

SAR Patriot Ancestors' Biographies

Peter Holland (P183568)
1740-1793

Patriotic Service in the American War for Independence

The earliest record found (so far) of my 5th Great Grandfather, Peter Holland, places him in Bedford County, Virginia in 1755 with his wife, the former Mariah Diggins. Additional evidence indicates that he may have been born in Essex County, Virginia or even Calvert County, Maryland. His birth is believed to have been around 1730 and he may have been a descendant of the Holland family line of Cumberland County, Virginia. According to county records of property sales and trades, Peter became a significant landowner in the Bedford and Franklin County area and over time he and Mariah gave birth to, and raised, ten offspring: Thomas, Drury, Peter, Benjamin, Asa, Susannah, George, Jesse, Stephen and Bathsheba.

Peter's service to the revolution was significant in terms of material and personnel. Records in the Bedford Clerk of County Court Order Book 6, dated 1774-82, on pages 339, 341 and 350 provide some detail of the supplies furnished by Peter Holland to militia forces on multiple occasions. Additionally, no less than three of his sons served in various capacities in the Virginia Militia and Continental Army: Asa—served as a Justice of the Peace in Bedford County, Drury (P-183521)—according to his Revolutionary War Pension #W3419, served more than 5 years with the 1st and 10th Regiments of the Continental Line, was present during the Battle of Eutaw Springs and the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, receiving wounds on at least two occasions during his time of service; and Thomas (P-183581)—who is documented in his Revolutionary War Pension # S17222 as having been born in Calvert County, Maryland in 1759, served with the Virginia militia at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Peter's son, Peter (Jr.), later served as an officer in the Virginia Militia during the War of 1812.

My family are descendants of Peter and Mariah's daughter, Bathsheba through her marriage to William Spradlin of Bedford County as evidenced in their marriage bond dated 2 December 1789. A later marriage, in 1922, between my grandparents Turner Lee Wilkerson, Sr. and Lucy McKinney Spradlin, brought descendants of the Spradlin and Wilkerson families together in Lynchburg, Virginia.

The Holland family's ancestry is known to have participated in the founding of our country, beginning with their arrival in Jamestowne in 1620. My family's association with the Holland family line beyond Peter and Mariah has yet to be proven. But one fact of their history is very clear—like many of our ancestors who sought and found a new life in this grand country—they believed that their freedom to own, develop and govern the land was a divine blessing—worth fighting any foe to keep!

Respectfully Submitted,



Turner Lee Wilkerson III
(SAR # 187468)