

Nicolas Martiau for
The National Society of Washington Family Descendants
28 October 2022

My name is Dale Sayers and I am representing the line of Nicolas Martiau, great-great-great grandfather of George Washington.

Nicolas Martiau was born about 1591 in France. As Protestants, Martiau's family fled to England, and he received his naturalization and training as an engineer there.

In April of 1620, Henry Hastings, 5th Earl of Huntingdon, authorized Nicolas Martiau with power of attorney to represent him as an agent in Virginia. Martiau arrived in Virginia in August of 1620 on the *Francis Bonaventure*.

In March of 1623/4, Martiau was listed as a member of the House of Burgesses. This particular delegation signed the First Laws made by the Assembly in Virginia.

By 1625 Nicolas was a married man with little ones. The name of his first wife is unknown, but his son Nicolas and daughter Elizabeth were born by 1625.

Martiau's second wife was Jane, the widow of Edward Berkeley. She would have been the mother of his daughters, Mary and Sarah.

In 1630, the Governor opened the region at Chiskiacke on the York River. Martiau was one of the first colonists to volunteer. His patent of over 1200 acres included Yorktown. It is probable that he undertook the building of the Fort at York at this time.

In 1632, Martiau was again elected as a Burgess, this time for Kiskyacke and the Isle of Kent. He appeared regularly at court sessions for York County from 1633-1648 as a justice or as Justice of the Peace. He signed a petition in 1632, which precipitated the thrusting out of Governor Harvey in 1635.

In 1936, a crew of CCC men laying a water line along Buckner Street in Yorktown uncovered several graves. The written report identified a total of 18 graves. All were buried in coffins and wrapped in shrouds. It was near these graves that the tombstones of George Reade and his wife Elizabeth Martiau had been found earlier. Forensic analysis determined the skeleton belonging to Nicolas Martiau. These remains were reinterred in the graveyard of Grace Episcopal Church in Yorktown where a marker was placed by the Nicolas Martiau Descendants Association.