

1917

INVITATION FROM MAGRUDER CHAPTER D. C. D. A. R. TO
UNVEILING OF TABLET TO S. W. MAGRUDER.

The Magruder Chapter D. C. D. A. R. extends a
cordial invitation to American Clan Gregor
Society to attend the exercises incident to
the unveiling of a memorial tablet to

MAJOR SAMUEL WADE MAGRUDER,

in St. Paul's Church Rock Creek Parish, at
2 o'clock on Friday, October 16th, 1925.

Mrs. PHILIP HILL SHERIFF, *Regent*,
per MARY THERESE HILL, *Corres. Sec'y*.

SAMUEL WADE MAGRUDER.

Address Made at the Unveiling of a Memorial Tablet to Samuel Wade
Magruder, placed by Magruder Chapter, Daughters of the
American Revolution, in St. Paul's Church, Rock Creek
Parish, District of Columbia and Prince George's County,
Maryland, Diocese of Washington, October 16, 1925.

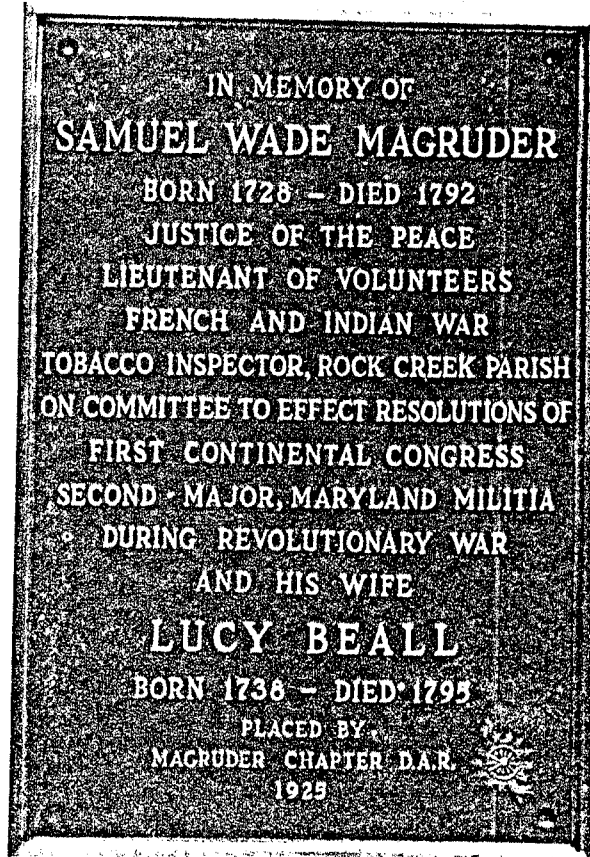
BY CALEB CLARKE MAGRUDER.

I am bidden by Magruder Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, in the District of Columbia, to voice a feeling of gratification at this presence, and to extend a cordial greeting to the congregation of St. Paul's Church, representatives of Revolutionary Chapters, and the membership of American Clan Gregor Society.

The tablet we are assembled to unveil is placed by a chapter organized in 1911, with Mrs. John Spencer Bukcy as its first Regent, and a membership restricted to Magruder sires of approved Revolutionary records, and the wives of such descendants.

In 1915, this Chapter dedicated a stone to the memory of Nathaniel Magruder, in the Magruder family grave-yard at "Dunblane", Prince George's County, Maryland, as a testimonial to his Revolutionary services, and in compliment to his descendants then in membership, particularly so to Mrs. Agnes Woods (MacGregor) Bowie, its first Corresponding Secretary, later Chaplain, and Chaplain for life from 1917.

Since then their efforts have been directed toward a memorial to Samuel Wade Magruder, ancestor of their first Vice-Regent, Miss Mary Blanche Magruder, who succeeded to the Regency, "in recognition of her services to the Chapter, and her efforts to perfect his Revolutionary record".



Tablet unveiled in St. Paul's Church, Rock Creek
Parish, D. C. Presented by Magruder Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution.

MAGRUDER FAMILY
SAMUEL WADE MAGRUDER

And the success of these efforts steadily adhered to, through a period of ten years, evidences great fixity of purpose, most affectionate regard, and intense loyalty to her memory.

It is such organizations as those amongst us who seek to perpetuate the deeds of heroes, and thus so stimulate the thoughts of youth as to incline them to follow in the paths of usefulness and honor.

In the erection of memorials to our heroes, and those of less renown, though factors in a worthy cause, we should be careful lest we merit the rebuke of Sir Joseph Addison, who wrote;—"There"—meaning Westminster Abbey, that hallowed spot of British sepulchre,—“there are poets without monuments, and monuments without poets”.

In presenting the claims of Samuel Wade Magruder for memorialization, I shall consider him genealogically and historically.

Through the one you will know “the rock whence he was hewn”, and through the other, the opportunities which were his.

We can only fairly measure the worth of a man by a consideration of the times in which he lived, and the opportunities which he embraced to elevate himself above his contemporaries.

Gauged by this standard, I feel that the services of Samuel Wade Magruder justly entitle him to recognition.

He was born on his father's home plantation in Prince George's County, Maryland, in 1728; the son of Alexander Magruder, private in a Troop of Horse, Warden, and Vestryman of St. Paul's Church, Rock Creek Parish.

His paternal grandfather was Samuel Magruder, a member of the first Vestry of St. Paul's Church, now in Prince George's County, Maryland, upon its organization in 1692; Member of the House of Burgesses, Judge of the Provincial Court, and Captain of Militia; whose wife, Sarah, was the reputed daughter of Colonel Ninian Beall, than whom there was no more illustrious citizen and soldier in the Colony of Maryland during his generation, and Ruth Moore, his wife, daughter of Richard and Jane Moore.

His paternal great-grandfather was Alexander Magruder, Maryland immigrant, taken prisoner at the Battle of Worcester, in which engagement his elder brother, James, Laird of Cargill, was killed; whose wife was Margaret, daughter of William Braithwaite, sometime Acting Governor of Maryland, whom the then Lord Baltimore styled “Cousin” in his Commission of designation as such.

On the distaff side, Samuel Wade Magruder was the son of Anne Wade, daughter of Robert Wade, Captain of Horse, and Justice of the Peace; who was the son of Zachariah Wade, Member of the House of Burgesses, and High Sheriff.

His maternal grandmother was Elizabeth Sprigg, daughter of Thomas Sprigg, immigrant, Lord of the Manor of Northampton, Presiding Justice,

High Sheriff, a soldier who served against the Nanticoke Indians; and his wife, Eleanor Nuthall, daughter of John Nuthall and Eleanor Bacon, London born, Justice of the Peace, and patentee of “The Cross Manor” and “St. Elizabeth's Manor” in the Mother County of Maryland—St. Mary's.

When Samuel Wade Magruder attained his majority, he lived in Frederick County, Maryland, carved out of Prince George's County, in 1748.

Shortly after Great Britain's ancient enemy—France, with Indians as companions in arms,—challenged the supremacy of Anglo-Saxonism from the St. Lawrence to New Orleans by encroaching upon the English Colonies planted westward of the Ohio.

Maryland was not at first territorially involved in the struggle which led to the French and Indian War, but in 1754 she made common cause with Virginia, who claimed the western country sought to be controlled by the French, in erecting Fort Frederick as a military outpost, and appropriating £6,000 sterling to the service of His Majesty, the King of England, toward the defense of the Colony of Virginia.

In 1755 General Edward Braddock, who had fought on the field of Colloden under the Duke of Cumberland, with seasoned British troops and raw American militia, advanced from Alexandria, Virginia, by way of Rockville, Maryland, toward Fort Duquesne, now the site of Pittsburgh, Pa.

When within a few miles of his objective he was attacked by the French and Indians and mortally wounded in an engagement known as “Braddock's Defeat” which quickly developed into a rout.

For more than a year afterward the western frontiers of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia were devastated by savage raiders, some of them penetrating the interior as far as Carlisle, Frederick and Winchester.

So great became the alarm and fear of further incursions that there was serious thought of fortifying Annapolis.

During this critical period, Samuel Wade Magruder was commissioned a Lieutenant of Volunteers, and marched with his men to Fort Frederick.

When the Protestant Episcopal Church became the established Church of Maryland in 1692, the Wardens and Vestrymen of its several parishes were delegated a large degree of governmental power in secular affairs, including the appointment of Tobacco Inspectors, which position Samuel Wade Magruder held continually from 1759 to 1770 in Rock Creek Parish.

This office corresponded largely with, and combined somewhat, the duties of the Commissioner's Courts and Treasurers in the 23 Counties of Maryland; the Inspectors' duties, in the main, being to levy taxes upon tobacco, the then staple crop of Maryland, and at that time used as currency, for the purposes of equal taxation in the expenditures of County government; the payment of tithes, and the upkeep of the churches of the established religion.

Following the assembly of the First Continental Congress held in Philadelphia, a meeting of the inhabitants of Frederick County was held in 1774, at which Samuel Wade Magruder was named as one of a Committee to carry into effect the Resolutions by the Congress adopted.

And again in 1775, he was a member of a Committee from Lower Potomac Hundred to solicit subscriptions toward Frederick County's apportionment of the \$10,000 ordered by the Council of Maryland to be raised in the several Counties of the Colony for the purchase of arms and ammunition.

He was appointed Captain of a Company of the 29th Battalion of Montgomery County in 1776, but declined to serve, whereupon the Maryland Council commissioned him Second-Major of that Battalion, Col. John Murdock, commanding, on June 21, 1777.

These troops having volunteered to serve beyond their home colony, they were known as "Marching Militia", and as such were equipped for the field and ordered forward to strengthen General Washington in the Jerseys, when he appealed to his Maryland friends for reinforcements, and later won high commendation from their Commander-in-Chief in his reports concerning the activities of Colonel Murdock's command.

In 1776 two new Counties—Washington and Montgomery—were erected out of Frederick County, and named in honor of General George Washington, then in command of the Continental Army, and General Richard Montgomery, who had fallen while gallantly leading his forces in an attack on Quebec.

Among the Justices commissioned by the Council of Maryland in 1778 for the latter County was Samuel Wade Magruder, and as such he returned a list of the "man-power" within his jurisdiction who subscribed to the "Oath of Fidelity and Support", more generally known as "The Patriots' Oath", on which list appear the names of nineteen (19) Magruders, who so subscribed before the "Worshipful" Samuel Wade Magruder; and in 1779 this commission was renewed.

The office of Justice of the Peace in Colonial and Revolutionary times was one of great dignity and importance, entitling the holders thereof to the suffix of "Gentleman" to their names when there were scarcely any titles in use other than military.

William Wirt, who was Attorney General of the United States in the Cabinet of President Andrew Jackson, thus described him:

"Samuel Wade Magruder showed marks of Highland extraction. He was large, robust and somewhat corpulent, with a round florid face, short, curling, sandy hair and blue gray eyes. He was strong of limb, fiery of temperment, hospitable, warm-hearted and rough. At times he was kind and playful with the boys, but woe betide the unfortunate boy or man who became the object of his displeasure."

Samuel Wade Magruder married Lucy Beall, born 1738; died 1795, daughter of George Beall, Captain of Militia and Colonel of Provincial

Forces, who inherited "Rock of Dunbarton", now Georgetown, District of Columbia, from his father, Col. Ninian Beall, and for the former of whom it was named in 1752.

His wife was Elizabeth Brooke, daughter of Thomas Brooks and Barbara Dent. He was Justice of the Provincial Court, Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, President of the Governor's Council, and Acting Governor of Maryland.

His parents were Thomas Brooke and Eleanor Hatton, a Major of Militia, Member of the House of Burgesses, and Sheriff; the son of Robert Brooke, immigrant and Mary Baker, who was commander of a new County in Maryland—Charles—in 1650; President of the Governor's Council, and Acting Governor.

The union of Samuel Wade Magruder and Lucy Beall was productive of ten children, according to the records of St. Paul's Church and the Colonial Census taken in 1776, as follows: Levin, who married Elizabeth Lynn; Charles, who married Eleanor, family name not known; Sarah, who married William Willson; George Beall, who married Elizabeth Turner, and Anne Turner; Patrick, who married Sallie Turner and Martha Goodwyn; Warren, who married Harriet Holmes; Lloyd, who married Elizabeth Magruder and Ann Holmes; Thomas Contee, who married Mary Ann Magruder; Lucy, who married William Worman Berry, and Brooke, who probably died young and unmarried, since he is unmentioned in the wills of his parents.

Samuel Wade Magruder died on his home plantation, known as Locust Grove, in Montgomery County, Maryland, July 20, 1792; his widow surviving until August 1, 1795.

Both died testate, and the former named as beneficiaries under his will all of the before mentioned children, Brooke excepted, while the widow left her estate to "all my children", with special bequests to their daughter, Lucy Berry and their son, George.

Six of the seven sons of Samuel Wade Magruder, known to reach maturity, merit special mention: Levin Magruder subscribed to the "Patriots' Oath" in Montgomery County, and was Private in the Middle Battalion of that County during the Revolutionary War; Charles Magruder, Private in the same military organization for the period mentioned; Thomas Contee Magruder, Midshipman, United States Navy, from 1804 to 1812; George Beall Magruder, Colonel of Militia, and as such in command of his Regiment at the Battle of Bladensburg; Warren Magruder, Paymaster of the Eighteenth Regiment of Montgomery County during the War of 1812-14; and Patrick Magruder, member of Congress from Maryland, Clerk of the National House of Representatives, and ex-officio Librarian of Congress when the Capitol was fired by the British in 1814.

"By their deeds ye shall know them," and through them those who gave them birth.