

HISTORY ON **COL. JOHN PHELPS**

John Phelps was born in Virginia in 1705. He was the son of John Phelps (1683-1747) from Goochland County, VA and Martha Margaret Talbot (1684-1747) born in Maryland, died in Goochland County, VA.

John married Mary C. Gibson (1705-1772) in Virginia in 1721. Mary was the daughter of Thomas Gibson (1691-1734) who was born in Isle of Wight, Virginia.

Children:

1. Sarah Phelps (m. John Haynes)
2. Judith Phelps
3. Jane Phelps
4. Ann Phelps
5. Mary Phelps
- 6. Betty Phelps (m. Francis Pollard)**
7. Lt. John Phelps (m. Jemima Turner; Susanna Younger)
8. Agnes Phelps (m. Nathan Turner)

Col. John Phelps occupation: Justice of the Peace,
Justice of the County Court in Chancery,
Representative to the Virginia House of Burgesses,
Colonel in the Colonial Army

John Phelps d 1772 of Bedford County, Virginia was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, the forebear of the Virginia General Assembly, the oldest continuously operating legislative body in the western hemisphere. When Bedford was formed in December 1753 from the counties of Albemarle and Lunenburg, John Phelps, with William Callaway, served as one of Bedford's first two burgesses. Phelps served four assemblies in the House of Burgesses beginning August 22, 1754. At the time of his appointment, Phelps already enjoyed a reputation as a respected Justice in Lunenburg and Bedford counties¹ a Coroner in Lunenburg, and an Anglican Vestryman in Lunenburg's Parish of Cumberland.

We find the following information in *Our Kin: the genealogies of some of the early families who made history in the founding and development of Bedford County, Virginia*. Published 1930, author Mary Denham Ackerly wrote, "John Phelps, the first of the name of whom we have any authentic record, was already settled in Brunswick County, Va., when Lunenburg was taken from that county, and was one of the first Justices of the new county. He, with Matthew Talbot and others, was present at the first Court of Lunenburg County held May 5, 1746. When the increase in population made it necessary to form still another county from Lunenburg's territory, and Bedford came into being, we find John Phelps again at the head of affairs—Justice of the Peace, and a Justice of the County Court in Chancery." The House of Burgesses in the 1750s John Phelps' entered his first session as a burgess with fellow freshman Peter Jefferson of Albemarle County, father of future Declaration of Independence author, Thomas Jefferson. (Thomas Jefferson later represented Albemarle County in the House of Burgesses from 1769-1774). It is likely that Phelps was already acquainted with the family; in 1749 he was sworn in as Justice of the Peace and Justice of the Chancery with Field Jefferson, uncle of Thomas Jefferson, in Lunenburg County. The two also served as Vestrymen in the Parish of Cumberland.

In addition to Jefferson, Phelps also served in the House of Burgesses with Augustine Washington of Westmoreland County, father of George Washington. In fact, he served in the company of many Virginians who would later become venerable leaders of the American Revolution: Peyton Randolph, Virginia Attorney General and later first president of the Continental Congress; Benjamin Harrison of "Berkeley" in Charles City County and George Wythe of Williamsburg, both signers of the Declaration of Independence and both representatives to the Continental Congress; Richard Bland of Prince George County, also a member of the Continental Congress. The oratorical and legislative experience these burgesses gained would serve them well in the years to follow when they would forge

their own country after the defeat of the British at Yorktown in 1781. Indeed, the seeds of discontent with the Crown were sewn in the years immediately preceding the dissolution of the House of Burgesses in 1769.* The last session John Phelps served in the House of Burgesses, August 5, 1755.

Ancestry.com has a list of 36 Famous People related to John Phelps. Here are a few listed: Richard Lovelace (1618-1657), English Poet, Richard Lovelace was an English Nobleman and poet. His "Lucasta" poems brought him fame., Relationship: Great Great Grand Uncle; John C. Fremont (1813-1890), American Explorer, 3rd Cousin 4 times removed; Lucy Ware Webb Hayes (1831-1889), First Lady, 3rd Cousin 4 times removed; Elizabeth Virginia Wallace Truman (1885-1982), First Lady, 3rd Cousin 5 times removed; Elizabeth Kortright Monroe (1768-1830), First Lady, 5th Cousin 1 times removed; Edward Tilly (1588-1621), Mayflower Passenger, 3rd Cousin 5 times removed; William Howard Taft (1857-1930), 27th President of the United States of America, 4th Cousin 3 times removed; Rutherford Birchard Hayes (1822-1893), 19th President of the United States of America, 4th Cousin 3 times removed; Mae West (1893-1980), American Actress, Screenwriter, and Playwright, 3rd Cousin 6 times removed; Emily Dickenson (1830-1886), American Poet, 4th Cousin 4 times removed; Clement Moore (1779-1863), Author/ Poet, Relationship: 6th Cousin; George Wythe (1726-1806), Virginia Representative, He signed the Declaration and also became the Mayor of Williamsburg Virginia. Relationship: 6th Cousin; Rosalynn Smith Carter (1927-), First Lady, 3rd Cousin 7 times removed; Marlon Brando (1924-2004), American Actor, 4th Cousin 6 times removed; Sir Frederick Grant Banting (1891-1941), Canadian Scientist and Doctor, Together with Charles Best, Sir Frederick Grant Banting discovered insulin. His background as a doctor and interest in medical science led to his research and subsequent discoveries. Banting won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1923. Relationship: 6th Cousin 3 times removed; B. F. Skinner (1904-1990), American Psychologist, 4th Cousin 7 times removed; etc.

Source proof: List of the Colonial Soldiers of Virginia, page 7; Virginia's Colonial Soldiers, page 15, page 190; Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War Part III, page 188; A form was filled out on May 20, 1957 for the U.S. Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970 listing John's parents: John Phelps and Mary (Talbot) Phelps. In the book: "Our kin : the genealogies of some of the early families who made history in the founding and development of Bedford County, Virginia" on page 749 of 865. Also Wikipedia has a list of the Virginia House of Burgess, and you will find John Phelps name under the P's.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_members_of_the_Virginia_House_of_Burgesses#P

Col. John Phelps died on Feb. 25, 1772 at Bedford City, Virginia, USA. He was 67 years old.