



Virginia C.A.R. Patriots of the Round Table ***Your Own Patriot Ancestor!***

Most Patriots aren't Famous, but All Made Victory Possible

Tell Us About Your Ancestor(s) on the VSCAR Facebook Page

The victory at Yorktown would not have been possible without contributions, great and small, from people throughout the colonies and beyond. This month, we celebrate Thanksgiving, a holiday with its roots in the survival of the first English colonists in the 1600s. After the Revolution, when George Washington had become president, he issued the first Thanksgiving Proclamation, setting aside the last Thursday of November in 1789 as a national day of “public thanksgiving and prayer” to thank “that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be,” for, among other things, “his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation.” Proclamation of October 3, 1789.

As a nation, we continue to set aside the last Thursday of November to give thanks. Last year, President Biden’s Thanksgiving Day proclamation described Thanksgiving as “a time to reflect on our many blessings — from God, this Nation, and each other.”

This November, Virginia C.A.R. members and seniors will take time to give thanks for their many blessings. One of those blessings all members share is a direct link to the men and women who worked so hard to achieve independence from Great Britain and create this exceptional country. We all have a patriot ancestor who was an important part of getting to the victory at Yorktown.

So, during this month of gratitude and reflection, pause to remember these individuals, many of whom do not appear in history books or a Google search.

Welcome to the Round Table . . . Your Patriot Ancestor!

State President William Elston’s patriot ancestors include David and Benjamin Elston, father and son, who served in the Essex County, New Jersey militia beginning in 1777. Benjamin received

a pension for his service, which included the Battle of Springfield (New Jersey) in June 1780. The Battle of Springfield was one of the last major engagements of the Revolutionary War in the north, and effectively put an end to British efforts to break out of New York.

One of his other ancestors was John Ransdell, who provided a gun to the Fauquier County Minute Men in November 1778. Another provided some meat for the army and paid taxes to Virginia's rebel government. Great or small, every contribution mattered!

What did your Patriot Ancestor do? Post about your Patriot Ancestor on the VSCAR Facebook page. Share your ancestor's name and a brief description of the own personal story. Or, even better, post a video telling your ancestor's story!

Discussion Questions for Local Societies

Who was your Patriot Ancestor and what did he or she do during the Revolution?

How did your Patriot Ancestor support the cause? Can you connect what they did to the victory at Yorktown?

Where did they live during the Revolution and what did they do afterwards?

BONUS CONTESTS

Prizes will be awarded at the State Conference in February to the local societies with (1) the most original Facebook post about a Patriot Ancestor during November and (2) the greatest number of Facebook posts about a Patriot Ancestor during November.

