

\$5.00 per Annum

Single No. \$1.50

THE
VIRGINIA MAGAZINE

OF
HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY.



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE
VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
RICHMOND, VA.

VOL. XIX—No. 1. JANUARY, 1911.

HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY MILITIA OFFICERS, 1775.

(From copy in Deed Book 4. Contributed by Mrs. N. E. CLEMENT,
Chatham, Va.)

At a meeting of the Committee of Pittsylvania county on Wed. 27th Sept. 1775, the following gentlemen were nominated as Officers for the Militia Agreeable to the Ordinance of Convention viz:

John Donelson Esq. County Lieut.

Robt. Wm. [Williams] Esq. colo. of the county.

Wm. Tunstall Esq. Lieut. Col.

John Wilson Esq. Major.

Benj. Lankford, Peter Perkins, Francis Luck, James Lyon, Robt. Hairston, Robt. Woods, Dan'l Shelton, Jesse Heard, Frederick Rives, John Donelson, Jr., Archilaus Hughes, Joseph Martin, John Dix, Wm. Witcher, Gabriel Shelton, Henry Williams, John Salmon, Robt. Payne, Jonathan Hanby, Wm. Peters Martin, Jehu Morton, Charles Connors, Richard Gwynne, John Smith, Edmund Lyne, Joshua Ashton and James Hix, captains; Stephen Coleman, Joseph Terry, Thomas Withers, William Ward, Robt. Boreman, Thom. Smith, Chas. Burke, Rodlett Williams, Samuel Shields, John Strong, Spencer Shelton, Reuben Payne, Beverly Shelton, John Morton, Isaac Clements, Jas. George, Tully Choice, Jun'r., Edmund Cheat, Thomas Jones, Sen'r, George Hairstone, Bryce Martin, David Lanier, George Waller, John Cunningham, Frederick Fulkerson, Elisha Shelton, Benjamin Hursley, Lieuts.; Chas. Irby, Joseph Terry (son of Joseph), George Carter, William Beaan, Samuel Bolling, Thom. Black, Jno. Wynne, Wm. Dix, John Fulton, Thom. Smith, Edmund Taylor, Armistead Shelton, John Payne, Lyrus Roberts, Wm. Short, Joseph Farrer, Wm. Estes, Levinfield Heit, Peter Vordaman, Jas. Poteet, Jno. Wells, Jas. Taylor, Jas. Anthony, David Chockwell, Jno. Parr, Leo. Carter, Jno. Renfro, Ensigns.

At Court held for Pitts. co., 27th Feb. 1777.

The within List was Returned & ordered to be recorded.

Test :

WM. TUNSTALL.

PAXTON'S "MARSHALL FAMILY"—McCLANAHAN CORRECTION.

I should like to correct an error in the book "The Marshall Family," written by Mr. W. M. Paxton, of Platte City, Mo., and published in 1885, regarding Thomas McClanahan (No. 118, page 88) of Bourbon county, Ky.

Mr. Paxton has gotten this Thomas McClanahan confused with Thomas McClanahan of Simpson county, Ky. Thomas Marshall Smith, who wrote "Legends of the War of Independence," published in Louisville, 1855, has fifty pages concerning the life of Thomas McClanahan, son of the Rev. William McClanahan and Mary Marshall.

The Thomas McClanahan referred to in Mr. Smith's book was born in Westmoreland county, Va., 1783, was the son of Rev. William McClanahan and his wife Mary Marshall; married, first, Ann Green, 1778, moved to Kentucky in 1788, and died there October 15, 1845, in Simpson county, and was buried there. He had by his first wife, Ann Green, seven children, who were Smith, John, Nancy, Lucy, Jane, Liza and Martha. By his second wife, Tabitha Williams, whom he married in 1817, he had Hulda, Arden, Thomas, Henrietta, Mary and Tabitha.

Thomas McClanahan, of Simpson county, Ky., applied for a pension as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, September 10, 1832, and this was allowed. This was about twenty-four years after the death of Thomas McClanahan of Bourbon county, Ky.

Mr. Smith in his book asks, on page 304, that he "be allowed to transcribe in the language of old Captain McClanahan a description of Harmer's defeat," and that he had heard him at the age of seventy describe this incident. Thomas McClanahan, of Bourbon county, Ky., died at the age of about fifty years.

Mr. Paxton must have had a copy of the Simpson county man's pension record, as he says on page 89 of "The Marshall Family": "He seems to have had seven children, but the will does not name them distinctly." Thomas McClanahan's (of Simpson county, Ky.,) pension paper states that he had seven children (seven by his first wife)—no names given.

Thomas McClanahan's (of Simpson county) pension record states that he enlisted the last of summer or first of fall, in 1775, for twelve months as a private in Capt. John Green's company, and in Col. Patrick Henry's regiment; then for two years under Capt. William Barrett and Col. Alexander Spotswood; was in the war until April, 1778; at the battle of Harmer's defeat, in Miami Towns, under Capt. Davis Thorp; was also a spy in General Wayne's expedition under Gen. Charles Scott in 1793.

Thomas McClanahan of Bourbon county, Ky., whose will was probated February, 1809, was not the son of Rev. William McClanahan of Culpeper county, Va., and Mary Marshall, nor is he the one written about in Thomas Marshall Smith's book.

This correction is made by virtue of knowledge acquired from pension papers, family records and Mr. Caswell Carter, a great grandson of Thomas McClanahan, who is still living at the age of seventy-six, in Simpson county, Ky., and who remembers his great grandfather, has recently visited his grave, and also knew Thomas Marshall Smith, and knows that the Thomas McClanahan described in Smith's book, "Legends of the War of Independence," was his great grandfather, who lived and died in Simpson county Ky., October 15, 1845.

Thomas McClanahan of Bourbon county, Ky., may have been a cousin of Thomas McClanahan of Simpson county, Ky., as he came from the same locality in Virginia, but Mr. Paxton in writing "The Marshall Family" has undoubtedly put the history of the Simpson county man under the Bourbon county, Ky., man.

Judge Smith McClanahan of Franklin, Simpson county, Ky., is a grandson of Thomas McClanahan of Simpson county, and is still living.

Thomas McClanahan, who died October 15, 1845, is buried six miles west of Franklin, Ky., and his grave has been marked by Judge McClanahan and some of his other descendants.

J. ADGER STEWART.

Louisville, Ky., February 13, 1911.

ENGLISH RECORDS RELATING TO VIRGINIA.

(From Report of Royal Historical Manuscripts Commission. The Manuscripts of the Earl of Dartmouth, Vol. II.)

RICHARD OSWALD TO LORD DARTMOUTH.

1775, February 9. Achincree near Ayr.—Having been a Merchant in London for 29 years offers his Lordship the enclosed sentiments on the state of American Commerce. Remarks on American affairs in general.

Autograph letter signed. 6½ quarto pages.

[Letter and enclosure reproduced in B. F. Steven's Fac-similes of Manuscripts in European Archives relating to America.]

Endorsed: Rich'd Oswald, 9 Feb'y 1775.

* * * * *

Enclosure:

Richard Oswald, Thoughts on the State of America. Suggestions as to sending over a private agent to Virginia to endeavour to detach it from the other provinces in acceding or cordially co-operating with them in the second intended Congress.

(P. 268)

JAMES ABERCROMBY TO [LORD DARTMOUTH].

1775, February 13. Oxenden Street.—Recommending Mr. G. Corbin to be of the Council in Virginia.

Autograph letter signed. 1 quarto page.

(P. 269)