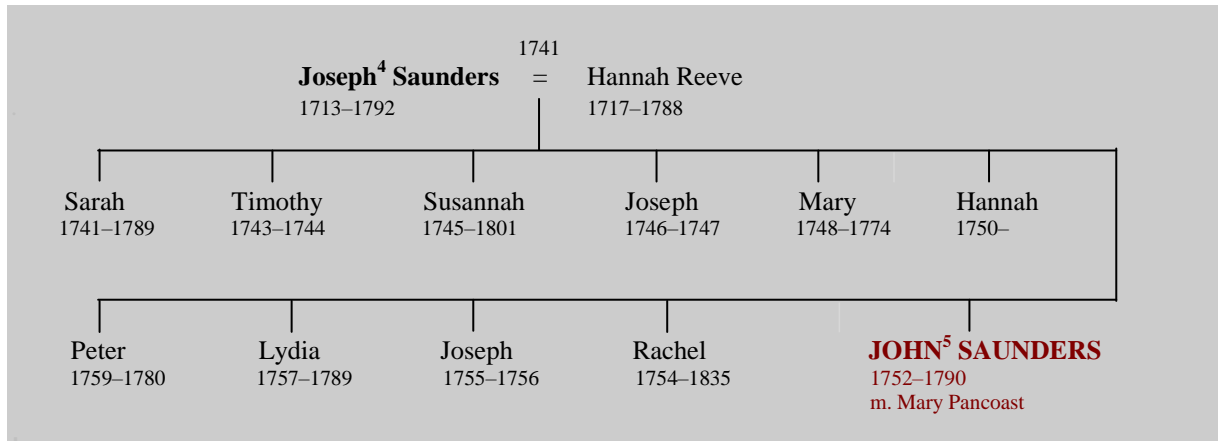


## Chapter Three

Revised  
January 2021**JOHN<sup>5</sup> SAUNDERS**  
**1752–1790***Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Alexandria, Virginia*

**J**OHN<sup>5</sup> SAUNDERS was born in the reign of George II (1721–1760) in the city of Philadelphia on 26 December 1752. He was the seventh of Joseph<sup>4</sup> and Hannah Saunders's eleven children and the only surviving son as three other male siblings died in infancy and another, Peter, died at sea in 1780 aged 22.

Little is known of John's formative years other than he was reared in a devout Quaker family. Philadelphia at the time of John's childhood would have been a city of mixed emotions in the lead up to the Revolution (1775–1783). While the Quakers, being pacifists, were not permitted to participate in the struggle against the British one can imagine much lively conversation in young John's household with family and friends, some of whom would have been sympathetic to the colonists' cause. Perhaps this influenced him to pen *'The Ill Effects of Tyranny'*.

**THE**  
**Ill Effects of Tyranny**

*Besides Poverty and Want, there are other Reasons that debase the Minds of Men, who live under Tyranny, though I look on this as the Principal. It is odd to Consider the Connection between Despotic Government and Barbarity, & how the making of one Person more than Man, makes the rest less.*

***Too long this Queen imperiously thus Sway'd,  
By no set Laws, but by her Will obey'd  
Her fearful Slaves, to full Obedience grown,  
Admire her Strength, & dare not use their own.***

*If there be not one Body of Legislatures, it is no better than a Tyranny; if there are only two, there will want a casting Voice, and one of them must at length be swallow'd up by Disputes & Contentions; Four would have the same Inconvenience as two, and a greater Number would cause too much Confusion; Therefore amixt Government consisting of three Branches, the Regal, the Noble & the Popular is the best.*

John Saunders    October 9<sup>th</sup>. 1765

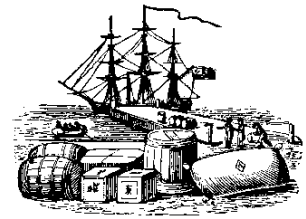
The source of the above philosophy is unknown. Probably the twelve-year-old John copied the wording from literature and ideology being circulated at that time. *The Stamp Act* passed by the British Parliament in March 1765 to raise funds for its army stationed in America was very unpopular throughout the colonies and gave rise to the slogan ‘no taxation without representation’. American resistance forced the British Parliament to repeal the Stamp Act in 1766.

oOo

In 1772 Joseph<sup>4</sup> Saunders said in a letter to relations in England that his son John was then living with his brother-in-law Thomas Morris (who was married to John’s older sister, Mary) and went on to describe John as a ‘sober and well inclined youth’.

### November, 1773 – John<sup>5</sup> moves to Alexandria

A year later, and only some eighteen months before the start of the War of Independence, young John, who was a carpenter, decided to join his sister Susannah, and her husband William Hartshorne, in the town of Alexandria in Virginia, a growing seaport on the Potomac. John’s mother, Hannah, in a letter to her cousin Peter Reeve in 1774 (→ See Chapter 2: Joseph<sup>4</sup> Saunders) indicates that the carpenter's business was ‘dull’ in Philadelphia so ‘John had a mind to go there and try’. In Alexandria, she says, he built a ‘good brick house for John Harper’, the partner of his brother-in-law, William Hartshorne.



*Hinshaw*, Vol. II, Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, p. 643:

1774, 3, 25. John get Fairfax MM, Va.

*The story of OLD TOWN & "GENTRY ROW" in Alexandria, Virginia* by Robert H. Wilson, p.17 provides some background on John Harper:

#### Captain John Harper

A Quaker merchant-marine from Philadelphia, Captain John Harper, bought the Prince Street house, as George William and Sally Fairfax were getting ready to leave for England. The Captain and a younger Philadelphia merchant, **William Hartshorne**, also a Quaker, had formed a partnership, planning to move to Virginia. They obtained a letter of introduction to George Washington from a friend of Hartshorne’s, Reese Meredith, a prominent Philadelphian:

Philadelphia, May 5, 1773

Esteemed Friend  
Colonel Washington

From the little acquaintance I had with thee formerly, I take the liberty of recommending the bearer, Captain John Harper, who is in partnership with William Hartshorne. John Harper comes down in order to see the country. If he likes, they propose to come down and settle with you; they are men that have a pretty interest—William Hartshorne lived with me some time. They are industrious, careful, sober men; if Capt. Harper should want to draw on this place for five hundred pounds, I will engage his bills shall be paid. Any civilities shewn [*sic*] him will be returned by

Thy Friend  
Reese Meredith


Captain Harper must have presented this letter in person. Washington’s diary shows that Harper and another Philadelphia merchant, Ebenezer Large dined at Mount Vernon on June 12, 1773, spent the night there and departed after breakfast. That same month, Harper became owner of 207 Prince Street. During the Revolution, Captain Harper lived in the house much of the time. He gave up seafaring, entered mercantile business and became a prominent and active Alexandria citizen. Eventually he became one of the towns most enterprising real estate developers. Beginning in 1782 he rented his own house to Colonel William Lyles, a close friend of Washington whose name appears

often among the dinner guests at Mount Vernon. On at least one occasion, Monday, November 28, 1785, Washington was, in turn, Col. Lyles's dinner guest at 207 Prince Street.

Although a Quaker, Captain Harper supported the cause of American Independence. When Fairfax County formed its Committee of Safety and organised two companies of militia in 1775, Harper agreed to sail to Philadelphia to obtain from his friends there gunpowder for the Virginia soldiers.

John's parents, Joseph<sup>4</sup> and Hannah, who had invested in Alexandria real estate, sold a parcel of land to young John in March 1775. The original *Indenture for the Deed of Sale*, still in remarkably good condition, was retained and remains amongst family memorabilia.

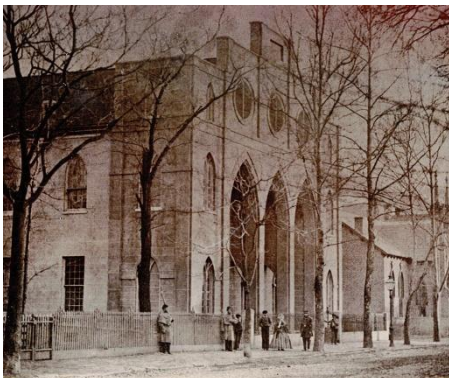
His occupation as a builder of houses led to numerous acquisitions of land and property. The *Virginia County Court Records, Deed Abstracts of Fairfax County Virginia* contain many records of purchases and sales of real estate by John, some in conjunction with his wife Mary.



**23 March 1775**  
**'Give me Liberty or Give me Death'**-  
 Patrick Henry was a lawyer, patriot, orator and willing participant in virtually every aspect of the founding of America. In March 1775, he urged his fellow Virginians to arm in self-defence, closing his appeal with the immortal words: *'I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death'*.

*Patrick Henry*  
1736–1799

Before the revolution George Washington, as a property owner, was elected Alexandria Town Trustee. As the conflict with Great Britain developed, he became chairman of the Fairfax County Committee of Safety and represented Virginia as a delegate to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. At the conclusion of the peace-treaty with Great Britain, Washington resumed an active community life in Alexandria and the life-style of a Virginia plantation owner. Alexandria was, after all, his hometown and he fully expected to spend his remaining days there. He helped establish the *Alexandria Academy* in 1785 and among the trustees serving with him was **William Hartshorne** (who had married John Saunders's sister Susannah<sup>5</sup>). Washington's role as a private citizen ended when he was called upon to serve as President of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia which debated and drafted the Constitution of the United States.



*St. Paul's Church, Alexandria, Virginia*

*Historic Homes and Landmarks of Alexandria, Virginia*, by Mary Lindsay, published by the Landmarks Society, 1974, pp. 45–46:

Old parish records of St. Paul's Church show that Mary Eliza Angela Lewis was married there in 1835 to Charles Magill Conrad of New Orleans and that the Rev. James T. Johnson officiated at the funerals of [her parents] Major Lewis in 1839, of Mrs Lewis in 1852 and of Mary Angela Lewis Conrad in 1843.

Arch Hall at 815 Franklin Street, Alexandria, built in 1816, was the winter home of Nelly Custis, granddaughter of Martha Washington, and her husband, Major Lawrence Lewis, nephew of George Washington.

*Nelly Custis, Child of Mount Vernon*, a biography of Eleanor (Nelly) Parke Custis by David L. Ribblett, p. 86, says that Nelly's daughter Mary Eliza Angela Lewis was married at 'Woodlawn' the family's estate situated a few miles below Alexandria in Fairfax County. Probably the author was referring to the wedding reception after the marriage ceremony at St. Paul's Church.

Charles<sup>2</sup> Magill Conrad was the uncle of Frances<sup>3</sup> Sophia Conrad (1829–1983) who married Bolling<sup>7</sup> Robertson Chinn (1824–1888) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1848.

→ See Chapter 11: The Chinn Family, 7<sup>th</sup> generation.



**On 9 April 1783 John<sup>5</sup> Saunders married Mary Pancoast.** Born in 1762, she was the daughter of David Pancoast (1738–c.1799), and his wife, Sarah née Marll (–c.1819).

The following information has been extracted from *The Pancoast Family in America* by Bennett S. Pancoast, 1981, published by *The Gloucester County Historical Society*, Wodbury, New Jersey.

The Pancoasts came from Northamptonshire, England, where the family name was spelt *Panckhurst*. After gaining a 'Certificate of Removal' from Men's Monthly Meeting at Ugbrook, in the county of Northampton on 'the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month' (13 May) 1680, John Pancoast, a widower, left his home in England with his family of eight children (two sons and six daughters) and sailed to America on the ship 'Paradise', landing at Burlington, New Jersey on 4 October 1680.

His oldest son, James, unbeknown to his father, had preceded his family to America. It seems he had been bound as an apprentice to a watchmaker in London where he was kidnapped and brought to Maryland. There he was sold by the Captain to a gentleman. He worked out his time, bought a tract of land on the Potomac in 1687, acquired a nice estate and became a leading citizen of Prince Georges County. About 1734, learning about his family's being in New Jersey, went north for a visit and upon returning home was drowned crossing the Potomac River, leaving no heirs.

David Pancoast, born 23 September 1738, John Pancoast's great-grandson and John Saunders's father-in-law, left Burlington County, New Jersey at an early age and settled in Philadelphia where he became a successful builder. Here he met Sarah, daughter of John and Elizabeth Marll. They were married at the Philadelphia Friends Meeting on 17 June 1760. David became a fighting Quaker and an ardent and active patriot. The Philadelphia Friends Meeting, Northern District, disowned him on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776 for his military activities. In 1781 David and Sarah left Philadelphia and settled in Frederick County, Virginia. A few years later in 1785 they moved to Alexandria and David established himself as a Merchant Shipper and builder.

Mary Pancoast, who was born in 1762, grew up in Philadelphia and was 19 years of age when the family moved to Virginia. Whether she had known her future husband John Saunders in Philadelphia or met him in Virginia, we do not know. John's training as a carpenter and builder perhaps brought into contact with David Pancoast in Philadelphia. John and Mary were married when the Pancoasts were living in Frederick County.

Mary Pancoast's mother, Sarah née Marll, was probably related to Hannah Marll who married Benjamin Shreve as his first wife in 1770, his second wife being Susan Wood who, after Shreve's death, married William Hartshorne as his second wife. (→ See Chapter 2: Joseph Saunders). Benjamin Shreve was a well-known Alexandria identity and a friend of John Saunders.

The death date of Mary's father, David Pancoast, is unknown. However it must have been around 1799. *Artisans and Merchants of Alexandria, Virginia 1780–1820*, Volume 2, compiled by T. Michael Miller, Alexandria Library, Lloyd House, p. 17:

**PANCOAST, DAVID**

1799, those who have claims against Pancoast, dec. are requested  
to come forward and see Philip Wanton; TIMES: 10/10/1799

oOo

*Hopewell Friends History 1724–1924, Frederick County, Virginia*, compiled from official records and Published by a Joint Committee of Hopewell Friends, p. 173:

**CROOKED RUN MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES**

1783–1803

As Recorded in Book A

Jona Lupton, Clerk

**SAUNDERS—PANCOAST**

WHEREAS, *John Saunders* of the Town of Alexandria and County of Fairfax in Virginia, Son of Joseph & Hannah Saunders of the City of Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, and *Mary Pancoast*, daughter of David and Sarah Pancoast of the Borough of Winchester, & County of Frederick in Virginia, Having declared their intentions of Marriage before Several Monthly Meetings of the People Called Quakers at Crooked Run in the County of Frederick aforesaid, According to the good order used Amongst them: And having consent of Parents, Their said Proposals of marriage was allowed of by the said Meeting.

NOW these are to certifie (*sic*) whom it may concern, that for the full Accomplishing their said Intentions this Ninth day of the fourth Month in the Year of our lord one Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Three; They the Said John Saunders & Mary Pancoast appeared in a Public Meeting of the said people at Center in the County of Frederick aforesaid. And the said John Saunders, takeing (*sic*) the said Mary Pancoast by the hand did in a Solemn manner openly declare: That he took her the said Mary Pancoast to be his Wife Promising Through divine Assistance to be unto her a loving and faithful Husband until death Should Separate them. AND MOREOVER They the said John Saunders and Mary Pancoast (She According to the custom of marriage assumeing (*sic*) the name of her Husband) as a further Confirmation thereof did then and There to these Presents set their hands; And we whose names are here under also Subscribed being Present at the Solemnization of the said marriage & Subscription, have as Witnesses thereunto set out hands The day and Year above Written.

John Saunders

Mary Saunders

*Witnesses who signed this Marriage Certificate:*

Joseph Lupton	Henry Bush	Gold Chandlee	<b>David Pancoast</b>
John Lupton	Ellis Chandlee	Susanna Brown	<b>Sarah Pancoast</b>
Daniel Brown	Isaac Parkins	Sally Brown	Elizabeth Pancoast
Daniel Brown Sr.	Jane Brock	John Brock	Mary Lownes
Sam'l Pickering	Ann Parkins	David Brown	Sally Lownes
Joseph Steer	Catherine Bush	George Ormond	Sarah Lownes
Mary Lupton	Amy Long	Jona Pickering	Rachel Hollingsworth
Grace Steer Junr.	Leah Parkins	James Wright	Susanna Brown
Catherine Sexton	Meshec Sexton	Joshua Lupton	Sarah Brown

*Hinshaw*, Vol. VI, Fairfax Monthly Meeting, pp. 554–555:

**SAUNDERS**

Jno of Alexandria roc 28–5–1774 Philadelphia MM, Pa  
dated 25–3–1774; gct Crooked Run MM, Va., to m Mary  
Pancoast dt David & Sarah Pancoast of Frederick Co. Va.;  
they were m 9–4–1783 at Center MH Winchester, Va.  
and were roc Crooked Run MM, Va. 23–8–1783 dated 8–1783;  
John was dis hiring a substitute for the Army (in which he had  
served in 1777) was rst 28–12–1782. After his death, his  
widow Mary (Pancoast) Saunders m 31–5–1792 Philip WANTON.  
Mary had 6 ch by her 1st h John Saunders and 3 ch by her  
2nd h Philip Wanton. (See Alexandria MM, DC).

ibid., Vol. VI, Crooked Run Monthly Meeting, p. 602:

PANCOAST

1783, 4, 9. Mary, dt David & Sarah; m John SAUNDERS.

ibid., p. 605:

SAUNDERS

1783, 4, 9. John, Alexandria, Fairfax Co., Va.,  
s Joseph & Hannah, Phila., Pa.; m at Center,  
Frederick Co., Va., Mary Pancoast, dt David &  
Sarah, Winchester, Frederick Co., Va.

1783, 5 3. John rmt Mary Pancoast

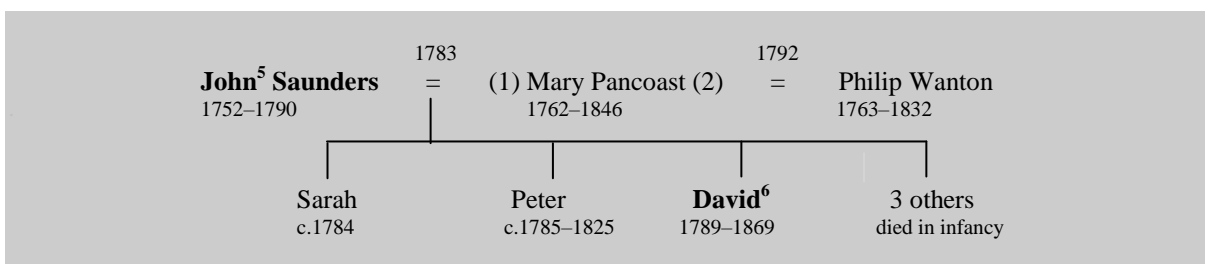
1783, 8, 2. Mary gct Fairfax MM.

ibid., Fairfax Monthly Meeting, p. 541:

PANCOAST

Mary, dt David & Sarah Pancoast of Frederick Co., Va., m 9-4-1783 at Center MH,  
Winchester, Va., John SAUNDERS of Alexandria, Va., & of Fairfax MM, Va.  
(see SAUNDERS). (Note: Mary PANCOAST Saunders, widow of John  
m 2<sup>nd</sup>: 31-5-1792 Philip WANTON; she had 6 ch by John SAUNDERS  
& 3 more by Philip WANTON; see Alexandria MM, Va.).

**John<sup>5</sup> and Mary Saunders had six children** according to Quaker records which unfortunately do not show any names or birth dates. John died in May 1790 and his wife Mary remarried Philip Wanton exactly two years later in May of 1792. He was appointed guardian of her children in September 1799. In his Will John lists only three children amongst the beneficiaries: Sarah<sup>6</sup>, Peter<sup>6</sup> and David<sup>6</sup>. John and Mary were only married seven years during which time she is said to have produced six children. David died at San Rafael, California on 10th September 1869 and his obituary stated he was born in 1789. We can deduce from this that he was the youngest child still living. Moreover, all the available records list Sarah, Peter and David in that order—that is, presumably eldest to youngest. Of the three surviving children at the time of John's death, the oldest could not have been more than six and the youngest about one. There is no record of the other three children; it is presumed they all died in infancy.



Of their six children we have information on the three that survived:

### 1. Sarah<sup>6</sup> Saunders

We can deduce that Sarah is the first born from information which suggests that when her father John died in 1790 he left his widow with three children, the eldest 6 years of age. This gives Sarah's year of birth as 1784. We don't know when she died. Records of property transactions indicate she was still living in 1848 in Alexandria.

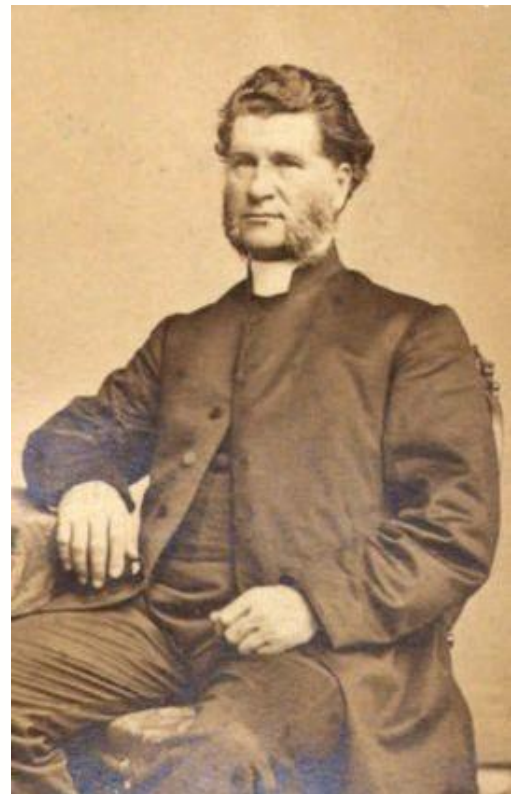
Sarah<sup>6</sup> married Elisha Talbott on 2 October 1806. (Sometimes the name is spelt with but one 'T' – *Talbot*). He was born 21 January 1782 and died 11 August 1832. They had seven children, and one, Elisha<sup>7</sup> Jr., died in infancy. One of their sons, Joseph<sup>7</sup> Cruikshank Talbot, became the second bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Indiana. He was born 5 September 1816 and died 15 January 1883. He married Sarah Hench. She was born 10 December 1830 and died 18 September 1876. They had six children. Bishop Talbot's obituary was published in the *New York Times* the day following his death:

*OBITUARY.*

BISHOP JOSEPH C. TALBOTT.

The Right Rev. Joseph C. Talbott, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Indiana, died last evening in Indianapolis of paralysis at the age of 67 years. Nearly two years ago the Bishop was stricken with paralysis, but by careful treatment and a cessation from labor he recovered so as to partially discharge the duties of his position, but the strain upon him was too great, and on Oct. 30 last he resigned the administration of affairs into the hands of the standing committee of the diocese. This was followed by a fitful recuperation of energy, and friends thought the Bishop was again to resume his wonted activity, but on Thursday last he slipped and fell on the icy sidewalk, precipitating a second stroke of paralysis, which ended fatally last evening. The Bishop died at the residence of his brother, R. L. Talbott, with whom he had made his home since the death of his wife, a year ago.

Joseph C. Talbott was born in Alexandria, Va., Sept. 5, 1816, of Quaker parents, and educated at Alexandria Academy. He removed to the West in 1835 and settled in Louisville, where for several years he was engaged in mercantile and banking pursuits. He was baptized in Christ Church by the Rev. William Jackson in 1837, and soon afterward was confirmed as a communicant in the Episcopal church by Bishop D. D. Smith. In 1838 he married Anna M., only daughter of Capt. Samuel Waris, United States Army. In 1843 he became a candidate for holy orders. He was ordained Deacon in 1846 and priest in 1848. As Deacon he began founding a third parish in Louisville, and for seven years he served as Rector of St. John's Church, built by his efforts. In January, 1853, he came to Indianapolis as Rector of Christ Church, and there too he served seven years, and also built the present house of worship. His consecration as Missionary Bishop of the North-west took place in 1860. This service occupied his time five years. By a unanimous vote of the convention in August, 1865, Bishop Talbott was chosen assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Indiana, and in October took up the administration of the duties of the position. He was virtually the executive head of the diocese from that time on, the venerable Bishop Upfold being too feeble to take an active part in the new management of affairs, and at the latter's death, in 1872, he became such in name. He was invested with the degree of D. D. by the Western University of Pennsylvania. In 1854 and in 1867, while a member of the Council of Anglican Bishops at Lambeth, England, the degree of LL. D. was conferred by the University of Cambridge. Bishop Talbott was a man of rugged frame, almost a typical Englishman in appearance. He was of prepossessing manner, a strong preacher, and died full of honors.



*Bishop Joseph Cruikshank Talbot  
1816-1883*

While there may be no connection, one of Sarah's ancestors in England, Mary<sup>3</sup> Child, daughter of Timothy Child and his second wife Katherine, married a Daniel Talbott. → See Chapter 1: The Saunders Family in England

ibid., Alexandria Monthly Meeting, p. 775:

SAUNDERS

Sarah, dt of John & Mary Saunders, the form dec.  
of Alex., D.C.; m 2-10-1806 Elisha TALBOTT (see Talbott).

ibid., p. 785:

TALBOTT

Elisha, b 21-1-1782 d 11-8-1832, s Joseph & Anna (Plummer) Talbott,  
the latter dec; rocf Balt. MM, Md., 25-7-1805, dtd 13-6-1805;  
m 2-10-1806 'in a public mtg of Frds at Alex. MH, D.C.' Sarah  
SAUNDERS, dt of John & Mary Saunders, the form dec of Alexandria, D.C.  
Ch: Mary Ann b 28-7-1831  
Rebecca b 12-2-1832  
John Saunders left Frds 3 mo - 1851  
Joseph C. gct Balt. MM, WD 8 mo - 1833  
William W. left Frds 3 mo -1851  
Richard Little b 19-9-1827; left Frds 3 mo - 1851  
Elisha Jr. 'dec'.

2. **Peter<sup>6</sup> Saunders** was born c.1785 in Alexandria, Virginia; his exact date of birth was not found. He died 26 February 1825 in Petersburg, Virginia. Peter married Hannah McPherson (1791-1858) on 7 February 1810. She was the daughter of John and Hannah McPherson.

*Artisans and Merchants of Alexandria, Virginia 1780-1820*, Volume 1, compiled by T. Michael Miller, Alexandria Library, Lloyd House, p. 330:

MECHANICS BANK OF ALEXANDRIA - King St. --500 block N.  
... 1813, directors: Peter Saunders ...

ibid., p. 332:

MERCHANTS BANK - King St.  
... 1815, directors: Peter Saunders, Daniel McPherson ...

ibid., Vol. 2, p. 100:

SAUNDERS, PETER — Tanner/Director of the Merchant's Bank  
1809, sale of a house and a lot on Prince St. between Water and Fairfax St.; 1815, elected from the 4<sup>th</sup> ward to the Common Council; 1815, owned a 2 story brick house on the north side of King Street, between St. Asaph and Washington Streets; 1816, will lease the building and wharf occupied by Adams, Herbert & Co. on lower Prince St.; AG: 2/18/1809; 10/24/1815; 10/28/1816; MAS.

*Portrait of a Town, Alexandria - District of Columbia (Virginia) 1820-1830* by T. Michael Miller, p. 314:

SAUNDERS, PETER—Tanner/Director of the Merchant's Bank  
3/1825, death; 4/1827, by a deed of trust from Saunders to J.L. McKenna dated 1816, McKenna will sell the wharf and 3-story brick warehouse situated at the south and east extremity of Prince St., occupied by George H. Fowle & Co.; AG: 3/5/1825; 4/4/1827.

*Alexandria (Virginia) Officialdom, 1749-1992*, by T. Michael Miller, p. 13:

**1816-17:** Members of City Government: ... 4th ward ... Peter Saunders.



**On 7 February 1810 Peter<sup>6</sup> Saunders married Hannah McPherson.** She was born in 1791 and died in 1858. She was the daughter of John and Hannah McPherson.

*Hinshaw*, Vol. II, Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, p. 818:

SAUNDERS

Peter m Hannah McPHERSON, b 1-8-1791 d 9-8-1858 bur Horsham (wd)  
 Ch: John b 9-26-1814 d 1-11-1891 bLH (Lauren Hill)  
 Thos. Howland b 10-17-1822 d 10-11-1838 bWG (Western Ground).

*ibid.*, Vol. VI, Alexandria Monthly Meeting, p. 763:

McPHERSON

Hannah, dt John & Hannah McPherson, Jefferson Co., Va.;  
 m 7-2-1810 at Berkeley MH, Va., Peter SAUNDERS (See Saunders).

*Hopeful Friends History 1724-1924, Frederick County, Virginia*, compiled from official records and Published by a Joint Committee of Hopewell Friends, p. 337:

SAUNDERS—McPHERSON

*Peter Saunders*, of the Town and County of Alexandria and District of Columbia, Son of John Saunders (Dec'd) and Mary his Wife, and *Hannah McPherson*, of Jefferson County, Virginia, Daughter of John McPherson and Hannah his Wife; 7<sup>th</sup> day of 2<sup>nd</sup> month, 1810; at Berkley.

Peter Saunders

Hannah Saunders

*Witnesses who signed this Marriage Certificate:*

Wm. Ginelair	Nathan Haines Jr.	Ruth Janney	John McPherson
Thos. McClanahan	Hetty Turner	Wm. McPherson	<b>Mary Wanton</b>
Wm. H. Tillery	Christian Blackburn	Hannah Bond	Sam'l McPherson
Sam'l Swayne	Cosmelia Janney	Isaac Walker	<b>Sarah Talbott</b>
Rebecca Swayne	Rebecca Janney	Robt. Bond	Isaac Lupton
Nathan Haines	Thomasin Haines	Lewis Neill	David Lupton Jr.
Joseph Bond	Cosmelia Janney Jr.	<b>Sarah S. Saunders</b>	John McPherson Jr.
Sam'l Bond	Sam'l Howell	Jonathan Janney	Rebecca McPherson
Abijah Janney	Oliver Wilson	Sarah Janney	Lydia Neill
David Pusey	Aquila Janney	Jane McPherson	

*Hinshaw*, Vol. VI, Hopewell Monthly Meeting, p. 441:

SANDERS [*sic*]

1810, 2, 7. Peter, Alexandria, D.C., s John, dec, & Mary;  
 m at Berkley, Hannah McPHERSON, Jefferson Co., Va., dt John & Hannah  
 McPHERSON.

1810, 2, 7. Hannah, Jefferson Co., Va., dt John & Hannah; m Peter SAUNDERS.

*ibid.*, Vol. VI, Alexandria Monthly Meeting, p. 775:

SAUNDERS

Peter, s of John, dec, & Mary (Pancoast) Saunders, of D.C.;  
 gct Hopewell MM, Va., 25-1-1810 to m Hannah McPHERSON  
 of Jefferson Co., Va., dt John & Hannah; m 7-2-1810 at Berkley MH, Va.;  
 Hannah, w of Peter Saunders, rocf Hopewell MM, Va., 26-4-1810;  
 Peter Saunders d 26-2-1825; Hannah, his wd, & 5 minor ch, John M.,  
 McPherson, Joseph, Thomas H. & Mary, gct Cherry St., MM, Phila., Pa.,  
 22-5-1834; Sarah Pancoast Saunders, their eldest ch mou, her ack acc  
 (m Silas Dunbar EDSON); rem, gct Cherry St. MM; PETER SAUNDERS,  
 a director of the Merchant Bank of Alex., Va., headed by Daniel McPherson,  
 which bank failed, under accusations of unjust treatment of some creditors,  
 denied any fraudulent intentions; his ack acc by Alex MM 20-8-1818.

Peter's obituary mentions six children but *Hinshaw* (above) mentions only five.

Children of Peter<sup>6</sup> Saunders and Hannah McPherson:

- A. Sarah<sup>7</sup> 'Sally' Pancoast Saunders was born 8 April 1811 in Alexandria, Virginia and died 16 January 1869 in Philadelphia. She married Silas Dunbar Edson 'out of unity' on 28 November 1833. He was born 3 March 1807 in Massachusetts and died 25 October 1855. He was buried at the Fair Hill Burial Ground in Philadelphia.

ibid, Vol. VI, p. 775:

SAUNDERS

Sarah Pancoast (dt Peter & Hannah (McPherson) Saunders rpd mou in Phila. 18-12-1834 to Silas Dunbar EDSON (see Edson) (Her parents, Peter Saunders & w, Hannah McPherson-Saunders, & ch were mbr of Alex MM, D.C.).

Sarah Saunders and Silas Dunbar Edson had two children:

- i. William<sup>8</sup> Dunbar Edson was born 24 September 1834 in Philadelphia and died 26 November 1898. He married Jeannie A. Souder on 14 May 1856. She was born 5 February 1839 and died 5 January 1902 in New York City.
  - ii. Mary<sup>8</sup> Saunders Edson was born 14 September 1840 and died 22 February 1867. She married Arthur Miller on 14 February 1865 in Philadelphia.
- B. John<sup>7</sup> McPherson Saunders was born 26 September 1815 and died 11 January 1891.
- C. McPherson<sup>7</sup> Saunders was born 1817 and died 25 December 1865. He married Sarah Sleeper in 1838 in Philadelphia. She was born in 1816 and died 27 May 1880.

*Hinshaw*, Vol. II, Philadelphia Monthly Meeting,  
p. 918:

SAUNDERS

1838, 10, 24. McPherson, s Peter & Hannah, Phila., m Sarah Sleeper, dt Jonathan & Martha, Phila., at Cherry St. MH, Phila.

ibid., Vol. II, p. 92

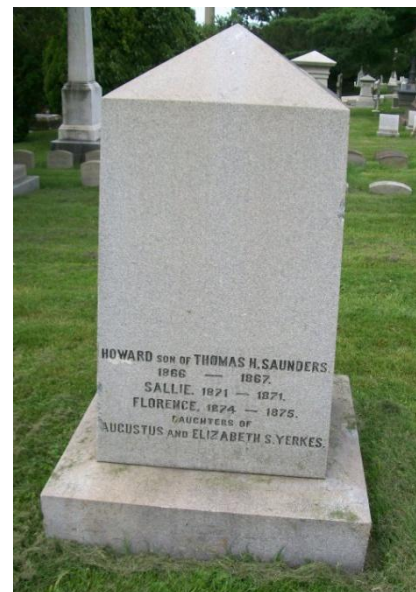
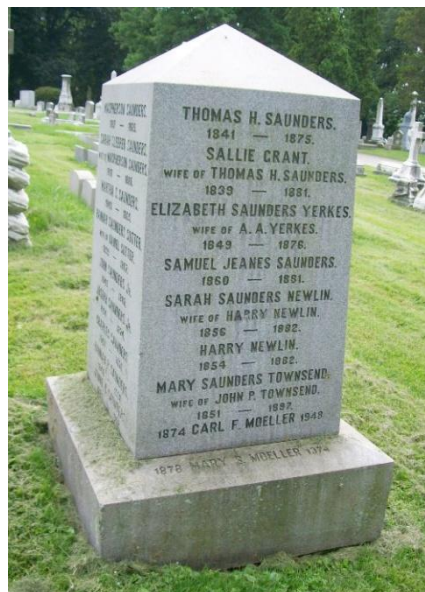
SLEEPER

1838, 10, 24, Sarah, dt Jonathan & Martha, Phila., m McPherson Saunders, s Peter & Hannah, Phila., at Cherry St. MH, Phila



*McPherson Saunders*  
1817-1865  
Courtesy Swarthmore College  
Pennsylvania

McPherson<sup>7</sup> Saunders and his wife Sarah Sleeper were buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia. A large three-sided family monument in this cemetery is inscribed with their names together with a number of their children and their respective spouses.



*Three-sided Saunders monument at Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia*

McPherson<sup>7</sup> Saunders and Sarah Sleeper had eleven children:

- i. Sarah<sup>8</sup> Saunders was born 1837 and died 20 May 1882. She married Harry Newlin. He was born 1854 and died 19 May 1882. Both were buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery.

- ii. Hannah<sup>8</sup> McPherson Saunders was born 28 September 1839 and died 1 October 1867. She was buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery. Philadelphia. Hannah married Daniel Sutter in 1864. They had one child.
- iii. Thomas<sup>8</sup> H. Saunders was born 16 May 1841 and died 26 February 1875. He married Sallie Grant on 25 February 1863. She was born 1839 and died 17 November 1867. Both were buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery.

*Philadelphia Press*, 27 February 1863, p.3:

At the residence of John Wise, on the 25th instant, according to the order of the Religious Society of Friends, Thomas H. Saunders to Sallie A., daughter of John M. Grant, of Abington township.

They had one son that we know of:

- a. Howard<sup>9</sup> Saunders was born 1866 and died in infancy in 1867. He was buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery.
- iv. Martha<sup>8</sup> Saunders was born 1843 and died 2 August 1865. She was buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery.
- v. John<sup>8</sup> Saunders Jr. was born 1845 and died 17 January 1868. He was buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery.
- vi. Charles<sup>8</sup> Saunders was born 4 March 1847 and died 19 December 1936 just four months short of his 90th birthday. Charles married Hannah P. Davis in Philadelphia in 1868 and was condemned by the Society of Friends for marrying out of discipline. Hannah was born 1 February 1848 and died 16 March 1938. Charles enlisted in the Union Army on 1 July 1864.



*Hinshaw*, Vol. II, Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, p. 856:

DAVIS

1868, 4, 23. Hannah P., dt Morris & Tracy S., Horsham, Pa.,  
m Chas. Saunders, s Macpherson & Sarah, Phila.  
(mcd by Mayor of Phila.)

1869, 1, 20. Hannah P. Saunders (late Davis) con mcd.

*ibid.*, Vol. II, p. 918:

SAUNDERS

1868, 4, 23., Chas., s Macpherson & Sarah, Phila.,  
m Hannah P. Davis, dt Morris & Tacy S.,  
Horsham, Pa. (mcd by Mayor of Phila.)

Charles<sup>8</sup> Saunders and Hannah Davis had two children:

- a. Jennie<sup>9</sup> C. Saunders was born 20 May 1869 in Pennsylvania and died 30 March 1952 in Philadelphia. She never married.

*Jennie C. Saunders*

Jennie C. Saunders  
1892 Passport Application

Jennie's death was announced in *The Philadelphia Enquirer* on 1 April:

**SAUNDERS.**—Third Month, 30th, 1932, at her home, Bethayres, Pa., **JENNIE C. SAUNDERS**, aged 32 years, daughter of the late Charles and Hannah P. Saunders. Services and Int. at convenience of the family.

- b. Lillian<sup>9</sup> S. Saunders was born 27 June 1874 in Philadelphia and died 1968 in Huntington Valley, Pennsylvania. She married Franklin Howard Jarrett on 18 October 1899. He was born 6 August 1864 in Fox Chase, Pennsylvania.
- vii. Elizabeth<sup>8</sup> S. Saunders was born 1849 in Philadelphia. She married Augustus Adolphus Yerkes. He was born 2 April 1859 and died 1928. They had two children:
  - a. Sallie<sup>9</sup> Yerkes was born 1871 and died in infancy.
  - b. Florence<sup>9</sup> Yerkes was born 1874 and died 1875.

Elizabeth S. Yerkes died of consumption on 14 June 1876 and was buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery. Her death was reported in *The Journal (Quaker Periodicals)* on the 21st of June 1876, p. 175:

**YERKES.**—6th mo. 14th, of Consumption, Elizabeth S., wife of Augustus A. Yerkes, and daughter of Sarah and the late Macpherson Saunders, aged 27 years. A member of Friends held at Green street Phila.

- viii. Mary<sup>8</sup> Saunders was born 1851 and died 18 March 1897. She married John P. Townsend. He was born 14 November 1848. She was buried Laurel Hill Cemetery.

ibid, Vol. II, p. 823:

TOWNSEND  
Mary, wd John T., dt McPherson & Sarah (Sleeper)  
SAUNDERS, b.10-14-1851 d 3-18-1897 bSLH.

- x. Joseph<sup>8</sup> Saunders Jr. was born 1854 and died 5 March 1874. He was buried Laurel Hill Cemetery.
- x. Sallie<sup>8</sup> Saunders was born 1858.
- xi. Samuel<sup>8</sup> Jeanes Saunders was born 16 February 1860 and died 31 July 1881. He was buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery. His death was published in the *US Quaker Periodicals, 1828-1929*:

**SAUNDERS.**—Seventh month 31st, Samuel Jeanes, son of the late MacPherson and Sarah Saunders, in his 22d year; a member of Green street Monthly Meeting.

### Continuing with the children of Peter and Hannah Saunders ...

- D. Thomas<sup>7</sup> Howland Saunders was born 1821 and died 10 October 1838.
- E. Samuel<sup>7</sup> Saunders. His birth and death dates are unknown.
- F. Mary<sup>7</sup> Saunders was born 1824 and died 7 October 1904.

**Peter<sup>6</sup> Saunders died on 26 February 1825** in Petersburg, Virginia. After he died his wife and children are believed to have stayed initially with his mother, Mary Pancoast, and then some years later they relocated to Philadelphia.

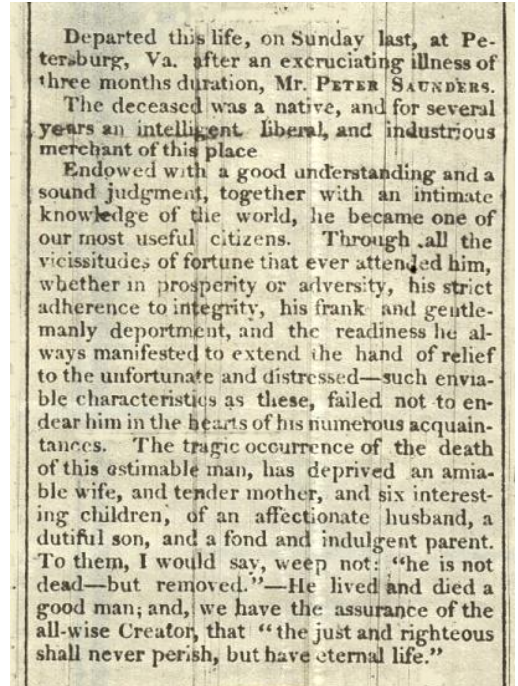
*Hinshaw*, Vol. II, p. 918:

SAUNDERS  
1834, 6, 18. Hannah & ch, John,  
McPherson, Joseph,  
Thos. H., & Mary  
rocf Alexander MM.



P

*Peter's signature c.1813 from the Minute Book of the Alexandria Library. He was among the first 119 members of the company*



Departed this life, on Sunday last, at Petersburg, Va. after an excruciating illness of three months duration, Mr. PETER SAUNDERS. The deceased was a native, and for several years an intelligent, liberal, and industrious merchant of this place. Endowed with a good understanding and a sound judgment, together with an intimate knowledge of the world, he became one of our most useful citizens. Through all the vicissitudes of fortune that ever attended him, whether in prosperity or adversity, his strict adherence to integrity, his frank and gentlemanly deportment, and the readiness he always manifested to extend the hand of relief to the unfortunate and distressed—such enviable characteristics as these, failed not to endear him in the hearts of his numerous acquaintances. The tragic occurrence of the death of this estimable man, has deprived an amiable wife, and tender mother, and six interesting children, of an affectionate husband, a dutiful son, and a fond and indulgent parent. To them, I would say, weep not: “he is not dead—but removed.”—He lived and died a good man; and, we have the assurance of the all-wise Creator, that “the just and righteous shall never perish, but have eternal life.”

*The Phenix Gazette of Alexandria ran the above obituary for Peter Saunders*

### Continuing with the last born child of John Saunders and Mary Wanton ...

3. **David<sup>6</sup> Saunders 1789–1869** → See Chapter 4  
Born 1789 in Alexandria, Virginia  
Died 10 September 1869 in San Rafael, California  
Married Hannah<sup>5</sup> Travilla Douglass (1799–1872) in Cincinnati in 1818

oOo

John<sup>5</sup> Saunders was nearly twenty-two when he left for Alexandria on 8th November 1773. He died there on 18 May 1790 only thirty-seven and a half years old. During these nearly seventeen years he earned a reputation as a conscientious citizen involved in civic affairs and a competent and respected builder of houses. Had John not died so young perhaps he might have become as prominent a citizen of Alexandria as some of his Quaker relations: the Hartshornes, the Stablers, the Millers and the Janneys (to mention a few) who all became important Alexandria identities. These and other families comprised the backbone of the flourishing Quaker community in which young John was an active and hardworking member. Several publications mention his involvement in the town's affairs:

*Who Built Alexandria? - Architects in Alexandria 1750–1900* by Penny Morill, p. 18:

**John Saunders**

The Gazette noted the death of Mr. John Saunders on May 18, 1790:

His Qualifications were not only those of an ingenious architect, but of a Mind well informed and a Judgment (*sic*) unrestrained by any inordinate affection...

*Alexandria (Virginia) City Officialdom, 1749–1792* by T. Michael Miller, p. 5:

1785–1786: John Saunders and David Pancoast appointed Superintendents of Streets

1787–1788: John Saunders a Member of City Council

1788–1789: John Saunders a Member of City Council

Some background information on the flourishing township of Alexandria where young John had settled is contained in *The Story of OLD TOWN & "GENTRY ROW" in Alexandria, Virginia* by Robert H. Wilson, pp. 1–3:

**A Town is Planned - 1749**

Most towns in American colonies grew up haphazardly wherever first settlers chose to build homes, but the early seaport of Alexandria, Virginia, was carefully planned in advance. In 1749, before a single house was built, surveyors laid out city blocks and straight streets just as we see them today. Since 1730, an official tobacco warehouse of the colonial government has been maintained on the Potomac at the mouth of Hunting Creek for the inspection, weighing and storage of colonial Virginia's most important product. Traders came from the great mercantile houses of England and Scotland to compete for purchase of the crops of nearby plantations. In 1748, the tobacco buyers and the tobacco growers joined in a petition to the General Assembly in Williamsburg '*praying that a town may be established at Hunting Creek Warehouse on Potowmack [sic] River*' in an area then known as Belhaven. It would be '*Commodious for Trade and Navigation and tend greatly to the ease and advantage of the frontier Inhabitants*'.

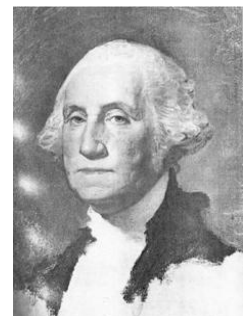
**Fairfaxes and Washingtons**

The Fairfaxes were the most influential family in the colony. The British King a century before had granted their ancestors over five million acres in the northern neck of Virginia between the Potomac and the Rappahannock as reward for military service. Fairfax County was named for them. In 1748, Thomas, Lord Fairfax and Sixth Baron of Cameron, was Lord Proprietor of this domain. A bachelor in his fifties, he had just left his ancestral Leeds Castle in England to settle permanently in America. Temporarily, Lord Fairfax was living with his cousin, Colonel William Fairfax at Belvoir Plantation, a magnificent estate on the Potomac about eight miles below Hunting Creek Warehouse. The Colonel had been in America for twenty years as business agent for the Fairfax lands. He was President of the Council of the Royal Governor of Virginia, a position second only in rank to that of the Governor himself. The Colonel's son, George William Fairfax, after fifteen years schooling in England, had returned to Belvoir and was preparing to succeed his father in managing the family land.

One of the Colonel's daughters, Sarah Fairfax, was the wife of the wealthy young tobacco merchant, John Carlyle. Another, Anne Fairfax, married Major Lawrence Washington, owner of the adjoining Potomac River plantation which he enlarged for his bride and named Mount Vernon.

Major Washington was the oldest son of Augustine Washington and his first wife, Jane Butler. When she died, Lawrence and a brother, Augustine Washington Jr., shared most of the father's estate. Lawrence inherited the plantation. Stepmother Mary Ball Washington and six half-brothers and half-sisters of the second marriage moved to a farm near Fredericksburg. There Mary established a much more modest home for her children, the oldest of whom was George Washington, future Father of his Country.

Had Lawrence and Anne Fairfax Washington raised a family of their own, the whole course of American history might have been different, but their only child died in infancy. They took half-brother George into Mount Vernon at age 14 and raised him as their son, introduced him to the manners and culture of the Fairfax family and made him the eventual owner of Mount Vernon. Lord Fairfax himself took an interest in young George's education. George William Fairfax became a friend and constant companion.



*George Washington  
1732–1799*

### The Name Alexandria

It was proposed to establish the town on sixty acres immediately surrounding the tobacco warehouse. This land was owned by Philip and John Alexander and one of their in-laws, Hugh West, who ran the warehouse. Philip Alexander filed a petition of protest in Williamsburg, not so much because he opposed creation of a town but because he preferred its being placed on someone else's land. The Assembly set the protest aside and provided that as lots in the town were sold, the Alexander family would be reimbursed.

As an additional gesture of goodwill, the legislators decreed that rather than continuing the name Bellhaven the new town should be named Alexandria.

ibid., p. 8:

### The Congress of Alexandria—1755

In 1755, to end the incursions of French and Indians, the British government sent Major General Edward Braddock to America with two regiments of soldiers and two ships-of-war. Upon arrival in Williamsburg he decided such an important undertaking required formal support of the colonial governments. A three-day conference was arranged to begin in Alexandria April 14, 1755. Five colonial governors came to the new little seaport on the Potomac ... each accompanied by retinues of advisers and servants. British warships anchored in the river, and British soldiers camped on the outskirts of town.

Only one residence was suitable to house the pomp and dignity of what came to be called '*The Congress of Alexandria*'. John and Sarah Fairfax Carlyle opened their new mansion and provided entertainment for the distinguished guests.

The event proved to be of greater significance than anyone then realised. General Braddock was concerned about the expenses of his expedition. The several governors offered no hope that sufficient funds could be provided by their colonies, either individually or collectively. General Braddock finally sent to London a recommendation that Parliament itself would have to impose taxes on the Americans to meet the costs of defence. When Parliament subsequently did enact levies, the colonists rose up against '*taxation without representation*' and the drive for Independence began.

19 April 1775

**Revolutionary War** in America began. The attempt by British troops to seize American guns, gunpowder and ammunition in April 1775 instigated the start of hostilities in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts. Thus began open armed conflict between the Kingdom of Great Britain and thirteen of its colonies. The phrase '*the shot heard around the world*' refers to the first shot fired in the America Revolution.



The War of Independence—April 1775 to November 1783—was fought while John lived in Alexandria. We know from *Hinshaw* records that John was disowned by the Quakers for hiring a substitute for the army, although the records are silent as to the date he was disowned: ... 'John was dis hiring a substitute for the Army' (in which he served in 1777)'. However, *Hinshaw* goes on to indicate that the Society reinstated him in 1782: ... [John] was rst 28-12-1782.

At the outbreak of hostilities with the British in 1775 John was twenty-two years old. His involvement in the militia caused him to be ostracised from the Society of Friends until his reinstatement in 1782 at the age of thirty. This may be why he did not marry until 1784 when he was thirty-two. Such was the dilemma of many Quakers who were exemplary American citizens but obliged by their doctrine to reject all war and violence. Many, like John, while devout believers in their faith in every sense, succumbed to





patriotic fervour. Citizens had to fulfil a government requirement for military duty. While most of the Quakers community resisted, John, it would appear, not only performed some military service but also purchased a substitute in order to satisfy the government requirements, a not uncommon practice amongst those financially able to afford it.

Some Quakers, like Captain John Harper, decided to cast their lot with the war effort. His partner, William Hartshorne, John's brother-in-law, would have nothing to do with the revolutionary activities. For the American Quakers, the last half of the eighteenth century was known as a period of reformation and Quietism. The move to reform the Society to a more inward and reflective organisation was precipitated by the Pennsylvania crisis of 1756, when Friends were forced, because of their anti-war beliefs, to relinquish political control of the colony. These events affected Quakers throughout the colonies, with the result that the organisation became less worldly, more separate, and sect-like. Discipline was tightened and the requirements for membership were strengthened.



George III  
1760–1820

The Yearly Meeting looked upon Quaker marriages with affection and tenderness, yet established very formal rules for selection of a wife, for courtship, and for the marriage ceremony. 'Marrying out of Meeting' was indeed just cause for being disowned by the society. The reason behind this thinking was that as marriage implied union, the couple would be 'disunited in the main point', from their religion.



Quaker education usually stressed practical learning with some religious indoctrination. There was little concern with higher education; there were no Friends' colleges until the 1850s. Quakers were, for the most part, opposed to the theological training found in the curriculum of the Universities. Therefore, formal education for Quaker youth was probably completed by age 14, when apprenticeship to a trade or training as an artisan was begun. John would have followed these traditions in his training as a carpenter.

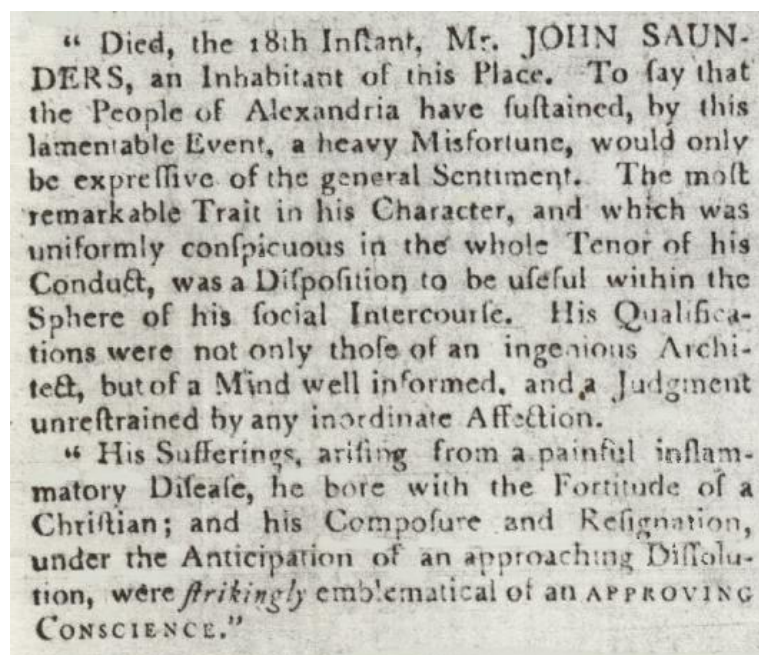
Some of the foregoing information on Quakers was extracted from *Robert Hartshorne Miller 1798–1874—A Quaker Presence in Alexandria*, an MA thesis by Perry Carpenter Swain. A copy is housed in the Barrett Branch Library in Alexandria.

14 July 1789

**The French Revolution** began with the storming of the *Bastille* after Louis XVI called for the States-General, the French national assembly, to provide money for his bankrupt government. France had provided considerable aid to the Americans during their revolution and now the king's treasury was empty. The *Bastille* was a fortress prison and hated symbol of oppression of the people. The revolution ended in 1799 when Napoleon Bonaparte became first consul of France.



**John<sup>5</sup> Saunders died on 18 May 1790 in Alexandria.** He was seven months short of his 38th birthday. The *Alexandria Gazette* on 20 May 1790 published the following obituary:



“ Died, the 18th Instant, Mr. JOHN SAUNDERS, an Inhabitant of this Place. To say that the People of Alexandria have sustained, by this lamentable Event, a heavy Misfortune, would only be expressive of the general Sentiment. The most remarkable Trait in his Character, and which was uniformly conspicuous in the whole Tenor of his Conduct, was a Disposition to be useful within the Sphere of his social Intercourse. His Qualifications were not only those of an ingenious Architect, but of a Mind well informed, and a Judgment unrestrained by any inordinate Affection.

“ His Sufferings, arising from a painful inflammatory Disease, he bore with the Fortitude of a Christian; and his Composure and Resignation, under the Anticipation of an approaching Dissolution, were strikingly emblematical of an APPROVING CONSCIENCE.”

**The Last Will and Testament of John<sup>5</sup> Saunders** is dated 13 May 1790, five days before his death. This Will and the Executors Declaration and Inventory of Assets which follows is in the handwriting of the Court Clerk as found in the *Alexandria County VA Complete Records, Vol. A 1786–1800* and was provided by the late Ruth Lincoln Kaye, a researcher and historian in Alexandria.

We can reasonably guess that John was very ill at the time this Will was executed, given that he died five days later. His cause of death is a mystery as it is difficult to ascribe a satisfactory medical explanation to what in 1790 was called a painful inflammatory disease.

I, JOHN SAUNDERS, of the Town of Alexandria do make and ordain this to be my last Will and Testament in manner and form following:

IMPRIMIS. I give and Devise unto my wife Mary the use of all my Estate real and personal, until my Daughter Sarah arrives to the age of twenty-one years, for the purpose of bringing up and Educating my children in a manner suitable to my Circumstances at which time I do give and Devise unto my said Daughter and to her Heirs and Assigns forever one equal fifth part of my said Estate to be assigned and allotted her out of the whole and the rest of my said Estate I do in like manner give the use unto my said wife until my son Peter shall arrive to the age of Twenty one years at which time I do give and devise unto my said son Peter and to his Heirs and Assigns forever one other fifth part of my said Estate to be Assigned and allotted him out of what is then in the Hands of my said wife and the residue of my said Estate I give the use of unto my said wife Mary until my son David arrives to the age of twenty-one years at which time I give unto my said Son David his Heirs and Assigns forever one other fifth part of my said Estate to be assigned him out of what is in my said wife's hands and the other TWO fifths of my said Estate I do give and Devise unto my said wife Mary during her natural Life and after her death I give and devise the same unto my Children, the said Sarah, Peter and David their Heirs and Assigns forever, to be equally divided among them.

ITEM. It is my Will and desire that if any of my said Children shou'd depart this life before such Child attains the age of twenty-one years and without Issue that in such case upon my eldest Child arriving to the age of twenty one years, one third of my said Estate instead of one fifth be Assigned unto such Child and in like manner when my other Child comes of age that one third instead of one fifth of my said Estate be assigned to the said Child.

ITEM. In case my Daughter Sarah shou'd Marry before she arrives to the age of twenty one years It is my Will and Desire that a part of the proportion of my Estate be then put into her hands to enable her to begin the world with the greater convenience -- such part to be considered as so much of her dividend of my whole Estate.

ITEM. Whereas I have some pieces of Ground in the Town of Alexandria unoccupied and unimproved I do hereby authorise and empower my Executors HEREIN after named whenever they can grant the said Lotts or any of them for what shall appear to them a proper rent, to grant the same forever with the usual clauses of distress and re-entry for non-payment of the rent which shall be so reserved, and do give full power and authority to my said Executors or such of them as may act and to the survivor or survivors of such acting Executors to grant all or any of my unimproved pieces of Ground for such annual rents as to such Executor or Executors shall appear a sufficient Compensation for the ground.

ITEM. It is my Will and Desire that all my Just debts shou'd be fully satisfied and paid and for that purpose if my Personal Estate shou'd not prove sufficient without depriving my wife and Children of such articles as may be necessary for the support I do hereby authorise and empower my Executors or such of them as my act and the Survivor or Survivors of such acting Executors to sell such part and so much of my real Estate as may be necessary to satisfy and pay such Debts.

ITEM. It is further my Will and Desire that in case two of my Children shou'd die without Issue before they arrive to the age of twenty-one years THAT then the Survivor of my said Children shall upon coming to the age of Twenty-one years have one half of my said Estate assigned unto him or her and my wife retain the other half during her Life and in case all of my Children shall die before they come to the age of twenty-one years without Issue, I then give and Devise all my said Estate real and personal unto my said Wife during her natural Life and after her death I give and Devise the whole of my said Estate unto the Children of my several sisters who may be born or living at that time to have and to hold the same unto such Children their Heirs and assigns forever to be equally divided among them but in case my said wife should marry again and have Children by such second marriage I then give one third of my said Estate to my said Wife her Heirs and Assigns forever and the other two thirds to the children of my several sisters as before mentioned to be equally divided among them.

ITEM. I nominate and appoint my wife Mary Executrix and my friends William Hartshorne, Benjamin Shreeve and John Butcher Executors of this my last Will and Testament and I do hereby revoke and annul [*sic*] all former and other Wills by me hereinbefore made Declaring THIS and no other to be my last Will and Testament. IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 13th. day of the fifth Month 1790.

Signed, Sealed, Published and	)	
Declared by the said Testator to be his	)	John Saunders (Seal)
Last Will and Testament in presence	)	
of... the name / Mary / being twice erased	)	
and the name / Sarah / interlined	)	
the word / fourth / in the second page	)	
erased and the word / third / interlined	)	
in the place of it and the words / to be	)	
equally divided among them/ in the third	)	
page interlined before Sealing & Delivery	)	

Ja. Keith, John Dowdall  
Robert Lyle

*Alexandria, Virginia - Wills, Administrations and Guardianships 1786-1800* by Wesley E. Pippenger, p. 41:

... **appoint my wife Mary, Executrix** and my friends William Hartshorne Benjamin Schreve and John Butcher Executors; dated 13 5th Mo.1790, /s/ John Saunders; wit. Jas Keith, John Dowdall and Robert Lyle, pp. 24-28; proved 24 AUG 1790, p. 28; Mary Saunders, William Hartshorne and George Gilpin, bound to justices of the Court of Hustings to take inventory, 24 AUG 1790, pp.29-30; bond acknowledged 24 AUG 1790, p30; inventory by George Gilpin, William Patton and Jonah Thompson, dated 15 JAN 1791, returned 21 JUL 1791, pp. 43-48.

**At a Court of Hustings Cont'd and held for the Town of Alexandria 24th August 1790.**

This Will was presented in Court of Mary Saunders, William Hartshorne and John Butcher, Executrix and Executors herein named who made solemn Affirmation thereto and the same being proved by the Oath of Robert Lyle who also deposed that he saw James Keith and John Dowdall subscribe the same as witnesses in his presence and at the request of the said Testator the same is admitted to record and they having performed what the Laws require a Certificate is Granted them for obtaining a probate thereof in due form.

Josf. G. Deneale D.A.

KNOW ALL MEN by these presents that we Mary Saunders, William Hartshorne, John Butcher, William Patton, Benjamin Shreeve and George Gilpin are held and firmly bound to Dennis Ramsey, Philip Marsteller, Jesse Taylor, Huey Winsor and William Duvall, Gentlemen Justices of the Court of Hustings now sitting in the sum of three Thousand Pounds, to the payment whereof well and truly to be made to the said Justices and their successors we bind ourselves and each of us our and each of our Heirs, Executors and Administrators jointly and severally, firmly by these presents, sealed with our seals this 24th day of August 1790.

THE CONDITION of this Obligation is such that if the said Mary Saunders, William Hartshorne, and John Butcher Executors of the last Will and Testament of John Saunders deceased, do make a true and perfect Inventory of all and singular the Goods, Chattles [*sic*] and Credits of the said deceased which have or shall come to the hands possession or Knowledge of them the said Mary, William and John, or into the hands or possession of any other person or persons for them and the same so made do exhibit into the said Court of Hustings for the Town of Alexandria at such time as they shall be thereunto required by the said Court and the same goods, Chattles [*sic*] and Credits do well and truly ADMINISTER according to Law, and make a Just and true account of their actions and doings therein when thereto required by the said Court and further do well and truly pay and deliver all the legacies contained and specified in the said Will as far as the said Goods Chattles [*sic*] and Credits will extend according to the value thereof and the Law shall charge then this obligation to be void else to remain in full force.

Seal & Delivered  
in the presence of  
The Court

Mary Saunders	Seal
Will. Hartshorne	Seal
John Butcher	Seal
George Gilpin	Seal
Wm. Patton	Seal
* Benjamin Shreve	Seal

At a Court of Hustings Cont'd & held for the Town of Alexandria 24th Aug. 1790 Mary Saunders, William Hartshorne, John Butcher, William Patton & George Gilpin and Benjamin Shreeve acknowledged this bond to be their act and Deed which is ordered to be recorded.

Josf. G. Deneale D.A.

\* Note: The spelling of the name 'Shreve' is inconsistent throughout the records. Sometimes it is spelt 'Shreeve', sometimes 'Shreve' and other times 'Shrieve' or 'Schreve'

**ALEXANDRIA CORPORATION Jsp**

Be it Remembered that on the 11th June 1791 personally appeared George Gilpin Esq. and being duly sworn and William Patton and Jonah Thompson having affirmed according to Law, that they will well and truly Inventory and appraise all and singular the estate of John Saunders deceased so far as shall come to their view, and that to the best of their skill and understanding.

Done before me the day above said.  
Philip Marsteller

**INVENTORY of the estate of John Saunders** deceased appraised by George Gilpin, William Patton and Jonah Thompson they being duly qualified.

One feather Bed, Bolster, pillow & sheet/Blanket & Quilt	2	5	0
" Beadstead— [ <i>sic</i> ] and sacking bottom		6	0
" Old Iron grate		7	6
2 Falling axes 9/-, about 5m Sprogs 10/-, 3 Smiths files 1/6	1	0	6
2 1 and a half Inch Augers, 6 flat files, 3 gouges, 1 small Hammer	10	0	
2 Plain Bills 1/4, 1 brass Knocker, 1 gimblet 2/6, 1 coal Chissill [ <i>sic</i> ] and Punch 1/6		6	0
1 Turners gauge, a few sprigs and Chalk line		1	0
2 Striped Coverlets 2/-, 2 Old Blankets 2/-		4	0
1 Saddle and 1 pair Saddle Bags 28/-, 1 pr old Boots 2/6	1	10	6
1 Feather bed, bolster and 2 pillows	4	0	0
1 pr Sheets, 3 Blankets and Coverlet	2	0	0
1 Bedstead and sacking bottom	1	10	0
1 Feather Bed, Bolster and pillows (all old)	2	10	0
1 pr Sheets & Blankets, 1 Calico Coverlet	1	14	0
2 pr Window Curtains, very old		3	0
1 Bedside Carpet about 1 yard		1	0
1 Sett Bed and 2 pr Window Curtains and frame	5	12	0
Bureau of Walnut	2	10	0
Wareing [ <i>sic</i> ] apparel	8	12	0
1 pr Silver Shoe Buckles, 1 pr Knee Ditto, 1 Stock Ditto	1	0	0
1 pr Gold Sleeve [ <i>sic</i> ] buttons		18	0
1 Silver Watch	4	0	0
1 Dressing Glass 4/-, 1 pine Chest 2/6		6	6
1 Feather Bed, Bolster and 2 Pillows	4	0	0
1 pr Sheets, 1 pr Rose Blankets and Coverlet	2	18	0
1 Bed Quilt 12/-, 1 Courdepain 16/-	1	8	0
1 Bed Stead and Sacking Bottom	2	10	0
9 Old Sheets	1	12	0
9 rl Spinning Cotton 13/6, 7 Draper tablecloths 46/-	2	19	6
1 Chest Drawers of Maple 40/-	2	0	0
8 Pillow Cases 8/-, 14 Towels 7/-, 5 large ditto 5/-	1	0	0
1 Large pine Chest 8/-, 1 pine Table 2/6, 1 Looking Glass 6/-		11	0
1 Knife Box with ten knives and 12 forks also 1 set brakefast [ <i>sic</i> ]		8	0
2 Small Tea Cannesters [ <i>sic</i> ] 1/6, 1 Case and 11 Bottle 3/9,		12	9
30 Black Bottles 3d		15	0
1 Sacking Bottom Bedstead		12	0
1 desk and Book Case		4	10
1 Round Tea Table 12/-, 6 Arm Chairs 48/-, 1 Looking Glass 30/-		3	??
waiters 10/-, 1 Dozen Cups and )		4	1
Dozen Saucers of China. )		5	Coffee ditto, 15 Butter plates and wash bowl Tea Pot )
and Sugar dish 20/- )		6	China Cups and saucers, 5 Ditto Bowles, 1 ditto Sugar dish, )
4 ditto plates, 2 Queen ware Coffee Pots, 12 ditto plates, )		1	4
2 Dishes, 15 large and small plates )		2	Read China Tea pots )
3 Glass mugs 3/-, ditto Tumblers 3/-		6	0
23 ? 18 ? Plate @ 6/8	7	19	4
1 Diening [ <i>sic</i> ] Table 20/-, 1 Card ditto 12/-, 1*Stand 6/-	1	18	0
7 Large arm Chair, 6 Windsor ditto 38/-, 2 Children's do.8/-	2	6	0
1 Large Looking Glass 30/-, 1 Cradle 8/- )		1	Decanter and 3 Wine Glasses and Cruets 5/- )
1 Pr Hand Irons with brass heads 15/-, 1 Shovel & Tongs 12/-	1	7	0
1 Cloth Brush		2	0
<b>1 LARGE FAMILY BIBLE</b>		10	0
2 Volumes Collection of designs in Architecture	3	0	0

2 Builders Assistant 15/-, 1 ditto Repository 12/-	1 7 0
1 Collection of Designs in Architecture unbound	1 0
2 Domestic Memoirs 3/-, Buchan's family Physician 9/-	12 0
1 John Griffith's Journal 4/6, Sabbath of Rest 1/6	6 0
1 Homer's Iliad 3/6, 1 Catechism 1/-	4 6
1 John Churchman's Journal 9d, Collection of memorials 3/-	3 9
1 London art of Building 6/-, Tour of Great Britain 1/-	7 0
1 Evans Poem 1/6, Geographical Grammar 6/-	7 6
1 Latin Dictionary 6/-, Vol. Salust 4/6, Virgil 6/-	16 6
1 Cornelius Nepos 1/6, Justin 4/6, Ovid 3/-, Eutropea 1/-	10 0
1 Caesars Commentaries 3/-, Selecta Eprofanus 2/6	5 6
1 English and Latin Exercise 1/-, Introduction to making Latin 9/-	1 9
2 Latin Grammars 1/-, Corderia 1/-, Latin Testament 2/-	4 0
" Catoe's Mordas 9d, Greek Grammar 1/3	2 0
" English Epositor [ <i>sic</i> ] 1/-, Madam Guion 1/-	2 0
" part of a case of Instruments	8 0
1 pr Gold Schales [ <i>sic</i> ] and Weights and Shaving Box	10 6
1 Scotch Carpet 10/-, 1 Pine Table 3/-, 2 Pr Sad Irons 5/-	8 0
2 Large and 2 small Pewter basins 6/-, 2 doz. do Plates 16/-	1 2 0
3 Pint Pewter pots 3/-, 1 Pewter funnel 2/6	5 6
1 Cullender [ <i>sic</i> ] 1/6, 6 tin Patterpans 1/-, 1 pr brass and	
1 pr Iron Candlesticks	10 0
1 Bellmettle Kettle 16/-, 1 Old Coffee Pot 2/6	18 6
1 Copper Tea Kettle 4/6, 1 pr Snuffers 6d, 5 Kitchen Chairs 5/-	18 6
1 Cleaver Bread Toaster, Flesh forks, Scues, Skimmer and mild Strainer	6 6
1 Gred iron, 1 pr Cast Hand Irons 10/6, 1 pr Steel yards 8/-	8 6
1 Copper Tea Kettle and Brass Kettle 3/-, 1 Old Dutch Oven 3/-	6 0
2 Iron Potts 6/-, 1 Coffee Mill 3/-, 1 pr tin Schales & Weights 5/6,	
1 Hare line 2/6	17 0
1 Chaffing Dish, 1 Spit 4/6, 1 Iron pot Black 4/6, 1 Iron Kettle 8/-	17 0
1 Double Chair and Harness	3 0 0
1 Young Spotted cow 80/-, Old Brindle Ditto 50/-	6 10 0
1 Grind stone Handle and Frame	2 0
1 Old Tea Table	6 0
2 Fire Buckets and 1 Bag	1 0 0
1 Sett [ <i>sic</i> ] Hallows and Rounds, 32 plains	2 0 0
1 Ditto Door 5 Ditto	12 6
1 Ditto Cornish 4 Ditto	12 0
1 Ditto Ditto 5 Ditto	1 0 0
1 Ditto hand Bale 4 Ditto	12 0
2 Ditto inside Cornish 4 Ditto	16 0
1 Ditto Sash 2 Ditto and 2 Chissils [ <i>sic</i> ]	8 0
4 Ogea Plains large	10 0
4 Ditto Ditto less	8 0
4 Quarter Rounds ditto	6 0
5 Ovalour Ditto	15 0
1 mantle ditto	4 0
1 Ogea and round ditto	3 4
4 Articles Ditto	10 0
4 Beeds Ditto	8 0
1 Picture frame, 1 Round, 1 Beledion, 1 Moving Plaster, 1 Side )	
1 Sprout Round, 1 Block, 1 Hallo )	15 0
2 standing Pilaster Ditto 10 in all )	
4 gruing Plains make 2 Setts	10 0
7 Gouges 2/4, Smoothing Plain 2/-	4 4
1 Glue pot and Screw	10 0

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TOTAL ... £ 138 5 6

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ALEXANDRIA Jsp.

In Obedience to an order of the Worshipfull [*sic*] Court of Fairfax dated August 1790. These are to certify that the above Inventory contains a true list of all the goods belonging to the estate of John Saunders deceased which were presented to our view as aforesaid, as witness our hands this 15th January 1791.

George Gilpin  
Jonah Thompson  
William Patton

At a Court of Hustings held for the Town of Alexandria 21 July 1791. This Inventory and appraisalment of the estate of John Saunders deceased was returned and ordered to be recorded.

Josf. G. Deneale D.A.

The value of John's assets seems surprisingly low. One might have thought he would have accumulated a more substantial worth during his sixteen years in Alexandria. And his estate even includes, as was the custom, all the various domestic household items.

However, the list of assets only includes personal effects and does not take into account his real estate holdings in Alexandria. *Alexandria Hustings Court, Deed Book N, 1799–1800*:

... WHEREAS John Saunders owned several pieces of property which his will directed to be sold by his executors. ...

It also has to be remembered that Quakers were very plain living and maintained a simple, down-to-earth lifestyle. They dressed simply, avoiding fancy frills and laces and the like. While many would have been regarded as well-to-do businessmen and merchants, an ostentatious display of wealth was something they avoided. They discouraged having their likeness painted or illustrated which is something of a disappointment for the genealogist searching for images of Quaker ancestors.

*Artisans and Merchants of Alexandria, Virginia 1780–1820*, Volume 1, compiled by T. Michael Miller, Alexandria Library, Lloyd House p. xix:

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW  
OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 1780–1820

**Population:**

1790: Total – 2,748; white, 2,153; black, 595 being free black, 52 and slave, 543  
1800: Total – 4,971; white, 3,727; black, 1,244 being free black, 369 and slave, 875  
1810: Total – 7,227; white, 4,903; black, 2,324 being free black, 836 and slave, 1,488  
1820: Total – 8,218; white, 5,515; black, 2,603 being free black 1,168 and slave 1,435

2 April 1792

**US adopts decimal currency.** The dollar became the basic unit of money in the United States through the Coinage Act of 1792 following a suggestion by Alexander Hamilton (1755–1804) in 1791 to establish a national currency. It was copied after the Spanish dollar then being widely circulated in America. The first United States silver dollars were coined in 1794. It had an eagle on the back and a liberty head on the front.



**Mary (Pancoast) Saunders married Philip Wanton on 31 May 1792**

Two years after John's death, his widow Mary married the Quaker Philip Wanton, a prominent Ironmonger in Alexandria. He was born in 1 April 1762 in Rhode Island. He was the son of Philip Wanton Sr. and his wife Sarah and was probably related to the Wanton family connected to William Redwood who married Joseph Saunders's eldest daughter Sarah<sup>5</sup>. They were also from Rhode Island (→ see Chapter 2).

*Hinshaw*, Vol. VI, Fairfax Monthly Meeting, p. 555:

## SAUNDERS

Mary, widow of John Saunders, dt David and Sarah Pancoast  
m 31–5–1792 at Fairfax MH, Philip WANTON of Alexandria, Fairfax Co. Va.  
s. Philip & Sarah Wanton, the former dec. of Rhode Island. (A Committee  
appointed to secure the rights of her ch by her 1st husb John Saunders, dec.).

*ibid.*, Vol. VI, Alexandria Monthly Meeting, p. 775:

## SAUNDERS

Mary (Pancoast), wd of John Saunders, & dt, of David & Sarah Pancoast;  
m 31–5–1792 at Fairfax MH, Va., Philip WANTON, as her 2nd h  
(see Wanton) Note. She had 6 ch by her 1st h. John Saunders.

*ibid.*, Vol. VI, p. 769:

## PANCOAST

Mary, dt David & Sarah Pancoast, Frederick Co., Va., & wd of John  
SAUNDERS (whom she had m 1<sup>st</sup> at Crooked Run MH, Va., 9–4–1783);  
m (2) 1792 at Fairfax MH, Va., Philip WANTON, mbr of that mtg (See Wanton).  
(Note. She had 6 ch by her 1<sup>st</sup> h, John Saunders & 3 ch by her 2d h, Philip Wanton.

*ibid.*, Vol. VI, p. 789:

## WANTON

Philip rocf Newport MM, R.I., MM, Va., 25–9–1790, dtd 25–5–1790;  
m Mary (Pancoast) SAUNDERS, wd of John Saunders, 31–5–1792  
at Fairfax MH, VA (she was dt of David & Sarah Pancoast, Frederick Co., Va.  
& she m 1t at Crooked Run MH, 9–4–1783 John Saunders; Fairfax MM  
appointed a comm to 'protect the interest of her ch' when she m Philip  
Wanton); Philip & Mary (PANCOAST-SAUNDERS) Wanton were charter  
mbr of Alex MM, 1802. Philip was dis 24–4–1806 by Alex MM for 'taking too  
much spirituous liquors' 'after long care and admonishment';  
Mary d 26–11–1846 ae 84y  
Ch: of Philip & Mary Wanton:  
Hannah b 1793; d 13–10–1860 ae 67y  
William R. gct Balt. MM, Md 25-1-1816  
Mary H. m 26–9–1833 John R. Pierpoint  
Mary (PANCOAST-SAUNDERS) Wanton had 6 ch by her 1st h, John Saunders.

William R. Wanton married Mary E.? and went to Baltimore in 1816. They had four children:

Julia C.	married Joseph Wheeler
Hannah S.	married John Jay Washburn
Mary	married Edgar E. Harper
Virginia	

*ibid.*, Vol. VI, Fairfax Monthly Meeting, p. 577:

## WANTON

Philip of Alexandria, Va., s Philip & Sarah Wanton of Rhode Island, the former dec,  
rocf New Port MM, R.I. 25–9–1790 dated 25–5–1790 m 31–5–1792 at Fairfax MM.



Mary (PANCOAST) SAUNDERS, widow of John Saunders, dec, late of Frederick Co., Va. (A Com appointed to secure the rights of her ch by her 1<sup>st</sup> h, John Saunders dec) (Note: Philip and Mary (PANCOAST-SAUNDERS) Wanton, then living at Alexandria, Va. were automatically transferred as Charter members to the new Alexandria MM, Va. & D.C.) (NB: Mary had 6 ch by her 1<sup>st</sup> h, John SAUNDERS & 3 ch by her 2<sup>nd</sup> h, Philip WANTON.

ibid., Vol. VI, Alexandria Monthly Meeting, p. 789:

WANTON

Mary H., dt Philip & Mary Wanton, the form dec;  
m 26-9-1833 John R. PIERPONT (See Pierpont).

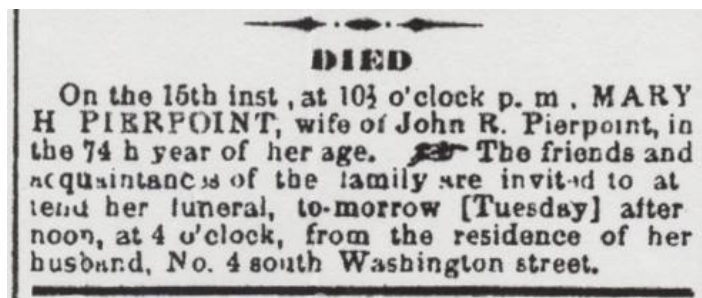
ibid., Vol. VI, p. 771:

PIERPONT

John R. rocf Hopewell MM, Va., 21-4-1825, dtd 6-1-1825; d 1880, s Obed & Esther Pierpoint, Loudon Co., the form dec, the latter giving consent; m 26-9-1833 at Alex MH, D.C., Mary H. WANTON, "d", dt Philip & Mary Wanton, of Alex., Va., the form dec, the latter giving consent

Ch: Wm. Henry b 17-1-1835 d 31-1-1835  
William W. " 4-3-1836 d 12-8-1842  
John Edwin " 23-3-1841; dis non-attendance 6-5-1880 [d 1895]

Mary Hartshorne Wanton who married John R. Pierpoint in 1833 was born 1801 and died 15 October 1876. Her death was reported in the *Alexandria Gazette* the following day:



(Note: The spelling of the name Pierpont varies. *Hinshaw* records mostly have Pierpont. The obituary above spells the name Pierpoint.)

The following information was provided by researcher Ruth Lincoln Kaye.

David Pancoast, Mary Saunders Wanton's father, built a 2- story frame house with cover-way leading to a wooden kitchen between 1785 and 1786 at 302 South St. Asaph Street. When David died around 1786 he willed the house to Mary (her second husband Philip Wanton later becoming, through his marriage to Mary, a party to this legacy). However his widow, Sarah, had '*dower rights*' which at that time entitled her to one-third of her late husband's property during her lifetime.

Philip Wanton was an ironmonger at the time of his marriage to Mary Pancoast Saunders in 1792. Besides items of iron, he sold glass, glue, brass, white metal, pewter, cabinet furniture, carpenter's tools, saddlery, looking glasses, cutlery and furniture for coaches. He must have been a citizen of note, as in 1801 he was appointed an overseer of the poor. Two years later he was declared a bankrupt, whether because he was a poor manager or because of the economy of the times is not known. Philip Wanton owed his mother-in-law (Sarah Pancoast) \$950 which he had borrowed from her, and gave her the title to the house at 302 Asaph Street.

On February 27, 1804, he was grantor of a mortgage to Sarah Pancoast to whom he was indebted for \$950. He covenanted that he would pay her back by October 1, 1805, or she could claim the following items:

Two featherbeds, bolsters, etc	1 small point [ <i>sic</i> ] ditto
1 pair half-circle mahogany tables	2 pair silver porridgers
1 Beureau [ <i>sic</i> ]	1 eight day clock
1 mahogany stand	1 large mahogany table
1 armchair	Chintz curtains for 3 windows
1 large looking glass	1 sideboard
2 high posted bedsteads	1 set of Teachins
1 mahogany table	2 stoves
1 cribb [ <i>sic</i> ]	settee or chair
1 steel and 1 brass fender	1 secretary or writing desk
2 pair brass andirons	1 riding chair
1 large quart silver tankard	2 milch cows

These items are detailed in order to show that the Wantons were of a high-class family with many fine furnishings.

It is doubtful that Philip Wanton ever repaid Sarah Pancoast, as she is listed as the owner of the house in an insurance policy of 1816.

On September 21, 1804, Philip and Mary bought out Sarah's dower rights to the house at 302 South St. Asaph Street. They paid her \$100 and let her live in the house the rest of her natural life. The deed reads: '*... whereas David Pancoast died leaving Mary and Philip his only children and heirs to whom the property descended and the said Sarah Pancoast has dower rights therein during her life ...*'. This transaction does not seem to have altered the ownership of the house which remained with Sarah until her death in 1819.

Life though was not easy for Philip Wanton. In 1806 he was dismissed from the Society of Friends for excessive drinking. He seems to have recovered from this blunder, as on July 25, 1807, he opened a school for young women in a frame house at 216 Prince Street, where he taught reading, writing, arithmetic, geography and grammar.

Sarah Pancoast, who died in 1819, willed the house at 302 South St. Asaph Street to her daughter Mary and her children with Joseph Janney, Quaker trustee, holding. It appears that David and Sarah Pancoast never lived in the house together. Sarah may have lived there between 1804 and 1819. The Wanton family, who owned the property from 1819 to 1877, a span of 58 years, did not live there either, the property being continually rented out. After Mary Saunders Wanton's death in 1846 one or more of her children may have taken up residence.

In 1877 after much neglect, the house was bought by Emanuel Francis, who had paid the heirs of William Wanton, Mary's son, \$100 for the house. Somehow, **John<sup>7</sup> Henry Saunders**, the grandson of John Saunders and Mary Wanton, now a successful attorney in California, heard about this sale and took Emanuel Francis and William Wanton's heirs to Chancery Court in 1879. He was awarded \$500 in the suit.

Between 1879 and 1885 Emanuel Francis enlarged the house to three stories. From 1918 to 1931 it was owned by a spinster named Mary Elizabeth Slaymaker who ran a boarding house there. The property was recently (1999) sold for \$800,000.

The Pancoast, Wantons and Saunders families were all Quakers and were buried in a cemetery which now lies under the Queen Street Library.

### **Dower Rights** – *an explanation*

Under English common law and in colonial America, dower was the share of a deceased husband's real estate to which his widow was entitled after his death. After the widow's death, the real estate was then inherited as designated in her deceased husband's will; she had no rights to sell or bequeath the property independently. She did have rights to income from the dower during her lifetime, including rents and any income from crops grown on the land.

One-third was the share of her late husband's real property to which dower rights entitled her; the husband could increase the share beyond one-third in his will.

Where a mortgage or other debts offset the value of real estate and other property at the husband's death, dower rights meant that the estate could not be settled and the property could not be sold until the widow's death.

Sarah Pancoast, née Marll, mother-in-law of John Saunders, died in 1819. Her Last Will and Testament recorded in the Alexandria Will Book 2, p. 298, is dated 16 April 1819 and was supplied by researcher Ruth Lincoln Kaye.

I Sarah Pancoast of the Town of Alexandria and District of Columbia do hereby make my last will and in manner and form following that is to say:

In the first place I will and desire that all my just debts be paid.

And after the payment of my debts I give, bequeath and devise all the rest of my Estate both real and personal of what nature or kind so ever it may be unto John Janney of Alexandria and his heirs, in trust however for the use of my daughter Mary Wanton for and during the term of her natural life. That is to say that my said Daughter is to have the entire use, possession and profits of my said Estate for her maintenance and support, but in all respects to be free from the debts or control of her husband. And after the decease of my said Daughter further in trust, that my said Estate be equally divided among her six children **Sarah Talbott, Peter Saunders, David Saunders**, Hannah S. Wanton, William R. Wanton & Mary Wanton and should either of the said children die before the decease of their mother Mary Wanton, then in that and every such case, such child's portion to go to the persons and in the same proportion as is prescribed by the act directing the manner and course of distribution of Intestates Estates.

And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my friend John Janney executor of this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking all other former Wills and Testaments by me made. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affix my seal this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and nineteen.

Signed, sealed, published and  
declared as for the last Will  
& Testament of the above manner  
Sarah Pancoast in the presence of us  
Rich<sup>d</sup>. H. Little  
Geo. S. Hough  
Edw. C. Fletcher

District of Columbia

Be it remembered that on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May 1819 before me Alexander Moore Register Wills for the County of Alexandria in the District of Columbia, Came George S. Hough and Edward C. Fletcher two of the subscribing Witnesses to the foregoing Last Will and Testament of Sarah Pancoast deceased and proved the same in due form of law.

A. Moore  
Reg. Wills

oOo

### **Philip Wanton appointed guardian John & Mary's children**

*Court of Hustings, Alexandria, Virginia Wills, Administrations and Guardianships*, pp. 233–234:

**Know all men** by these presents that we Philip Wanton, Samuel Craig, Alexander Smith and John T. Ricketts are held and firmly bound to Francis Peyton, Abram Faw, John Dundas and John Mandeville Gent. Justices of the County of Hustings their Heirs and Successors in the Sum of Ten thousand Dollars Current Money of Virginia. To the payment whereof well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves and each of us for the whole, and in the whole our and each of our Heirs, Executors and Administrators, Jointly and Severally firmly by these presents sealed with our seals and dated this 5th day of September 1797.

The Condition of the above Obligation is such that if the above bound Philip Wanton, Guardian of **Sarah, Peter and David Sanders** [*sic*] their Executors and Administrators do and shall well and truly pay unto the said Orphans all such Estate and Estates as now is, or hereafter shall come to the hands or possession of the said Philip as soon as the said Orphan Attains to lawful Age or when thereto required by the said Court of Hustings shall well and truly save harmless and indemnified the said Justices their Heirs and Successors from all trouble and damage that shall or may Arrise [*sic*] about the said Estate, then this Obligation to be void and of non effect, Else to remain in full force and Virtue.

Sealed & Delivered	Philip Wanton	LS
in presence of	Saml. Craig	LS
	Alexr. Smith	LS
	Jno. & Thos. Ricketts	LS

**At a Court of Hustings** held for the Town of Alexandria, Virginia, the 4th day of September 1797.

This Bond was Acknowledged by the within Philip Wanton, Saml. Craig, Alexander Smith and John & Thomas Ricketts and Ordered to be Recorded.

Ed.

Test P. Wagoner ?

In *Book A, Orphan's Court*, pp. 237–238 there are references regarding the grandchildren of Joseph Saunders, late of Philadelphia:

The undersigned respectfully represents to the Honourable the Orphans Court for the District of Alexandria County, that four years since he filed a petition to the Honourable Court of Hustings praying for power to enable him to receive a certain sum of money due to **Sarah, Peter and David Saunders** by the Will of their grandfather Joseph Saunders late of Philadelphia deceased, accordingly, the said Court appointed him guardian to the aforesaid children with power to receive said Money and place it in a more lucrative situation for the sole benefit of the said orphans -- This claim act being admissible on the part of the Executors of the said Joseph Saunders. The order of Court was returned and the Securities who were pleased to sanction the endeavour, were consequently released.

Done Alexandria this 13th day of the 6th month 1803

Philip Wanton

At a session of the Orphans Court for the County of Alexandria the 10th day of January 1804 — Philip Wanton being one of the people called Quakers, presented the above representation in Court, and made solemn affirmation to the truth thereof, and at his request the same ordered to be recorded.

Examined

Cleon Moore, Register



14 May 1804

**Lewis and Clark Expedition.**

Following the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, President Thomas Jefferson authorised Meriwether Lewis (1774–1809) and William Clark (1779–1838), two experienced soldiers and intimately familiar with Indians and general conditions of frontier life, to explore the newly acquired and unchartered territory.

Setting out from St. Louis, Missouri on 14 May 1804, they

reached the Pacific Ocean through the beautiful Columbia River Valley on 17 November 1805. Their success was in no small part attributable to an Indian woman named Sacagawea who served as their guide and interpreter through the Shoshoni Indian country.

Philip Wanton was a good friend of Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick, one of George Washington's physicians. Dr Dick's invitation to Philip Wanton to dinner is quoted in *The Story of OLD TOWN & 'GENTRY ROW' in Alexandria, Virginia* By Robert H. Wilson, pp. 38–39:

216 Prince Street

**Philip Wanton: The Man Invited to Dinner**

A celebrated dinner invitation written in Rhyme by Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick is quoted in most books about Old Town Alexandria:

If you can eat a good fat duck  
 Come up with us and take pot luck,  
 Of whitebacks we have got a pair  
 So plump, so round, so fat, & fair  
 A London Alderman would fight  
 Through pies and tarts to get one bite.  
 Moreover, we have beef or pork  
 That you may use your knife and fork.  
 Come up precisely at two o'clock  
 The door shall open at your knock.  
 The day tho' wet, the streets tho' muddy  
 To keep out the cold we'll have some toddy.  
 And if, perchance, you should get sick,  
 You'll have at hand

Yours  
 E. C. Dick



Dr Elisha Cullen Dick  
 1762–1825

This unusual missive was addressed to Philip Wanton, Dr. Dick's good friend, who lived in a small frame house which once stood at 216 Prince Street. The original invitation turned up some years ago in a treasure trunk in an old Alexandria attic. It is now on exhibit in the museum of the *Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Shop*, where many of the genial Dr. Dick's prescriptions were filled.

Philip Wanton's house disappeared long ago.

The frame building was put up about 1790 by **John Saunders**, a carpenter and another of the Quakers who came from Philadelphia. He was a brother of Susanna Hartshorne, whose husband built the double dwelling next door. John did not live long after that, for a real estate deed of 1796 recites that "*said John Saunders departed this life leaving three children and a widow, Mary, since intermarried with Philip Wanton*".

Wanton was an ironmonger of some prominence in Alexandria, a member of the Quaker meeting and one of the founders of the Alexandria library. Ownership of the property at 216 passed to him and he built behind John Saunders' tiny house a sizeable warehouse to accommodate his business.

In 1993 the late Ruth Lincoln Kaye of Alexandria completed a study of Cottage Farm in Lincolnia, Fairfax County, the country home of Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick from 1819 until his death in 1825 which was published by Alexandria Library in the March-April 1994 edition of the library's publication *Fireside Sentinel*. The following information on Dr Dick's life has been extracted from Kaye's work as well as correspondence held by Alexandria Library from Dr. Dick's great-grandson James A. Pearce, dated 20 August 1885, providing additional details on his ancestor.

Elisha Cullen Dick was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania on 15 March 1762. His father was Archibald Dick who was a very prominent man and bore the rank of Major in the Revolutionary army. Archibald married Mary Barnard and they had two children: Elisha Cullen Dick and Thomas Barnard Dick.

Dr. Dick graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1782 and the following year in October he married Hannah Harmon (1763–1843), the daughter of Jacob and Sarah Harmon of Marcus Hook, Chester County, Pennsylvania. They are said to have been Quakers. Soon afterwards Dr Dick settled in Alexandria where he took over the practice of the ailing Dr William Rumney.

In 1789 Dr. Dick succeeded General Washington as Worshipful Master of the Masonic Lodge No. 22 and as such laid the corner stone of the District of Columbia at Jones Point in Alexandria in 1791. With his Lodge as *Escort of Honor*, he accompanied General Washington and assisted in laying the corner stone of the National Capital in 1793.



*Elisha Cullen Dick*  
c.1790

Dr. Dick was a close friend of George Washington and was one of the three physicians beside Washington's bedside when he died. He opposed at the time the blood letting of Washington which so weakened him and hastened his death, but was over-ruled by the other and older physicians, Dr Gustavus Brown and Dr. James Craik, who had diagnosed the illness as quinsy, which is tonsil related. Dr. Dick's opinion—he was 37 years old at the time—was that the symptoms suggested a violent inflammation of the membranes of the throat and proposed a tracheotomy to relieve the General's difficulty in breathing. This was also over-ruled by the other two doctors as being too radical. They later publicly regretted not taking Dr. Dick's advice. Washington died at 10.20 pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 1799.

Elisha Dick was a fine doctor but woefully inept with his speculative and real estate investments leading in 1801 to his becoming bankrupt and losing his home at 404 Duke Street in Alexandria. Despite his financial woes, the town considered him nevertheless a worthy citizen and he was chosen justice of the peace and coroner in 1802. Two years later in 1804 Dr. Dick became mayor of Alexandria.

Although raised as an Anglican, he joined the Society of Friends, Alexandria Meeting on 20 February 1812. Following Quaker precepts, he manumitted a slave, and is also said to have thrown his duelling pistols into the Potomac River. Later retrieved, they are on display in the archives of George Washington Masonic Temple in Alexandria. In July 1825 Dr. Dick resigned from the Quakers. There had been some controversy regarding his non-attendance at Meeting. At this time he was living at *Cottage Farm* and perhaps too ill—just two months before his death—to travel to town.

*Hinshaw*, Vol. VI, Alexandria Monthly Meeting, p. 738:

DICK

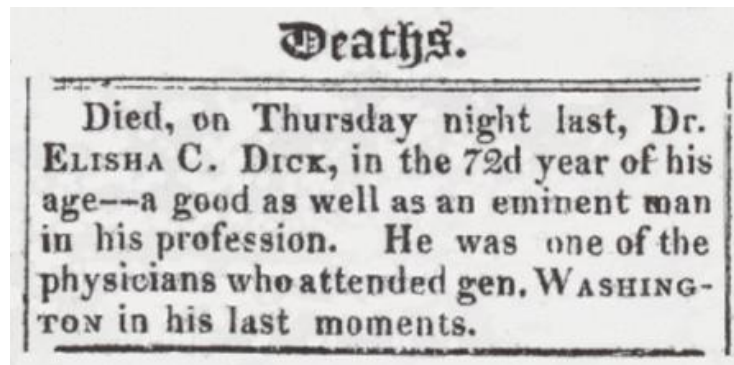
Elisha C. recrq 20–2–1812; resigned 21–7–1825.

Elisha Cullen Dick died 22 September 1825 at his property Cottage Farm. His casket was placed on a funeral wagon and carried the long route to Alexandria, where he was buried in an unmarked grave in the Friends Burying Ground on Queen Street. The Alexandria library now covers the site. A large bronze marker near the South edge of the property bears the following inscription:

<p>Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick 1750 – 1825 Friend and Physician to George Washington Buried near this spot</p>
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The year of his birth was actually March 15, 1762 according to his great-grandson, James A. Pearce. Dr. Dick was aged 63 years and six months at death.

Dr. Dick's passing was reported in the *Alexandria Herald* on 30 September 1825 where his age is misreported, perhaps the cause of the incorrect birth date on the bronze marker mentioned above:



oOo

Philip Wanton applied his talents to various activities – he was at different times a merchant and a school teacher. He also had a chequered business career which may have led to what the Quakers considered excessive drinking resulting in his expulsion from the society.

*Artisans and Merchants of Alexandria, Virginia 1780–1820*, Volume 2, compiled by T. Michael Miller, Alexandria Library, Lloyd House pp. 214–215:

**WANTON, Philip** – Merchant – Prince St.

12/1793, good cotton, ironmongery cutlery; 11/1796, removed his store to that building occupies by Janney and Irish on Prince St; 1796, owned a 2-story frame warehouse occupied by Janney and Irish on the south side of the 200 block of Prince St; 1796, census lists him as a merchant. ... 1803, owned a 2-story frame dwelling occupied by Col. George Deneale on the east side of the 300 block of south St. Asaph St. ... 11/1804, made an assignment of his debts and effects in trust unto Samuel Craig, Thomas Preston and Clement Green for the benefit of his creditors; 4/1805, bankrupt; 1806, dismissed from the Society of Friends for excessive drinking; 1807, by virtue of a deed of trust from Wanton to James Keith and John C. Herbert to secure a debt to the Bank of Alexandria several properties were sold.

**WANTON, Philip** – Teacher – school – 216 Prince St.

7/1807, will receive half a dozen young women of decent department and will teach reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar – a handsome library is at their service containing most of the modern publications; 9/1811, will commence teaching at evening school.

*Portrait of a Town – Alexandria, District of Columbia (Virginia)* by T. Michael Miller, Apprenticeship Indentures:1801–1805, pp. 398 & 405:

DAVIS, MARY, an orphan, be bound to Philip Wanton to learn the art of housekeeper and seamstress; recorded: January 10, 1804

LUCAS, KITTY, aged 11, an orphan, be bound to Philip Wanton to learn common house work; recorded: June 21, 1803

Lorna Anderberg, Alexandria Archaeology Volunteer, *Chronology of Events of the Alexandria Quaker Meeting:*

DISCIPLINARY ACTION TAKEN AGAINST  
QUAKERS OF THE ALEXANDRIA MONTHLY MEETING IN THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

The subject is of importance because it shows that the Alexandria Quakers did not take the removal of a member lightly. No person was excommunicated without making every effort to help the individual overcome his difficulties or to persuade him of the error of his way and encourage him to make amends.

Such was the case with Philip Wanton ...

Dec 20, 1804	Complaint against Philip Wanton from preparative meeting for the "untempered use of spirituous liquors" and not complying with his contracts. Elisha Janney, Wm. Yeates and Wm. Kensworthy appointed to talk with him and to "convince him of the evil & inconsistency of such conduct
Jan 24, 1804	The com. on Wanton satisfied that he will improve. Com. to continue and report next meeting.
Feb 21, 1805	Case of P Wanton continued
Mar 21, 1805	Com. on Philip Wanton request more time to work with him.
Nov 21 1805	Com. on Philip Wanton continues
Jan 23, 1806	Com. states hope for Wanton – case continues
Mar 20, 1806	Com. on Wanton report little progress and testimony against him to be prepared by E. Stabler and John Janney.
Apr. 24, 1806	Testimony against Wanton: "Whereas Philip Wanton has had right of membership amongst us Friends ... has frequently given way to the intempered use of intoxicating liquors ... we do hereby deny Philip Wanton from being any longer a member among us until through devine favour he may be able to see the impropriety of his conduct and by a heart felt reformation be qualified and disposed to condemn the same to the satisfaction of this meeting." (... appear in minutes) Phineas Janney and George Drinker to furnish him with copy and inform him of his privilege of appeal.
May 22, 1806	Philip Wanton to appeal
Mar. 26, 1807	William Yeates reports on the case of Philip Wanton that contact made in regards to appeal by Wanton so appeal is discontinued and Alex MM left at liberty to proceed against him.

Thus 2¼ years later from the first complaint was Philip Wanton finally was excommunicated\* His case was unusual and the only one involving alcoholism to appear in the minutes.

\* The author Lorna Anderberg notes: The word "*excommunication*" is mine and does not appear in Quaker minutes.

25 March 1807

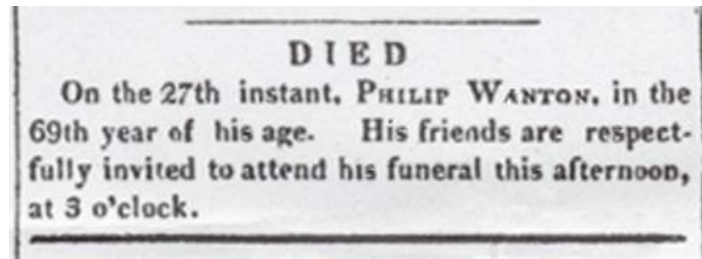
**The Abolition of the Slave Trade Act** entered into British statue books. **William Wilberforce** was an English politician who became the voice of the abolition movement in Parliament. He presented his first bill to abolish the transatlantic slave trade in 1791 but it was easily defeated. In 1805 the House of Commons passed a bill to outlaw the transport of slaves by British subjects. The bill was then blocked by the House of Lords. Finally, the Abolition of the Slave Trade bill was passed in the House of Lords and the House of Commons. It was carried by 114 to 15 and become law on 25 March 1807.



William Wilberforce  
1759–1833



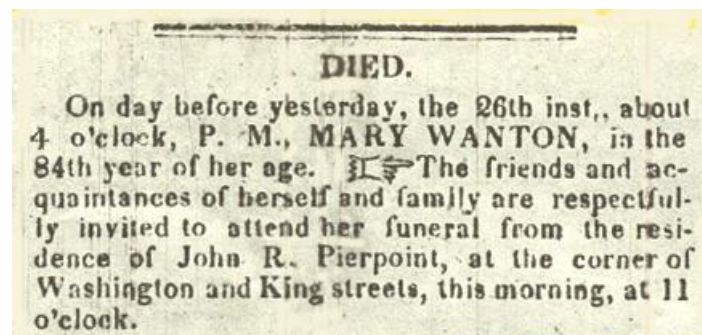
**Philip Wanton died on 27th February 1832** aged 68 and was buried at the Quaker burial ground on the corner of Queen and Columbus Streets in Alexandria. His death was announced in the *Phenix Gazette* the next day:



*Philip Wanton's signature  
from an 1803 insurance policy*

oOo

**MARY (Pancoast-Saunders) WANTON died 26 November 1846** at the venerable age of 83, a remarkable achievement for those times. The *Alexandria Gazette* published an obituary notice two days later:



Note: John R. Pierpoint (1798–1880) was Mary's son-in-law. In 1833 he married her daughter Mary Hartshorne Wanton (1801–1876), one of three children by her second marriage to Philip Wanton.

### **The Quaker Burial Ground in Alexandria.**

*Artisans and Merchants of Alexandria, Virginia 1780–1820*, Volume 2, Compiled by T. Michael Miller, pp. 384–385:

#### **THE OLD QUAKER CEMETARY**

717 Queen Street

Because of their aversion to war, many Quakers emigrated from Philadelphia to Alexandria during the Revolutionary conflict. In February 1784, a group of Friends (Wm. Hartshorne, John Butcher, **John<sup>5</sup> Saunders**, John Sutton, Aaron Hewes) purchased from Thomas West a half-acre of property on the northeast corner of Queen and Columbus street. ... Later the ground was utilised as a children's play yard in the 1920s and in 1937 the Alexandria Library secured a 99-year lease on the property to construct a library.

*Fairfax County Deed Book O 1783–1784*, pp. 275–282:

... to suffer and permit such of the people called Quakers inhabiting in the said County of Fairfax and such as may forever hereafter inhabit the said County to Erect and build such and so many meeting houses School houses yards and places of Burial as they shall from time to time forever think Necessary and Convenient, for the Worship of God, the Instruction of Youth and Burial of the Dead ...

The Quaker burial ground at 717 Queen Street became the final resting place of **Mary and Philip Wanton** and many of their kinsmen and contemporaries: Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick, Mordecai Miller, Edward Stabler, Mary Hartshorne Stabler, William Stabler, Benjamin Schreve, various members of the Janney family and William Pierpont, to name a few. In his publication *'Boning Up on the Quaker Cemetery'* T. Michael Miller suggests a number of other likely burials including **John<sup>5</sup> Saunders**, John Butcher and Elisha Talbott.

At right is pictured Mary Wanton's tombstone. The inscription reads:

MARY WANTON  
who died in the 26<sup>th</sup> of  
the 11<sup>th</sup> mo. 1846 in the  
84<sup>th</sup> year of her age



*Tombstone Inscriptions of Alexandria Virginia* (Volume 3) by Wesley E. Pippenger contains a fairly complete list of those Quakers thought to be buried at the site on the corner of Queen and Columbus Streets together with a brief history of the various Quaker burial sites in Alexandria. This publication can be found at the *Barrett Branch Library* in Alexandria (formerly *Lloyd House*).

The burial ground no longer exists and has been occupied by the Alexandria Library since about 1937. Until mid-1993 a row of eight tombstones was located along the east side of the north corner of the library building foundation. They were for Phineas Janney, Mary Stabler, **Mary Wanton**, William Stabler, Harriet Stabler, Sarah S. Janney, Sarah Ann Hewes and Geo. S. Hough. The original library building was put on the site in 1935 without removing the remains of those interred there, as it was a rather small building with shallow foundations. In 1993-1994 when the building was renovated and greatly enlarged, it was necessary to have a deeper foundation. Therefore, with the approval and oversight of the Quakers from the Meeting House, the entire graveyard was dug up and what remains were found were re-buried in the southwest corner of the front yard of the library. The tombstones mentioned above which had been lying or sitting upright were placed temporarily for safekeeping with *Alexandria Archaeology* in the late 1990s. Around 2001 they were transferred to the Alexandria Friends Meeting House at 8990 Woodlawn Road, Fort Belvoir.

The tombstones have been arranged in a small clearing in the woods behind the Friends Meeting House.



John Saunders was said to have died of a painful inflammatory disease. Given the clarity with which his Will was drafted, his unfortunate affliction, whatever it was, did not deprive him of his mental faculties. His wishes have been clearly articulated. Researcher Kaye has suggested John may have died from *erysipelas*, a very painful inflammation of the skin. She states that Edward Stabler, who was married to John's niece, Mary<sup>6</sup> Hartshorne (→ See Chapter 2: Joseph Saunders), may also have died of this disease.

It is always unsatisfactory to be missing important birth dates. While there is an abundance of evidence providing the identity of John's surviving children, Sarah, Peter and David, no information has come forward to indicate their precise dates of birth.

The inventory of John's assets is nothing to write home about. However, of particular interest is the item: *1 large family Bible*. As a responsible married Quaker with a family it is reasonable to assume that this was John's own Bible. Certainly it could not be the one belonging to his father, Joseph, currently owned by the author. Joseph lived for another two years after John died and moreover recorded his son's death in his Bible: *Son John died in Alexandria on the 18<sup>th</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> mo 1790—was buried on the 20<sup>th</sup>*. So if John had his own Bible, where is it now? The question is relevant, as it is likely John would have maintained the customary practice of recording the birth and death dates of his children in the Family Bible. Probably it found its way into the Wanton family or was inherited by his eldest son, Peter, and now resides with his descendants.

Just how Joseph's Bible came into the hands of John's son, David, is another conundrum. It is believed David brought it to California with his family around 1863. But how did he get hold of it? He was only one year old when his grandfather died and he had an older brother, Peter, who by the normal rules of primogeniture would have inherited such an important possession. One might conjecture that if Peter got his father's Bible, David could reasonably have been given that belonging to his grandfather.

Several successive generations following John named one of their children William Hartshorne Saunders. Such, it seems, was the influence of the Hartshorne family. William Hartshorne had served an apprenticeship under Joseph Saunders, had married his daughter Susannah and was one of John's Executors and closest friends. He would have kept a watchful eye over the interests of John's young children, particularly when Mary remarried. They were, after all, his wife's niece and nephews. The children's new stepfather, Philip Wanton, had been appointed their guardian and given Wanton's chequered career, uncle Hartshorne may have taken precautions to ensure they inherited what was rightfully theirs.

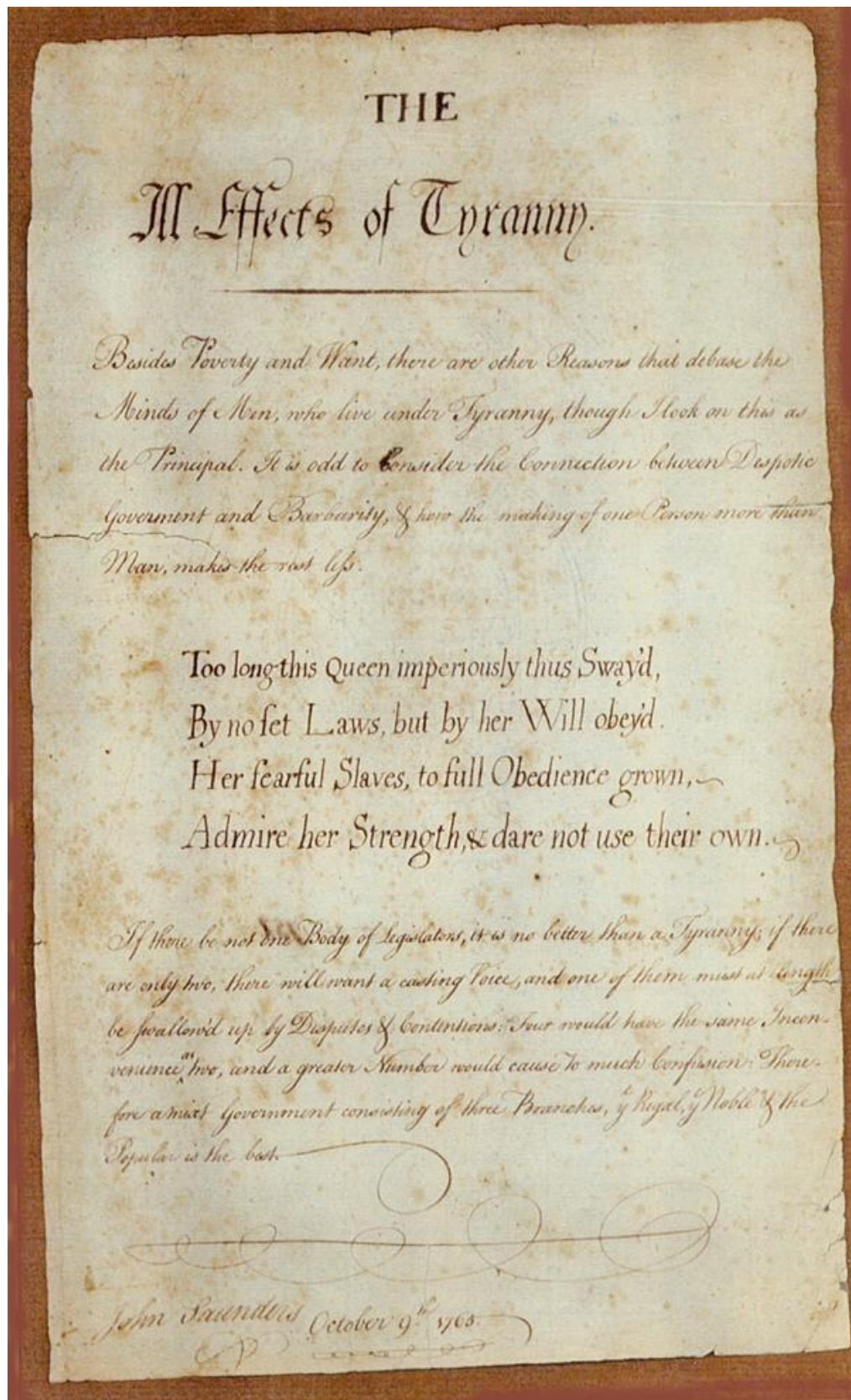
Maybe he had a hand in securing Joseph's Bible for David. As was customary in the late 1700s, after John's death his children were legally classified as orphans, even though their mother was living. The name William Hartshorne became part of the Saunders nomenclature for several generations.

John Saunders was born in colonial Pennsylvania under British rule, lived in Alexandria throughout the course of the Revolution and died during the administration of the new republic's first president, George Washington. By all accounts he was well educated, a competent craftsman and respected member of the community. That he passed away in the prime of his life is perhaps a reflection on the precarious times in which he lived. Medical science of the day had no answer to his mysterious affliction. By today's standards he died young, as did his son, Peter, who could not have been more than forty-one at his death. On the other hand John's mother and father reached seventy-one and seventy-nine respectively, his wife Mary lived to eighty-three and his son David was to see out eighty years.

oOo



*212-214 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA  
Double dwelling house built by  
William Hartshorne around 1786.  
Photo courtesy of Historic Alexandria, Virginia,  
Street by Street, by Ethelyn Cox, p.123*



*The original document drafted by John Saunders in 1765  
a few months before his thirteenth birthday*

**Summary****JOHN<sup>5</sup> SAUNDERS 1752–1790**


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1752 26 Dec	Born -	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Seventh child and only surviving son of Joseph <sup>4</sup> and Hannah Saunders.
1765 09 Oct	Aged 12 -	Drafted <i>The Ill Effects of Tyranny</i> .
1772	Aged 20 -	Living with brother-in-law Thomas Morris.
1773 01 Nov	Aged 21 -	Went to Alexandria, Virginia, to join his sister Susannah <sup>5</sup> and her husband William Hartshorne.
1774 22 Jul	Aged 22 -	Sister Mary died.
1775 19 Jul	Aged 23 -	<i>American Revolution commenced when minutemen and redcoats clashed at Lexington and Concord Massachusetts.</i>
1777	Aged 25 -	Disowned from Friends for hiring a substitute for the army (in which he had served in 1777).
1780 Dec	Aged 28 -	Brother Peter <sup>5</sup> lost at sea.
1782 28 Dec	Aged 30 -	Reinstated in Society of Friends.
1783 09 Apr	Aged 30 -	Married Mary Pancoast in Alexandria.
1783 03 Sep	Aged 30 -	<i>The Revolutionary War ends.</i>
1784	Aged 31 -	Involved in purchase of Quaker burial ground on NE corner of Queen and Columbus Streets.
1785	Aged 32 -	Appointed Superintendent of Streets.
1787-1788	Aged 34 -	Member of City Council.
1788 08 Feb	Aged 35 -	Mother died.
1789 24 Oct	Aged 36 -	Sister Lydia <sup>5</sup> died.
1789 29 Oct	Aged 36 -	Sister Sarah <sup>5</sup> died.
1790 13 May	Aged 37 -	Made Last Will and Testament.
1790 18 May	Aged 37 -	Died in Alexandria.
1790 20 May		Obituary published in the <i>Alexandria Gazette</i> .