



OUR AMERICAN
COLONIST
ANCESTORS



Before 1776, American colonists were primarily British settlers inhabiting 13 distinct colonies, with the population growing from 2,000 in 1625 to 2.4 million by 1775. Motivated by religious freedom and economic opportunity, they established diverse regional societies—Puritan New England, diverse Middle Colonies, and agricultural Southern Colonies. Despite initial allegiance, tensions over taxes and self-rule led to the 1776 declaration of independence.

These are the biographies of our ancestors who rendered civil or military service in the Colonies in America before July 4, 1776.



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Maj. John Lewis (1635 – 1689)

Maj. John Lewis was born in Abergavenney, Monmouthshire, Wales in about 1635. He is best known as the father of Councillor John Lewis. He is typically referred to as “Major” to distinguish him from both his father and his son, who shared the same name.

He first appears in records in 1653, when he was listed as a headright in his father’s land patent in what was then York County, Virginia. It is estimated that John Lewis, Jr., was about 20 years old when he accompanied his father to Virginia and about 24 at the time of his father’s death, though these ages and dates may require further verification.

On December 29, 1655, identified as “John Lewis Jr.,” he patented 250 acres in Gloucester County, located along the main swamp of Poropotank Creek, extending from the land of Col. Richard Lee to Beech Spring.

Some confusion arises from a separate record dated February 24, 1658, which lists a John Lewis as a headright for Col. George Reade, an ancestor of George Washington. This reference may instead pertain to his son, Colonel John “Councillor” Lewis II.

On November 18, 1658, John Lewis and James Turner were granted 1,000 acres of land and marsh, known as Lewis Island, for transporting 20 persons.

Around 1660, John inherited the property known as Chemokins following the death of his brother William.

On November 23, 1663, he patented 1,700 acres at the head of Poropotank Creek, encompassing land on both sides and adjoining properties owned by several neighbors, including Mr. Major, Thomas Hanckes, George Austin, and Col. Richard Lee. Portions of this land had previously been patented by others and later assigned to him, while 600 acres were newly granted.

By 1666, John had married Isabella Miller in New Kent County, Virginia. They appear to have lived the rest of their lives on or near the original homestead. He is said to have managed the Chemokins estate through overseers, including some of his sons.

On August 7, 1667, he received a grant of 2,000 acres adjoining his existing plantation and neighboring lands, in return for transporting 19 individuals. Shortly afterward, on August 16, 1667, he patented an additional 2,600 acres spanning Gloucester and New Kent counties along both sides of Poropotank Swamp. This tract incorporated previously acquired lands and additional acreage granted for the transportation of persons.

On April 22, 1668, he was granted another 100 acres on the northeast side of Cainhow’s Swamp, again for transporting settlers.



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LINEAGE *from the* LEWIS FAMILY

12. Maj. John Lewis
m. Isabella Miller
11. Col John Lewis II
m. Elizabeth Warner
10. Col. Robert Lewis
m. Jane Meriwether
9. Col. Nicholas Lewis
m. Mary ‘Captain Molly’ Walker
8. Lt. Hudson Martin
m. Jane Walker Lewis
7. Thurston Dickinson
m. Mary Walker Martin
6. John D. Duggins
m. Frances Elizabeth Dickinson
5. James Henry Smith
m. Elizabeth Marshall Duggins
4. Peter Christen Jensen
m. Laura Ann Smith
3. Wilhelm August Heineman
m. Lucile Marguerite Jensen
2. Peter Edward Heineman
m. Doris Jean Crum
1. Peter Lea Heineman

By 1675, he held the rank of Major in the foot service. That same year, he joined Lieut. Col. John Smith, Capt. Philip Lightfoot, Thomas Royston, and John Buckner in patenting 10,000 acres in New Kent County.

Additional land transactions further expanded the Lewis holdings. A portion of the Chemokins tract, originally associated with Capt. John West, was acquired by Major William Lewis, including 2,600 acres along the southwest side of the York River. This large tract, extending from Weanoke Creek to Mattadequin

Creek, was later devised by will to John Lewis of King and Queen County. Upon his death, the estate was divided between his sons, Edward Lewis and John Lewis.

John Lewis was residing at Chemokins during Bacon's Rebellion in 1676 and appears to have suffered losses during the unrest. In later testimony, a rebel officer admitted to killing livestock, consuming corn, and taking meal from Lewis's plantation and nearby properties.

He served as a vestryman of St. Peter's Parish in New Kent County, as well as a Major in the county militia and a justice. In 1680, he was recorded as a captain of horse in the militia, and a Captain John Lewis was also appointed sheriff of New Kent County that same year.

John Lewis died on December 2, 1689 in New Kent County, Virginia. He was buried in the Lewis family cemetery on Poropotank Creek, in what is now King and Queen County.

After his death, his widow Isabella married Robert Yard of England. Upon her death, however, she was returned to the Lewis plantation and buried in the Old Lewis Cemetery in present-day King and Queen County, Virginia.

Col. John Lewis II (1669 – 1725)

Col. John "Counsilor" Lewis was born on November 30, 1669 in Abingdon Parish, Gloucester County, Virginia. Over the course of his life, he resided in St. Peter's Parish in New Kent County and later in Ware Parish, Gloucester County. Between 1689 and 1702, multiple entries in the St. Peter's Parish vestry book reference John Lewis, reflecting his early involvement in parish affairs at Chemokins, the estate he inherited upon his father's death.

His first home was likely Chemokins, as Warner Hall had initially passed to his wife Elizabeth's brother, Robert Warner, through their mother's estate. On January 5, 1695, a John Lewis was elected vestryman of St. Peter's Parish. A vestry record dated March 4, 1702 notes that "Mr. John Lewis lately departed this county," which may mark the time he relocated to Warner Hall, where he would establish his principal residence.

In 1704, John Lewis (the younger) was appointed to the Governor's Council, one of only twelve members at the time, and he was formally sworn in on June 26, 1707. He served on the Council for approximately 20 years, until his death. On September 2, 1707, he was also appointed Commander of King and Queen County, Virginia. In 1717, he held full ownership (fee simple) of the Chemokins estate, also known as Port

Holy, in St. Peter's Parish, New Kent County, which he deeded that same year to his son, Charles.

Early baptismal records for his children sometimes refer to him as "Captain," though he later rose to the rank of Colonel, the title by which he was most commonly known in eighteenth-century records.

Councilor Lewis was likely among the wealthiest and most prominent Virginians of his time. According to Nicholson's Rent Roll of 1704, his landholdings included 2,000 acres in Abingdon Parish, Gloucester County; 300 acres in York County; 2,600 acres in New Kent County (corresponding to the Chemokins estate); and several tracts in King and Queen County, including one of 10,100 acres. His brother Edward inherited their father's estate along Poropotank Creek in King and Queen County.

Elizabeth Warner, the third daughter of Augustine Warner II, became John Lewis's wife and ultimately inherited Warner Hall. Their son, John Lewis II, also served as a member of His Majesty's Council and was a prominent figure in the colony. Over generations, the Lewis family remained associated with Warner Hall, while descendants spread throughout the United States. Family members established several notable Virginia estates, including Belle Farm, Eagle Point, Abingdon, Severby, and Severn Hall.

Their grandson, Colonel Fielding Lewis of Belle Farm, married Catherine Washington and, after her death, married Elizabeth "Betty" Washington, sister of George Washington. For her, he built the notable residence Kenmore in Fredericksburg.

Elizabeth Lewis's gravestone records that she was the mother of fourteen children. An inscription (with punctuation modernized) reads:

Here lyeth Interred ye body of Elizabeth Lewis, the daughter of Col. Augustine Warner and Mildred his Wife, and late Wife of John Lewis Esq. She was born at Chesake the 24th of November 1672 [died] Aged 47 years 2 months and 12 days and was a Tender Mother of 14 children. She departed this life the 6th Day of February 1719/1720.

Col. John Lewis died November 14, 1725 at age 55 in Warner Hall, Gloucester, Colony of Virginia.

Col. Robert Lewis (1702 – 1765)

Robert Lewis was born on May 4, 1702 at Warner Hall in Gloucester County, Virginia, his mother's family home. He was the third son of Col. John Lewis III and Elizabeth Warner, and the first of their children to be born at Warner Hall. As a younger son, he did not inherit Warner Hall; instead, he received half of the family estate known as Chemokins, located on the

Pamunkey River in New Kent County, while his older brother Charles inherited the other half.

Around 1724 or 1725, Robert married Jane Meriwether, daughter of Nicholas Meriwether and Elizabeth Crawford. They had eleven children together. Robert later built a family home called “Belvoir” in the portion of Louisa County that became part of Albemarle County in 1761. Because of this estate, he is often referred to as “Robert of Belvoir.”

Although Robert held land in Gloucester County, he deeded it to his eldest son, John Lewis of “Halifax.” He then joined his father-in-law, Nicholas Meriwether, in moving westward into the undeveloped Piedmont region of Virginia. Both men secured large land grants, selecting fertile and well-watered tracts. In 1736, Robert obtained 4,000 acres along the Hardware River, and in 1740, he secured an additional 6,500 acres on Ivy Creek. Over time, his holdings grew to approximately 21,660 acres, allowing him to provide land for each of his children. He also held an interest in 100,000 acres in what was then Greenbrier County (now part of West Virginia).

He served in the House of Burgesses from 1744 to 1746 and held the position of County Lieutenant for Louisa County.

Among his eleven children, two had particular connections to the life of Lucy Meriwether Lewis Marks. His son William Lewis of “Locust Hill” became Lucy’s first husband, while another son, Nicholas Lewis—who inherited “The Farm” from his grandfather Nicholas Meriwether—married Lucy’s cousin, Mary Walker, daughter of Dr. Thomas Walker and Mildred Thornton.

One of Robert’s sons, William Lewis, remained in the Charlotte County area. Robert granted him land that became known as “Locust Hill” near Ivy Depot, which remained in the family for generations. William served as an officer in the Revolutionary War and was the father of Meriwether Lewis. Thus, Meriwether Lewis, famous for the Lewis and Clark Expedition, was a grandson of Robert “of Belvoir.”

Robert Lewis died on January 10, 1765 at his home, Belvoir, in Albemarle County, Virginia.

Col. Nicholas Lewis (1734 – 1808)

Nicholas Lewis was born on January 19, 1734, at “Belvoir” in Louisa County, Virginia.

In 1735, Nicholas Lewis’s grandfather, Nicholas Meriwether, received land grants from King George III totaling about 19,000 acres in Albemarle County, near present-day Charlottesville. One tract of about 1,020 acres lay west of the Rivanna River, in what is now the Locust Grove and Belmont areas. This property became known as “The Farm” because it was one of

the few cleared areas within an otherwise untouched forest.

A principal residence and several outbuildings were originally constructed at “The Farm” on a hill overlooking the Rivanna River to the east. This first house was destroyed by fire after a few decades. In 1762, Nicholas Lewis, grandson of Nicholas Meriwether, inherited the property and, around 1770, built a new main house, also oriented toward the river. Contemporary descriptions portray it as an elegant estate, enhanced by gardens of roses, ornamental shrubs, and fruit trees. The structure may have been erected on or near the foundations of the earlier dwelling. Records from the Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia (1805) likely describe this house as a two-story wooden building measuring approximately 48 feet in length and 22 feet in width.

The 1770 residence was constructed using pit-sawn timber and traditional mortise-and-tenon joinery. During the Revolutionary War, British Colonel Banastre Tarleton used the house as his headquarters when he arrived in Charlottesville in 1781 in an unsuccessful attempt to capture Thomas Jefferson. Although Jefferson escaped, Tarleton did capture Daniel Boone, then serving as a member of the Virginia legislature, and held him at the Lewis home. Jefferson himself was a frequent visitor to the property and often passed through it while traveling to Charlottesville to oversee the construction of the University of Virginia. A natural spring, located a short distance south of the house, provided a reliable water source.

In 1825, Charlottesville attorney and later University of Virginia law professor John A. G. Davis acquired part of the original tract and commissioned builders associated with Thomas Jefferson to design and construct a new residence on the site. This home is regarded as one of the finest surviving examples of Jeffersonian residential architecture. In March 1865, during the Civil War, Major General George A. Custer briefly used the house as his headquarters.

Today, the only remaining structure from “The Farm” is the former kitchen, or cook’s house. It now stands within a residential neighborhood along Twelfth Street, still surrounded by mature hardwood trees and retaining its distant view of Monticello.

Nicholas Lewis married Mary “Capt. Molly” Walker in 1758. Mary was born in 1742 at Castle Hill and was the daughter of Dr. Thomas Walker and Mildred Thornton Meriwether.

In July 1775, Virginia’s royal governor fled the colony, leaving it without an executive leader. In response, the colonial assembly reorganized itself as a Provincial Convention and created a governing body known as the Committee of Safety, composed

of eleven members, including Colonel Nicholas Lewis.

The Committee of Safety effectively served as Virginia's temporary government. It was responsible for enforcing the Convention's decisions, organizing and supplying the military, appointing officers, and managing public funds for the war effort. The committee also held significant authority: it acted as commander-in-chief of Virginia's forces, oversaw military courts, and could detain or punish individuals suspected of supporting the British. No death sentence from a court-martial could be carried out without its approval.

Although the committee had broad powers, Virginia did not experience the same level of military crisis as some other colonies. Much of its work involved organizing militia forces, supplying troops, and responding to limited British activity, particularly raids led by Lord Dunmore. The majority of Virginians supported the revolutionary cause, so the committee's authority was generally accepted without major resistance.

One of its most controversial actions occurred in 1776, when it ordered residents of Princess Anne and Norfolk Counties to move inland. This was intended to prevent local Loyalists (Tories) from aiding British forces along the coast. The policy caused significant hardship, including loss of property and disruption of families.

After protests and reconsideration, the order was modified and eventually repealed for most residents, though known Loyalists were still required to relocate.

The Committee of Safety remained in place until Virginia adopted a new constitution in 1776 and established a formal government with an elected governor and council, at which point the committee was dissolved.

Colonel Nicholas Lewis's specific military record is limited, but he is noted as having commanded a militia regiment during the 1776 campaign against the Cherokee. At that time, some Cherokee groups, encouraged by British agents, attacked frontier settlements. In response, Virginia and neighboring colonies organized a large militia force that destroyed Cherokee towns, crops, and supplies, forcing many to flee and ultimately leading to peace treaties in 1777.

As part of these agreements, the Cherokee ceded millions of acres of land.

A later account by Thomas Jefferson praised Nicholas Lewis for both his leadership and personal character. He described Lewis as brave, fair, and

widely respected, often chosen to settle disputes within his community. Jefferson also noted that Lewis served as guardian to Meriwether Lewis after the death of his father, reflecting the trust placed in him by those who knew him.

Colonel Nicholas Lewis died on December 8, 1808, at the age of 74. He was buried on his property in a cemetery located on a hill overlooking the river. His wife, Mary, died on February 9, 1824, at the age of 81.



Col. Augustine Warner (1610 – 1674)

Augustine Warner was born on September 28, 1610, in Norfolk, England. He was the first of his name to come to America, arriving in 1630. Around 1635, he built Warner Hall on the Severn River in Gloucester County, Virginia.

In 1642, Warner received a land grant of 600 acres on the Severn River, known as "Austin Deire." Later, in 1652, he patented 2,500 acres at Cheesecake (also spelled Chesapeake) on the Piankatank River, acquiring the land from the Chiskiack Indians, the last Native tribe to inhabit Gloucester County.

Warner was active in colonial government, serving as a burgess in 1652 and 1656, and as a member of the Council from 1659 to 1674.

He married Mary Towneley, who was born on May 15, 1614, in Stone Edge, Lancashire, England.

Their descendants include notable historical figures. Through their daughter Sarah Warner and her husband, Lawrence Towneley, they are ancestors of General Robert E. Lee. Additionally, Mildred Warner—daughter of Augustine Warner II and Mildred Reade—married Lawrence Washington; they became the grandparents of General George Washington.

"The Queen's American Ancestors"

Look Magazine, Oct. 29, 1957 by Hector Bolitho.

The story begins with a dull flat tombstone that was covered with snow when I found it in Gloucester County, Virginia last winter. I wiped away the snow and read: Augustine Warner, deceased y 24th day of December 1674 aged 63 years 2m 26D.

The grave yielded no more than that I had to cross the York River and search through a pile of books in the library of the College of William & Mary to make the old bones of Augustine Warner come to life—which they did splendidly, for I learned that he was the ancestor of Gen. Robert E. Lee, of George Washington, and Queen Elizabeth II.

We do not know much about this first Augustine Warner. We learn that he used the coat of arms of an English family that he was a "gentleman," born in England or Wales, presumably on September 28, 1611, he immigrated to Virginia when he was 39 with his wife Mary, his son Augustine II, and his daughter, Sarah, who married Lawrence Townley and was to be the ancestor of Robert E. Lee.

Augustine Warner prospered. He built a small mansion, Warner Hall, on a prong of the Severn, and soon became a leader in the colony; a Colonel of the militia, a justice and then a burgess in the General Assembly. It must have been a pleasant life on the Tidewater. There was an occasional poisoned arrow from a belligerent Indian to keep the colonists on their toes, but there was also a certain elegance about their English homes and habits, adapted to the climate. For they remained English. Their children went back to English schools—packed in with the barrels of tobacco in the little ships—to learn the English way of thinking. Among them went Augustine Warner II to be taught at Merchant Taylor's School in London.

Warner hall, in Virginia, was burned down in 1849, with all its library, so there are no documents to help us build up a picture of these early years of young Augustine Warner's life. After returning to Virginia, while he was still in his twenties, he became burgess for Gloucester County and married Mildred Reade, the daughter of a Tidewater neighbor. His premature death in 1681 marked the end of the Warners as a name and a family, for he left only daughters besides his widow. One daughter, also named Mildred, was to marry Lawrence Washington and be the grandmother of the first president; the youngest, Mary, married John Smith of Puritan Hall—another fine house on



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LINEAGE *from* COL. AUGUSTINE WARNER

13. Col. Augustine Warner
m. Mary Townley
12. Col. Augustine Warner II
m. Mildred Reade
11. Col John Lewis II
m. Elizabeth Warner
10. Col. Robert Lewis
m. Jane Meriwether
9. Col. Nicholas Lewis
m. Mary 'Captain Molly' Walker
8. Lt. Hudson Martin
m. Jane Walker Lewis
7. Thurston Dickinson
m. Mary Walker Martin
6. John D. Duggins
m. Frances Elizabeth Dickinson
5. James Henry Smith
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m. Laura Ann Smith
3. Wilhelm August Heineman
m. Lucile Marguerite Jensen
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m. Doris Jean Crum
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the Tidewater—and it is from there that we trace our way to the Bowes-Lyon family of Scotland, and Queen Elizabeth.

I lunched at Puritan Hall one day last winter. The enchanting, mid-18th century house is built near the site of old Puritan Hall, and the scene was as lovely in 1956 as it must have been in 1680, when Mary Warner went there as a bride. But Mary and John Smith were the last of Queen Elizabeth's ancestors to remain in Virginia. From the tranquil landscape of the Tidewater, I went to Ripon cathedral, in Yorkshire, England for the next interesting link

in the story. There, in the south aisle, I found a white memorial, high on the wall. On it read the epitaph of Robert Porteus, the Virginia gentleman who married Mildred, the daughter of John and Mary Smith in 1700.

He was then 21, and he stayed in Virginia only long enough to produce the first of his flock of 19 children. He brought his family back to England, he explained, in order to "procure better instruction" for his children. One of his children, Robert, entered the church. We can trace his story from the time he was admitted to Cambridge University in 1725, to his quiet service as rector of Cockayne Hatley, in Bedfordshire. From then, through four generations, as the chart shows we come in 1852 to the

marriage of his great-great-granddaughter, Frances Dora, to Claude Lyon-Bowes (Later Bowes-Lyon), the 13th Earl of Strathmore.

So, the story has moved, through nine generations, from Augustine Warner, prospering on his plantation in Virginia, to this marriage between the Scottish earl and the descendant of Augustine Warner.

The way into our own time was set: In December 1895, the prince who was to become King George VI was born at Sandringham; his future wife lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, was born in August 1900. "You are indeed a lucky man," King George V wrote to his son of his Scottish Daughter-in-law, when she married into the Royal Family, 23 years later.

No one then seemed to know the link between the Bowes-Lyon family and Augustine Warner; but when the present Queen Elizabeth is in Virginia this month, she will be able to go to Warner Hall, on the Tidewater, and see the tombstones of her American Ancestors. She may also visit Mt. Vernon, and perhaps plant a tree besides the tomb of George Washington. This gesture will mean more to her than to any sovereign who has been there before her; She will realize that she is related as closely as anyone now alive to the man who freed America from British rule.

Col. Augustine Warner died on December 24, 1674, at Warner Hall in Gloucester County, Virginia, at the age of 64. He was buried in the Warner Hall Cemetery.



*Augustine Warner Deceased ye 24th of December 1674
Aged 63 yeares 2 Mth 26 Da*

Mary died earlier, on August 11, 1662, at Warner Hall at the age of 48, and was buried beside him.



*Mary Warner yewife of Agus-tine Warner Esq. was Born 15th
of May 1614 And Dyed ye 11th Day of August 1662*

Maj. Thomas Walker (1625 –)

Major Thomas Walker was born in 1625 in Staffordshire, England. He immigrated from Staffordshire, England to Virginia about 1650, and settled in Gloucester County. He represented Gloucester in the house of burgesses in 1663 and 1666, was captain of militia in 1663, and major in 1666. In 1683 he was lieutenant-colonel residing in King and Queen County. He married a Miss Baylor.



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LINEAGE from MAJ. THOMAS WALKER

13. Maj. Thomas Walker
m. Miss Baylor
12. Lt. Col. John Walker
m. Rachel Croshaw
11. Maj. Thomas Walker
m. Susannah Peachy
10. Dr. Thomas Walker, Jr.
m. Mildred Meriwether
9. Mary Walker
m. Col. Nicholas Lewis
8. Jane Walker Lewis
m. Hudson Martin
7. Mary Walker Martin
m. Thurston Dickinson
6. Francis Elizabeth Dickinson
m. John Duggins
5. Elizabeth Marshall Duggins
m. James Henry Smith
4. Laura Ann Smith
m. Peter Christen Jensen
3. Lucile Marguerite Jensen
m. Wilhelm August Heineman
2. Peter Edward Heineman
m. Doris Jean Crum
1. Peter Lea Heineman

Lt. Col. George Reade (1608 – 1674)

Lt. Col. George Reade (son of Lt. Col. Robert Reade and grandson of Andrew Reade) was born on October 25, 1608, at Linckenholt Manor in Hampshire, England. He was the son of Robert Reade and Lady Mildred Windebank, who was herself the daughter of Sir Thomas Windebank.

Reade came to Virginia in 1637, where he became closely associated with Governor Sir John Harvey and Secretary Richard Kemp. He held several important colonial offices: serving as Deputy Secretary of the colony from 1640 to 1642; as a Burgess for James City County in 1649; and later as a Burgess for Charles County in 1656. In 1658, he was appointed to the Governor's Council, where he served for the remainder of his life. During his tenure, he was one of twelve councilors who joined the governor in dissolving the Assembly.

He also accumulated significant landholdings, including 2,000 acres along the Piankatank River, land that had previously been occupied by the Chiskiack Indians.

In 1641, he married Elizabeth Martiau in Yorktown, Virginia. Elizabeth, born in 1625 in Elizabeth City, York County, Virginia, was the eldest daughter of Captain Nicholas Martiau. However, some conflicting evidence suggests she may instead have been born in England prior to 1620.

George Reade died October 1674 in Gloucester Co., VA. His remains and those of Elizabeth are buried at the Grace Colonial Episcopal Church at Yorktown.



Here lyeth interred Coll George Reade Esqr who was born ye 25th day October in ye year of our Lord 1608 and deceased October 1674 he being in the 66th yr of his age



Here lyeth intered Elizabeth Martiau, deceased wife of George Read Esqr who was born in ye yeare of our Lord 1625 and deceased 1696 she being in ye 71st yeare of her age

Capt. Nicholas Martiau (1607 – 1644)

Nicholas Martiau "Captain Nick" was born in Il de Rhe France 1591. The Martiaus were French Walloon Huguenots residing in the Valley of the Meuse, Belgium Walloon refers, in daily speech to French-speaking Belgians from Wallonia, "the land of the valleys." When the Religious War, known as the Thirty years War commenced in 1619, fifty-five families, including the Martiaus, fled for their lives and took refuge in Holland. In the spring of the year 1620, some months before the Mayflower sailed for America, Nicholas Martiau, of a family of French Protestants sailed from England for America in the vessel, the *Francis Bona Venture*. Martiau acquired and settled upon a tract of land along the York River in Virginia.

Nicholas Martiau was in the service of Henry Hastings, Earl of Huntington and member of the Virginia Company, and educated as a military engineer. He was naturalized as an Englishman by royal decree. He came to Jamestown in 1620, legally representing the Earl to plan fortifications.

After the 1622 massacre at Jamestown, the depredations of the Indians had caused such concern among the first settlers that a series of forts and outposts were planned, and the first "western" frontier was established by a line crossing the Tidewater Peninsula from Jamestown to the Charles (York) river along which it was proposed to erect a wall of logs. The construction of this log palisade and the protective forts was entrusted to Martiau, and the site on the Charles selected of a fort was called York.

Martiau's defense of the French king in an argument with Capt. Thomas Mayhew forced him to take a loyalty oath in Jamestown in 1627.

The fort at York occupied a point on the river at the mouth of the Wormley Creek, named for the first settler in that section, Colonel Christopher Wormley,



LINEAGE from MAJ. THOMAS WALKER

13. Maj. Thomas Walker
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12. Lt. Col. John Walker
m. Rachel Croshaw
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10. Dr. Thomas Walker, Jr.
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m. Col. Nicholas Lewis
8. Jane Walker Lewis
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6. Francis Elizabeth Dickinson
m. John Duggins
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m. James Henry Smith
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m. Peter Christen Jensen
3. Lucile Marguerite Jensen
m. Wilhelm August Heineman
2. Peter Edward Heineman
m. Doris Jean Crum
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and lies about two miles down the river from the present site of Yorktown.

The safety of the fort caused a settlement to spring up around it, and in 1633 York was selected as a receiving port. A store was built for receiving and shipping purposes, and to serve the inhabitants both of York and the settlement at Kiskiack.

So sturdily did Martiau build York for that it was still in active use more than forty years later when it was described as "*the most considerablest fortress in the country.*" During the Indian uprisings along the

Rappahannock in 1676 the terror-stricken county folk of Gloucester fled across the river for refuge in the fort at York. They were dismayed to find that they could be afforded scant protection there, however, for to

prevent the fort's stores of arms and ammunition falling into the hands of Nathaniel Bacon, who was also on the warpath, Governor Berkeley had taken them with him in his flight to the Eastern shore.

Having engaged so actively in the defense against the Indians, it is reasonable to assume that Captain Martiau was eager to begin reaping some of the benefits to be derived from his own defensive works. He was also active in the legislative affairs of the Colony, as Representative in the House of Burgess from both Kiskiack and the Isle of Kent in the Chesapeake, and he probably had a hand in framing the Court Order of October 8, 1630.

Captain Martiau was among the first settlers to qualify for land under this Act, following Captain Robert Felgate, John Utie, and John West into the wilderness of Kiskiack. For "*Adventure of himselfe, his wife and ten persons to Chiskiake...and for the transportation at his own costs and charges of fourteene persons into this Colony,*" Governor Francis Wyatt granted Martiau patent to sixteen hundred acres on May 20, 1635, to be "*augmented and doubled when he or his assigns shall have sufficiently peopled and planted the same.*" This land included the present site of Yorktown and lay between the holdings of Sir John Harvey who held patent to the land from directly east of Martiau to York at the mouth of Wormley Creek and the estate of Richard Townsend west of what is now Yorktown Creek.

Because of the tyrannical rule of neighbor Sir John Harvey during his term as Governor, Martiau strongly opposed him. Opposition, while general throughout the Colony, centered at York and Kiskiack, both being Burgess districts separately represented in the Jamestown Assembly. It was daring of Captain Nick but typical of the man's spirit of fearless independence. If the campaign against Harvey had proven unsuccessful there is no doubt that Martiau would have lost favor with his patron in England, the Earl of Huntington, and his fortunes in Virginia would have come to a very definite ending. But Martiau was again fortunate. Governor Harvey was finally arrested by the colonists themselves and sent back to England.

Harvey returned, bringing George Reade--Martiau's future son-in-law with him. Martiau moved to the present Yorktown site in 1630 on 600 acres, plus 700 for headrights, where he grew tobacco. On this land Cornwallis surrendered his troops to Martiau's great-great-grandson, General George Washington in 1781.



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LINEAGE *from* CAPT. NICHOLAS MARTIAU

14. Capt. Nicholas Martiau
m. Jane Berkeley
13. Elizabeth Martiau
m. George Reade
12. Mildred Reade
m. Augustine Warner
11. Elizabeth Warner
m. John Lewis II
10. Robert Lewis
m. Jane Meriwether
9. Nicholas Lewis
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m. Doris Jean Crum
1. Peter Lea Heineman

Martiau later was granted 2000 acres on the south side of the Potomac River, which he gave to Col. George Reade in 1657.

The Harvey affair was one of the first manifestations of the strange new force of uncontrollable power at work in the minds of the first settlers. They tingled with unaccustomed impulses of freedom in this wild, new

land; and for the first time, the united strength of the English yeomen seemed adequate to their imaginings. It was this unity of effort, while preserving the rights of the individual that furthered their every activity.

In 1633 every fortieth man between the James and the York was directed to repair to the plantation of Dr. John Pott to be employed in building the houses of "Middle Plantation," that tiny budding settlement that was to blossom out into the City of Williamsburg and the Colonial Capital of Virginia. The men of York and Kiskiack can well be depended upon to have entered into the construction of Middle Plantation with the same energy and spirit with which they greeted each new enterprise.

The Legislature had divided Virginia into eight shires or counties in 1634, and Kiskiack and York had been included in Charles County which extended from beyond the Charles River to the center of the peninsula where it met James City County which, in its turn, included the land south to beyond the James River. Middle Plantation lay along the boundary dividing these two counties. In 1642 the name for both the river and county of Charles was changed to York, in honor of the Duke of York who became James II, and the future site of Williamsburg founded itself half in York County. The records of James City County were destroyed during the Civil War, but those of York County were preserved; and through their preservation, invaluable documentary research material for reference in the John D. Rockefeller restoration of the City of Williamsburg was provided.

In 1642 he married Jane Berkeley, widow of young Leftenant Edward Berkeley who had been killed in the Indian massacre of 1622. She arrived on the *Seaflower* in 1621. Berkeley, a man of great industry, established the first iron works in America and would, no doubt, have made a real name for himself had not the Indians cut him down along with all of his iron-workers in a surprise attack. In marrying Jane, Martiau established himself and his family as the first ancestors in America of another eminent military engineer, George Washington. Good-wife Jane had a daughter, Jane, whom Martiau raised as one of his own. After the death of Jane, Nicholas married Isabella widow of Robert Felgete and George Beech, in 1646.

Martiau was the most important of all the many Huguenots who increased in the early population of the Colony, most of whom had been imported in order that the English settlers might *"benefit by the frenchmen's skill and instructinge of others in the Arte of plantinge and settinge of Vines and in the ministry of making Wyne."*

Captain Nick scorned such puerile pursuits. He led expeditions against the Indians, continued to study

and improve the colony's fortifications, brought many new immigrants to Virginia at his own expense, became a successful planter, was ever an active vigilant protector of the people's rights in his legislative capacity in the Assembly and became the First Citizen of the land that later was chosen for the site of Yorktown.

Besides his stepdaughter, Jane, Martiau had four children of his own. His son, Nicholas Jr., died before reaching maturity. One daughter, Sarah, married Captain William Fuller, the Governor of Maryland. Another daughter, Mary, married Colonel John Scarsbrook, a leader in the Bacon Rebellion. The third daughter, Elizabeth, married Colonel George Reade who in 1637 was Secretary of the Colony and in 1638 was acting Governor. It is through Elizabeth and George Reade that Washington traces his ancestry to Martiau, for the Reade daughter, Mildred, married Augustine Warner II; the Warner's daughter, Mildred, married Lawrence Washington; the Washington's son, Augustine, married Marry Ball who was the mother of George Washington. Captain Nicholas Martiau thus became the great-great-great-grandfather of the First President.

Capt. Nicholas Martiau died 1657 in York County, Virginia. The burial place of Captain Martiau has never been located.

Recognition was given in 1931 when a monument was dedicated in Yorktown to his everlasting glory. The dedication address was delivered by General John J. Pershing. The monument was designed by the eminent Philadelphia architect, Paul Cret, and consists of an eleven-foot shaft of Vermont granite bearing a bronze tablet.





The National Society Sons of the American Colonists is a Minneapolis-based nonprofit organization established in 1988 with a mission to preserve colonial records and historic sites, promote interest in historical and genealogical research of the Colonial era, support the growth of libraries specializing in colonial genealogical and historical data, and regularly publish a Lineage Book documenting members and their ancestral information, while fostering a sincere respect for the contributions of ancestors to the founding of the United States; membership is open to American men aged 18 or older who are of good moral character and can provide accepted genealogical proof of direct descent from an ancestor who rendered civil or military service in the American colonies prior to July 4, 1776.



NEW SOUTH
WALKERS
JAMES
BABY

LABRADO
NEW BRUNSWICK

LAKE
SUPERIOR

LAKE HURON

LAKE ST. CLAIR

LAKE ERIE

A T L A N T I C

NORTH CAROLINA

SOUTH CAROLINA

GEORGIA

W E S T E R N O

WEST FLORIDA

FLORIDA

FLORIDA

L F O F
X I C O



THE
BRITISH COLONIES
IN
NORTH AMERICA

Engraved
By WILLIAM FADEN,
1800