



Musketeers and Pikemen

PICTURES: HUNTS POST

Family reunion with a remarkable history

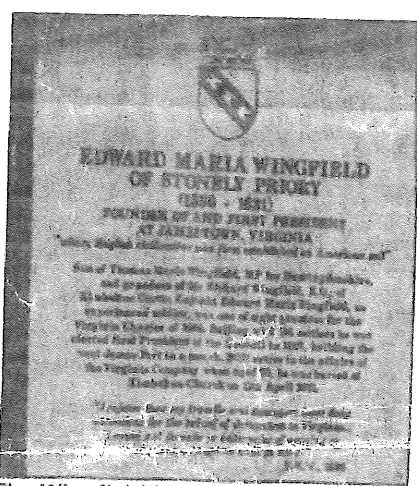
Report by NATALIE BOWYER

PEOPLE travelled from America, Ireland and the Netherlands to Kimbolton Church on Sunday to honour the life of a Stonely born man who first established English civilisation on American soil.

A memorial plaque was unveiled at St Andrew's Church in the presence of 230 descendants and family friends to honour the life of Captain Edward Maria Wingfield who was the founder of, and the first president of, Jamestowne Virginia.

Captain Wingfield was born in Stonely Levey in 1550, the son of Thomas Wingfield, MP for Huntingdonshire, and grandson of Sir Richard Wingfield K.G. of Kimbolton Castle. He lived in Stonely until 1614 and when he died in 1631 he was buried in Kimbolton.

Jocelyn Wingfield, who organised the event, told *The Hunts Post*: "Kimbolton and Stonely is where it all started, it's where the roots of the Wingfield family exist and today shows that they live on around the world. Kimbolton hasn't been an important place for a very long time."



The Wingfield Memorial

Pikemen and musketeers from the Honourable Artillery Company marched from Kimbolton Castle to St Andrew's Church to honour Captain Wingfield's life.

Hymns were sung by Kimbolton Church Choir and Elisabeth Wingfield provided a rendition of Mozart's Laudate Dominum.

The guest of honour was Anne Taylor Netick, governor of the Jamestowne Society, who gave a reading in the church while an extract from the Jamestowne Prayer was read out by Kimbolton's vicar Revd Ronald Frost.

John Inge Suffragan Bishop of Huntingdon who gave a speech detailing aspects of Captain Wingfield's life.

"He (Edward Maria Wingfield) may not have been a saint but he was a remarkable man. He was one of the only men to have travelled to Jamestowne from England at the age of 56, a perilous journey to the new world, he risked both his life and his worldly wealth.

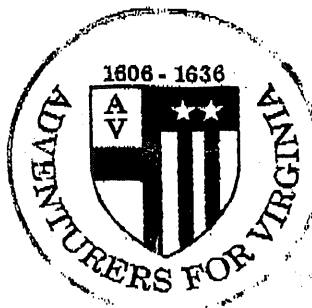
"He secured the Virginia charter from James I and arrived in Jamestowne in 1607. Great hardships followed and he was deposed as president of Jamestowne and kept under ship arrest until he was sent back to England. We shall never know the exact truth of the rigors and wrongs at that time but we do know that he established a colony yet never received any credit. Had he not done that Americans could have been speaking Spanish."

A relative of Edward Maria Wingfield, Carmen Benitez, who travelled from Dallas told *The Hunts Post*: "I'm here to learn about my family history. It has been a fabulous day and the family unity has been splendid. It's just so amazing to see so many descendants of one remarkable man in one place at the same time it's a once in a lifetime experience and I will always remember it."

INFORMATION: To find out more about the

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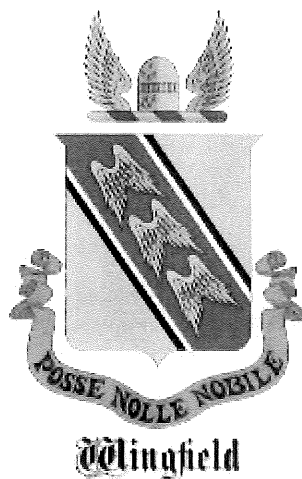
Coat of Arms

With the introduction of armor in the 12th century, identification of the warriors became more difficult as much of the body and face was covered.

By necessity an emblem or insignia was required for identification of knights in battles or tournaments. The markings on the fighter's shield became known as the shield of arms. The knight often carried another distinguishing mark on top of his helmet, known as the crest, which did not necessarily relate to any feature on his shield of arms.

From the 14th century onward, it became fashionable for social purposes to join with the personal arms the arms of other families connected by marriage. The personal arms alone, however, appeared on a knight's defensive shield, and it is those which continued as the nominal arms of the family.

Heraldry is the science of Coats of Arms. The College of Arms in London was established in 1484 and is responsible for regulating and approving Coats of Arms. John Wingfield was York Herald of the College of Arms from 1663-1674.



The Wingfield shield is described as Argent (silver), on a bend Gules (red) Cotised (narrow band on each side of, and parallel with) Sable (black), three sets of wings conjoined in lure Argent (silver).

The crest is the design above the shield. This can vary with family branch. Shown here is the high bonnet with wings situated on a torse or wreath (cord of six twists of alternate colors).

There is no record of explanation for the drops of blood on the bonnet and wing of the crest. It is assumed that the blood drops are in honor of Wingfield family members that died in service to their King.

Underneath is the motto on a banner "Posse Nolle Nobile", Latin for "To have the power without the wish is noble."

The bonnet and motto on this Coat of Arms is from the Tickencote branch. The shield is always the same for other branches.

The shield of arms accompanied by the crest, torse, motto and other supports is called an Achievement.

Wingfield and his cousin, Bartholomew Gosnold were responsible for recruiting around half the settlers from their ancestral homes in Suffolk, England area. Wingfield was the only stockholder and charter grantee to sail with the one hundred and five colonists on three ships into Virginia. He had been chosen president of the council and took complete charge upon arrival. Incidentally, John Smith arrived in chains for promoting mutiny inroute.

Wingfield was not popular as the responsibility was staggering, nevertheless the 57 year old military man was extremely experienced in defense works, constructed the fort in an incredibly short time of a month and a day. It was indeed a dismal, fledging colony in the early days. To add to the overwhelming problems, many of the colonists were "gentlemen" and did not take well to "labor." It was working, watching and warding, so much so that Wingfield's cousin, Gosnold advised him to ease up a bit as he was working the men too hard.

After arrival to promote harmony Smith was released from his incarceration and allowed to take his seat on the council. After Gosnold died, Smith led a drive for the council to depose it's president, his adversary, Wingfield.

As the going got especially tough, with starvation, disease, a high percentage of deaths as well as Indian attacks, Wingfield was deposed. History often overlooks that John Smith was also deposed as was his two predecessors as president of the council.

When Christopher Newport's ship returned from England with supplies, he (Newport) dismissed all charges against Wingfield as ludicrous, except one and that was he was an atheist. This was also untrue, as he was a Protestant. The fact remains that Wingfield led the colony from selection of a brilliant defense position on the James River, building the fort, establishing contact with the Indians during a tenuous and a most dismay period between arrival in April until September, 1607. His leadership established the colony on a foundation to become a permanent settlement in the new world. So it was Capt. Edward Maria Wingfield, the first president of Jamestown who was the true founder.

There are a few copies of "Virginia's True Founder - Edward-Maria Wingfield, by Jocelyn Wingfield" still available. See Wingfield Store page under books, on this site.

I had a desire to reach out to Calvin Pearson of Hampton, Virginia in December of 2008. He wanted to set history records straight of the first arrival of Africans on English American Soil in 1619. Calvin wanted the truth to be known of their arrival at Old Point Comfort present day Hampton, Virginia, not Jamestown, Virginia.

It was by my own personal journey in 2005 when I discovered how my Wingfield family members had to set history records straight on how our cousin Captain Edward Maria Wingfield who was the true first founder of and the first president of the Jamestown, Virginia, the successful English colony in America in 1607, and not John Smith. It taught me to appreciate when new evidence comes in sometimes you have to change the belief of the old to make room for the new. A valuable lesson learned. -Venita 2011

Edward-Maria Wingfield Jamestown's First President - 1607

Edward Maria Wingfield was the true founder of the first successful English colony in America in 1607. History with few exceptions, ignores this fact. Nevertheless it is for this accomplishment he is best known, although he was also a valiant soldier in prior years for England.

Wingfield an active leader in getting the Jamestown expedition up and running, was one of the Big Eight Virginia Company stockholders and the only venturer representing the London company in Virginia.

Most of the accepted history of Jamestown was written by the better known, John Smith himself, who became an adversary of Capt. Wingfield. Smith's enormous ego basically denied merit to anyone but himself. Therefore history of the event is unfairly slanted with many inaccuracies.

Smith describes Wingfield as a weak person, who misappropriated rations, held Smith in custody without cause, tried to escape from Jamestown, did not build temporary defense works or even unpack the arms. Each and every one of these accusations were disproved by chapter and verse in a 1993 book ("Virginia's True Founder: Edward-Maria Wingfield") by Jocelyn Wingfield of London, England. The simple undeniable fact is Smith was not in charge of building the fort, did not initiate bartering with the Indians or keeping peace with them. He was not the founder of Jamestown as most people tend to believe.

John Smith was a brave and daring individual with many accomplishments at Jamestown to his credit. Unfortunately telling the truth was not one of them. History has vastly exaggerated Smith's role and ignores that Wingfield was the true founder of the Jamestown colony.