



Virginia Voices

www.virginiafoundingfathers.org

Founded February 2013

Honoring our past ~ Preserving our future

From the Desk of...

The Governor General



Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter, Virginia Voices. We are so excited to have completed our charter year with over 50 members!

As we now turn our attention to the future of this organization and the legacy we want to build, I want to encourage each and every one of you to find a way to participate in the various activities of the Society and truly make the SDVAFF yours. We will be kicking off the digitization effort and will be reaching out to those who expressed interest in this area to help us develop the project plan. For those who feel called to work in the area of our philanthropy, we will be setting up meetings to define how we will weave literacy initiatives into the fabric of this organization's activities. Those who are talented in event planning, I want to encourage you to help us plan for our luncheon meeting as we join the list of organizations that participate in the Hereditary Society Meetings in Washington, DC. We have reserved the Army/Navy Club April 9, 2015 for our event and want to make this first meeting of our group a most memorable event!

If you have not had the opportunity to purchase your insignia from Hamilton's I want to encourage you to do so. My heartfelt thanks go out to Ms. Leslie Kirk for the countless hours she spent in getting our insignia and pins designed. If you have not seen the insignia in person I promise you will not be disappointed. It is a stunning way to honor those who sacrificed so much to lay the foundations of this great country of ours!

Founding Moments

~ the story of the founding of the Sons and Daughters of Virginia Founding Fathers ~



Six Alabama Women had one thing in common, a desire to honor and preserve the history of their early Virginia Ancestors. Many organizations perpetuating the memory of ancestors who fought in the War Between the States, War of 1812, the American Revolution and worthwhile organizations that record and preserve lineages were found but not one was available to join that honored those hardy and enterprising early ancestors who concentrated their efforts, labor and skills in building the enduring greatness of the colony of Virginia. They longed for a group where ANY ancestor could be recognized for being a part of this nation's history...black or white, free or a slave, male or female, land-owner or indentured. And so began the Sons and Daughters of Virginia Founding Fathers.

Suzanna Etheridge Rawlins led the way, along with Leslie Ann Kirk, Sally Hellums Woolley, Sue Hansford Jaworowski, Anne Travis Kilgrow, Deborah Whitmore Hicks and Karen Elizabeth McCandless McClendon of Texas and on February 6, 2013 the Sons and Daughters of Virginia Founding Fathers was founded to fulfill the need to be able to identify, collect, preserve and honor the history, memory, courage and endurance of those valiant men and women who left the known, escaping the Old World, for a promise of building a better world of liberty and personal freedom, risking their lives and personal fortunes in the establishment of the Colony of Virginia. The SDVAFF was officially chartered on April 23, 2013 in the state of Alabama and its membership base is nationwide.

The Sons and Daughters of Virginia Founding Fathers (SDVAFF) is a lineage society established as a non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to preserving the history of the United States through the digitization of documents and the recording of family histories, lineages, and traditions. The society's chosen philanthropy is literacy, as the founders believe that the ability to read opens up not only the stories of the past but empowers individuals to create written tributes of the present and goals for the future.

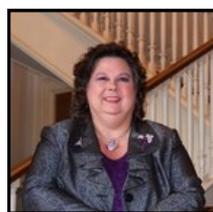
Any person eighteen (18) years of age or older who can prove lineal descent from an ancestor who was a resident of the Virginia Colony prior to 31 December 1699 is eligible for membership. If you have an ancestor that you would like to honor, please visit our website at virginiafoundingfathers.org. for more information. Though membership is by invitation, all inquiries are welcome!



**Suzanna
Rawlins**



**Leslie
Kirk**



**Deborah
Hicks**



**Sally
Woolley**



**Sue
Jaworowski**



**Anne
Kilgrow**



**Karen
McClendon**



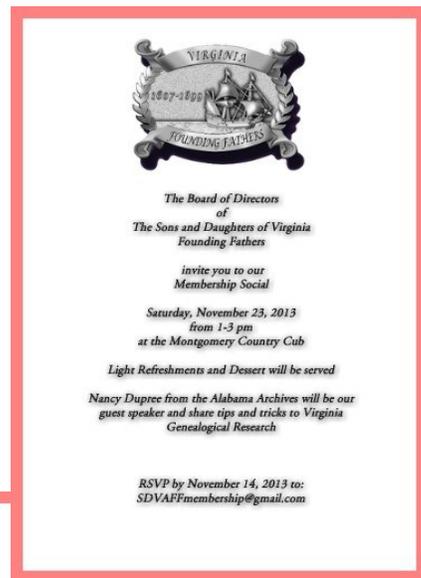
Charter Members

Catherine Birchfield	Prospect, KY	Jane R. Power	Garland, TX
Dolly Butler	Selma, AL	Vicki L. Presley	Huntsville, AL
Frederick Cain	Troy, AL	Judy Richardson	Krugerville, TX
Gayle Coan	Flossmoor, IL	Cheryl Rios	Haslet, TX
Terri Dean	Owens Cross Roads, AL	Annette Smith	Ranburne, AL
Virginia Dickerson	Indianapolis, IN	Shelby Ward	Opelika, AL
Robert Doherty	Decatur, AL	Deborah L. Wilhite	Red Oak, TX
Lorraine Ennis	Huntsville, AL	Marlene Wilkinson	Westlake, OH
Harold Ford	Stone Mountain, GA	Davie A. Williams	Huntsville, AL
Ruby Hassell	Prattville, AL		
Henry Hogge	Newbury Park, CA		
Mary Jacobsen	Indianapolis, AL		
Conrad Janik, Jr	Lockport, NY		
Marlene Lawley	Helena, AL		
Pat Lewis	Athens, AL		
Mary Lollar	Flower Mound, TX		
Lynn Long	Johnsburg, IL		
Col. Lee V. McKinney	Fairfax Station, VA		
William A. McKnight	New Castle, IN		
Elaine C. Mueller	Oak Ridge, TN		
Bob Odom	Durham, NC		
Carla Odom	Durham, NC		



Membership Tea November 23, 2013

On Saturday, November 23, 2013 we held our first Membership social at the beautiful Montgomery Country Club. Nancy Dupree from the Alabama Archives was our speaker and she provided attendees with research tips and tricks to connecting to those early Virginia ancestors. One of the main questions asked was how to properly document female ancestors as records for their activities can often be much more difficult to find. Light refreshments were served and the highlight was the beautiful cake showing off the society's colors and logo.

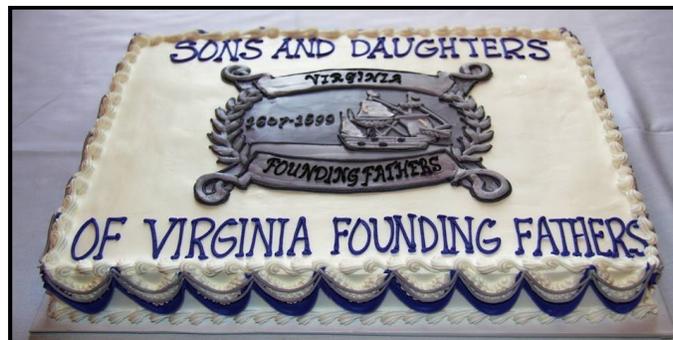


3001 Narrow Lane Road
Montgomery, AL 36106
334-263-9308

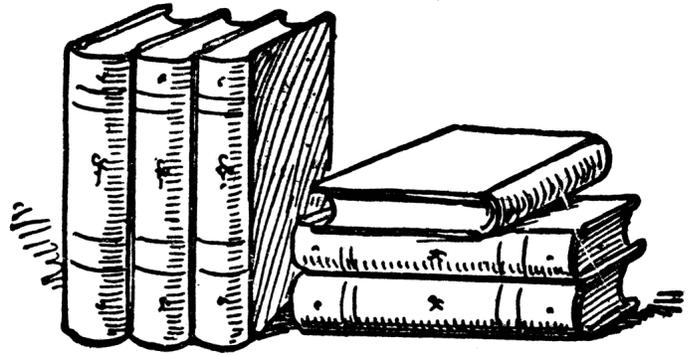
Directions:
Interstate 65 to Interstate 85N
Take Exit 2 Forest Avenue (turn right)
Turn right onto W. 5th Street
Turn Left onto Pineleaf Street
Turn Left onto Carter Hill Road
Turn Right onto Narrow lane



2013 Inaugural Membership Social attendees ~ (L-R Bottom to Top) Oma Gaines, Suzanna Rawlins, Jeanne Kirk Davis, Rena Underwood, Marlene Lawley, Leslie Kirk, Mac Smith, Lynn Presley, Nancy Dupree, Mary Norman, Annette Smith, Ann Cheney, Kitt Conner, Cecile Webb, Davie Williams, Mary Alice Waits, Judy Osbourne, Anne Kilgrow, Sandra Shell, Marilyn Tucker, Sue Jaworowski, Ronda Berry, Sally Woolley, Deborah Hicks, and photographer Durward Henderson



Ancestor *Annals*

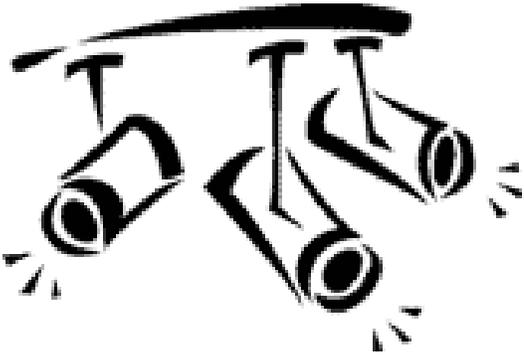


In 1620, the Bona Nova sailed from England to Virginia bearing the 22 year old young man, **John Tyus**. He first lived as a tenant of the Virginia Company land. On February 16, 1624 he is still on the Company's land across the Chesapeake Bay from the York River and the James River. By February 4, 1625, he is living on the Treasurer's Plantation along the Southern Bank of the James River as a servant.

Conditions were harsh there and it was recorded by a servant that the Treasurer's Plantation owner, George Sandy, was mean and so stingy he allowed his men to starve. 1627 finds John a little further West at Flower Dew Hundred owned by Abraham Peirse. John and his wife, Jane, are questioned on January 21, 1628 about a theft that had occurred at the Treasurer's plantation. John denied that there were stolen goods in his home. Jane testified that the stolen currants and sugar found were bought from a Frenchman. John was convicted of receiving stolen property after admitting that he had accepted some poultry at Christmas time and that he had sold some of the shoes that the thief, John Mills, had given him. At the age of 26 he was sentenced to a whipping. After this less than promising start in the new world, six years later he obtained a 21 year lease on 50 acres in James City County, near the Chickahominy River.

John's son, Thomas, by 1688 patented 500 acres for transporting 50 people to Virginia. Ten generations of descendants flourished in the New World, migrating from Virginia thru Georgia, Florida and Alabama. His great, great grandson Lewis Tyus was too old to serve in the American Revolution but contributed 450 pounds of beef, 213 bushels of wheat, 3 bushels of corn, a cart and oxen and a driver for 15 days to the Continental Army.

We want to highlight YOUR ancestor—please submit your write up to our newsletter editor at leave-ourlegacy@earthlink.net and put ancestor Annals in the Subject line. Please limit your write up to no more than one page. Photos of artifacts are encouraged. Help us preserve the stories of our Virginia ancestors by sharing your story today!



Member

Spot

Light

Who Do we want to spotlight