

# Harford's War Record

**H**ARFORD COUNTY has participated in every war in which our country has been engaged. Our citizens have fully accepted their responsibility in all of these conflicts and have responded with patriotism and honor in furnishing their fair share of loyal soldiers and matériel for the successful conclusion of these unfortunate affairs. In this chapter no attempt has been made to give an account of World War II, the Korean War, or the present conflict in Vietnam, as these more recent events should have greater recognition than can be recorded here. The military personnel engaged in these wars deserve the highest commendation that can be conferred by a grateful nation.

## WAR OF THE REVOLUTION

Although Harford came into being only two years before the fighting began at Lexington and Concord, our people had enthusiasm aroused by a newly formed government and showed their determination to oppose what they believed to be unjust impositions laid upon the colonies by the mother country. Citizens were spurred on by the fact that it was not unusual for men like Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Randolph, and Patrick Henry to pass through Harford and stop at Bush to confer with local leaders regarding the pending conflict.

### Citizens Unite in Cause of Freedom

A mass meeting of Harford citizens convened at Bush on June 11, 1774, with Aquila Hall presiding. A resolution was passed pledging support and aid to the people of Boston, who had been deprived of the means of procuring subsistence by the operation of the act blocking their harbor. A further resolution expressed the willingness of Harford residents to join in an association with other counties of the province to oppose the exportation or importation of any kind of produce or merchandise from Great Britain.

Citizens at the meeting at Bush anticipated recommendations which were made at the forthcoming Maryland Convention held eleven days later. At the Maryland Convention which met at Annapolis on June 22, 1774, Harford was represented by Richard Dallam, John Love, Thomas Bond, Benedict Edward Hall, and Jacob Bond. Members of the Convention passed resolutions declaring that many of the Acts of Parliament pertaining to America were infringements upon the people's rights, and that the cause of Boston was the cause of all the colonies. Plans were made for the immediate

solicitation of funds and provisions for the distressed people of Boston—the same to be collected and shipped by the committees of the respective counties.

In accordance with the recommendations passed by the State Convention, the County War Committee appointed representatives in each hundred to “wait on each inhabitant within each particular district and request some free gift, either for the relief of the poor of Boston or for the purchase of arms and ammunition for the defense of our Lives, Liberties, and Properties.” Aquila Hall was appointed treasurer to receive all contributions, and minutes of the War Committee reveal that citizens responded liberally and that Harford faithfully fulfilled its obligation to the cause.

As the months passed, the feeling of discontent intensified rapidly and kindled a determination to be free from the rule of Great Britain. On March 22, 1775, a committee consisting of thirty-four prominent Harford County men, duly elected by the 10,000 white inhabitants, met at the old brick tavern at Bush and signed the Bush Declaration, which is believed to be the first Declaration of Independence made by any representative body in America. The following is the language of that declaration:

“We the Committee of Harford County, having most seriously and maturely considered the Resolves and Association of the Continental Congress, and the Resolves of the Provincial Convention, do most heartily approve of the same, and as we esteem ourselves in a more particular manner intrusted by our constituents to see them carried into execution, we do most solemnly pledge ourselves to each other, and to our Country, and engage ourselves by every tie held sacred among mankind to perform the same at the risque of our lives and fortunes.”

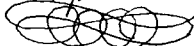
It should be noted that the Bush Declaration preceded the National Declaration by more than a year. It is very probable that Thomas Jefferson, writer of the Declaration of Independence of July 4, 1776, had read a copy of this Harford historic paper, as several of the closing words of the two documents are similar.

We record here a list of the signers of the Bush Declaration, many of whom were ancestors of our present citizens.

Aquila Hall	Thomas Brice	Richard Dallam
Josias Carvil Hall	John Patrick	John Durham
George Patterson	Daniel Scott	James McComas
William Morgan	Benjamin Bradford Norris	William Bradford
Francis Holland	James Harris	William Smithson
Samuel Caldwell	Edward Prall	John Donahuy
Aquila Paca	Thomas Johnson	Greenberry Dorsey
James Lytle	Alexander Rigdon	John Archer
Aquila Hall, Jr.	Edward Ward	W. Smithe
Robert Morgan	Abraham Whitaker	William Webb
Robert Lemmon	Charles Anderson	John Taylor
	William Fisher, Jr.	

We the Committee of Harford County having most seriously and maturely considered the Resolves of Association of the Continental Congress and the Resolves of the provincial Convention, do most heartily approve of the doing and as we Esteem ourselves in, now particular manner interested by our constituents to set them on into Execution we do most solemnly pledge ourselves to each other & to our Country and Engage ourselves by Oath, To hold sacred among Men and to perform the same at the Request of our Lives & Fortunes

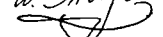
Aquila Hall



Jo: Carne Hall

Geo Patterson

Wm Morgan

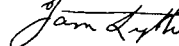


Franc Holland

Sam Chubb

A. O'Call

Sam Lythe



Aquila Hall jun

Robt Morgan

Robt Ligonier

Tho Brice

Tho Johnson

Abel Kigdon

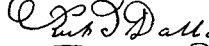
Edw Ward

Abm Whofa Kid

Charles Anderson

Wm Fisher Jun

Edw D Dallam



John Dushorn

Jos Moneofs

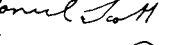
Wm Brice Ford sen

Wm Amherst

John Donohy

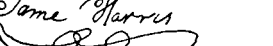
John Patrick

Donal Smith



Beny Bradford Norris

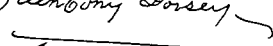
James Harris



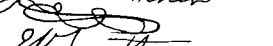
Edward Dally



Greenbony Dorsey



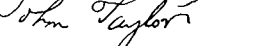
John Archer



Wm Tomette



Wm Webb



John Taylor