, from Frederick, Va. Killed – David Harris; wounded – Lt Blackburn; 1st Sgt David Humphrey, bro to the Capt,

¹⁵ Gallagher 1856

severely, lost his right arm; Hugh McDonald, pvt, mortally; Thos Pledman, pvt, in the head, slightly; Wm Trulding, pvt, in the thigh, a flesh wound; John Miller, pvt, in the face, slightly.¹⁶

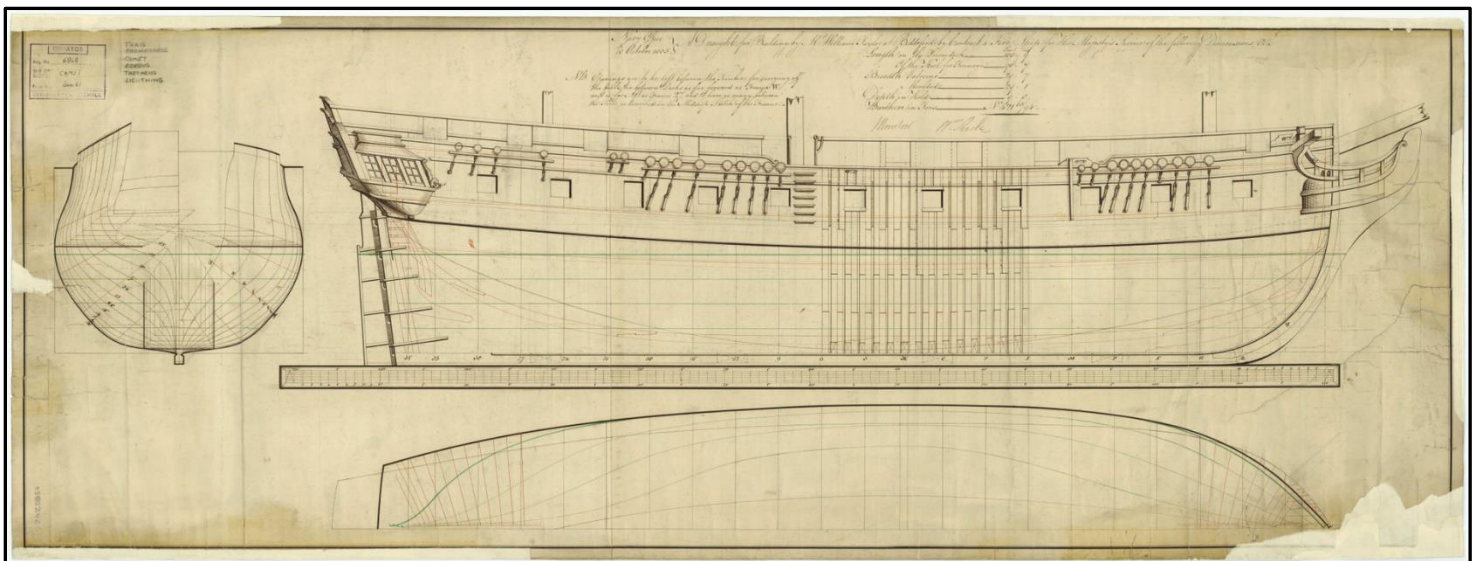
Brigadier General Hungerford, like Porter, was very appreciative of his Virginia militia’s efforts and heaped praise on them in his formal report. Last but not least, Hungerford complemented the Humphrey Riflemen!

Permit me to say that it was impossible for men to have conducted themselves with more intrepidity than the militia on this occasion. Notwithstanding the dreadful crossfire of every species of missile by the enemy, to which they were exposed, without a possibility of returning the fire (the most trying of all situations), not a man under my command offered to move until orders to that effect was given. And then, it was done slowly and in order.

I beg leave also, to mention the promptitude and alacrity with which the second order to march through a tremendous discharge of large shot and grape, for the distance of about a mile, was immediately obeyed. Captain Humphries [Humphrey] with his rifle company was stationed just above the battery and is entitled to the highest commendation for the courage and activity with which he fought.¹⁷

Patrick L. O’Neill is a noted historian, author, and archaeologist. He recently gave a historical presentation at the June 2018 Virginia Society Membership Meeting in Richmond, Virginia.

The article concludes on the following page with References.



HMS Erebus body plan.

¹⁶ Dixon 1997:52

¹⁷ Brannan 1823:209; Palmer 1816:171

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On Preserving Gravestones

An Interview with Professor Keith Alexander of Shepherd University

Editor: Dr. Alexander, can you tell us a little about your background in the subject, and what got you into it? What are some projects you have worked on?

Dr. Alexander: Although I was born and raised near Columbia, MD, I spent a lot of time at our family farm outside of Keyser in Mineral County, WV. Like many farms in WV, there's a small family cemetery on the property. As a result, I thought it was completely normal to have a cemetery in your back yard, but I also became fascinated with the stones and the family relationships they revealed.

I didn't really do anything in terms of cemetery restoration until I went to Germany in 1994 for some service learning projects. One of the projects involved working to restore a Jewish cemetery in the former East Berlin that had been vandalized during the Nazi period, then neglected for decades under the East German government. This was the first time I realized the incredible importance of cemeteries, and learned about basic restoration techniques.

When I took over Shepherd University's historic preservation program back in 2006, I was looking for ways to get my students hands-on experience doing restoration work. Cemetery preservation seemed like the perfect solution. I've had my student doing service learning projects involving cemetery preservation ever since. Up until this year, we focused on gravestone cleaning, documentation, and mapping, with some limited gravestone repairs. We have worked in the Lutheran cemetery, the German Reformed cemetery, and the Shepherd family cemetery, all in Shepherdstown, among others. This year, thanks to the generosity of the Helen Parker Willard Fund of the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation, we were able to purchase a tripod with a powerful pulley system that lets us move and reset stones up to one ton in weight. That has immensely expanded our capacity to take on more extensive projects, and I'm very excited about this.

Editor: What's the difference between a headstone, a gravestone, and a tombstone? Which term should we be using to refer to stones of this time period?

Dr. Alexander: Headstones are distinct from footstones in a graveyard. They typically have the complete inscriptions and epitaphs, while footstones may have initials or be unmarked. I use the terms gravestone and tombstone interchangeably. For me, there are more important distinctions, first between kinds of grave markers, and second, between cemetery and graveyard. A few examples of different kinds of grave markers are tablet stones, tablets on bases, crypts, and monuments. Columns, spires, and obelisks are different kinds of monuments.

When I'm being technical, I follow Lynette Strangstad's distinction between graveyards and cemeteries. According to this author of *A Graveyard Preservation Primer*, the term graveyard refers to older burial grounds up through the nineteenth century, while the term cemetery, which Strangstad defines as "a place set apart for burying the dead," became popular in the nineteenth century, and is useful to refer to later burial plots of the twentieth century and beyond.

Editor: What were some of the most common stones/minerals used to make gravestones during this time period in Virginia (including what is now West Virginia)? Why were different shapes chosen, and were the shapes significant?

Dr. Alexander: In the Shepherdstown area, gravestones are made primarily of three materials: sandstone, marble, and granite. Some limestone field stones are also used to mark graves. There are many different shapes. I'm not sure that the shapes themselves have much significance but are a matter of taste. The important distinction to my mind is the degree of ornamentation. The fancier the stone and the more carvings, sculptured aspects, carved text, etc., the more expensive the stone. This shows prestige, wealth, and power. By the way, you can also tell much about women's place in society by their stones. Do they share a marker with their husband? Are they described as loyal wife and mother, or as scientist, etc.?

Editor: What are some techniques you might recommend to read stones that are highly deteriorated or weathered?

Dr. Alexander: I tell my students never to do rubbings, as these can damage the stone. People have also used things like shaving cream to help decipher the text, which is also a terrible idea because of the potential to harm the stone. The best time to read stones is when you are cleaning them- just a bit of water can really make the inscription pop. It's also possible to use a mirror to reflect sunlight off the stones at an angle that makes the text much more legible.

Editor: Can you tell if a stone is too far gone to attempt to restore or clean? If so, how can you tell?

Dr. Alexander: This is a judgement call. Your first job is to do no harm to the historical record. If you think that cleaning the stone might harm it, don't do it- just document it the way it is. If you do decide to clean a stone, always document it first, then test clean a small insignificant part of the stone to be sure it's stable. Always start with water alone, then proceed to a mild detergent solution, then perhaps a solution of 4 parts water to 1 part ammonia, or use a professional stone cleaner like D2. Always use a gentle brush with non-metal bristles, and never use bleach or other harsh chemicals.

Editor: In our recent work at Fleming Memorial Church, we uncovered many headstones now lying horizontally on the ground [see article page 36]. How would you recommend they be preserved?

Dr. Alexander: Those headstones are still significant, but they are no longer grave markers since they have been removed from their original positions. They will decay more quickly in the ground than if they are placed vertically. Alternatively, they may be stored indoors, at least until the data can be gathered on the inscriptions.

Editor: We recently discovered a gravestone belonging to a veteran of the War of 1812 [see page 35]. As you can see, the stone has fractured. The portion of the stone on the ground has a completely different color, as if it was made of a different type of stone than the base. Could this be due to the humidity from the ground, over the many decades? And, is it worth attempting to re-mount or re-attach this stone, or stones like it?

Dr. Alexander: Yes, this is due to decay from the ground and from vegetation. This is very much along the lines of what we've seen here in Shepherdstown, where parts of the stones that are covered up decay far more rapidly. In my view, it is worth reattaching the stone as long as you are certain that it is being attached to the correct base. Usually it's pretty clear what piece belongs to what base. If you can get a good point of contact, it's worth reattaching.

Editor: What are some legal issues we might have to consider while uncovering, cleaning, or even marking graves? Assuming permission from the cemetery owner or church pastor in control of the cemetery, does one need to consider whether permission is needed from the descendants of the individual, or from the owner of the individual plot itself? Have you ever encountered family members or descendants who did not want you to do the restoration work? Have you had a situation where no one, not even the civil authorities, knows who owns or controls the graveyard?

Dr. Alexander: Yes, this happened with the Shepherd family cemetery on New Street, with no one really knowing who owned it. That has been settled now as a result of some good, careful historical research. My best advice is if you are going to traverse private land to get to a cemetery, try to find out who owns it and get their permission. I have never heard of descendants objecting to restoration work being done, and we have never sought permission from descendants, as that would probably preclude any necessary work being done. I would refer you to the WV State Historic Preservation Office for more info on this.

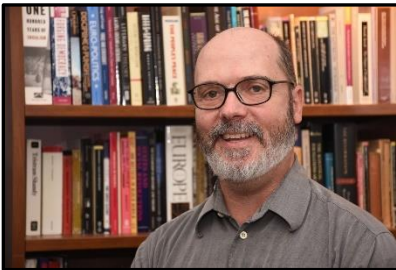
Editor: Do you know of any projects in grave restoration going on in Virginia or West Virginia now? Any significant memorials that are in dire need of attention?

Dr. Alexander: There are many, many graveyards that are in desperate need of help throughout the state. Close to Shepherdstown, there is an African American graveyard (Green Hill) in Martinsburg that is in dire need of restoration, and this is one of dozens in this area alone. Your local historical society probably will be able to give you more information about cemeteries in your area, but they may not know all of them.

Editor: What was the most challenging preservation work you've been involved in?

Dr. Alexander: Actually, the Jewish cemetery in Berlin was the most challenging. It was very large, had been heavily vandalized, and on top of all that, was suffering from extreme neglect, with trees growing on top of and through numerous grave markers. It was also highly historically significant, and to see it in that kind of shape was pretty heartbreaking.

A major challenge of another sort was the historic Swearingen family cemetery located at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center in Jefferson County. That challenge was posed by the weather conditions. We did some documentation and restoration work back in April of 2017, and that was a very wet month. We did most of our work in a cold, driving rain. I'm not sure my students will ever forgive me for that one!



Dr. Alexander's research interests include green historic preservation, and service learning in historic preservation education. He teaches classes in architectural history, oral history, modern history, and historic preservation. In the field of historic preservation, he has published an article on service learning and cemetery preservation in *Preservation Education and Research Journal*. His most recent projects include examining Senator Robert Byrd's role in fostering historic preservation in West Virginia, as well as exploring historic preservation and architecture in Cuba.



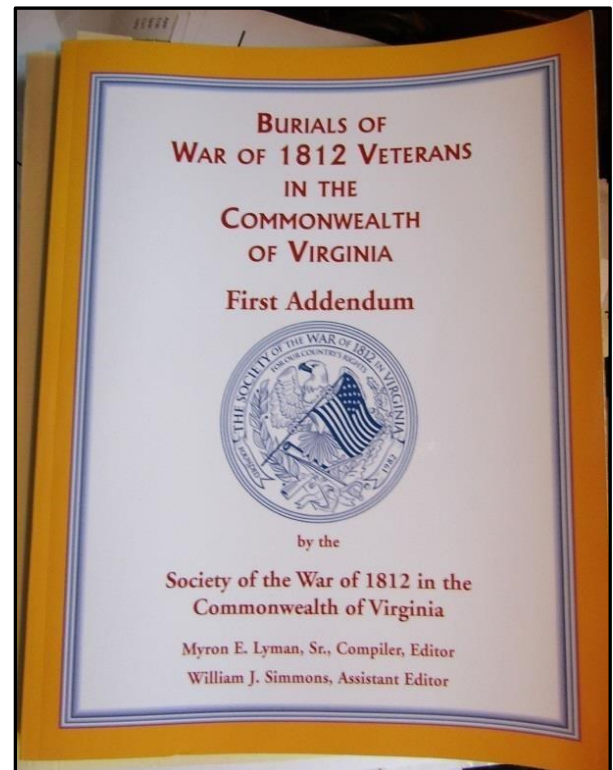
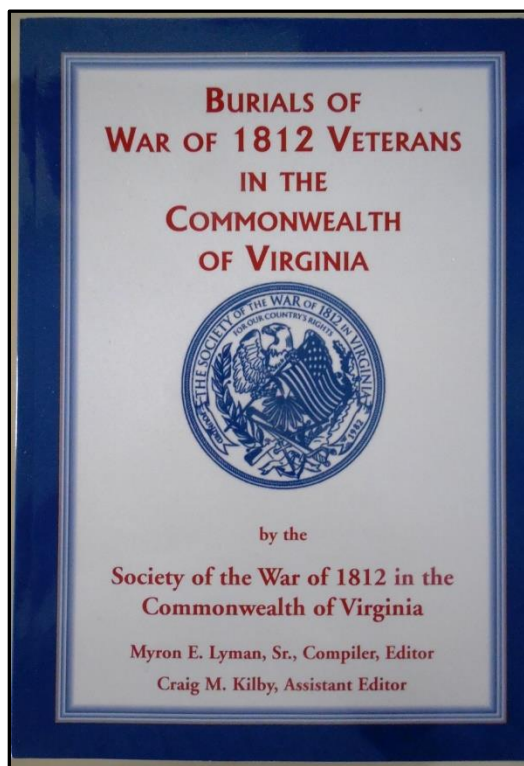


Book News & Reviews

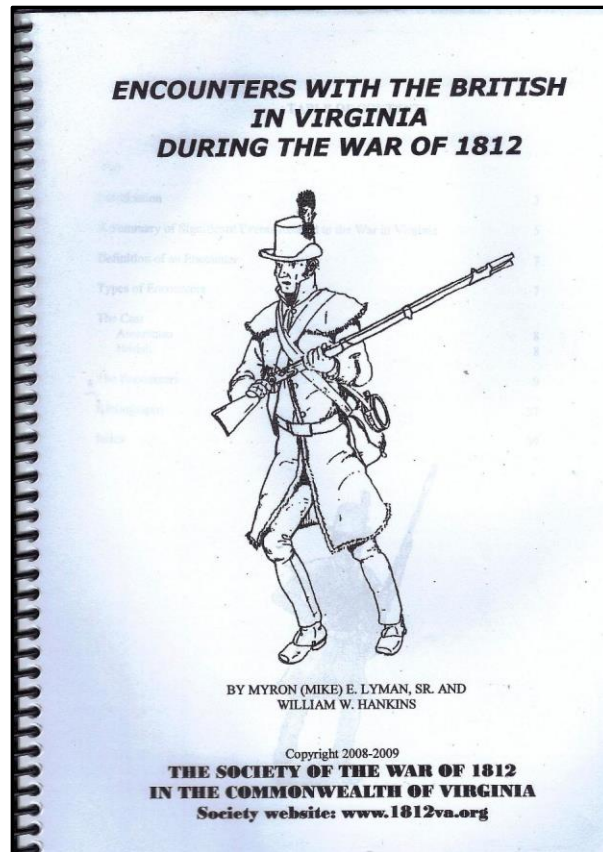
Have you read and enjoyed a book and want to tell others about it? Here will be published your reviews, comments and opinions on War of 1812-related books and publications, or your announcements about upcoming releases. Anyone may submit a review. Also, any news you may have about books published by our Society or its members. We look forward to publishing your book-related comments in future issues.

Please submit reviews to: editor1812va@gmail.com.

Please consider purchasing these books from our Society and donating them to libraries. The first book is \$45 for non-members (for personal use), \$37.50 for members (ditto), and \$25 to be purchased for donation. The Addendum is \$22.50 for non-members, \$17.50 for members, and \$12 for donation. If purchased for donation, shipping to you is **free!**



Will a Past Gem Get a Reprint?



Member Mike Lyman, co-author, says of this tome: *"Our society published this book in 2009. We had about 175 copies made from a private source. 115 copies were sent to county and other libraries in VA. It is now out of print. It listed chronologically 235 encounters in VA during the war period. We now know of others that make the total over 300. Not all of the encounters were shots fired. Some were just watering parties. Bill Hankins died a few years ago."*



Portrait of Major James Hurst, that hangs in the Northumberland County courthouse in Heathsville, Virginia. He qualified as Lieutenant in the 37th Regiment 14th Brigade 4th Division in 1806, and commissioned Captain of a company in the same regiment the next year. He may have served in the Virginia Militia during the war. He was promoted to Major on April 8th, 1816. He likely died in 1819. If you have further information about Major Hurst, please contact the editor.

Society News

Society Unveils Burnt Chimney's Sign on November 4th:

A sign in the yard of a restored house in Northumberland County that was burnt in a raid by the British in August 1814 was unveiled in a ceremony conducted by the Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia on November 4 2018. Supporting the event was the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society. This house whose three chimneys were the only thing that remained after the fire, was rebuilt in 1815. The British were chasing Captain William Henderson and his artillery militia unit which had caused the enemy many casualties when they landed some ten miles away. The British claimed the house and warehouses in the area contained military supplies.

A portion of the ceremony was dedicated to honor Henderson. Around fifty people attended the ceremony and afterwards many accepted an invitation to view the house that was his home.



From left: James M Green, Jr- 2d Vice President; Paul A Walden- Secretary; James Thacker- Quartermaster, Stuart L Butler- President, Mike Lyman- Past President; Hugh Markham- Registrar; George Beckett- member; and Charles Belfield- Color Guard commander.



The rebuilt house between the remaining chimneys.



The Musket Salute is provided by Mike Lyman and Hugh Markham.

For a detailed photo of the plaque, an invitation to the event, the program, and for many more photos and historical information, please see the website article here:

<http://1812va.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Burnt-Chimneys-Ceremony.pdf>

Society Honors 47 1812 Vets in Ceremony on Oct 6th 2018:

The Virginia Society SAR and the Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia conducted a joint dedication of plaques memorializing the veterans of both wars interred at the Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg, Virginia on 6 October. The Old City Cemetery dates back to 1806 and is one of the oldest public cemeteries in continuous use since its founding with nearly 20,000 burials. It is on the National Register of Historic Places.



Dennis Fritts, past president of the Virginia Society, unveils the War of 1812 plaque.

Chuck Poland, 1st Vice President of the Fincastle Resolutions and Past President of the Virginia Society of the War of 1812 served as master of ceremonies. It was noted that the majority of the

old sandstone gravestone inscriptions in the cemetery can no longer be deciphered, thus the plaques do not contain by any means all of the Revolutionary War patriots and War of 1812 veterans buried there.



The combined VASSAR and War of 1812 Color Guard presented the colors for the pledge of Allegiance.

Member Mike Lyman identified many of the graves in his exhaustive research of patriot burials in Virginia. The plaques were mounted before the ceremony by Denise A. McDonald, Executive Director, and her staff.



A musket salute is given by the VASSAR Color Guard.

For more photos, a map, and more information, please visit the Society website article here:

<http://1812va.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Society-Honors-47-1812-Vets-in-a-Ceremony-Oct-6-2018.docx>

The Virginia Society Presents Books to Many Libraries this Fall:

On 27 August 2018, past Society president Myron (Mike) E Lyman, Sr made a presentation to the **Lancaster County Historical Society Library** also known as the Mary Ball Washington Library located in the town of Lancaster. The book was the First Addendum to the Society's book "Burials of War of 1812 Veterans in the Commonwealth of Virginia".

In September 2018, past Society president Charles (Chuck) Poland presented the First Addendum to the **Roanoke Library**.

On 2 October 2018 Mike Lyman presented Society publications to the **Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg**. This took place at the end of the plaque unveiling ceremony that was conducted that day.



Society member Mike Lyman and Old City Cemetery Executive Director Denise McDonald.

On 3 October 2018 Secretary Paul Walden presented the First Addendum to Reference Librarian Gerald Walker for the **Daughters of the American Revolution Library** in Washington, DC. The DAR Library has one of the largest genealogy reference collections in the country. Having this publication in their stacks will help spread the word about the great works of our Society.



Society Secretary Paul Walden and DAR Reference Librarian Gerald Walker.

In October 2018 Society President Butler presented copies of the First Addendum to the **Williamsburg County Library**, the **Swem Library** in Williamsburg and also to the **James City Library**.

On 25 October 2018 Society Quartermaster Jim Thacker presented the First Addendum to the **Richmond Family History Center**.

In November 2018, in an outstanding milestone for our society, Society Secretary Paul Walden presented a copy of the First Addendum to the **Library of Congress**.

For more details and photos, please visit our website here:

<http://1812va.org/>

The Society Shows Displays at a Public Event Honoring Veterans and First Responders:

On 25 August 2018, The Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia; the James Monroe Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution; and the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society were represented at an annual event honoring first responders and veterans. Displays were set up at the Tractor Supply in Warsaw, Richmond County, Virginia. George Beckett and Charles Belfield, members of all three societies, were there with a display of Northern Neck history pertaining to the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.



George Beckett explains items to visitors and recruits for society membership.

The event was covered on page one of The Northern Neck of Virginia Newspaper in an August 30th article by Rebecca Riddell. The article and further information can be found here:

<http://1812va.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Society-is-cited-in-Newspaper-Aug-30-2018.pdf>



New Daughters of 1812 Chapter is Chartered for the Northern Neck of Virginia:

Two members of the Virginia Society, Dick Fickling and Mike Lyman, attended the chartering ceremony of the Rappahannock Chapter of the U.S. Daughters of 1812. It was held August 27th at the Historic Christ Church in Irvington. The chapter’s area includes the Northern Neck counties. Dick Fickling provided photographic services. The newspaper Rappahannock Record featured a detailed article covering the event, which can be found here:

<http://1812va.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Society-Welcomes-New-Daughters-of-1812-Chapter.pdf>

Society President Conducts Three-Session Course:

President Stuart L. Butler of the Virginia Society presented a three-session course on the War of 1812 in Virginia to the students of the Rappahannock Community College for Lifetime Learning. The first of three two-hour sessions was conducted on 26 October 2018 at the Middlesex County Visitors Center in Saluda.



Society president Stuart Butler presents the first session.

The course focused on the actions of Virginia’s military and political leaders, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the Virginia militia. A local newspaper, the Northern Neck News, based in Warsaw, Virginia, featured an article on the course. It can be found here:

<http://1812va.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Society-President-Conducts-Three-Session-Course-October-26-2018.pdf>

Society Member Presents Cemetery Data to Church Session:

Virginia Society member David A. Vazquez presented information about the gravestones uncovered at the Fleming Memorial Presbyterian Church in Fairmont, WV to a Session of said church on 13 December 2018 (see accompanying story on page 36). Representing the Society, he explained to the Session members how the stones were uncovered, and the names and data that are readable so far from them.

In his presentation, Vazquez stated that there appear to be stones belonging to 16 individuals, having passed away between 1835 and 1891. Ages ranged from 6 years to 86. Five appear to be persons previously not known to be buried at the church, as they are not on the WPA listing from the 1930s, nor were they annotated later.

Vazquez went on to explain that though originally it was thought a known War of 1812 veteran might be buried there, this veteran was located at another Fleming cemetery in the city. Nevertheless, he stated that it is hoped that the uncovering of the stones will be helpful to the church. Three of the stones were of persons who were of age during the War of 1812. Several other stones are so far unreadable. Others have poems or messages that

would be interesting to reveal completely. At least one stone belongs to an early settler of the region.

The Session members stated that they appreciate the efforts of the Society, and that they will seek to follow the advice of experts on how best to preserve and display the stones. They also invited the Society to examine church records of the persons whose stones were found.

Capture of the Dolphin Presented to new Chapter of Daughters of 1812:

On October 22nd 2018, at the Historic Christ Church in Weems, Lancaster County, past President Mike Lyman, of the War of 1812 Society in the Commonwealth of Virginia gave a presentation to the newly formed Rappahannock Chapter, U.S. Daughters of 1812 Society in Virginia. The subject was about a naval encounter in the nearby Rappahannock River on April 3rd, 1813 where the Privateer Schooner, Dolphin and three other U.S. schooners were captured by a British naval force. A newspaper article about the chapter and the presentation was in the local newspaper, “Rappahannock Record” in Kilmarnock on November 1st 2018.



Mike Lyman presents the story of the Dolphin.



A schooner's cannon, in Northern Neck cemetery.
Photo by M. Lyman.

The article, a program, maps, and much more detail can be found here:

<http://1812va.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Capture-of-the-Dolphin-Presented-to-U-1.pdf>



Descriptions of each side of the flag were obtained and the Society had them made. One of the flags is flown by the Society color guard at ceremonies. This is the only Virginia regimental flag known to exist.



Society Member Plans to Present Replica Flag Next Year:

Virginia Society member Mike Lyman plans to present one of six replica Virginia regimental flags to a so far unnamed museum in the coming year. These flags were made with the participation of the Virginia Society for James City County's 68th Regiment. Through research in Britain, it was found that in 1813 in a raid the British made from their ships on the James River at Jamestown, they captured the flag from the militia.



FIELD DISPATCHES



Virginia Society Member Completes Exterior of James Monroe House:

Member Charles Belfield has completed the exterior of the James Monroe Birthplace Replica in Colonial Beach, Westmoreland County, Virginia, which included efforts such as painting, and installation of windows. Construction of the new house, built near the foundation of the original structure, commenced in April of 2016. The project is funded by the James Monroe Memorial Foundation.



Mr. Belfield volunteered his time and effort for the project. He estimates that construction and preparation of the interior of the house, undertaken by the Foundation, will be completed by April of 2019.

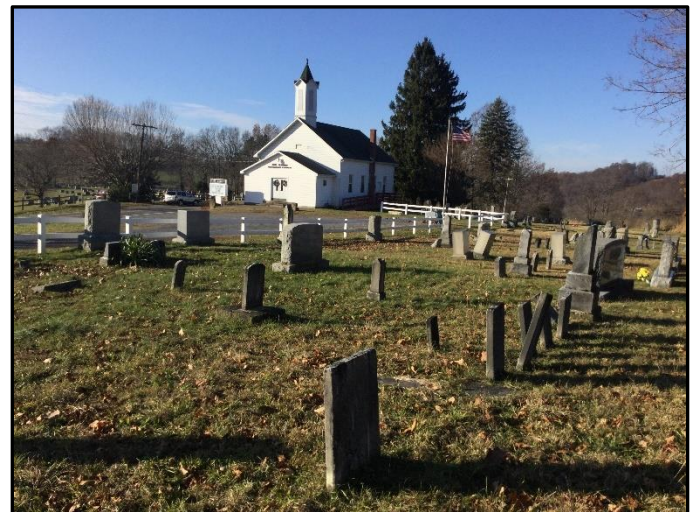
The **James Monroe Memorial Foundation** would appreciate any contributions to help with the project. Donations can be sent to the Foundation at:

9630 Sloman Place
Richmond VA 23238

Explorations in the Mount Zion church cemetery in Fairmont, West Virginia:

By D. A. Vazquez

The Mount Zion cemetery in the hills near Fairmont in Marion County, WV, is the final resting place of at least one, and possibly two veterans of Brig. Gen. Joel Leftwich’s Virginia Brigade. And, both are mentioned in our Society president’s book, *Real Patriots and Heroic Soldiers*. As this site is only a 20-minute drive from my home through beautiful country, I decided to attempt to locate the graves and assess their condition.



View of the Mt Zion Presbyterian Church and cemetery, established 1840. Capt. Morgan’s headstone in foreground. Photos by D. A. Vazquez.

The first was Capt. James “Buffalo Jim” Morgan, who commanded a company of the Second Regiment, from Monongalia County, Virginia (now Marion County, WV). Marion County, named after “Swamp Fox” Francis Marion, split from Monongalia County in 1842.

Born in 1778, James Morgan was 5 months old when his grandfather, Revolutionary War veteran David Morgan famously killed two Indians who were threatening his children, when he was almost 60 years old. The elder Morgan was born in 1721 in Delaware, and in the 1740s assisted then Colonel George Washington to locate and establish the boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania (known as the "Fairfax Line"). Later he assisted Washington to survey the land along the Ohio and Monongahela rivers, near the latter of which Morgan settled in the early 1770s. In 1774, in the midst of the cruel "Dunmore's War", Pricketts Fort was built at the confluence of Prickett Creek and the Monongahela River (about 6 miles north of present-day Fairmont, WV). It was in the area of this fort that James Morgan grew up.



Modern reconstruction of Pricketts Fort, used as a shelter by local settlers against Indian attacks during Dunmore's War.

By all accounts, James was said to have been 6 feet tall and a man of powerful physique. In the words of one neighbor who knew him, he was called Buffalo Jim, "whether to distinguish him from other James Morgans or to denote his size and strength I do not know, but my opinion is that it was the latter." One account even describes how, after chasing a bear with his dogs, he went hand-to-hand with it and killed it with a knife, because his musket

could not penetrate its thick hide. According to another story, he carried a mare 9 steps on his back.

Capt. Morgan kept a memorandum book during part of his service during the War of 1812. In fact, the very first entry was:

Capt. J. Morgan, his day book, bought in Clarksburg in Jackson's store this 24th day of September, 1812.

Many readers will know that the Jackson family was quite prominent in Clarksburg at that time, and that one Thomas Jonathan Jackson was born into it there in 1824. I am still researching to whom the 'store' belonged—possibly Stonewall's father or uncle.

The entire march of the company to Fort Meigs is recorded in the rest of the brief entries. Some examples:

10th Sept. 1812. Started from Morgantown and camped at mouth of Booth's creek – great lamentations, etc...

Oct. 1st, 1812. We marched 12 miles this day and encamped at the mouth of Little Kanawha. Capt. Wilson's Company and Capt. Lee's Company took water at the mouth of the Muskingum Marietta, and landed on the Little Kanawha...

The journal goes on to describe how they attempted to procure boats at that location, but were unable, so had to march to Point Pleasant on the Virginia side of the river. They eventually crossed over on November 5th. The last entry reads:

Tuesday, the 5th day of April, 1813, I started from Fort Meigs and got home on the 18th of sd. month.

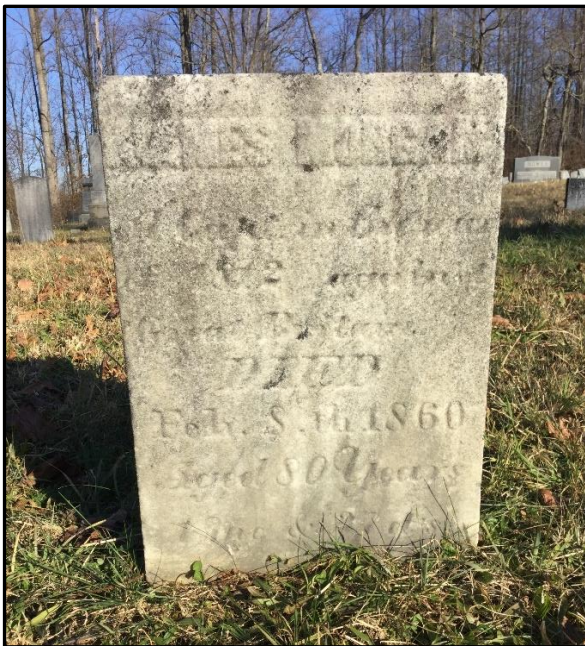
James Morgan.

Morgan lived a long, productive life, and had 12 children, 7 of whom reached maturity. A neighbor who knew him wrote in 1911:

...I passed by his farm one day and saw him out in the field plowing corn. He wore knee-buckle pants, something similar to what small boys now wear. He

must have been well up to eighty years old, yet my recollection is that he stepped around quite nimbly...

Capt. Morgan's simple gravestone is located only a few paces from the Mt Zion church parking lot fence. Heavily weathered and eroded, the best I could make out from the faint inscription was *James Morgan a Captain in the War of 1812 against Great Britain DIED Feb 8... 1860 Aged 80 Years 1 Mo & 22 d's*. The gravestones of his wives, also in poor condition, are near his.



Headstone of Capt. J. Morgan.

Some distance behind Capt. Morgan's grave, near the back edge of the graveyard, is the final resting place of a William May, who, according to some internet opiners, served in Capt. Samuel Wilson's company of the Second Regiment, Virginia Brigade. There is indeed a PVT William May listed in Mr. Butler's book as having deserted on 11/22/1812 and rejoined on 2/28/1813. But is there good evidence to show that the man buried here was in fact the veteran?

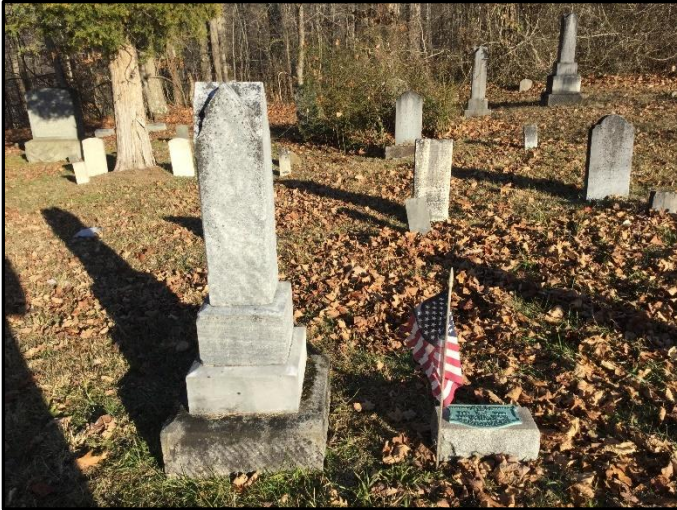


Headstone of William May. Could this be PVT William May, 2nd Rgt. Virginia Brigade?

The severely deteriorated gravestone itself offered no help. All I could read, and barely at that, was *William May... died...*

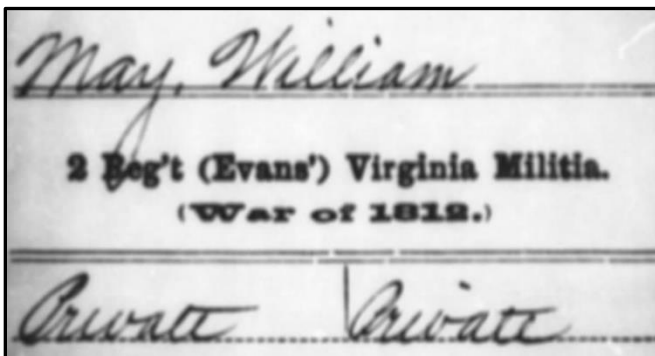
Interestingly, the grave lies just behind that of Revolutionary War veteran Jacob Vangilder, whose grave is marked by an old DAR plaque. County records show that a William May married a Mary Vangilder on April 30th 1807, which fits. The 1850 U.S. Census for Monongalia County lists farmer William May, age 68, born in Pennsylvania, with a Mary, age 65. There is also a "Mary Ann Burke" listed with them. In fact, William May is listed in Monongalia censuses in 1820, 1830, and 1840 as well, including on the same page as a Morgan Morgan, likely the father of Capt. James Morgan. There is a Monongalia County will for William May, recorded February 1856 and proved November 1857, mentioning his wife Mary and adopted daughter Mary Ann Burk. All of this seems to

indicate that the William May buried here was approximately 30 years old in 1812, which would certainly put him within the appropriate age range to have served.



The gravestone of Jacob Vangilder, William May's stone in background. The marker reads: *Revolutionary Soldier Jacob Van Gilder 1760-1845 Placed by Col. Morgan Morgan Chapter DAR.*

The National Archives General Index Cards available for William May are promising—one shows that he served in the "2 Reg't (Evans') Va Militia". But with just the above clues to go on, it appears that only by pulling possible pension or bounty applications, or by looking at the muster roll on microfilm, will we know with confidence that this was the same William May who served.



Much of the above material about Capt. Morgan comes from his great grandson French Morgan's

book—*A History and Genealogy of the Family of Col. Morgan Morgan the First White Settler of the State of West Virginia*. Washington: 1950.

Please consider a donation, in the form of requesting William May's military records from NARA, to help confirm his identity. If this is in fact the veteran's grave, we might consider marking it properly. Also, please consider donating a large Society of the War of 1812 marker for Capt. Morgan, which would be very visible from the church parking lot.

The Search for PVT Paul Vandervort, Virginia Brigade

Another graveyard, this one located in a residential area 5 minutes from my home, is the currently neglected Fleming cemetery. Located on 7th Street, it is visible from the road. Recently I learned that it might be the final resting place of a War of 1812 veteran—who, like PVT May, was a member of Capt. Samuel Wilson's Monongalia County company of the 2nd Regiment, Virginia Brigade.



Fleming cemetery, Fairmont, WV. Many graves are damaged or toppled, and the grass is overgrown. Photos by D. A. Vazquez.

PVT Paul Vandervort is listed on page 289 of Mr. Butler’s *Real Patriots*, as “Pvt., on command, Upper Sandusky, wagoner, 11/30-4/5/13”. But from looking at General Index Cards and pension or bounty land applications, it appears that two gentlemen named Paul Vandervort from Virginia served during the war—one in the Ohio militia, the other in the Virginia Brigade.

SOLDIER	Vandervort, Paul	BOUNTY LAND
WIDOW	Elizabeth	
SERVICE	Pvt. Capt. Theophilus Simington Ohio Mil	

Census and other records indicate that the first Paul Vandervort, though born in Virginia, settled, died, and was buried in Warren County, Ohio, in 1863. His widow was named Elizabeth. But what of the other Paul?

SOLDIER	Vandervort, Paul	BOUNTY LAND
WIDOW	Mary	Wt 29325-80-50 Wt 24594-80-55
SERVICE	Pvt. Capt. Wilson, Va. Mil	

As can be seen on the jacket of a bounty land application, the other Paul Vandervort served in Capt. Wilson’s company, and his widow was named Mary. According to Monongalia County records, a Paul Vandervort did marry a Mary Jenkins in May of 1812. I wondered if the Paul Vandervort alleged by neighbors and certain internet sites to be buried at Fleming cemetery might be the same man.



Paul Vandervort Died July 8, 1833 Aged 42 Years 8 Mo. & 10 Days. Photo by D. Vazquez.

After a couple of searches of the cemetery (after speaking to the city and neighbors of course), and with the good luck of getting one warm, sunny day, I discovered his gravestone. Tate Thompson, a volunteer student from nearby Fairmont State University, assisted me in raking and neatening the area around the grave. This was not Tate’s first patriotic effort—he received the Bronze ROTC Medal from the Captain James Neal Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, as well as the H.L. Hunley award from the Sons of Confederate Veterans for his achievements while he was a High School JROTC cadet in Parkersburg, WV.



FSU student Tate Thompson helps with graveyard beautification.

As for why PVT Paul Vandervort would be buried here in the Fleming cemetery, at least one of his children, Mary, married a Fleming. Furthermore, he is said to have been an elder of the Fleming Memorial Presbyterian Church, and, two other Vandervorts are buried in the same cemetery.

No one we contacted, not even the city of Fairmont, knows who owns the cemetery. Two persons who are known to be connected to the cemetery have been emailed or written to, but as of this writing have not responded.

Please consider a donation in the form of requesting PVT Paul Vandervort's military records and pension or bounty land application from the National Archives, or of contributing toward the upkeep of the cemetery. If this can be secured, please consider donating a War of 1812 marker for his grave.

New Society Applicant Assists Gravestone Recovery at Historic Cemetery:

Stephen Martin, 25, whose research indicates is descended from two Virginia militia veterans of the

War of 1812, helped uncover 17 gravestones covered by several years of dirt and grass. The gravestones, of persons deceased from the early 1800s through the 1890s, are located at the Fleming Presbyterian Church graveyard in Fairmont, WV.



Fleming Memorial Presbyterian Church, Fairmont, WV.

The Flemings were a prominent pioneer family in this area of what was then Virginia. For example, Revolutionary War veteran Boaz Fleming founded the city of Fairmont. Nathan Fleming, another Revolutionary War veteran, is buried in the church cemetery.

While researching a Virginia militia veteran, PVT Paul Vandervort (see previous story), member David A. Vazquez found that it was likely he was buried at a Fleming cemetery in Fairmont, and judging from old photos of the gravestone, it was probably lying horizontally on or in the ground. However, there are at least two Fleming cemeteries in the city (the church, and another cemetery on 7th St.), and it was not clear at first where he was buried.

Vazquez first approached the Fleming Presbyterian Church, and met Mike Yost, the Property Chair. Mr. Yost stated that while cutting down trees that lined the cemetery grounds almost two decades ago, he discovered a veritable pile of disordered, loose gravestones, which he then deposited horizontally

in neat rows on the grounds. Years later, the stones were now completely overgrown by grass and covered by about an inch of soil. Mr. Yost enthusiastically gave the Virginia Society the green light to attempt to uncover the stones, and allowed use of the church toolshed.

Working alone at first, Vazquez uncovered several of the stones. Later, Vandervort’s grave was discovered at the other Fleming cemetery, but with the help of Stephen Martin and his father Kirk, work continued at the church grounds. Three rows of about six stones each were uncovered, totaling 17.



Stephen Martin and his father Kirk at work uncovering lost 19th century gravestones.



17 gravestones were revealed, some belonging to individuals not previously known to have been buried there.

As for Stephen’s veteran ancestors, research indicates he is descended from PVT Andrew Huffman, and from CPL Abraham DeVault, who served in Captain James Morgan’s company of the 2nd Regiment, Virginia Brigade.

According to dated internet sources, Andrew Huffman’s grave is said to be on private property known as Broad Run Cemetery in Craig County, Virginia. This site may be in very poor condition. Abraham DeVault’s gravesite is also on private property, in Monongalia County, WV. Its condition is unknown at this time, but permission to visit it is being sought.



Headstone of Abraham DeVault, circa 1980. Photo provided by Robert DeVault.

“I’m just a guy who loves reading and studying history and traveling to old historical sites,” said Stephen Martin. “And the reason I would like to join [the Virginia Society] is that I’d like to preserve history and teach others about it. Many people don’t even know that much about the War of 1812. It’s the reason we got ‘The Star-Spangled Banner.’ It helped shape America.”

If you live in the vicinity of Craig County, VA, please consider visiting the gravesite of A. Huffman (with permission), and assessing its condition for us.

Notices & Business

New War of 1812 Grave Marker Unveiled:



This is the new War of 1812 grave marker, there are several in stock for \$75 each. The new design is due to the General Society losing its contract for the previous large star-shaped design. For more information contact Mike Lyman at melyman@va.metrocast.net.

2019 Virginia Society Annual Meeting to Be Held at Fort Norfolk:

The Virginia Society will have its 2019 annual meeting at Fort Norfolk in June. This is the location of the first bronze plaque placed by the Virginia Society. The plaque, posted in 2001, honored and made recognition of some 800 Regular Army soldiers who were stationed there to protect Norfolk and Portsmouth. It is located near the entrance gate of the fort.



Fort Norfolk, on the Elizabeth River in Norfolk, Virginia.

The Society Treasurer would like all members to be aware of the following information. Also, a Dues Notice is provided on the following page, for those of you with dues outstanding.



Beginning January 1, 2018, the tax law has changed with respect to Itemized Deduction and Personal Exemptions. Over the past many years, a taxpayer has been able to claim a personal exemption for himself (herself!) plus an additional exemption for a spouse.

Effective 1/1/2018, taxpayers are no longer entitled to claim a personal exemption for himself (herself) nor for any dependents. The personal exemption has been replaced with a larger standard deduction amounts. For Single, the standard deduction will be \$12,000. For Married Filing Joint, the standard deduction will be \$24,000. For those over 65, you can add \$1,300 for Married Filing Joint. Now, here is the issue: If, in the past, you itemized your deductions, your charitable deductions were included in the Itemized Deductions. You received a tax benefit for making the charitable donation. With the new tax law, you first determine if you will have enough medical, tax payments, home mortgage interest and then charitable donations. If the total amount falls below the new standard deduction amount, you take the standard deduction. You are not entitled to take any other deduction for any charity donations.

Many members may have reached the 70 ½ and are now taking the Required Minimum Distributions. **For those who have an IRA and only IRAs**, there is a way to still make charitable donations and have a tax savings.

The member can direct the IRA holder to make a direct payment to the charity for the requested amount. The check MUST be payable to the charity. If the check is payable to the taxpayer, he is NOT ALLOWED a deduction. So, if the IRA check is payable to the charity, the IRA Holder (the bank) can send the check to the charity or to the taxpayer to deliver to the charity.

IF these steps are followed, at the end of the tax years, the taxpayer will receive a 1099-R from the IRA holder (the bank). Box 1 will show the full amount of the IRA distributed. The FULL RMD amount will be shown on his/her tax return on Line 15a; however, on Line 15b, the taxpayer will show on the net amount as taxable putting a QCD next to the Line 15b. Hence, the taxpayer now gets a deduction for the charitable donation on the front of the tax return.

Gerry

German P. Culver, Jr., CPA, PC

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DUES NOTICE

SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812 IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ **ZIP:** _____

Membership Type: _____ **National #:** _____ **State #:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Work Phone:** _____

Email: _____ **Ancestor:** _____

DUES (please note the 3 different grades of membership: **Regular, Dual, and Life**, please pay accordingly.)

REGULAR MEMBERS \$40.00 _____

DUAL MEMBERS \$15.00 _____
(Dual members only pay \$15, if Virginia is NOT the primary society)

Virginia **LIFE MEMBERS** Owe No Dues
\$375 for ages 65 or older; \$750 for ages 55-64; \$1,500 for under 55 _____

CONTRIBUTIONS & DONATIONS:

GRAVE & BURIAL MARKINGS _____

FISHER HOUSE _____

ROTC MEDALS _____

SCHOLARSHIP FUND _____

GENERAL/OPERATING _____

*****TOTAL REMITTED:** __\$_____

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J. Shane Newcombe, Treasurer
Society of War of 1812 in Virginia
P.O. Box 59
Randolph, VA 23962

DUE DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2018

PLEASE SEND Address, Phone or Email Changes to: shane@accessoriesabroad.com (subject line War of 1812).

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An online store for the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia is available where an array of items that are available for sale to members of the Virginia Society. This site currently accepts credit cards, but you can also mail an order by visiting the Society’s website. Take a look, and treat yourself to something special.

Completely versatile, mobile, and above all else, a great way to get the items you’ve been looking for.

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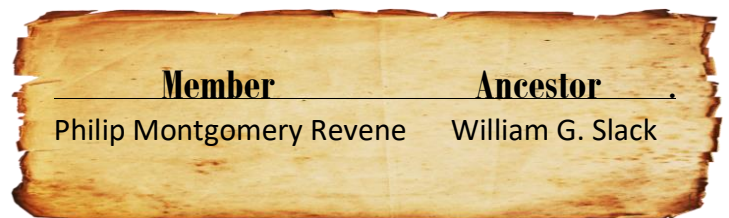
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A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER



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