

**Our Ancestor, John Washington The Immigrant, Presentation 10/28/22**

**I am Colonel, U.S. Army Retired Thomas Upshur Washington Sr. and I am a delegate this evening for the family line of COL JOHN WASHINGTON (The Immigrant), who was the first Washington Family Member in the Virginia Colony. Born in 1633 John W. was the Son of Rev. Lawrence Washington of Sulgrave Manor and Amphyllis Washington of Essex, England.**

**John W. lived from near 1633 until 1677 in both England and later resided in the Virginia Colony, near Pope's Creek south at "The Clifts Plantation" of the Potomac River. The Pope's Creek area is commonly known as "George Washington's Birthplace National Monument". Today "Wakefield" is open and free to the public for visitation. Just south "The Clifts Plantation" is today's Stratford Hall Lee Family Mansion encompassing nearly 2,000 acres.**

**My genealogical ties to George Washington are through COL John Washington, THE IMMIGRANT, who is THE GREAT GRANDFATHER of President George Washington.**

**John Washington and Anne Pope had a son Lawrence Washington who was George Washington's Grandfather.**

**Lawrence Washington had 2 sons, first being John Washington and another being Augustine Washington, George Washington's father.**

**John Washington, older brother of Augustine W. is my 6<sup>th</sup> Great Grandfather.**

**Interesting background as to how John Washington The Immigrant, ended up residing in the Virginia Colony.**

**John Washington's life had several PHASES along a unique career path.**

- A. Phase 1: Young Boy: As a Young Boy in England from 8 years old to 11 years old his father enrolled John in a couple of schools of academia that never worked out for him. Understand that in the 1640s, England was in a full Civil War and times were hard. Instead of going the academic or religious track like his father, young John became very interested and learned about merchant trade, astrology, shipping and logistics (through some apprenticeships and through firsthand experiences with merchant relatives). By the age of 20, around 1655, John became the administrator**

of his mother's estate, completed those duties and then decided to venture away from a turmoiled England.

- B. Phase 2: A Young Man By 1656, John had acquired a great deal of knowledge of sailing and merchant trading and accepted an offer from Edward Prescott to join his business as a co-partner and 1<sup>st</sup> Mate aboard the "Sea Horse of London" ship. Of note, there was no contract in writing between the two men. Prescott sailed the Baltics, the German and the Dutch coasts while John travelled overland securing tobacco contracts and met up with Prescott at various ports. By late November 1656, Prescott and John W. sailed for the Virginia Colony to load up on tobacco to bring back to England the following year to honor the tobacco contracts.**
- C. Phase 3: Gaining Experience in Merchant Trade: Recall that Virginia and Southern Maryland along the Potomac River had soils that grew the world's greatest tobacco (sweet and heavy tobacco). Virginia and Maryland also were at odds with each other for numerous reasons. While in Virginia loading the Sea Horse, John W. got to know the prestigious and large landowner/farmer of "The Clifts Plantation", Nathaniel Pope. As the fully loaded Sea Horse set sail back to England the heavy tobacco load caused it to run aground on a sand bar and as luck would have it a bad ice storm soon after caused it to sink. The recovery efforts took months and the tobacco became nearly worthless. Nathaniel Pope and John W. were very similar in personality and character and the elder Nathaniel Pope took John W. under his wing and really admired him.**
- D. Next, Phase 4: Becoming a Man of His Own in the Virginia Colony - Prescott and John W. had a great dispute over the ship's demise, damaged cargo and the recovery efforts headed up mainly by John W.. Remember, the two men never had a contract in writing. Each accused one another of owing money for lost tobacco ruined and a 1<sup>st</sup> Mate duties' salary. Nathaniel Pope ended up settling the dispute by way of trading some furs/assets. John W. decided to stay in Virginia ( 1.great tobacco trade opportunity and 2. A more peaceful environment unlike**

that in England). John W. lived with Nathaniel Pope at “The Clifts Plantation” while Prescott finally set sail on the repaired ship for England. There was a 3<sup>rd</sup> great reason to stay in Virginia because in late 1658, John W. married NP’s daughter Anne Pope and they received a wedding gift of 700 acres on “The Clifts Plantation” north closer towards Popes Creek and Mattox Creek in Westmoreland County Virginia.

- E. 5<sup>th</sup> and FINAL PHASE Wisdom and Wealth: By his early 40’s, John had accumulated nearly 8,500 acres (thanks to an early start from NP and Anne Pope) and he had served the community and the Virginia Colony at numerous local and high levels. John died in the later part of 1677 a very successful man; nearly 100 years before the start of American Revolution.
  
- F. Upon his death, John Washington, the Immigrant’s historical significances included being Colonel of the Militia Soldier, Member of the House of Burgesses Politician, Sheriff, Land Owner/Planter and Prominent Colonial Merchant Trader- All of these Life Phases were factors that shaped his career paths and a full life in the Virginia Colony.

**Reviewed Source References:**

**-The Washingtons, A Family History, Volume 1, Seven Generations of the Presidential Branch by Dr. Justin Glenn**

**-George Washington’s Birthplace National Monument and Wakefield Welcome Center Foyer Displays and Pamphlets, U.S. Department of the Interior**

**-Shipwrecked in the Land of King Tobacco, The First Washington Family Immigrant to America, by Nicholas D. Garrett**