

*Non-Associators in Harford County, Maryland
at the Onset of the Revolutionary War,
1775-1776*



Compiled from Dr. George W. Archer's Research
and Annotated with Other Data and Family Information

by

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FORWARD

SPECIAL PUBLICATION (SP) #46, *Non-Associators in Harford County, Maryland at the Onset of the Revolutionary War, 1775-1776*, will be particularly interesting and useful to some researchers. This publication may explain why an ancestor did not appear in some other traditional record (e.g., list of militia).

Like SP#45, this publication is provided by the Society's long-time member, Henry C. Peden, Jr., so the membership can be confident that the information presented was well researched. As Henry warns at the end of his introduction, you should not assume the people listed herein were Tories ... they could have been Quaker, a doctor or a man of the cloth.

The Board is particularly pleased that we are able to provide a second publication to the Society's membership for 2013.

INTRODUCTION

In the latter part of the 19th century the indefatigable Dr. George Washington Archer (1824-1907) collected many records about Harford County. For the Revolutionary War era he compiled lists of Associators and Non-Associators. This manuscript includes his material about Non-Associators that I have annotated with family history information.

In 1895 Dr. Archer stated, *"These lists of Non-Associators embrace the names of the men of Harford County who in '75 and '76 refused to pledge themselves to promote and support to the utmost of their power, both by arms and by commercial restrictions, the opposition to the oppressive measures of the mother country. It is well to explain that the fines were probably those imposed by order of the convention, January 4, '76, to the effect that all able-bodied freemen, between the ages of 16 and 50, except the clergy, the doctors and conscientiously scrupulous persons, were required to enroll in the militia by the 1st of March ensuing, or pay a fine of from two to ten pounds a year, according to the amount of their property; the year to date from September, '75, at which time the militia had been required to enroll by the original order. From these fines, however, persons not possessing thirty pounds worth of property were exempt, if loyal. To the political value of this list is therefore to be added the interesting information which it incidentally conveys concerning the financial status of several hundred citizens of the county, about which we would otherwise know but little."* Although not stated in the order of the convention nor explained by Dr. Archer, all able-bodied men actually pertained only to whites and did not include Harford County's free black men – or any African Americans for that matter.

Dr. Archer published these lists in the *Bel Air Times* in a series of articles, stating, in part, *"Twenty-seven carriers were appointed in '75, and 38 in '76, ten of them being the same in both years. It is impossible now to ascertain how many of these 65 carriers acted and made returns to the Committee. It is certain, however, that only 32 of such returns – not quite one-half the number of carriers appointed – are extant, of which only nine at most, and it may be but two, are those of '75. The inference is, that several of the returns containing many names of Associators are lost, and probably some of the returns of Nons."* Therefore, an exact accounting of the Non-Associators cannot be compiled.

Dr. Archer prepared a listing of hundreds ("districts") that showed the number of whites of both sexes and the numbers of Associators and Non-Associators within each. I reviewed the original list in the Proceedings of the Revolutionary Committee of Harford County contained in a book kept by that committee, now in possession of the Historical Society of Harford County in Bel Air, Maryland. It is interesting that the listing prepared by Dr. Archer was taken in part from the aforementioned record, but he did not copy the hundreds in the same order, although the white inhabitant's figures were copied correctly and totaled 9,423 as shown. Dr. Archer did not include the number of black inhabitants in his listing, but they were in the original listing when compiled by the committee in 1776. Blacks were not required nor requested to sign the Association paper, but I have included their population figures anyway. In the following list

Associators and Non-Associators as numbered were not part of the original 1776 record, but were tabulated by Dr. Archer.

<u>Hundreds</u>	<u>Whites</u>	<u>Blacks</u>	<u>Associators</u>	<u>Non-Associators</u>
Bush River Lower	658	275	134	7
Bush River Upper	623	77	335	0
Spesutia Lower	790	650	137	12
Spesutia Upper	767	340	145	22
Susquehanna	1300	281	120	30
Gunpowder Lower	683	331	137	59
Gunpowder Upper	893	214	160	37
Deer Creek Lower	460	374	67	56
Deer Creek Upper	960	122	193	1
Eden	1008	108	76	8
Harford Lower	415	352	90	8
Harford Upper	548	194	106	6
Broad Creek	<u>318</u>	<u>24</u>	--	--
Totals:	9423	3342	1400*	246*

*Two errors in Archer's tabulations above: 1400 should be 1700 and about 300 Non-Associators have been identified, not 246.

In addition to the errors noted above, Dr. Archer stated that Broad Creek Hundred had not been formed when names were taken (which was apparently in 1775), but when the committee prepared the aforementioned listing in 1776 they made the following note: "David McSwain (alias Swiney) has not returned his list for Broad Creek Hundred, it is estimated to half of the whites and one fourth of the blacks that is in Deer Creek Lower Hundred, by AG." [Amos Garrett]. A subsequent note stated, "The list of David Sweeney of Broad Creek Hundred could not be obtained during the time of the setting of the Committee, when got was not proved, could not ascertain the time he was taking the list, by [but] agreed to take twenty shillings for his trouble, which was paid by Amos Garrett."

Dr. Archer continued on with his analysis. "According to this exhibit Bush River Upper easily bears off the palm for patriotism, a majority of the white population being associators, with no Nons at all. She was practically unanimous; indeed, since none under 16 years could sign, she was more than unanimous – so to speak. This apparent absurdity, however, may be accounted for – at least in part – if we consider that not only were there at the time a good many more males than females hereabouts, but that 19 of the names are duplicated on the lists of that Hundred. However, Bush River Upper certainly did well, while Deer Creek Upper, settled largely by Scotch-Irish – which is but a synonym for patriotism – was not much behind her – with a solitary Non. Indeed, it may well be that Bush Upper was settled by the same unconquerable race."

"Eden and Susquehanna make the poorest exhibit – with not quite one patriot to ten inhabitants. Most of the other hundreds average about one to five of the inhabitants. Deer Creek Lower, however, which included a large non-combatant community of Quakers, had nearly as many

Nons as Patriots; while Gunpowder Lower, then a strong-hold of the rising Methodists, who, in that day denounced carnal warfare almost as seriously as did the followers of Fox [George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends] – was also largely disloyal to the patriot cause – or perhaps I should say they were neutral.”

Dr. Archer ended his discussion as follows: “After all, it remains to be explained there is an unknown quantity – a seriously disturbing element in the above calculations. When the Association [paper] was first carried around [in 1775], the hundreds numbered only eight. Before it was again offered (in the following year) five new hundreds had been formed of portions of the old ones – nearly all the lines of both old and new being now lost. Moreover, soon after the second circulation of the paper Broad Creek Hundred was formed from portions of Deer Creek Upper and Lower, and being included in the census taken by the constables the above estimates are necessarily vitiated. In other words, the foregoing exhibit, although it is the best that can be done at present, is only approximately correct, and cannot be made mathematically so until the missing papers come to light, which may be – never!”

The work of Dr. Archer is available in the Archives Department of the Historical Society of Harford County, 143 N. Main St., Bel Air, MD 21014. It has been accessioned as George W. Archer Collection SP-31-RF titled “Lists of Non-Associators in Harford County 1775 & 1776.” Archer also noted it was copied from original lists in possession of Mr. F. W. Baker. The location of those originals is unknown at this time. Also in Dr. Archer’s collection is his 1889 manuscript titled “No. II of Supplementary Extracts” on which cover he wrote it was “Taken from Mrs. Sophia McHenry’s Copy of the Minutes of Proceedings of the Revolutionary Committee of Harford County, 1774, ‘5, ‘6 & ‘7.” He further noted it “Consists of a full copy of the various accounts of the Committee in their final settlement, together with a List of the Non-Associators, the fines imposed upon them, & the names of those who have paid, & those who have not.” Additional lists (perhaps duplicate records in some cases) and photocopies of original papers have been accessioned in Archives Department File SP-148-RF titled “A List of Non-Associators in Harford County, 1776, and the Fines Imposed Upon Each One.” And photocopies of the aforementioned *Bel Air Times* newspaper articles have been inserted in these collections. As noted earlier, I also reviewed the original lists recorded in the committee’s minutes.

To assist readers in understanding what the objections of the Non-Associators were in their refusal to sign the paper, here follows the Declaration of the Association of the Freemen of Maryland as adopted by the Maryland Convention on July 26, 1775:

“THE long premeditated and now avowed design of the British government to raise a revenue from the property of the colonists without their consent on the gift, grant and disposition of the commons of Great Britain; the arbitrary and vindictive statutes passed under colour of punishing a riot, to subdue by military force and famine the Massachusetts Bay; the unlimited power assumed by parliament to alter the charter of that province and the constitution of all the colonies, thereby destroying the essential securities of the lives, liberties and properties of the colonists; the commencement of hostilities by the ministerial force and the cruel prosecution of the war against the people of Massachusetts Bay, followed by General Gage’s proclamation, declaring almost the whole of the inhabitants of the united colonies, by name or description, rebels and

traitors, are sufficient causes to arm a free people in defence of their liberty, and to justify resistance, no longer dictated by prudence merely, but by necessity, and leave no alternative but base submission or manly opposition to uncontrollable tyranny. The Congress chose the latter, and for the express purpose of securing and defending the united colonies, and preserving them in safety against all attempts to carry the above-mentioned acts into execution by force of arms, RESOLVED, THAT the said colonies be immediately put in a state of defence, and now supports, at the joint expence, an army to restrain the further violence and repel the future attacks of a disappointed and exasperated enemy.

“WE, therefore, inhabitants of the province of Maryland, firmly persuaded that it is necessary and justifiable to repel force by force, do approve of the opposition of arms to the British troops employed to enforce obedience to the late acts and statutes of the British parliament for raising a revenue in America, and altering and changing the charter and constitution of the Massachusetts Bay, and for destroying the essential securities for the lives, liberties and properties of the subjects in the unite colonies. And, WE, do unite ourselves as one hand, and firmly and solemnly engage and pledge ourselves to each other and to America, that we will, to the utmost of our power, promote and support the present opposition, carrying it on, as well by arms, as the continental association, restraining our commerce.

“AND as in these times of public danger, and until a reconciliation with Great Britain on constitutional principles is effected (an event we most ardently wish may soon take place) the energy of government may be greatly impaired, so that even zeal unrestrained may be productive of anarchy and confusion, WE do in like manner unite, associate and solemnly engage in maintenance of good order and the public peace, to support the civil power in the due execution of the laws so far as may be consistent with the present plan of opposition, and to defend with our utmost power all persons from every species of outrage to themselves or their property and to prevent any punishment from being inflicted on any offenders, other than such as shall be adjudged by the civil magistrate, the continental congress, our convention, council of safety, or committees of observation.”

The alphabetical listing of Non-Associators that follows has been compiled from the aforementioned Archer lists and other sources and has been annotated by the author with additional family information to assist in their identification. Obviously, any errors that were made in the process are purely unintentional. Some names had been listed twice and some names were misspelled. Sometimes the lists were not dated so it was not clear as to whether it was in 1775 or 1776, or both; therefore, 1775/1776 was used. It should also be noted that some of the Non-Associators subsequently changed their minds and later signed, and some even enrolled in the militia. Therefore, one should be very careful in labeling many of these Non-Associators as Tories in the strictest sense of the word. While some men were certainly pro-British, some could have been cautious American patriots, not knowing the outcome of the war. It appears they may have just been hedging their bets, but I will leave that issue a matter for interested historians to decide.

Henry C. Peden, Jr., M.A.

Non-Associators in Harford County, Maryland at the Onset of the Revolutionary War, 1775-1776

Allender (Allinder), John (c1725-1786), married Lucina Roberts (1725-1789), daughter of John and Mary Roberts, in 1749; resided in Gunpowder Lower Hundred, 1775, "old" John Allender refused to sign the Association paper (no reason given), fined £2; in 1776 he possibly refused to sign again and may have been fined another 40 sh. [However, John Allender took the Oath of Allegiance in 1778 and his son John Allender Jr. signed the Association paper in 1775 and also served in the county militia.]

Allender, Nicholas (c1730-c1782), a Methodist, married Jane Day (b. c1735), daughter of Edward Day and Avarilla Taylor, in 1755; resided in Gunpowder Lower Hundred, 1776, would not sign the Association paper nor enroll in the militia (no reason given, apparently for religious reasons), no fine indicated. [In June 1776 he sold his firearm (that needed repairs) to the Committee of Observation for 30 sh.]

Amos (Ammons), Thomas (b. c1750, married Margaret (N), b. c1748); resided in Deer Creek Lower Hundred, 1775, refused to sign the Association paper (no reason given, no fine indicated).

Amos (Amoss), William Jr.

Amos (Amoss), William Sr.

Anderson, John,

Armstrong, John

Arnold, Ephraim (Ephram)

Ashmore, William,

Ashmore, William Jr., Baker (Bacer), Nicholas

Balderson (Balderston, Bolderson), Isaiah,

Balderson (Balderston, Bolderson), Jacob,

Barnes (Barns), Job Sr.

Barnes (Barns), William, son of Eliza.

Bausley (Bosley), Winston,

Blackstone (Blackiston), Elijah,

Bond, John, of John

Bond, Samuel, of John, Bond, Thomas Sr.

Bond, Thomas, of John,

Bond, William, of John,

Botts (Bots), John

Bowman (Boman), Henry

Briggs (Brigs),

Brown, John

Bruce (Bruss), John

Bull, John (Thomas Run),

Bull, William,
Butters, James,
Cain (Cane, Kane), Matthew,
Cashman, Cornelius,
Chambers, William,
Chew, Thomas
Clark, John
Close (Closs), George
Coale (Coal), Philip
Coale (Coal), Samuel
Coale (Coal), Skipwith Jr.
Coale (Coal), Skipwith Sr.
Coale (Coal), William Sr.
Coale (Coal), William
Coale (Coal), William, of William,
Cockerton, John,
Collins, Isaac,
Conckling, Matthew,
Conner (Connar), James,
Connerd (Connard), Edward,
Cook, Robert
Cord, Amos
Costley (Costly), John,
Cox, John,
Cox, William Jr.,
Crawford, James
Crawford, Mordecai
Cummins, Philip,
Cunningham, John,
Dallam, Josias William
Davis, Joseph,
Daws, Benjamin, son of
Daws, Isaac,
Deaver, James
Debruler (Debrular), Benjamin
Debruler (Debrular), George
Debruler (Debrular), James
Debruler (Debrular), Micajah
Denny, Michael,
Divers, William,
Doharty (Dougharty), John,
Doulin (Daulin), George,
Downs, Thomas

Duncan, James, r
Durbin, Daniel
Durbin, Thomas
Duzan, Alexander
Duzan, John
Ellis, Ellis
Ellis, William
Ely, Hugh
Ely, Joseph
Ely, Mahlon (Melan, Melen),
Ely, Thomas Jr.
Ely, William,
England, George
England, Joseph
England, Robert
England, Samuel
Ensor, William, N. E.
Finnegan (Finnigan), Patrick,
Fisher, James
Fleetwood, Benjamin
Ford, Thomas,
Forwood (Forred), John
Forwood (Forward), John Jr.,
Forwood, John, of Samuel
Forwood (Forward), Samuel
Forwood (Forward), William
Fraley (Fraly, Frailey), Frederick
Gallion, John
Gallion, Joseph
Gallion, Samuel
Garrettson, Freeborn
Garrettson, John
Garrettson, Richard Jr.
Gilbert, Philip
Gilbert, Thomas
Gilbert, Thomas,
Giles, Jacob Jr.
Gilhamton, Robert,
Gorrell (Gorril), William
Gover, Philip
Gray, Stephen,
Green, John,
Griffith, John,

Hagan, Henry
Hall, Andrew Jr.,
Hamner (Hamener, Hemner), Michael (Michel),
Hanson, Benjamin Jr.,
Hare, Joseph,
Hargrove (Hardgrove, Hartgrove)
Harris, Samuel Jr.
Harris, Samuel Sr.,
Hawkins (Haukins, Hockens), Richard
Hawkins (Haukins, Hockens), Robert
Hawkins, Robert,
Hawkins, Thomas
Hawkins, William
Hayhurst (Heahurst, Harrherst), James,
Hayhurst (Heahurst, Heaharst), John Jr.,
Hayhurst (Heahurst, Heaharst), John Sr.,
Hays (Hayes), John Jr.
Heaton (Heatian), Jeremiah,
Herbert (Harbert, Harboard), Benjamin Sr.,
Herbert (Harbert), Benjamin Jr.
Hicks, James
Hill, Aaron
Hill, James,
Hill, John
Hill, Thomas
Hill, William
Hopkins, Gerrard
Hopkins, John
Hopkins, Joseph Sr.
Hopkins, Leven
Hopkins, Samuel
Hopkins, William Jr.
Hopkins, William Sr.
Horner, Nathan
Howard, Benjamin,
Howard, Benjamin
Howard (Howerd), John
Howard, John Gould (Gold),
Howard, Thomas,
Husband (Husbands), Joseph
Huse, John
Jackson, Isaiah
Jay, Stephen

Jenkins (Ginkins), Jonathan,
Jenkins (Ginkins), William,
Jervis, Joshua,
Johns, Henry
Johns, Nat.
Johns, Richard
Johns, Skipwith
Jones, Griffin (Griffeth)
Jones, Joshua, Kell, Thomas
Kelly (Celley), Aleck (Eleck, Ellock),
Kidd (Kid), Henry,
Lacey, David
Lacey, Samuel,
Lacey, Thomas Jr.,
Lacey, Thomas Sr.,
Lacey, William,
Lancaster, Benjamin,
Lancaster, Jesse
Lancaster (Landcaster), Joseph,
Lee, David
Lee, James Jr.,
Lee, Samuel,
Lee, Samuel,
Little, James
Litton (Litten), John
Litton (Litten), Samuel
Logue, William Jr.,
Lusby, Joseph
Martin (Martain), Abel,
Martin (Martain), James,
Mason (Meason), John,
Massey (Mercey), Isaac
Maulsby (Malsby, Malsberry, Molsberry), David
Maulsby (Malsby), John
McBrady, Michael
McCaskey, John,
McComas, Daniel, of William
McCoy, Andrew,
McCoy, Robert,
McCoy, William
McLaughlin, John,
Mead (Meads), Benjamin
Miller, John,

Miller, Joseph
Miller, Thomas,
Mills, Thomas,
Mitchell, Edward
Mitchell, Enoch,
Mitchell, John
Mitchell, Kent Sr.,
Monk, William
Morgan, John
Mullen, Patrick,
Murphy (Murphey), Hugh,
Murphy (Murphey), John,
Murphy (Murphey), Patrick (Partrick),
Murphy (Murphey), Timothy
Noleman (Knowlman), Anthony
Noleman (Knowlman), Richard,
Norris, Edward, of Joseph
Norton, Stephen
Omel (Omal), Isaac
Orr, James,
Page, Christopher
Parsons, Joseph,
Paul, John
Peacock, John,
Penrose, Isaac (Isack)
Pervail (Perveal, Prevale), Gideon
Pigot, Walter (Wescott Piquot, Heathcott Pickett),
Polson (Poulson), Joseph
Potts, Reynard
Presbury, John
Presbury, Joseph
Presbury, Joseph Jr.
Presbury, Thomas
Preston, Bernard Sr.
Preston, Bernard Jr., of Bernard
Preston, Bernard, of James
Price, James,
Proctor (Prockter), John,
Punteny (Puntney), Aquila
Punteny (Puntney), Joseph
Qare, Joseph,
Quinlan (Quinlin), James Jr.,
Quinlan (Quinlin), James Sr.,

Ratcliff (Radcliff), Josiah (Josias)
Ray, George
Rees (Reese), Abram (Abraham)
Rees (Reas, Reese), John
Rees (Reese), Solliman (Solomon),
Reeves (Reaves), Josias
Renshaw, James
Renshaw, Robert
Renshaw, Thomas
Ricketts, Edward
Ricketts, Samuel
Rigbie, James Jr.
Rigbie, James Sr.
Rigbie, Nathan (Nathaniel)
Roberts, Richardson
Rockman (Ruckman), Thomas,
Rodgers (Rogers), Joseph
Rodgers (Rogers), Samuel
Ruff (Roof), Henry
Ruth, Moses Jr.,
Savory, William,
Scott, Robert Jr.,
Scotten, William,
Sedgwick (Shedwick), Benjamin
Sharp, Thomas,
Sharp, Thomas Jr.,
Sharp, William,
Sherwood (Sherswood), William,
Smith, James, of Patrick,
Smith, John,
Smith, John Jr.,
Smith, Joshua, son of John
Smith, Robert,
Smith, Thomas, of Patrick, s
Smith, William,
Smith, William, of Nat.,
Spencer, Enoch,
Spencer, Job,
Spencer, Richard,
Standiford (Stanifer), Aquila
Stansbury (Stansberry), Tobias
Stephens (Stevens), William,
Stocksdale (Stockdale), Thomas,

Stokes, Joseph
Strong, Thomas
Swift, Luke,
Talbot, John
Taylor, James Sr.
Taylor, John Hodges
Thomas, Henry Jr.,
Thomas, James,
Thomas, John, Thomas, William,
Thompson (Tomson), James,
Thompson (Thomson), John Sr.,
Thompson, Gilbert,
Thrale (Thrales), Philip,
Thrift, James
Thrift, Richard
Todd, Andrew,
Wakefield (Wakfield, Weekfield), Matthew,
Wakefield (Wakfield, Weekfield), William
Ward, James
Warner, Aseph (Asaph, Easop)
Warner, Benjamin
Warner, Croasdale (Crosdel)
Warner, Cuthbert
Warner, Joseph Sr
Watters (Waters), Godfrey,
Watters (Waters, Warters, Wauters), Henry,
Watters (Waters), Robert,
Watters (Waters, Wauters), Stephen
Watters (Waters, Wauters), Walter
Webster, Isaac
Webster, Michael, of Samuel
Weeks (Weaks), Daniel,
Welch, James,
West, Thomas
Wetherall (Weatheral, Weatherall), James,
Whealand, Stephen,
White, James,
Wiggins (Wiggons, Wigans), Joseph
Wiles (Willes), John
Williams, William
Willson, John,
Willson, Joseph Jr.,
Willson, Joseph Sr.,

Willson (Wilson), Samuel,
Willson (Wilson), William, of John,
Wilson, Benjamin
Wilson, George,
Wilson, Henry Sr.,
Wilson, James
Wilson, John,
Wilson, John
Wilson, John
Wilson, John, son of Joseph
Wilson, Joseph Jr.
Wilson, Peter,
Wilson, Samuel,
Wilson, William,
Wilson, William, of John,
Wilson, William, of Joseph,
Wilson, William Jr.
Wood, James
Wood, James,
Wood, John,
Worthington, John
York, Edward,
York, George
York, James,
York, Oliver,