

The Passage

Bulletin of the National Society of the Descendants of Colonial Indentured Servants

Number 1

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1738 Indenture between Abraham Hestant of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and Henry Mayer of Rotterdam. After his three years of servitude, Mayer would receive "two Suites of Apparell one whereof to be new." (Source: Wikimedia Commons)



2nd General Meeting
Friday, April 17, 2020 - Noon
The Army & Navy Club, Washington DC



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A Note from the President General

Welcome to the first issue of our new bulletin!

In the life of this “little over a year”-old hereditary society, we have held our first business meeting, created a very useful website, and produced our first directory. Now, it is time for printed communication to our members.

This is a vehicle that provides our members an opportunity to write about their ancestors, who were indentured servants, or about indentured servitude in general. Of course, book reviews, travelogues, or any other items of interest to our members would be appreciated.

In this issue, two of our members write about their ancestors, who settled in Delaware and Virginia. There are also some details about Pemberton Hall, a Maryland estate, which our 501(3)(c) organization supports.

We are looking forward to our April meeting in Washington, D. C., and have included our program and meeting in this issue. Our call is on the back page. We hope to see you there!

Sumner G. Hunnewell, President General

The Passage: Bulletin of the National Society of the Descendants of Colonial Indentured Servants is published yearly by the Society. It is a perquisite of membership.

Submissions should be sent by January 31st to the editor, Sumner Gary Hunnewell, 2030 San Pedro Drive, Arnold, MO 63010. HildifonsTook@prodigy.net.

Albert(us) Hendricks(on)

The Gambling Dutchmen among the Swedes

by Connie Cleveland

Why would Albert leave Holland, which was still in its “Golden Age?” Unlike most parts of Europe where children were doomed to the class into which they were born, in The Netherlands, the Dutch were hopeful and there were opportunities for upward mobility. Historians tell us that the Dutch were prone to both saving and gambling. Leaving the familiar and going to the New World was the ultimate gamble. Albert was a carpenter and farmer who was willing to take the gamble to improve his life as an indentured servant.

After a 3-month voyage, Albert arrived in the South (Delaware) River area to present day, New Castle, Delaware where he worked for De la Grange on his plantation on Tinicum Island. Albert worked for De la Grange for 10 years in this area which was occupied mainly by Swedes and Fins.



1749 map showing New Castle (lower left) and Tinicum Island marked with a star.

Since Albert started a family during his indentureship, he worked out his wife’s indentureship in order for her to remain at home with the children. Albert’s wife was either Aletje or Hilletje.

Albertus and Aletje found themselves in a new environment, totally unlike The Netherlands, but also with few Dutchman around them. Also, New Castle was forcibly taken by the English and many Dutch settlers were sold as servants to the English and their property confiscated. The Hendricks escaped this fate.

A few years after their arrival in Pennsylvania, The Quaker population exploded in the Penn Colony; however, Albertus did not become a Quaker. His wife and daughters did become Quakers and attend Meetings regularly. The original Dutch and Swedes were absorbed into the populous Quaker culture.

In 1673 Albert acquired land from Jons Guastaffson, who is another of my family members. The Hendricks’ called their plantation Locomo which means “kiss of the

waters." This property was on a river which was warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer, with crops starting earlier and producing later than more inland properties. A running stream completed this ideal setting.

Throughout the years The Hendricks' acquired many hundreds of acres.

Also, in 1673, Albertus served a year as the first Constable of the Upland, now Chester County. He was the first Dutch person known to have held this office in Pennsylvania. Since Constables were usually the tallest and strongest men around that were trusted by their peers, we have an idea about Albertus' size. Serving as a Constable would be something that his descendants long after him would follow.

While Albertus continued to acquire many acres, he was busy in politics. He served as a juror, a court-appointed referee or agent, road builder, inspector of roads, bridges, among other duties.

Albertus and Aletje lived long and prosperous lives in the New World with many grandchildren. If they had remained in Holland, their life expectancy would have been much shorter and their lives, probably considerably less prosperous.

Albertus' gamble paid off!

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Florence Hendricks Moore, *Descendants of Albert(us) Hendricks(on), 1673-1984* (Charles Town, WV: the author, 1985).

Be sure to check out our website

Indenturedservants.org

*As new members join, it is updated with new resources for
research and qualifying ancestors!*

(sic) to make all the clothing for the Boyse family & their servants, at no cost, until “such day and time as he shall depart this land.” Of course, this was a difficult document to enforce.

Royall was most certainly a free man prior to August 15, 1637, when he was proven to be a landowner in his own right, patenting part of a tract containing 300 acres in Henrico County that was later included in the Isham-Royall plantation known as “Doghams.” The property was located on the north side of the James River at the southeast side of Turkey Island Creek. It remained in the Royall family for more than 200 years. (In 1929, the property was sold to James Pinckney Harrison who was a distant cousin to the Royall family.) Joseph was married at the time of this land patent proving he was no longer an indentured servant.

By the time Joseph owned these 300 acres, his first wife, Thomasin, had passed away and Joseph was married to Ann ----- according to the patent records. He also made claim for additional acreage: 50 acres due him for his first wife Thomasin, 50 acres for his then wife Ann, and 100 acres for the transport of two persons, Robert Warwell and John Wells.

In 1642, Joseph would patent more land, 600 acres, for the transport of 12 additional people. Included in this group of people was his third wife, Katherine Banks. It has been suggested that his second wife Ann died in an Indian massacre in 1642. There is no evidence that Joseph had any children with his first two wives, but he would father at least five children with Katherine Banks.

Joseph fought in the Indian Wars and was a Justice of the Peace. He died before March 10, 1655/56.

Joseph’s widow Katherine went on to remarry shortly after Joseph’s death. Her second husband was Henry Isham. Henry & Katherine (Banks) (Royall) Isham were the maternal great-great-grandparents of the third President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson.

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Pemberton Hall

Once a thriving plantation, Pemberton Hall was built on the Wicomico River near Salisbury in 1741 by Isaac Handy, one of the city's founders. It is an outstanding example of 18th century Eastern Shore regional architecture. The gambrel-roofed brick structure is the only original 18th century house open to the public on the lower Eastern Shore.

Handy Family History

Samuel Handy arrived on the Eastern Shore in the late 17th century as an indentured servant. Upon his death in 1721, he owned over 2,000 acres as well as ships within the coastal trade. With his wife Mary, they raised 15 children. The 13th child, Isaac, purchased 960 acres of undeveloped land from Joseph Pemberton in 1726. The new property sat opposite of the "Tondotank Indian Town," at the southern bank of what is today known as the Wicomico River. Isaac and his wife Anne would eventually build Pemberton Hall on this land.

Isaac went on to become a planter and a ships' Master. Through his hard work and advantageous marriage, he soon made a name for himself. He went on to become one of the city's founders and was appointed in 1732 to work with four others in laying out "Salisbury Town."

In 1741, Isaac completed construction of Pemberton Hall. With the exception of the window glass and iron hardware, all materials for the brick plantation home were made on site. The construction was a major undertaking at the time, and the new home served as a status-symbol for Isaac. It was dramatically larger than the 16x20 home he originally built on the land, where he and Anne raised 9 of their 11 children. The Great Room, painted in a dramatic and expensive "Prussian Blue" color, stood two times larger than the average home size in the Chesapeake Bay region.

At the time of his death in 1762, Isaac ranked among the wealthiest top 5-6% of the community. He owned 1500 acres of land as well as 16 slaves.



Pemberton Hall Restoration

Fast forwarding over 200 years from Isaac Handy's death in 1762, Pemberton Hall had fallen from a thriving plantation home into a saddened derelict property on the verge of destruction. With the goal to save the home and restore it to its former glory, the Pemberton Hall Foundation, Inc. was formed.

Having fully restored the home, the Foundation continues to maintain the Hall and two acres upon which it sits. The home's furnishings reflect life in pre-Revolutionary times, and have been produced based on three 18th century probate inventories of the plantation. Paint colors have also been replicated as a result of spectral and chemical analysis.

Using plantation tax records, archaeological investigations and architectural research, the Foundation has restored or discovered other structures on the property as well. Although it is no longer visible, a unique wharf structure, known as "Mulberry's Landing Wharf" remains hidden under the silted in river mud of the Wicomico River. The wharf, which was discovered through underwater archeology and dendrochronology, is the oldest documented wharf of its kind in the United States.

Attached to the Hall, the 1786 kitchen has been reconstructed on its original foundation, as has a standalone Milk House, wooden-lined well and well sweep. Surrounded by a split rail fence, the property was home to other dependent structures and features as well. The Foundation is striving to reproduce and interpret all of the remaining structures, including the 16-foot log slaves' quarter.

Timeline

- 1670s: Samuel Handy came to the area as an indentured servant
 - Marries Mary Sewell and raises 15 children
 - 13th child Isaac travels to Bermuda at age 13 and trains as a mariner and ship master
- 1721: Samuel Handy dies
- 1726: Isaac Handy returned from Bermuda and purchased 960 acres from Joseph Pemberton, on which Pemberton Hall would one day reside
- 1732: Isaac and 4 others were appointed to purchase land and lay out "Salisbury Town"
- 1741: Pemberton Hall built by Isaac and Anne Handy
- 1747: "Mulberry Landing" Wharf constructed
- 1762: Isaac Handy dies
- 1786: Attached kitchen was added to Pemberton Hall

Fast forward 250 years:

- Mid 1960's: Pemberton Hall stands as an abandoned derelict. The Pemberton Hall Foundation, Inc. is formed to restore it.
- 1980's: Wicomico County creates a 260 acre park to surround and protect the structure

Indentured Servitude in Colonial America

Program for the First Annual Meeting

by Janet Butler Walker

In 1619 the first General Assembly of Virginia made laws regarding contracts between master and servant. The origin of these was to record the two types of servitude:

- 1) Voluntary- free contract with the London Company or with private persons for a definite term of service which paid for their transportation and maintenance during their servitude;
- 2) Involuntary- a legal authority condemned a person to a term of service. This was a sentence necessary for his reformation, prevention for idleness, or punishment for his misdemeanors.

In the beginning, the indentured servants were mostly free persons from England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland who wanted to go to the colonies for a better life but were too poor to pay for their transportation. These persons contracted with resident planters in the colonies represented by agents in Britain or more frequently with shipmasters who traded in Virginia. The other group was made of English paupers, vagrants and political criminals not social criminals. There were some criminals, however, such as the man in 1618 who was convicted of manslaughter but his sentence to hang was changed because "he was a carpenter and the plantation needed carpenters."

Most terms of service were for seven years. Contracts between master and slave could sometimes have provisions for gifts of land or apparel or corn sufficient to set him up as a freeman when service ended.

Starting in 1619 servants were forbidden to marry. In 1643 a law was passed that, if a man servant secretly married, he must complete his time plus add a complete year for each offense. If a woman servant secretly married her time of service doubled. In 1662 an added law against secret marriage of servants said that a minister cannot publish banns or marry servants unless both their masters signed a certificate that they consented to letting their servants marry. The minister's fine for ignoring this law was a whopping 10,000 pounds of tobacco!

Having bastard children generally cost the same penalty to the servant parents as fornication did. Runaways unfortunately fared worse; they were usually whipped and the time of their service was doubled when they were returned to their master. Other bad conduct was usually met with whipping since generally a servant had no money for fines. A law was passed in 1662 to have a whipping post in every county. An act was passed in 1705 restraining masters and requiring an order from the justice of the peace for the whipping of a "Christian white servant naked." The lashes couldn't exceed 39. Sometimes the punishment would be several lashes or "until the blood ran."

A law in 1705 regarding the rights of indentured Servants said that they could bring a complaint into court by petition, which was especially good in the case of unjust usage. They could sue for freedom dues (which is their corn, apparel, property or wages) and damages for unlawful whipping. They were not required to do military service.

You might wonder, when did the servants have time to amass any assets before becoming a freeman? The custom allowed servants Saturday afternoon and the Sabbath as free time. Tenures of small tracts were sometimes permitted by the master and if given some livestock the servant may be able to raise cattle, hogs or tobacco. There was nothing to condemn a hard-working servant to an inferior social position. If he proved worthy, he might enjoy the same social privileges he would have when he became a freeman. He constantly looked forward to his full freedom and liked to consider himself similar to an apprentice or a hard labor as opposed to a slave.

Several members of the assembly of burgesses in Virginia in 1654 were men who had been servants. A writer at that time stated, "by time and industry they have acquired competent estates." Masters sometimes bought female servants for their wives and men servants not uncommonly married the master's daughter, such as my husband Billy's indentured Servants Ancestor Peter Gilstrap. The growing lower and middle classes that became assimilated into colonial society had a spirit of rebellion and a disgust of the importation of convicts and slaves by the British which led to the growing restlessness for the separation of colonies from their mother country.

As an interesting side-note George Washington was moved by Thomas Paine's article "The American Crisis" and ordered it to be read aloud to his brigades. Thomas Paine came to the colonies as a free but poor man on a ship with many indentured servants. Conditions were so horrible on the journey that most were sick when they disembarked and Thomas himself didn't recover for a year. The famous Paine article was written in 1776 at one of the lowest hours of the American revolution: General Washington had yet to win a battle and his armies were in retreat. Thomas Paine rallied Americans with imagery he knew would be familiar to them. It begins "these are the times that try men's souls... Britain, with an army to enforce her Tyranny has decided that she has a right (not only to tax) but to bind us in all cases whatsoever and if being bound in that manner is not slavery then there is no such thing as slavery upon earth." Washington was familiar with indentured servitude; in fact, he was named after an indentured servant George Eskridge, the legal guardian of George Washington's mother and for many years a member of the Virginia House of burgesses. George Eskridge had been kidnapped as a boy in Wales and sold in Virginia where after serving out his term he angrily tore up his hearthstone bed with a mattock. (Two of our members have joined under their ancestor George Eskridge- isn't that wonderful?) George Washington himself owed what rudimentary education he had to a convict servant named Hobby who tutored him in reading, writing and keeping accounts. Washington recruited numbers of indentured servants for his regiment. He knew that the practice of indentured servitude was widespread, intensely personal, and present in various stages in every colony. Even the most prosperous colonies Virginia and Pennsylvania were economically founded on it.

From 1726 to 1788 there was a gradual decline in indentured servitude as Negro slavery grew. By 1785 the indenture contract could only be made on the free consent of the servant and witnessed in writing by a justice of the peace. In 1788 convicts were no longer allowed to be imported.

I want to thank you for remembering and honoring your indentured servant ancestor. Ours is not a society that celebrates a glamorous beginning but our indentured servant ancestors built this country with their blood, sweat and tears and deserve to be remembered. They were hopeful, survived, completed their terms of service, and many went on to own land, have families and prosper. We are here because they were here.

As you all know membership is the lifeblood of any organization. Please talk about our society with your lineage society peers and encourage them to remember and honor their hard-working indentured servant ancestors, too.

Thank you.

Directory Updates

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Supplemental 1: *Ephraim Tinkham, Massachusetts 1634-1642*

National Society Descendants of Colonial Indentured Servants

First Annual Meeting, 12 April 2019, The Army and the Navy Club, Washington DC

by Jane R. Power, Secretary General *pro tem*

The First Annual Meeting of the National Society Descendants of Colonial Indentured Servants was called to order at 1:05 p.m. at The Army and the Navy Club on Farragut Square in Washington DC on Friday, 12 April 2019 by Organizing President General Sumner G. Hunnewell.

Chaplain General Carla W. Odom gave an invocation; the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Treasurer General Tim Mabee; the Purpose and Objectives were read by Registrar General, Robin Towns. President Hunnewell introduced the Executive Officers (absent: Sowders, and Hicks). Jane Power was asked to serve as Secretary Pro Temp. Janet Walker and Billy Walker were asked to serve as readers to approve the minutes.

President Hunnewell asked each leader of a hereditary society who had not been previously acknowledged to introduce themselves. All other members and guests then introduced themselves. He then asked the assembly to acknowledge our newest members and guests of members. Janet Walker, Vice President, introduced Pat Taylor from Pemberton Hall Foundation who presented remarks regarding the preservation of the history of the building and its links to indentured servitude.

Highlights of Officer Reports: (written reports received were attached to these minutes).

The Treasurer General indicated there was a total balance of \$12,344.35 in the society's account. The Registrar General's report showed member number F-72 assigned.

New Business:

Per the bylaws, four (4) members shall constitute a quorum. The quorum was announced and established for business to be conducted.

New Business consisted of a recommendation from the Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee of National Society Descendants of Colonial Indentured Servants recommends our Society shall donate \$1000.00 to Pemberton Historic Park." Motion approved.

A check was presented to the representative of Pemberton Historic Foundation and she expressed her appreciation of the donation.

The meeting Speaker was introduced by Patricia Gallagher, Historian General: Janet Walker, Vice President General whose topic was, "Indentured Servants in the Colonies."

Announcements:

The next meeting will be held on Friday, 17 April 2020. Officers and members were requested to assemble for photos immediately following adjournment.

The Benediction was given by Chaplain General Carla Odom. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.



National Society Descendants of Colonial Indentured Servants

The President General and Officers
cordially invite you to join us for to the Second Annual Meeting
Friday, April 17, 2020

Noon

in the John Paul Jones Room
The Army and Navy Club
Farragut Square, 901 Seventeenth Street, NW, Washington, DC

Luncheon will be followed by a business meeting and short presentation

R. S. V. P. accepted until April 1, 2020

Luncheon Menu (check one):

Pork Tenderloin Medallions

- or -

Eggplant Parmesan Zucchini and Eggplant Marinara Sauce

- both entrees include -

Carrot Cake with Chopped Walnuts, Cream Cheese Icing, Caramel Sauce

NOTE: The Luncheon will be shared with Descendants of Early Postmasters

National Society Descendants of Colonial Indentured Servants

Member name _____

Member of: Postmasters Indentured Servants

Guest _____

Cost is \$45.00 per person. Please send a check made out to "NSDCIS" to:
Douglass "Tim" Mabee
17 Killarney Court
Saratoga Springs NY 12866-7501
518-587-8426 tmabee@aol.com



2018-2019 General Officers: Chaplain Carla Odom, Treasurer Tim Mabee, Registrar Robin Towns, Vice President Janet Walker, President Sumner Hunnewell, Historian Pat Gallagher, and Inspector Sue Gray. Parliamentarian Jane Power. Absent: Recording Secretary Sharon Sowders, Counsellor Deborah Hicks.



Members attending at our inaugural meeting, April 12, 2019.