



# The Pemberton Post

## News of the Pemberton Family World Wide

Vol. 1

November 26, 2011

Num. 2

**Breaking News!** 20% discount offer on DNA tests until December 31  
See the Latest News item for details: [DNA Price Offer & Five Year Membership](#)

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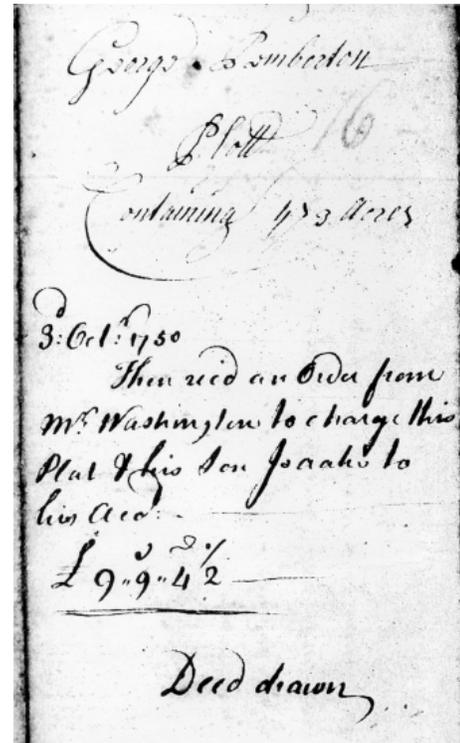
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Washington" paid for the two properties on behalf of George and Isaiah Pemberton.



### First World Wide Reunion

Plans are afoot for the first Pemberton Family World Wide reunion. The current President and his wife are volunteering at a large church Youth Camp in the Redwoods of California, and one of the compensations they receive for their service is that they can host a family reunion at very low cost. The camp has a large commercial kitchen adjacent a large dining hall that's easily seats over a hundred. There are two lodges that sleep 40 and 22 respectively, and 14 cabins that sleep 8 each so there is plenty of lodging and great facilities. There is talk of simultaneous reunions in the US, the UK and Australia, connected by the internet. If you have an idea that would help with this project, please send it to our programme chairman at [programme@pembertonfamily.com](mailto:programme@pembertonfamily.com).

This is the only one of the 1,532 Northern Neck surveys held at the State Library of Virginia with such a note. (c) "Mr. Washington" probably refers to George Washington, who as an 18-year old surveyor was the only member of the family working directly with Lord Fairfax's land office. It could, however, refer to George's older half-brother Lawrence, who was married to Anne Fairfax, daughter of Lord Fairfax's cousin William Fairfax.

### Mr. Washington's Order by James Lloyd

The land survey file for George Pemberton's 1750 Fairfax Grant in Frederick Co., Virginia contains a note dated October 3, 1750 as follows: "Then rec'd an Order from Mr. Washington to charge this plat & his son Isaiahs to his Acct" (a)

It is natural for all Pemberton's to wonder what this order signifies. Could there have been a personal acquaintance between George Pemberton and the Washington brothers? Or did George Pemberton provide goods or services to the young surveyor or his brother in return for which "Mr. Washington" agreed to pay for the Pemberton lands?

The amount written in under this note is £9.9.4 1/2, which actually would have covered not only the cost of the two surveys but also the "composition" fee paid to Lord Fairfax as the price for the land itself. (b) Thus it appears that "Mr.

There was no indication in the Pemberton Scrap Book(m) of any relationship with the Washington family, which is somewhat surprising given that they were neighbors for twenty years in Virginia and sold their land to Samuel Washington when they moved to South Carolina in 1771. Furthermore, the 13-volume collection of the Papers of George Washington, Colonial Series, contains no references to George Pemberton other than in a tally of the 1758 election for the Virginia House of Burgesses, in which the future president was a candidate (George Pemberton did not vote for him).(d) Nor is there a reference in the complete papers of George Washington at the Library of Congress (readable and searchable online), which include his Mt. Vernon account books.

Based on the lack of family lore and the lack of references in George Washington's papers, it seems unlikely that the young surveyor or his brother paid for the Pemberton surveys out of personal friendship.

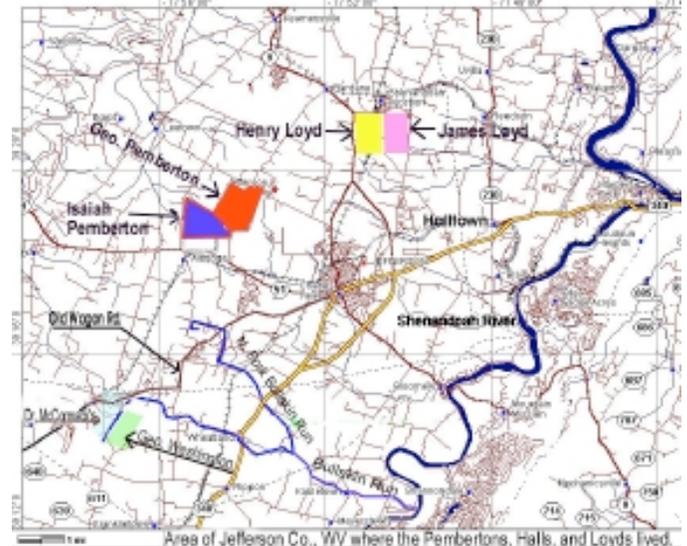
There is an indirect personal connection between the two families, however, which might explain things. One of George Pemberton's neighbors in Frederick Co. was Thomas Carney, whose son Thomas married George's daughter Sarah in the early 1750's. Thomas Carney and his brother John grew up on the Potomac River at Little Hunting Creek in what was originally Stafford Co., later Prince William County and ultimately Fairfax Co.(e) Students of history may recognize Little Hunting Creek as the name of the property owned by the Washington family that was renamed Mt. Vernon by Lawrence Washington, who lived there beginning in 1739.

Thus, Thomas Carney grew up a neighbor of the Washingtons. In contrast to George Pemberton, there are numerous references to Thomas Carney's brother John in the Papers of George Washington. Most have to do with agricultural accounts but one refers to a letter from Charles Washington to his brother George having been delivered by John Carney. There is also an extensive letter from George to Charles dealing with the former's persistent and ultimately successful effort to persuade John Carney to quitclaim his lease at Little Hunting Creek so Washington could incorporate that land into Mt. Vernon.(f)

Ed. Note: Our author, James Lloyd is a Pemberton, being a direct descendent of Judith Pemberton (our George's daughter) and of Henry Lloyd, son of David Loyd both of whom lived a mile up the road from George. See map below. He has spent many hours in research and documenting this very interesting article. He is a member of the PFWW and can be contacted on our website.

Thomas Carney apparently moved to Frederick Co. sometime before October 3, 1750, when he served as chain carrier on George Pemberton's survey.(a) He received a warrant to survey his tract adjoining George Pemberton on March 9, 1750/51, a few months after George Pemberton and son Isaiah received their Fairfax grants on October 15 and 16, 1750.(g, h) Carney's survey was performed by George Washington himself on March 18, 1751.(g)

Thomas Carney, who grew up next to the Washingtons and became a neighbor of George Pemberton's, provides a possible explanation for how a Washington would have come to know enough about George Pemberton to assume the cost of purchasing and surveying his and his son's tracts.

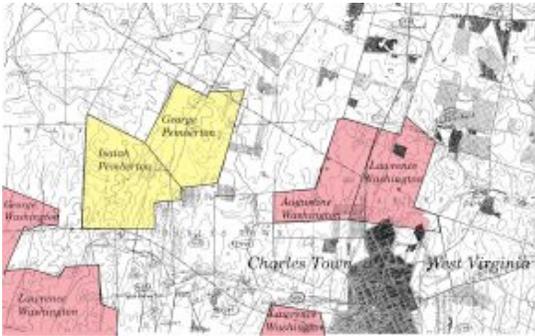


While explaining how the two men may have come to know each other, this does not explain why either Washington would have paid for George Pemberton's land. The answer may lie in George Washington's surveying activity in the months leading up to George Pemberton's own survey in October. As explained by an historian of Washington's surveying career:

“During the last two weeks in August 1750, Washington broke with the normal pattern of spring and fall surveying to run twelve surveys in the Shenandoah Valley [Ed. Note: The Shenandoah River is about 10 mile SE of the Pemberton properties.] in the vicinity of present-day Charles Town, West Virginia. Seven of those surveys, variously located on or near Flowing Springs, Evitts, and Bullsken Runs [A tributary of the Shenandoah], were made for Lawrence Washington, and one survey at the head of Flowing Springs Run was made for his other half-brother, Augustine Washington. The fact that all but one of Washington's late summer surveys were granted by Lord Fairfax between October 13 and November 1, 1750, an unusually short time after surveying, suggests that the claimants were in a

hurry to make good their titles, perhaps to forestall rivals.”(i)

Several of these surveys were less than a mile from the Pembertons’ land to the west, south and east, so the Pembertons’ land would have been a desirable addition to their family’s acreage (see map).(h, j) Given the fact that George’s sons George and Isaiah sold the Pemberton grants to Samuel Washington when they left the area 20 years later, one reasonably wonders if this was the reason a Washington paid for the Pemberton tracts. Could there have been an understanding on the part of the Pembertons to sell the Washingtons their land in exchange for George having paid for the survey?



It is possible, of course, that it is only by coincidence that the sum paid by Mr. Washington equaled the amount of the composition and survey fees for the two Pemberton tracts. Perhaps George Pemberton assisted George Washington while he was surveying the lands surrounding the Pembertons for his brothers in August of 1750.

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, the costs paid by Mr. Washington for the two surveys were £9.9.4 1/2, which was a considerable sum in those days. One way George Pemberton could have earned credit with George Washington was as a chain carrier. This is not a likely explanation, however. The statutory pay for a chain carrier was about 2s., so the Pembertons would have had to assist in almost 100 surveys to earn the nearly £10 pounds paid on their behalf. Washington did employ a “head chainman” on about half his nearly 200 surveys, but it was a man named John Lonen.(k) The job of second chain carrier, if there was one, would be generally given to a trusted relative or neighbor as a means of assuring the fairness of the survey. For this reason it is unlikely that the Pembertons would have been employed in that function on more than a handful of Washington’s surveys.

£10 was also an enormous sum in terms of food and drink. From the 1758 account book kept by George Pemberton’s son-in-law Henry Lloyd one finds that a bushel of corn cost about 2 shillings, bacon sold for 6 pence/lb and whiskey for 3 shillings/gallon (the last from an entry for Isaiah Pemberton).

Perhaps future researchers will figure this out. For now, we are left to wonder what it was that caused George or Lawrence Washington to give or lend George Pemberton the princely sum of almost £10.

While we are on the subject of George Washington, there is one more possible connection between the Pembertons and the future first president which ought to be mentioned, though unfortunately, it too is somewhat obscure. In a biographical sketch of a descendant of George Pemberton, Jr. (sometimes referred to as George Pemberton III and brother of Isaiah), Pemberton was said to have “served as a captain of a company of Virginia troops, under Col. Washington, in the campaign with Braddock’s army, and it was through their coolness and bravery that the small remnant of that command was saved from complete destruction”.(l)

This citation refers to one of the opening campaigns of the French and Indian War (1754-1763), in which an army of British regulars and Virginia militiamen under General Edward Braddock, with George Washington his as aide-de-camp, attempted to dislodge the French from Fort Duquesne at modern-day Pittsburgh. General Braddock was killed in battle and the English and Virginia troops were routed. Washington was credited with rallying the remaining troops after General Braddock’s death and promoted to Colonel upon his return. Unfortunately, no record of George Pemberton’s service has been found outside the family lore recounted in this citation.

Thus we will have to content ourselves, as is so often the case in the field of family history, with possibilities. Were George Pemberton and the Washingtons well acquainted? We cannot know, though it seems reasonable to assume they were. What we do know for certain, however, is that of the 1,532 Fairfax surveys and grants preserved in the archives of the State Library of Virginia, only the Pembertons’ were paid for by “Mr. Washington”.

To comment on this article, login to [PFWW.org](http://PFWW.org), click on your name at the left, click on the black “Applications” tab at the top and select “Groups”. Select the “Pembertons of Virginia” group.

(a)Northern Neck Survey file for George Pemberton, State Library of Virginia. [This George Pemberton is referred to in many articles about the family as George Pemberton II.]

(b)Lord Fairfax charged a “composition fee” of 13s 4p per hundred acres for a survey warrant, which entitled the holder to a grant of title (Reports of Cases Argued and Decided in the Court of Appeals of Virginia by Daniel Call, p. 365, per

Google Books). The statutory survey fee for Frederick Co. was £1 11s. 3d (Source e, p.16). Applying the composition fee to the total of 1,015 acres in the two grants and adding two survey fees brings the total cost of the two tracts to £9 18s 10p.

(c) Joyner, Peggy S. Abstracts of Virginia's Northern Neck Warrants & Surveys, Vol 2, Portsmouth, VA: self published, 1985-95, examined by James Lloyd.

(d) Papers of George Washington, Colonial Series, Vol 5, Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 1983, p. 337.

(e) Lloyd, James B. and Richard W. Watson, Jr. Lloyd Notes and Facts, Second Edition, Kansas City, MO and New Providence, NJ: self published, 2010, pp.151-54.

(f) Papers of George Washington, Colonial Series, Vol 7, Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 1983, pp. 329-331.

(g) Joyner, Peggy S. Abstracts of Virginia's Northern Neck Warrants & Surveys, Vol 1, Portsmouth, VA: self published, 1985-95, p. 175.

(h) Grey, Gertrude E. Virginia Northern Neck Land Grants, Vol. 1, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 198?, p. 45.

(i) Hofstra, Warren R., Editor. George Washington and the Virginia Backcountry, Madison, WI: Madison House, 1998, pp. 174-175.

(j) Geertsema, Galto. Maps showing the location of all Fairfax grants, copies of which were sent to James Lloyd in May, 2004.

(k) Hofstra, op. cit., p. 173.

(l) Demuth, I. MacDonald. The History of Pettis County, Missouri, 1882, p. 978, reprinted Clinton, MO: The Printery, 197?.

(m) This is the old [Pemberton Scrapbook](#) compiled by George Middleton Pemberton, George II's great grandson, now owned by George M.'s great grandson Gordon Pemberton of Scottsdale, Arizona. Gordon is the brother of Dixie Ann Pemberton, Secretary of the PFWW, who assisted in the compilation of data for this article.

## Pemberton DNA Project News

Our Secretary, Lisa Pemberton, has encouraged a pair of her contacts to submit DNA test kits. There are at the Family Tree DNA laboratory for analysis. These, and her husband Donald's test results will help identify the branch of the Pemberton family that settled in Wilson, County, Tennessee. When the results are in, they will be posted along with the other results on the PFWW website.

Three other samples from a Virginia/Ohio branch have allowed the DNA profile of their ancestor George Pemberton of Cheshire, England to be deduced. A fourth sample, from the father of the PFWW Historian, shows that he will tie into that same branch sometime in the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>

century. This is a good example of how DNA can give direction and focus to documentary research.

Ed. Note: As we wrap up this issue, the final results for another Pemberton's DNA test have become available. This test shows definite close relationship between two Pemberton lines coming out of Wilson County, Tennessee. More later - .

## The PFWW is Looking For a Potter

We would like to offer several items for sale featuring the Pemberton surname and Coats of Arms of Pemberton families. A coffee mug or even a set of dishes with these features would be an interesting addition to any Pemberton table. If you know someone who likes to work in this kind of clay and would like to offer their work to the Pemberton public, please let us know.

## A Primer on Genealogical DNA The First of a Series on DNA Testing

Genealogical DNA work has one basic objective: to assist in family history research.

This objective is supported several ways by genealogical DNA sampling: 1) Help identify major branches in a surname family, and thus define, in a general way, the geographical areas of interest for these branches, 2) Assist researchers who have hit a "brick wall" by finding a common ancestor toward which research can be focused, 3) Find collaborators, and 4) Reduce the costs of research.

### What Genealogical DNA Is Not

Doubts and fears among those who could be served well by this new technology, prevent many from realizing its benefits. The human genome is very long and carries a lot of different kinds of information. Some genes offer medical assistance, some are useful for fighting crime. Genealogical DNA tests examine a few links between genes rather than the genes themselves. These links are not in a portion of the genome that is used for any other purpose than biological origin.

If you choose to have the results of your genealogical DNA test exposed to public review, you are exposing information that can help prove your biological origin, which in most cases will be information that was already public. If you have special circumstances in your biological origin, you may want to get more information before exposing the results of genealogical DNA testing.



### What Genealogical DNA Is

Scientists investigated a large number of genes while deciding which ones should be tested for genealogical purposes. Every gene in the human genome is subject to mutation, a random event that is a change in the detail structure of a gene as it is passed down from parent to child. By choosing genes that very rarely mutate, and some that mutate frequently, we can learn different kinds of things from DNA tests. The set of genes chosen for testing has evolved as the database of samples has grown, but in every case, they are chosen for their genealogical value rather than for any other purpose. Thus the name: genealogical DNA.

Those genes that mutate more frequently help genealogists identify branches of the family and prove pedigrees, and thus provide valuable information to a researcher looking at a brick wall. By testing a living male relative, he can find out which branch of the family they are in and hopefully find a cousin whose documentary research goes back farther. That gives direction and focus to the research.

If the results show there is no connection, that is also helpful. There are several George Pembertons in the Virginia Colony and they were thought to be closely related. DNA has proven otherwise. This causes researchers to look for an entirely different set of clues in their research.

The Pemberton DNA Project is housed in the world's largest genealogical DNA database so that it has the greatest potential to benefit Pemberton researchers.

 **Free 5 Year Membership** 

Please note that the PFWW is offering a free five-year membership to anyone who pays for a Y-DNA test of a Pemberton. For details, see the link to Latest News at the top of this issue of Pemberton Post.

(Next issue: What Genealogical DNA Does and How it Does It)

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## Members To Get *Pemberton Pedigrees*

The PFWW has a complete copy of this famous old, out-of-print book – some 226 page images. These will be placed on a CD and mailed to each member of the PFWW. Since this project requires some expenditure of PFWW funds, it will only be sent to members – voting members who have joined by paying dues. Paid members will need to be sure their mailing address is in their personal profile so that we can send the CD.

The present copy of the book is not top quality. Some pages are a little difficult to read and parts of two pages are missing. For this reason, the PFWW is seeking access to a better copy. If you have access or know where we might obtain such, please let us know by sending an email to [technologist@pembertonfamily.com](mailto:technologist@pembertonfamily.com).

### Buying Land in the Northern Neck

of the Virginia Colony was complex. First you must pay a "composition" fee at the Northern Neck Proprietary Office, owned by Lord Fairfax. That gave you a survey "warrant" directed to the county surveyor to make a "just and true" survey of the land, thereby officially determining and limiting its boundaries. You must present that survey to the Northern Neck Proprietary Office which then issued a fee simple instrument called a grant. That was not the end of the matter however. The grant required payment of an annual rent of one shilling sterling per 50 acres. You could choose to pay a larger amount, a "quit rent" and thus end all future rents.

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## Become a *Pemberton Post* Author

There must be hundreds of interesting stories about Pembertons. There is one about a Pemberton being the King's baker because he was trusted. Do you know anything about that? There are many others that this Editor has yet to hear about. Would you like to contribute a story, write an article, or publish an old photo? Maybe you have found a rich source of Pemberton history. Let the rest of us benefit from your insights.

The *Pemberton Post* is the official newsletter of the Pemberton FamilyWorld Wide organization. It is published at irregular intervals depending on the availability of appropriate material. To subscribe, go to PFWW.org and register a new account – all registrants automatically receive the *Pemberton Post*.