

HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA

A. S. Salley, Secretary  
Harriet J. Clarkson, Assistant Secretary

Columbia, S. C.  
August 25, 1932

Mrs. Elizabeth Florida Farr Fripp  
Albany, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Fripp,

Your lines are all erroneously stated. It was Thomas Farr, Jr., a prominent official in both the government and the soldiery during the Revolution, who married Elizabeth Waring in 1773. I could easily fix up a D.A.R. paper taking you to Thomas Farr, Jr. but for the fact that we have not the dates of birth, death, and marriage (that is accessible sources) of his son Thomas who married Miss Fardo. I may be able to procure these dates. George John Fardo married Elizabeth Godfrey, daughter of Richard Godfrey and Rebecca Guy in 1773 also. She had brothers John and William; and John in his will, mentions his sister Elizabeth Fardo. Her father died in 1758 when she was a small girl so that there is no Revolutionary line on Godfrey but there is on Farr. Thomas Farr, Jr. was a son of Thomas Farr, Sr., and Amaranthia Elliott. Amaranthia Elliott was a daughter of William Elliott and Catherine Schenckings, and Catherine was the daughter of Barnard Schenckings who was a Lords Proprietors' deputy member of the Grand Council and otherwise a leader in Proprietary days. Thomas Farr, Sr., was a son of John Farr who was also a Lords Proprietors' deputy and member of the Grand Council and conspicuous in Proprietary days. William Elliott was a member of the Commons House of Assembly for many years. He was the grandfather of the Revolutionary hero, Colonel Barnard Elliott. I don't know where you got the idea that Thomas Farr, Jr., was a son of Colonel William Farr of the Up-Country. The two men were about the same age and I can find no relationship.

I can find very little about Richard Shaw, and as we have no records of the War of 1812 here I cannot aid you on that. Possibly you might obtain his record from the Adjutant General, War Department, Washington. He most likely served in a South Carolina unit. Possibly his service was only in the militia of South Carolina, in which case there would be no record in Washington, nor here.

I have both the Farr and Godfrey lines worked out down to the links connecting with you. I will send either one for \$5.00 or both for \$10.00 and I will fill out the Farr paper for the D.A.R. if you want to send that in as a supplementary paper.

Yours very truly,

(signed) A. S. Salley

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October 11, 1932

Dear Mrs. Fripp,

Herewith are your papers. Accompanying is a certificate as to certain data not found in printed volumes. You will have to fill in on both papers the place of your birth and the dates of your Mother and marriage of your parents. You will also have to take the oath on the last page before a Notary.

I find that Thomas Farr descends from some of the most distinguished of the earliest South Carolinians. Barnard Schenckings and John Farr were members of the Grand Council and deputies of the Lords Proprietors, etc. Col. Thomas Smith and William Elliott were in the Commons House of Assembly, etc.

Yours very truly,

(signed) A. S. Salley

JULY 1860

In Savannah on the morning of the 7th of July, after a long and painful illness, William Waring Farr, aged 62 years two months and eight days.

The deceased was a native of South Carolina, but for the last thirty years a resident of Georgia, and was a son of Thomas John Smith Farr of St. Pauls Parish, Stone, where his grandfather, also of the same name, resided before the Revolution.

Being orphaned and hurled suddenly from the lap of luxury, he was cast on his own resources at an early age. Faithful in the performance of his duties, in all business relations, he maintained a character of the strictest integrity and firmness of principle, in the discharge of them. In his family, his gentleness, kindness and entire devotion, made him the center of attraction to which all clung with almost an idolatrous affection. Long will he live in affectionate remembrance by each one. He has left a widow, two daughters, and six sons, with fourteen grandchildren and numerous connections and friends, with the consoling assurance that he rests in hope of a joyful resurrection at the last day, and a happy reunion in a world where there will be no more suffering, tears at parting and the weary head will be at Rest with the Redeemer that he loved.

William Waring Farr was married to Sarah Wreinch Shaw, on Wednesday, December 9th, 1819, by the Rev. Richard B. Cater, in Abbeville, S.C.

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Columbia, South Carolina  
October 11, 1932

I hereby certify that The Savannah Morning News in July, 1860, published an obituary notice of the death on July 7th, of William Waring Farr (2) in which it is stated that he was 62 years of age, a son of Thomas John Smith Farr, formerly of St. Paul's Parish, South Carolina, and had been married to Sarah Wreinch Shaw, at Abbeville, S. C., by Rev. Richard B. Cater, December 9, 1819.

I further certify that the late D. E. Huger Smith, one of the vice-presidents of the South Carolina Historical Society and a very careful genealogist, had during his lifetime taken data from a Farr Bible and that his notes are now in the collection of the South Carolina Historical Society and that they supply the data as to birth, marriage, and death of Thomas John Smith Farr (3), and the records of his brothers and sisters.

I further certify that the date of birth of Thomas Farr (4) was derived from the same source as above, while the dates of death of himself and his wife were derived from the record book of the undertaker who buried them, that book being now in the collection of the South Carolina Historical Society; that the age at death given on the undertaker's book harmonizes with the Bible record of the birth of Thomas Farr, but that the record of date of death of his wife, Elizabeth (Waring) Farr given thereon, does not correspond with the date of death given in the Waring genealogy published in Volume XXIV of The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, nor does the age (64) at death therein given correspond with the date of birth given in the Magazine, but as the compiler of that genealogy was exceedingly inaccurate in copying and compiling, it is most likely that the undertakers record is correct as to age at death as well as time of death, which would fix the year Mrs. Farr's birth at 1758 or four years later than her husband's birth, instead of 1754 - the same year of her husband's birth.

(Signed) A. S. Salley

THE FOLLOWING EXTRACTS ARE FROM MCCRADY'S  
"HISTORY OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE REVOLUTION"  
Volume - 1775 - 1780

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In re: Organization of regular regiments - 1775

"It was manifest to the Provincial Congress that no reliance could be placed on the regularly organized militia to carry out their purpose as the militia would necessarily embrace men of all shades of political opinion. It was determined, therefore, to organize a force independent of that body. According to our present ideas, it would be supposed that volunteers would have been called for, and organized into regiments to take the field - a force in which the best men of all classes would serve in the ranks if necessary from motives of patriotism. Five years later we shall see a purely volunteer system springing into existence in South Carolina after the fall of Charleston and the loss of the Continental Army; and we shall see the redemption of the State begun by volunteers serving without pay, under Sumter, Marion and Pickens; but the Provincial Congress had no idea of such a system. Their plan was the organization of a regular force officered by gentlemen, the rank and file of which was to be formed of men enlisted for hire such as the regular armies of Europe, the ranks of which later we shall see filled up by vagrants and offenders against the law sentenced thereto by the courts. Gentlemen of family and fortune at once offered themselves as candidates for commissions and the Congress proceeded to choose these by ballot. Two of the three regiments now raised were to be of the line designed for service on the Coast."

Pages 13 - 14

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McGrady's footnote on Page 14 gives a list of the officers thus elected in 1776 and mentions John Farr, as Second Lieutenant.

See also "Heitman's Register" - 1775-83 - Page 222  
"Ramsey's Revolution" - Vol. 1 - Page 35 - 37  
"Coll. History of Soc. S.C." - Vol. 11 - page 26 - 27  
"Memoirs of the Revolution" (Drayton) - Vol. 1775

In re: Capture Thomas John Smith Farr by British

"On the 7th of March, 1780, one thousand British grenadiers and light infantry crossed WAPPOO CUT and advanced to within three miles of Ashley Ferry, twelve miles from town (Charleston) and advanced to within three miles of that post, taking possession of the land on the Ashley opposite the town. The immediate inducement of the move appears to have been the capture of a large number of cattle which had been collected on Ashley River. The movement was unexpected and the militia and the drivers in charge of the cattle were taken and Thomas Farr, the speaker of the House of Representatives, his son, a little boy, and Mr. Lloyd were surprised at breakfast and carried off. Mr. Farr was made to perform the undignified task of driving the cattle for his captors who encouraged him to do so by calling to him - 'Keep up Mr. Speaker, keep up.'"

Pages 445-446

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"Thomas Farr was elected Speaker in place of John Matthews elected to Congress." Gazette of State of South Carolina, August 11, 1779.

In re: Arrest - Thomas John Smith Farr by Cornwallis

"After the fall of Charleston on the 4th of June, 1780, Sir Henry Clinton wrote \_\_\_\_\_ 'I may venture to assert that there are few men in South Carolina who are not either our prisoners or in arms with us.' This was undoubtedly true. There was not a Continental officer or soldier in the field. Lieutenant Colonel Francis Marion and Major Thomas Pinckney had been sent out of the garrison before the surrender and had escaped into North Carolina. So had General Isaac Huger who had not been in the town and so was not amongst the prisoners. All the rest of the South Carolina officers, including General Moultrie, Colonel C. C. Pinckney and Lieutenant Col John Laurens were prisoners at Haddrell's Point and the soldiers in prison ship in the Harbor."

Page 533

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"Though restrained by their paroles from doing anything injurious to the interests of his Brittenic Majesty, the silent example of these men who were revered by their fellow citizens, exerted a powerful influence in restraining many from exchanging their paroles for the protection and privileges of British subjects and encouraged the spirit of resistance which was now finding its way through swamps even to the confines of the Capitol (Charleston) held by the conquerors."



To put an end to this source of trouble, Lord Cornwallis determined to send a number of the principal of these into exile. He issued his orders accordingly and early on Sunday morning, the 27th day of August, 1780, thirty-three of these prisoners on parole were suddenly siezed in their homes by armed soldiers under the direction of Major Benson and Captain McMahon. These were, Christopher Gadsden, the Lieutenant Governor, Thomas Farr late Speaker, etc.,"

Pages 716 - 717

McGrady adds the following footnote:

"This list is that given by Tarleton (Campaigns 185). It contains the names of four persons no other list and who are not mentioned by Josiah Smith in his diary. These are: Thomas Farr, John Floyd, William Price and Joseph Atkinson. These were probably included in the order but for some cause were either not arrested or were immediately released."

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