

Richard Fancher (1756 - 1829) P-156328
Private, Captain Thomas Berry's Company,
Colonel Abraham Bowman's Spottsylvania (8th) Regiment of Virginia

Patriot Richard Fancher was born in 1756 in Morris County, New Jersey or possibly on Long Island, New York. His parents were David Fancher and Hannah. Married in Morris County, New Jersey, they also had sons Isaac and James. David Fancher was among the signers of a *Dissenters Petition form Ecclesiastical Establishment* in Virginia and then in 1785 received a land grant signed by Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia.

Richard Fancher was only 20 or 21 when he joined the patriot cause. He enlisted in Captain Thomas Berry's Company of Colonel Abraham Bowman's 8th Regiment of Virginia on March 1, 1777. Despite the privations suffered by Colonial troops in these early days, Richard remained in the service for seven years. Detached in January 1780 to a regiment led by Colonel (later General) Francis Marion, he was at the Battle of Fort Moultrie in Charleston Harbor. Family tradition has it that Richard was at Fort Moultrie with Sergeant Jasper when he retrieved the fallen flag and held it in place while the pole was repaired. Should the flag have come down, the city of Charleston was to be burned. Following the war there is indication that he took part in some skirmishes with the Indians.

Richard Fancher was married in Spottsylvania County, Virginia to Sarah Journegin (1765-1839) around 1785. There is some information that suggests that she may have been born Patsy Grey and connected to the Bynum family of North Carolina. Richard and Sarah's family would grow to include children Isaac, James, Patsy, Grey Bynum, Alexander, and Thomas Hampton.

Patriot Richard Fancher went on to his reward on May 21, 1829 in Overton County, Tennessee. Sarah survived him by 10 years and finally passed away on October 5, 1839 in Osage County, Arkansas. Because of her blindness, it is assumed that she was living with family. Richard and Sarah's second son James Fancher was a successful planter as well as representative in the Arkansas state legislature.

Submitted for Charles T Sweeney
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