

# Journal

*A Revolutionary War Tale of Three Acts*

## The Returns of Martin Deer

By Suzanne Matson

Martin Deer filed an application on April 24, 1846, for a pension based on his service during the Revolutionary War.

Martin was born in October, 1757, near the Robinson River in Culpeper County, now Madison County, Virginia. He said, in his application, that he would be “eighty-nine years old October next,” and recounted in detail his three enlistments in the Virginia militia, each enlistment lasting approximately three months.

Martin and his brother Andrew were born to immigrants Martin and Veronica Deer, a later-arriving family from Württemberg, who came to the Robinson River Valley before 1751. “Deer” in German is “Hirsch.”

Martin’s first enlistment began September 1776 under Captain Frank Miller, who also lived near the Robinson River. In his later application, Martin named neighbors who served with him: Joseph Snyder, Moses Phillips, Michael Snyder, Thomas Patison (?) and Henry Chiles. His company marched through Orange and Essex Counties toward Port Royal in Caroline County, Virginia. Eventually they moved to Richmond and then Williamsburg, where they frequently marched out to Norfolk and Jamestown, looking for the British, but never finding them.

Martin was discharged in January, 1777, not having seen the enemy or engaged in any battles. He said he “was four days coming home from Williamsburg” at the end of his first tour.

In the spring, 1779, Martin wrote that his “turn came round again” and he served under Captain James Smith. Martin remembered this year because “he was going on twenty two years of age and a man full growed.” Leaving from Barnett’s Ford in Culpeper

County on January 15, 1779, the company traveled to Williamsburg and set up their headquarters there, their primary responsibility being to guard it. Martin reported that nothing of consequence happened there “except soldiers being whip[p]ed for disorderly conduct, but saw no one shot by command.” Martin’s Robinson River Valley neighbors in the same company, as privates, were John Miller, John Deer, Ambrose Weaver, Lewis Graves, Henry

### Also See:

Chronicles of the Clores: The Five Wives of Howard Clore, Sr., p. 3

Gaar Revolutionary War Cemetery, p. 5

Alexander Spotswood and the Counterfeiting Convict, p. 5

The Michelangelo of Madison County, p. 6



*Continued on p. 2*

Continued from p. 1

Peters and Benjamin Hackell.

At the end of this enlistment, Martin, with John Deer, Ambrose Weaver and Lewis Graves, arrived home mid-April 1779 in Culpeper County.

Martin was drafted again in the spring of 1781, under Captain Mark Finks. Leaving Culpeper County in March 1781, his company marched to Louisa Court House, remaining there a few weeks before being sent to "Mobbins Hill," where they remained until just before the Battle of Petersburg. Not finding a location named "Mobbins Hill," the

author examined maps of the time. Based on the travel route given by Martin Deer, possibly "Mobbins Hill" is a misspelling and mispronunciation of Malvern Hill. During the Battle of Petersburg, his company was attached to General Peter Muhlenberg's Brigade.

Martin again named Robinson River Valley neighbors serving with him: Moses Hart, George Clarke, Larkin Clarke, John Deer, Nick Yager, Samuel Smith, John Rowzee, Andrew Deer (the only mention found so far of his service), and George Lamon. The company returned to Culpeper County April 24 or 25, 1781.

In the summer of 1846, Joseph Carpenter, John Rowzee and Abraham Tinsley gave affidavits affirming Martin Deer's service.

The Commissioner of Pensions did not accept these affidavits because these men did not have pensions. A lively correspondence between the Commissioner and James S. Barbour, Martin Deer's neighbor, who was interested in his case, continued into 1847. The Commissioner had questions about Martin's service.

**More Information on the Battle of Petersburg:**

*Where a Man Can Go: Major General William Phillips, British Royal Artillery, 1731-1781*, by Robert P. Davis. [General Phillips died of a fever and is buried in Petersburg. It seems the best (perhaps only) written account of the battle is this book.]

The City of Petersburg, Virginia, has a website on this battle: <http://www.petersburg-va.org/revwar/index2.asp>.

*[Author's note: One acceptable proof of service was the affidavit of one soldier who had served with another soldier and who was already receiving a pension. Since Martin Deer waited so long to apply, the Commissioner of Pensions suspected that he waited deliberately until all his fellow soldiers had died.]*

Was he old enough to have served in the Revolution? If so, why didn't he apply for benefits earlier? Why did he wait until all his fellow soldiers had died? Who were the officers recorded in the Culpeper County Courthouse, since the Pension Office had no evidence of the officers named from Culpeper County serving in the war?

Martin responded with papers showing his birth in October 1757. He said he had not applied for a pension earlier because "he was not much in need and thought but little about it for he fought at the time for love of country and not for any pecuniary reward." James Barbour provided a handwritten list of officers who served from Culpeper County.

In November 1847, Martin was awarded an annual pension of \$23.33. On December 25, 1854, three children of Martin Deer filed an affidavit to receive any portion of their father's pension for which they were eligible. They were Sarah Deer, Fielding Deer and Frances Skinner. The affidavit stated that Martin Deer had died, leaving no widow and these children: Absalom Deer, Fielding Deer, Sarah Deer, Fanny Skinner, Nancy Loyd and Peggy Blee. The pension file does not indicate if the children received any money from the Pension Office as heirs of Martin Deer.

Source: S8311 pension application of Martin Deer, Virginia, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, M804, NARA, Washington, DC. Contact Suzanne Matson at [scmatson@windstream.net](mailto:scmatson@windstream.net).

**Editorial Board:**

Suzanne Matson, Virginia Nuta, Michael L. Oddenino

**Editorial Goal:**

Information about our ancestors of the First and Second Germanna Colonies, and Alexander Spotswood. Contact Virginia Nuta at [vrnuta@verizon.net](mailto:vrnuta@verizon.net) with inquiries or proposed articles.

Copyright © Germanna Research Group

# The Five Wives of Howard Clore, Sr.

By Cathi Clore Frost

The story in my family has always been that my great-great grandfather Howard Clore married twice, first to Margaret Deer and second to her sister Sarah Deer.<sup>1</sup> In fact, the family Bible records both marriages and the children of each.<sup>2</sup> Margaret and Sarah Deer were Howard Clore's double first cousins.<sup>3</sup>

But this story was to be enlarged upon. My dad has an old safe owned by his grandfather Howard D. Clore, son of Howard Clore and Sarah Deer. In the safe were some land documents, including a deed for land dated 7 June 1880 from Howard



Howard Clore

Clore and wife Betsy Ann Clore to Howard D. Clore, evidence that Howard had a third wife named Betsy Ann.<sup>4</sup> A biography published that same year in the *History of Parke County, Indiana* identified her as Elizabeth Frame, daughter of Robert and Mary (Smeak) LaFollett.<sup>5</sup> This biography also mentions that, "Lately he has deeded his children 1,299 acres of western land."

There was more! Imagine my surprise when I read the following in Howard Clore's obituary, "He had been married 5 times; three of his wives are dead; two were divorced."<sup>6</sup> Margaret Deer and Sarah Deer had both died as their death dates were in the family Bible.<sup>7</sup> That raised the questions: Was wife Elizabeth Ann LaFollette Frame divorced or did she leave Howard again a widower? What were the identities of the other two wives?

A later discovery told me that, "Mrs. Howard Clore died this week of pneumonia and was buried Wednesday at Parkersburg."<sup>8</sup> A cemetery listing on the Putnam County, Indiana,

GenWeb Project<sup>9</sup> showed that she was buried there in the LaFollette Cemetery as Lizzie A. Clore with her first husband George W. Frame. A photo of her grave is now available at Find A Grave.<sup>10</sup> One question answered.

The question of the identity of Howard Clore's other two wives, marriage dates and divorce dates remained to be solved. Howard Clore lived in Parke County, Indiana and his property bordered Montgomery County, Indiana. A search of marriage records in both counties yielded only records of the three marriages mentioned above and the marriage records of Howard Clore to Melissa Jane Hendricks 31 March 1879 in Parke County, Indiana<sup>11</sup> and Howard J. Clore to Sarah Ellen Thomas 16 March 1887 in Parke County, Indiana.<sup>12</sup> The last two proved to be marriages of a different Howard Clore, the son of Urial Clore<sup>13</sup> and Dorothy Ann Cosby, a nephew to my Howard Clore. Marriage records of nearby Fountain County, Indiana, where Howard also had relatives, were also searched with no luck.<sup>14</sup>

But you never know what you will find, when genealogy is your hobby. While re-

**Howard Clore**  
born 23 March 1819  
Boone Co., KY  
died 4 December  
1895 Parke Co., IN

**m. Margaret Deer** 12  
December 1839 Mont-  
gomery Co., IN  
b. 5 August 1821  
Boone Co., KY, d.  
6 November 1856  
Parke Co., IN

**m. Sarah Deer** 1 Janu-  
ary 1857 Montgomery  
Co., IN,  
b. 16 April 1824  
Boone Co., KY, d. 30  
December 1873 Parke  
Co., IN

**m. Elizabeth Ann La-  
Follette**, widow of  
George W. Frame, 23  
September 1875  
Montgomery Co., IN,  
b. 3 Nov 1828 Mont-  
gomery Co., IN, d. 21  
Feb 1881 Parke Co.,  
IN

**m. Ann Wright**, widow  
of Joseph H. Withrow,  
26 Apr 1882 Lincoln  
Co., MO, b. 1 June  
1822 Clark Co., KY, d.  
17 June 1899 Lincoln  
Co., MO

m. ?

*Continued on p. 4*

(Continued from page 3)

searching another family, I accidentally stumbled across an index listing for the marriage of Howard Clore and Ann Withrow in Lincoln County, Missouri.<sup>15</sup> I thought of a Joseph Withrow who had married into the Clore family and wondered if Ann Withrow was possibly his relative and if this was indeed my Howard Clore. The marriage record showed that Howard Clore of Waveland, Montgomery Co., Indiana, and Mrs. Ann Withrow of Troy, Lincoln Co., Missouri, were married on 26 April 1882 at Troy.<sup>16</sup> Not only had the fourth wife of Howard Clore been discovered, she was his own first cousin, once removed, Ann Wright, widow of Joseph Withrow.<sup>17</sup> It is presumed that the two divorced; however, divorce records for relevant localities are not available on microfilm at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and the author has not yet been able to research on site.

Who was the fifth wife of Howard Clore? Was she also a relative? Where did they marry and divorce? These mysteries remain to be solved.

<sup>1</sup>This differs from information previously published by Claude L. Yowell, "The First Four Generations of the Clore-Glore Family in America," *Germanna Record* #10, (Culpeper, VA: Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia, Inc., 1967), 21 which states: "Howard married first Sarah Deer and second Jane Deer." Cathi Clore Frost, *Germanna Record* #16: *The First Four Generations of the Michael Clore Family* (Locust Grove, VA: Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia, Inc., 2005) expands and corrects the previous publication. Howard Clore is found on pages 105-106 and his wives Margaret and Sarah Deer, p. 120.

<sup>2</sup>"The Howard Clore (Sr.) Family Bible," *Beyond Germanna*, 10, no. 3 (May 1998): 568. The bible is currently in possession of Howard D. Clore of Salem, Oregon.

<sup>3</sup>The parents of Howard Clore were Israel Clore and Frances Deer. The parents of Margaret and Sarah Deer were John Deer and Margaret Clore. Israel and Margaret Clore were the children of Michael "Big Mike" Clore and Margaret Weaver. John and Frances Deer were the children of Andrew Deer and Susannah Rasor.

<sup>4</sup>The author has not traced where this was recorded. Also in the safe were the original sheepskin land patents Israel Clore "of Boone County, Kentucky" obtained when he purchased land in Indiana during the 1820s. The family story is that Israel walked to Indiana from Boone Co., KY, carrying his rifle. Copies of these patents are available from: Bureau of Land Management, <<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov>> (accessed 23 April 2011).

<sup>5</sup>J.H. Beadle, *History of Parke County, Indiana* (Chicago: H.H. Hill & N. Iddings, 1880).

<sup>6</sup>*Rockville Republic*, Rockville, IN, 9 December 1895.

<sup>7</sup>"The Howard Clore (Sr.) Family Bible," 568.

<sup>8</sup>*Crawfordsville Weekly Review*, Crawfordsville, IN, 26 February 1881.

<sup>9</sup>Available from: <<http://ingenweb.org/inputham/>> (accessed 22 April 2011).

<sup>10</sup>Photo of headstone. Available from: Find A Grave, <<http://www.findagrave.com/>> (accessed 22 April 2011). Although the headstone has name Lizzie A. Clore, the entry was created as Eliza A. Clore.

<sup>11</sup>Parke County, Indiana Marriage Book 7: 216.

<sup>12</sup>Parke County, Indiana Marriage Book 8: 377.

<sup>13</sup>Urial Clore was the son of Israel Clore and Frances Deer.

<sup>14</sup>These searches were completed on site at the County Courthouses in Crawfordsville, Montgomery County, Indiana, Rockville, Parke County, Indiana and Covington, Fountain County, Indiana during October 2002 by the author.

<sup>15</sup>International Genealogical Index (IGI). Available from: FamilySearch, <<http://www.familysearch.org/eng/>> (accessed 23 April 2011).

<sup>16</sup>Lincoln County, Missouri Marriage Book 5 (Family History Library, Salt Lake City, US/CAN Film 973689): 58.

<sup>17</sup>Ann Wright was the daughter of Thomas Jefferson Wright and Permelia Clore. Permelia Clore was the daughter of Michael Clore and Elizabeth Rice. Michael Clore was the son of Howard Clore's grandparents Michael "Big Mike" Clore and Margaret Weaver.



Dooley, SATIN FINISH. Waveland, Ind.

Sarah Deer Clore and Howard D. Clore

## The Mountain Burial of John and Andrew Gaar

Acting on a tip from a member of the Hebron Lutheran Church, Virginia Nuta and Cathi Clore Frost found this small Gaar Cemetery along a small road on Gaar Mountain in Madison County. New veteran stones have been placed for brothers John and Andrew Gaar. Other headstones were unreadable except one next to Andrew Gaar's new monument bearing dates:

[BO]RN OCT. 1. 1750  
DEPARTED THIS LIFE  
OCT. 4. 1837



Although the name has worn away with the top of the headstone, the death date matches that of Christena Wilhoit, wife of Andrew Gaar, as reported on page 68 of the Garr Genealogy. The Garr Genealogy gives a birth date of simply 1750, so this find pinpoints the exact date. Christena Wilhoit was the daughter of Johannes Willheit aka John Wilhoit and Waldburga Weber aka Peggy Weaver, of the Second Germanna Colony. *Photos by Cathi Clore Frost.*

## Alexander Spotswood and the Counterfeiting Convict

Alexander Spotswood, Esq., published a “caution to the paper-money colonies” in *The American Weekly Mercury*, week of Thursday June 22 to Thursday, June 29, 1738, concerning his servant Joshua Dean. Dean had run away from Germanna in June 1737.

Dean had been convicted of counterfeiting paper stamps at home [London] and had been transported to the Plantations [Colonies] for life. Dean was about 40 years old with a “middle stature, with lusty Limbs, fat Body, round Face, ruddy Complexion and bold Countenance, having a Mole with long Hair on his right Cheek.” Spotswood further described Dean as a “very artful fellow, discourses well upon most Subjects of the Mechanicks, and is a Jack of all Trades.”

Spotswood offered 40 shillings, sterling, paid to the individual who delivered Joshua Dean to the Chief Postmaster of the province in which Dean was captured. Dean was to be returned by ship, if necessary, to Virginia well secured to prevent Dean’s escape. Spotswood concluded his description of Joshua Dean by adding “for he is said to be a great Artist at Coining [Counterfeiting], and to have often slipt his Neck out of the Halter by breaking Goal [sic].” — *Suzanne Matson*

*The American Weekly Mercury was published in Philadelphia, was the first newspaper of the middle colonies and the fourth oldest newspaper in the colonies.*

# The Michelangelo of Madison County

By Michael L. Oddenino

The Hebron Lutheran Church in Madison County, Virginia boasts original artwork by an Italian artist named Giuseppe Domenico Felipe Oddenino. Giuseppe (Joseph) was born August 23, 1831, in Chieri, near Torino, Italy, where his family owned a linen factory. Family stories suggest that Joseph's first love was art and that he felt he could pursue a career in art in America, as his family's social status meant they did not look kindly on lowly artists. He left his wife Celina and son Luigi in Italy while he pursued his art dreams in America.

He arrived in New York in March of 1862, and enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War. Civil War records reflect that he was in Company B, 5th Regiment of the New York Heavy Artillery. *New York In The War of Rebellion* (1912), by Frederick Phisterer, indicates that while the company saw some action, the majority of the time it was involved in garrison duty, especially in the Washington, D.C. area. Pension records indicate that Joseph was on detached duty with the regimental band on June 20, 1864.



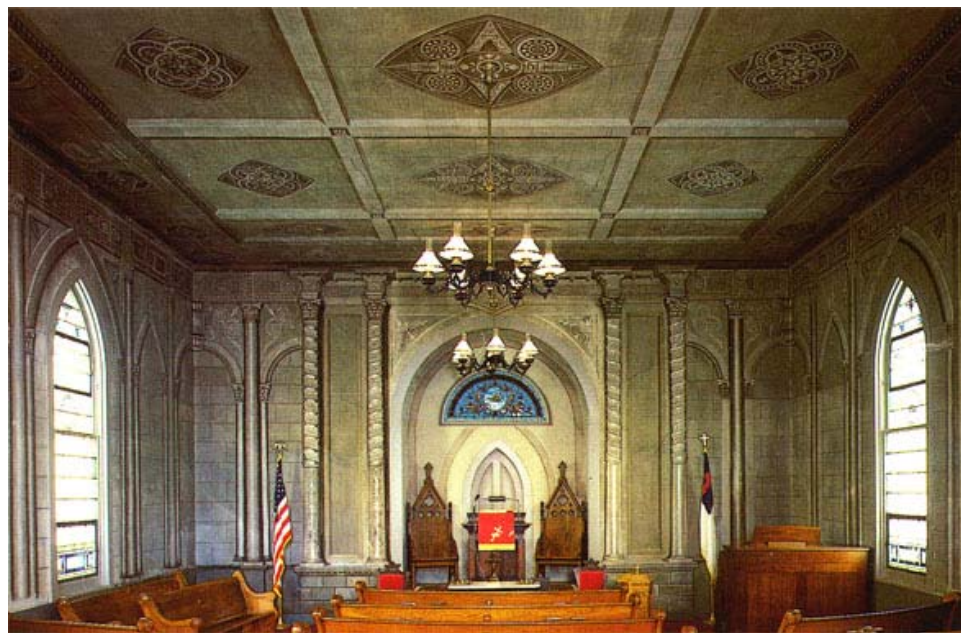
*Hebron Lutheran Church Ceiling.*

Joseph was honorably discharged in March of 1865 at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. He liked the piedmont region of Virginia as it reminded him of his home in the piedmont region of northern Italy, and settled in Madison County, Virginia and also lived in Culpeper, Virginia and Orange County, Virginia.

He painted the ceiling of the Hebron Lutheran Church in 1885. It took him one year and

he was paid \$1,000.00. It is thought he did the six panels while the two remaining ones on either side of the pulpit may be imitations of Joseph's work. Roy Crigler, then a child of age six or seven, was the only one Joseph would allow to be with him while he worked.

He also painted the Culpeper Courthouse, which was recently restored to preserve Joseph's interior artwork. And, most famously, he painted the interior of Mitchell's Presbyterian Church. A view of Joseph's trompe l'oeil style of art is beautifully seen in the interior of Mitchell's Church where the only beams and columns are in the mind's eye. The Mitchell's



*Mitchell's Presbyterian Church in Culpeper County.*

Presbyterian Church has been the subject of important restoration work and research.

Joseph's son, Luigi (Louis), came to Virginia in the 1800s to be with his father, and he married Mary Delph, a Germanna descendant. Thus, today there are many descendants of Giuseppe Oddenino of Torino, Italy, who are Germanna descendants!