

Means of Marriage in Virginia Through the Years

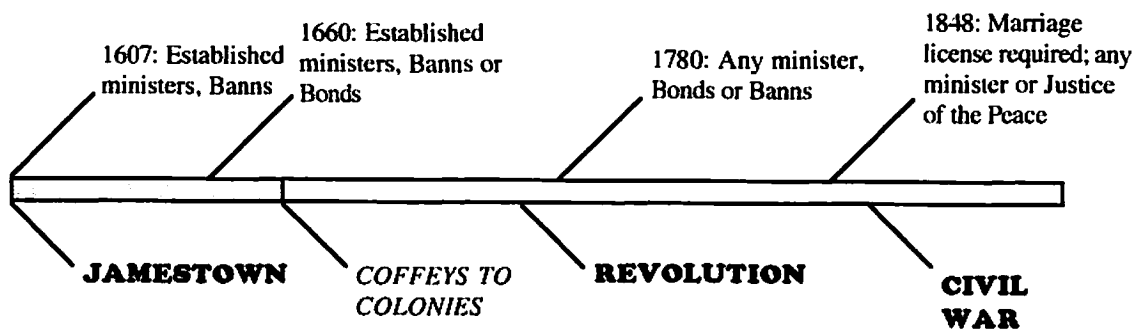


1607 - 1780: Ministers of the established Episcopal church could perform marriage ceremonies. Only after 1780 were dissenting ministers allowed the same authority. Prior to 1780, marriages were recorded in the church registry. After 1780, Minister's Returns were required so that a local government body - county or city - could record the marriage.

1660/1661: The first law enacted requiring a bond for marriage. A prospective groom appeared at the courthouse of the bride's residence and gave a bond or someone else provided security. A license was then prepared by the clerk and given to the minister to perform the ceremony.

1607 - 1848: Marriage Banns: recorded only in the church or parish (local division of the established Episcopal Church) registry, marriages were allowed by having the parties "publish" their intent to marry, by posting, or announcing, this intention during Church service on 3 successive Sundays or worship days prior to the actual marriage. Sometimes the person publishing Banns (perhaps an Elder) would issue a certificate if the parish was without a minister.

1848 - : Marriage licenses were issued by the public authority for persons to marry. The minister was required to return, to the public authority, confirmation that the marriage actually took place. A formal registration in a Marriage Register was then made by the clerk of the county, usually in the county of the bride's residence.



Sources:

1. A Preliminary Guide to Pre-1904 County Records in the Virginia State Library and Archives; Ray, Hart, Kolbe, 1994.
2. The Clip Art Book; Gerard Quinn, Crescent Books, 1990.

Benjamin Fitzgerald: Military Career

By 1818 in Nelson County, Benjamin Fitzgerald and Jane Coffey his wife were not doing very well. Benjamin applied for a pension as a Revolutionary War veteran. Appearing in court to give testimony, he was 59 years of age, had a 57 year old wife, and three young daughters; he was infirm, unable to take care of himself, deeply in debt and living on rented land.

To qualify for the pension voted in by Congress, Benjamin spelled out much of his military engagements. Following is a listing of those engagements and a brief description of each battle he listed, beginning with activity north of Virginia and, skipping crucial years, ending in the south. After Eutaw Springs, General Greene returned to his camp at High Hills along the Santee River where Benjamin Fitzgerald is believed to have stayed until his release early in 1782.



A typical colonial soldier, this may be similar to the appearance of Benjamin Fitzgerald in 1780, if he was able to find a uniform.

If Benjamin Fitzgerald's testimony is correct, he would have been 16 years old at the time he entered the War. Prior to his entry, Lexington and Concord had already happened, Paul Revere had made his ride, Nathan Hale had already been captured and hanged as a spy in New York, and the Declaration of Independence had been written, signed, and delivered. The War was not going well for the Patriots. Washington and his troops were freezing in the winter of 1777-1778 at Valley Forge. Benjamin Fitzgerald joined, as Benjamin Hawkins, and was sent to Valley Forge.

1777: Entered War; 7th VA Regiment; Captain Garland Burnley under Brig. General William Woodford, who was camped at Valley Forge with George Washington and General Anthony Wayne.*

28 JUNE 1778: Battle of Monmouth Courthouse under Burnley and General Woodford. George Washington relieved General Lee of command, "Molly Pitcher" took over firing cannon after her husband had fallen from the intense heat. Washington saved the day, but only to "a draw". Woodford's brigade collapsed from the heat (>100) and never made a charge.

16 JULY 1779: Battle of Stony Point on the Hudson as volunteer under General "Mad" Anthony Wayne and 1300 troops, a brutal bayonet fight. Wayne a hero this time. Colonel Daniel Morgan resigned in a dispute over who should have the assignment.

1780: Joined Colonel William Washington's calvary. This was after a brutal defeat by British Colonel Banastre Tarleton at Waxhaws, SC on May 29, 1779; for which he was nicknamed "Barbarous Ban".

16 AUGUST 1780: Battle of Camden in SC: Americans were defeated. Virginians threw down their loaded muskets and fled the battleground.

17 JANUARY 1781: Battle of Cowpens, SC; Daniel Morgan out of retirement (famous Indian fighter) under General Greene. There were two significant battles in which Colonel Washington's calvary participated between January and September of 1781, but these were not mentioned in Benjamin's testimony: Battle of Guilford Courthouse, 15 March 1781; and Battle of Hobkirk Hill, 25 April 1781.)

8 SEPTEMBER 1781: Battle of Eutaw Springs, SC: last significant engagement of the war; considered a "draw"; Colonel Washington and 40 of his men were captured.

1782: Discharged at a Ferry on Santee River.

Sources:

1. Clipart copywrite free: The American Revolution, A Picture Sourcebook, John Grafton; Dover Publications, 1975.
2. Nelson County Court Order Books, 1820-1822, pg 21.
3. Several reference books concerning the battles, listed on the following sheets.



Old Joe Clark

In 1780, William Clark, Sr. purchased land at Pedlar (along Route 605). He and two brothers brought their families to the area. By 1800, they owned land along Irish Creek, just over the mountain into Rockbridge County. While most of the Clark family left the area and went west, in the early 1800's Joseph Clark, Sr. had a sawmill operation on his 2,561 acres of land. He willed the sawmill to his two sons Joe, Jr. and James Clark. At local stores in Rockbridge, wood shingles were used as credit (by 1876, 500 shingles were good for \$2.00). The sawmill did very well until the latter Civil War years, when the southern economy was badly ruined. Nevertheless, the Clark family hung on and eventually was involved in local mining operations (iron and manganese) along Irish Creek, and somewhat of a comeback in the timber business.*

The Clark family who lived alongside Irish Creek in Rockbridge County near Coffeytown, has been immortalized by a musically inclined, illiterate horse team driver named Sam Downey. Joseph Clark, Jr. and Betsy Brown were real people, as was Downey. Betsy is thought to have been romantically pursued by John Pultz whom she rejected. To forget her and get on with his life, he moved to Irish Creek. There he met and married Sarah Clark, Old Joe's daughter. Downey worked for the sawmill which was run by Joseph Clark, Jr., "Old Joe Clark".

Old Joe Clark had a mule,
His name was Morgan Brown,
And every tooth in that mule's head,
Was sixteen inches round.

Old Joe Clark had a cow,
She was muley born,
It takes a jaybird a week and a half,
To fly from horn to horn.

Sixteen horses in my team,
The leaders they are blind,
And every time the sun goes down,
There's a pretty girl on my mind.

Eighteen miles of mountain road,
And fifteen miles of sand,
If I ever travel this road again,
I'll be a married man.

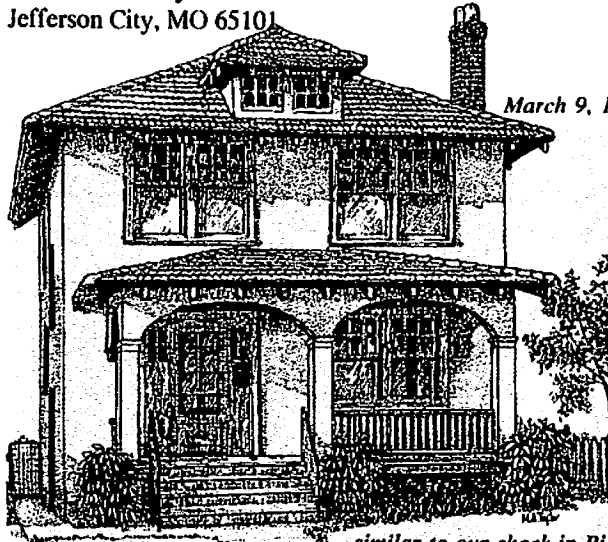
Fare you well, Old Joe Clark,
Goodbye Betsy Brown,
Fare you well, Old Joe Clark,
Fare you well, I'm gone.

SOURCE:

Fare Thee Well, Old Joe Clark, by Donna Huffer, a descendant of the Clark family; Rockbridge County Library, Lexington, VA.

* Other family names which appeared in the area in the 1797 tax list include Staton, Higginbotham, Clements, Crawford, Tomlinson, Davis, McDaniels, Huffman, Hartless, and Martin. In those days the area was called the "Ware Settlement" for John Ware, a war hero who lived in the area. The northern part of Route 605 is presently called "Clarktown Road".

Bonnie and Jim Culley
1416 Green Berry Road
Jefferson City, MO 65101



March 9, 1999

similar to our shack in Richmond

John Taylor
1417 Claremont Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23227

Dear Bonnie,

Looks like another year has rolled around. Zoom. What happened to that one? The older I get, the slower I move, but the faster goes the time. Does that make sense, or is it just another of life's mysteries? (I actually wrote this BEFORE I read Jeff's letter in CCC!)

Well, we're working on the house these days. So many years of neglect, while searching for Jordan, have finally caught up with us, so we decided to take a little time for ourselves, paint the house, clean up the basement and do all those nasty but necessary chores that allow us to keep our sanity.

Enclosed is a check for another year of your hard-earned knowledge about the Coffeys. We always enjoy, and always marvel at your stamina! Mary Anne has been putting in so much mandatory overtime in the recent past she has not had time/energy together long enough to do our traditional Christmas cards. Frustrating for me, but she's been very hard at work. Fortunately, today the company decided "No More Overtime!". GREAT. Unfortunately, I'm overdue for another round of overtime at my job!

his
Jordan + Coffey
marks

Please let everyone know we haven't forgotten them, just busy trying to stay alive. Revised charts are still in progress, and research, although slowed considerably, continues. We're about to get up to speed with the NET, which may be another source of great interest. E-mail: JTaylor923@AOL.COM



Jeremy (or Jerome) Allicott, one of the original settlers at Jamestown, whose skeleton was excavated recently from a site within the original fort. The photo on the left is obviously a forensic reconstruction, but probably fairly accurate. Poor Jeremy died evidently as a result of a bullet wound to the back of the knee. Whether he got that accidentally as a result of throwing his rifle over his shoulder, or running away from the local natives will probably never be known. There is some speculation that Jeremy could have been the first murder mystery. Anyway, it is quite moving to stand outside the glass, be less than 3 feet from his body, and know that he, whomever he was, was one of the first English settlers on this continent, and that his death was among many who paid the ultimate price for a bit of freedom. How could he have known?

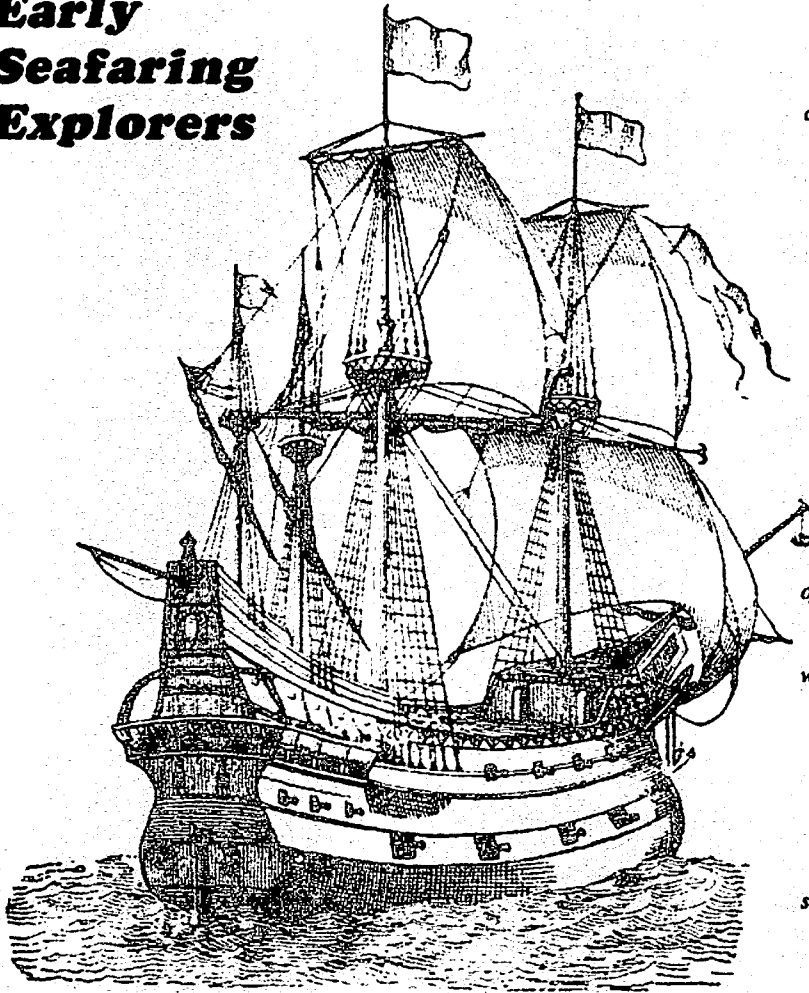


Enclosed are a couple of the many "sidebars" we've been working on for the second edition, Cold Mountain Cabbage. These are specifically about Jordan's immediate environment, but most will be about general US History and local history which either relates or at least communicates a timeframe. Family history is one means of generating interest in history itself, as it certainly has worked on me! Take care, and we hope you and Jim are staying healthy and happy. So many of those we met are not, according to the Clearinghouse. We wish all the very best.

Sincerely,

John

Early Seafaring Explorers



The long years of medieval stagnation, after the fall of the Roman Empire, were finally coming to an end in western civilization. New developments in astronomy, mathematics, and technology, especially the invention of the printing press, were stirring the imaginations of men dissatisfied with the status quo. Searching for the proverbial shortcut to the far east which would have rendered an entire nation wealthy, seafaring explorers set out to define the limits of the world. Magellan, Balboa, Coronado, Pizarro, Columbus, DeSoto, Ponce de Leon, Champlain, Cabots, Frobisher, and others are names that come to mind when we think of those brave or foolish explorers who ventured out into vast expanses of undulating ocean water, for months at a time without any visible reference point, and totally dependent upon luck with regard to massive storms or giant ship-swallowing sea monsters. Creeping in the wind and guided only by the Captain's skill in the use of a strange device called a sextant, sailors were completely at the mercy of forces unknown to themselves for their very lives.

- *Prince Henry the Navigator*: Portugal; promoted exploration of west coast of Africa 1419-1460.
- *Christopher Columbus* was the first sea-faring explorer to add important new knowledge to the images people had concerning the world. As he negotiated with the Portuguese for assistance in his idea of sailing west to go east, *Bartholomew Diaz*, sailing south to go east, discovered the cape along the bottom of the African continent in 1488, all but creating a direct sea route to India. The Portuguese leadership turned down Columbus' requests due to this discovery. Even though Columbus died thinking he had landed somewhere in India, it was soon widely recognized that he had found a "New World".
- *Vasco da Gama*: Portugal; rounded horn of Africa, 1497 - 1498, reached India by sea.
- *Amerigo Vespucci*: Spain; visited South America; mapmaker whose name was affixed to "America".
- *Ferdinand Magellan*: Portuguese sailing for Spain; first to circumnavigate the globe, 1519 - 1522, died on the voyage.
- *Hernan Cortes*: Spain; brutally conquered Aztecs and Mexico, 1519 - 1522.
- *Vasco Nunez de Balboa*: Spain; First to see the Pacific Ocean from overland, 1513.
- *Juan Ponce de Leon*: Spain; searched for the Fountain of Youth, discovered Florida.
- *Estevan Gomez*: Spain; explored the east coast from Maine to New Jersey, found no valuable minerals which convinced the Spanish to concentrate on their holdings further south.
- *Francisco Pizarro*: Spain; Conquered Incas of Peru, 1533; assassinated by his own men, 1541.
- *Hernando de Soto*: Spain; Discovered southern part of the Mississippi River, 1541.
- *Vasquez de Coronado*: Spain; Chasing seven cities of gold, he discovered the Grand Canyon, 1541.
- *Jacques Cartier*: France; explored St. Lawrence River area, unsuccessful settlement at Quebec, 1541.
- *Samuel de Champlain*: France; Settled Quebec successfully, about 1605.
- *Sieur de La Salle (1643-1687)*: France; laid claim to the Louisiana (watershed of the Mississippi) for France in 1682. established policy of befriending Native Americans, shot by his men while abandoned in Texas.
- *Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet*: France; Jesuits sent in 1763 to locate the northern part of the Mississippi River, Marquette was interested in souls, Jolliet in fur trading. Turned back when they learned that the Mississippi flowed into Spanish territory, not the Pacific as they had hoped.

Sources: *Great Explorers*; Bellerophon Books, California, 1996; sketch from Clip Art, copywrite-free; Comptons, 1995