

My name is Robert Asbury, a descendent of Samuel Washington, George Washington's younger brother. Sam Washington is my 4th great grandfather. My great grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Washington, married my great grandfather, Squire Asbury, in 1854.

Our journey (connecting with the Washington family) began when I discovered a letter from John A Washington (now deceased) to my father and his brothers in 1967 reminding them of their close connection to George Washington's immediate family. In the letter, John mentioned "Harewood" the original home of Sam Washington built in 1770 near present-day Charlestown West Virginia. The home sits on property that was surveyed by George Washington around 1765. The letter also mentioned our cousin, Walter S Washington, who lives in the house at present. The Harewood house has never been out of the Washington family since it was constructed.

Now, fast-forward 30 years, the discovery of this letter really tweaked our interest, so we decided to try contacting John Washington to learn more. I was able to reach John, who was at the time living in Chevy Chase Maryland. John was very kind and informed me that we were "stepbrothers so-to-speak" as we were both 4th generation descendent of Sam, albeit from a different wife. John gave me the physical address for the Harewood home and contact information for Walter Washington.

This revelation was all we needed to kick-start an exciting trip to West Virginia. My wife Barb and I booked a flight to Dulles airport where we rented a car and made the 65-mile drive to Charlestown. Passing through a rolling landscape we came upon the historical setting of the Harewood estate. We were so excited to be at the home Samuel Washington! Walter Washington welcomed us at the door and invited us in for a fascinating tour of the home. Walter explained George stayed at the house many times prior to the war to visit his brother, as well as frequent stopovers while attending to his affairs in Winchester. The home has been kept as it was with the original paint (circa 1770) still adorning the walls! Walter lives in a small addition to the house so not to disturb the original features of the home. In front of stately fireplace located in the drawing room, Walter pointed out the spot where James and Dolly Madison once stood to exchange their vows for their wedding in 1794. Over the past ten years we have had the honor to have dinner with Walter at the dining table of Harewood where a painting of Samuel still hangs above the table. On one such occasion we were joined by John Augustine Washington, his son Austin, and my grandson Brody representing five of Sam's grandchildren eating at his table 240 years after his passing, what a privilege!

Sam was born on November 16, 1734, at the ancestral home of Augustine Washington at Pope's Creek Virginia. Sam was the third child born at Pope's Creek.

Growing up, Sam's immediate family consisted of his older brother George, born in 1732, his sister Betty born in 1733, and two younger brothers, John born in 1736, and Charles in 1737. When Sam came of age, he inherited property from his father at Chotank, a community located just a few miles from Popes Creek.

In 1766, four of the Washington brothers (Sam, Lawrence, John, and Charles) signed the "Westmoreland Resolves". The "resolves" included a pledge to boycott and block any trade or transactions that required stamped paper. The "stamp tax" was Britain's latest scheme to recover costs incurred during the French and Indian War. The "Resolves" were penned by Richard Henry Lee, a future signer of the Declaration of Independence and local neighbor of the Washingtons. An interesting correspondence discovered at the University of Virginia, indicates that Sam Washington and Richard Henry Lee worked

closely together to initiate this action against British taxation in the tidewater region of Virginia's Northern Neck.

In 1770, Samuel built his Harewood home in Fredrick County and moved there with his family. Evidently Sam garnered considerable respect from county residents and was soon appointed Justice of the Peace. This was followed by an appointment as Colonel of the Fredrick County Militia. Unfortunately, Sam was affected with progressive consumption (tuberculosis). It is probable this is the reason he was unable to take a more active role in the American Revolution where his famous brother became the commanding general for the Continental Army. A sad irony to Sam's life was his untimely death on September 26, 1781. Sam passed away at his Harewood home, just days before General Cornwallis surrendered to combined Continental and French forces at Yorktown, effectively ending the American struggle for independence. Sam did not live to see the final victory for which he was so actively engaged at its earliest inception.