

Independence the Stud Horse

By

William J. Tankersley

GASSAR Senior Vice-President, 2025

Have you ever found something interesting about an ancestor in newspaper archives? This happened to me, and the information I discovered caused me to conduct research on horses belonging to our Colonial and Revolutionary War Patriot Ancestors. Perhaps your Patriot, like one of mine, served in a well-known Continental Cavalry unit such as the Dragons of Lee's Legion. Maybe they served in one of many local or state Militia Cavalry units. If so, what details do you know about the horse(s) your ancestors owned? Do you know anything about the bloodlines, sizes, or breeders? Horse racing was a very popular sport in England and America during the lifetimes of our Patriot ancestors. For that sport to thrive and for our ancestors to have the horses they needed for work and transportation, knowledge of superior horse breeding was essential. In the Saturday, 16 May 1801 edition of the Augusta Chronicle Newspaper, at the bottom of column 1, an advertisement appeared with "INDEPENDENCE" at the top, in capital letters.

SATURDAY, May 16, 1801. **GEORGIA.** [Vol. XV. No. 762.]

THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE

AND
GAZETTE OF THE STATE.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND TRIAL BY JURY SHALL REMAIN INVIOLENT. *Constitution of Georgia.*

AUGUSTA: Printed by JOHN E. SMITH, PRINTER TO THE STATE; Essays, Articles of Intelligence, Advertisements, &c. will be gratefully received, and every kind of Printing performed. [Price Three Dollars per annum.]



BY AUTHORITY.

Sixth Congress of the United States.

At the second session, begun and held at the City of Washington, in the Territory of Columbia, on Monday, the fourteenth of November one thousand eight hundred.

An ACT to discharge Samuel Lewis, from his imprisonment.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That Samuel Lewis, being discharged from his imprisonment upon a judgment obtained against him in favor of the United States: Provided however, That he shall first sign and convey, all the estate, real and personal, which he may now own or be entitled to, to some person or persons, for the use and benefit of the United States, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury: Provided also, That the said judgment shall remain in full force against any estate which the said Samuel Lewis, finally, may hereafter acquire; and that proceeds may at any time be thereon issued against the same.

THEODORE SEDGWICK, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THOMAS JEFFERSON, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

Approved, February 21, 1801.

JOHN ADAMS, President of the United States.

An ACT for the relief of Arnold Henry Dabson, or his legal representatives.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the Petition of the said Arnold Henry Dabson or his legal representatives, together with a resolution of Congress of the 26th day of October, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven, in relation to the said Arnold Henry Dabson, be, and the same are hereby enacted, as follows: That the said Arnold Henry Dabson, or his legal representatives, be, and the same are hereby authorized to issue a promissory note for the sum of one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven dollars, to be paid on the 1st day of October, in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty seven.

THEODORE SEDGWICK, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THOMAS JEFFERSON, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

Approved, February 21, 1801.

JOHN ADAMS, President of the United States.

INDEPENDENCE,

WILL stand at the subscription, in Columbia county, near the mouth of Little river, this property at the low price of twelve dollars per acre. He was got by the old impacted horse Bayler's Farmington, out of a full bred James mare, and was bred by Col. Chas. Dabney, of Hanover county, Virginia. He is upwards of 16 hands high, remarkable length, and of fine figure; he is remarkably fast, and carries a mare went by the last season, though he went to a large number. His color is uncommonly large and very valuable. Good care will be taken of each mare as she is left, but I will not be answerable for accidents. He may be either purchased or had for the full lot.

JOHN TANKERSLEY.

March 2.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
April 20th, 1801.

Notice is hereby given, THAT separate PROPOSALS will be received at the office of the Secretary for the Department of War until the expiration of the 30th day of June next ensuing, for the supply of all the RIFLES, which may be required for the use of the United States, from the first day of October 1802, until the thirtieth day of September 1803, both days inclusive, at the following places, viz.

FIRST. At Pittsburgh; at Fort Franklin; at Le Borel; at Presquille; at Niagara; at Geneva; at Detroit; at Fort Wayne; at Michilimackinac; at the Falls of St. Mary's; and at the Grand Portage on Lake Superior.

SECOND. At Fort Washington, Vincennes and Mastic; at the Cantonment near the mouth of the Ohio, and at any post or place on the east side of the Mississippi River, between the mouths of the Ohio, and Illinois Rivers; and at any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the State of Kentucky.

THIRD. At Knoxville, Tellico, South West Point, and any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the State of Tennessee; at New Creek on the Tennessee River, and at any place in the Chickasaw or Choctaw country between New Creek and Natchez; at the Chickasaw Bluffs; at Natchez; at Fort Adams and its dependencies; and thence to the Middle River.

Separate PROPOSALS will also be received as aforesaid for the supply of all the RIFLES, which may be required for the use of the United States from the 1st day of January 1802, until the 31st day of December in the same year, both days inclusive, within the several States aforesaid, at the following places, viz.

FOURTH. At Point Peter; at Fort George; at Fort Wilkinson; at Fort Tinkney; at Fort Johnson; at Fort Mifflin; at Charlotte Harbor; at Fort Johnson, Cape Fear, and at any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the States of North Carolina, and South Carolina, and North Carolina.

FIFTH. At Fort Norfolk; at Harper's Ferry; at Fort Mifflin; at the City of Washington, and at any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the States of Virginia and Maryland.

SIXTH. At Wilmington; at Fort Mifflin; at the Laboratory near Philadelphia, and at any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the States of Delaware and Pennsylvania, excepting Pittsburgh, Fort Franklin, Le Borel, and Presquille, in the State of Pennsylvania.

SEVENTH. At Trenton; at Fort Jay; at West Point, and at any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the States of New Jersey, and New York, excepting Geneva and Niagara in the State of New York.

EIGHTH. At Newport; at New-London, and at any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the States of Rhode-Island and Connecticut.

NINTH. At Fort Independence, Boston Harbor, at Salem, at Marblehead, at Portland, at Portsmouth, at Bellingham, and at any place or places where troops are or may be stationed, marched or recruited within the State of Massachusetts, New-Hampshire and Vermont.

A ration is to consist of eighteen ounces of bread or flour, or when either can be obtained, one quart of rice, or one and a half pound of dried or bottled Indian meal, one pound and a quarter of fresh beef, or one pound of salted pork, and when both meat is issued, left at the

rate of two quarts for every hundred ration; soap at the rate of four pounds, and candles at the rate of a pound and a half, for every hundred rations. The proposals will extend to the supply of rum, whiskey, or other spirituous liquors, at the rate of half a gill per ration and storage at the rate of two quarts for every hundred rations. The price of the several component parts of the rations, as well as of substitutes and alternatives, shall be fixed.

The rations are to be furnished in such quantities as shall there shall at all times, during the term of the proposed contracts, be sufficient for the consumption of the troops at Michilimackinac, Detroit, Niagara, and Oswego, for six months in advance, and at each of the other posts on the Western waters for at least three months in advance, of good and wholesome provisions, if the latter shall be required. It is also to be permitted to all and every of the commandants of fortified places, or of posts, to call for as often when the same can be transported, or at any time in the case of urgency, such supplies of like provisions in advance, as in the discretion of the commandant shall be deemed proper. It is to be understood that the contractor is to be at the expense and risk of diluting the supplies to the troops, and that all losses sustained by the depositions of an enemy, or by the excess of the troops of the United States, shall be paid for by the United States, at the price of the articles engaged, or destroyed, on the disposition of two or more persons of credible character, and the certificate of a commissioned officer, attesting the circumstances of the loss, and the amount of the articles for which compensation shall be claimed.

The privilege is to be understood to be reserved to the United States of requiring that some of the supplies which may be furnished under any of the proposed contracts, shall be issued until the supplies which have been, or may be furnished under contracts now in force, have been consumed, and that a supply in advance may be always required at any of the fixed posts on the sea board or Indian frontier, not exceeding three months.

HENRY DEARBORN,
Secretary of War.

FINAL NOTICE.

THE subscriber requests that every person indebted to the late firm of HERON & FENNELLY will make payment to him on or before the 1st of next July; every account not then paid will be put into proper hands for collection or recovery.

THOMAS HERON.

May 8, 1801.

Tweedy Dollars Reward.

RUN AWAY from the subscribers, on the night of the 23rd inst, a negro man named BOB, well known, 4 feet 0 or 10 inches high, very small, near 40 years of age, the property of Charles Quiz, in Greene county.

Also, a weaver about 20 years of age, 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, named LUCY, Maryland born, yellow complexioned, stout and well made, this weaver carried a boy child named Abram with her, about 18 months old, had on brownish cloth dyed black, the property of E. Pizer.

Those who bring reason to believe they will give by Washington, he formerly belonged to Mathews, their aim is for Augusta, and either across the river there or down in some boat. Frymen or boats are cautioned from aiding or assisting them any favor, under the penalty of the law. The above reward will be given to any one that will apprehend and bring or force them to that the owners may get them, or ten dollars for either of them.

EDWIN PRICE,
CHARLES QUIZ.

Greene county, April 25.

NOTICE.

PROPOSALS will be received by the City Council of Augusta, until Thursday the 11th inst. for repairing and repaving in good repair for one year the several public Ways within the limits of the City.

By Order,
JOSEPH HUTCHINSON, Clerk.

May 2.

TO BE RENTED.

THE House and Store now occupied by the subscribers, in Broad Street. Also that new and complete house in Macintosh Street, near Mrs. Hays, and possession of both given immediately. For terms apply as above.

They have for Sale,
AN ASSORTMENT OF
GROCERIES,
— AMONG WHICH ARE —

Hy-Fin Gunpowder } TEAS
Souchong and }
Babas }
Coffee and Sugar
Molasses per hogshead
Soap in boxes
Jamaica, West-India and Northward Rum
Cherry Brandy
Cognac Brandy
Holland Gin
Sherry, Malaga and Malaga Wines
White Wine Vinegar
Claret in bottles
Rappos and Maracauba Seed
Lard Oil and Paints
Ceylon Cinnamon by the pound
Nutmegs and Mace
Cloves, Pepper and Allspice.

May 8, 1801.
C. MAGNAN & Co.

Just received on Confignment,
Which will be sold low for Cash or Produce, viz.

1 Trunk India Cottons
1 Bale ditto ditto
A number of Staff Shoes
Knives and Forks will be offered.
Also for Sale,
A pipe of excellent old Cogniac Brandy
And a quantity of well flavoured Rye Whiskey.

SAMUEL M. SMYTH.
Augusta, April 12.

Elegant New Furniture.

FOR SALE.

A set of DINING TABLES, CELLARET, SIDE BOARD and TEA TABLE.

THOMAS SMYTH.

FOR SALE.

A three year old COLT, got by EDLIS out of Colonel Le Roy Hignam's mare, the dam of Escape. Price Three Hundred Dollars. Apply to the subscriber.

CHARLES GOODWIN.
Edwin Bluff, April 12.

SAMUEL WIGFALL,
JANITOR AND HARDWARE MERCHANT,

RESPECTFULLY informs the citizens of Augusta and the public in general, that he has commenced the Bank and Store, Meeting first night in Broad Street, two doors below Major Dockree's, and has on hand an elegant assortment of Saddles, Bridles, Saddle Bags, Silver mounted Whips, &c. &c.

Also, a few of Stephen Burrows' patent Saddles.

No chairs or stools that bear a quantity shall be furnished any low for Cash, or upon credit bills on the northern States.

INDEPENDENCE,

WILL stand at the subscriber's, in Columbia county, near the mouth of Little river, this season, at the low price of twelve dollars per mare. He was got by the old imported horse Baylor's Fearnought, out of a full bred Janus mare, and was bred by col. Chas. Dabney, of Hanover county, Virginia. He is upwards of 16 hands high, remarkable lengthy, and of fine figure; he is remarkably sure, and scarcely a mare went by the last season, though he went to a large number. His colts are uncommonly large and very valuable. Good care will be taken of such mares as are left, but I will not be answerable for accidents. He may be either purchased or had for the fall season.

JOHN TANKERSLEY.

March 2.

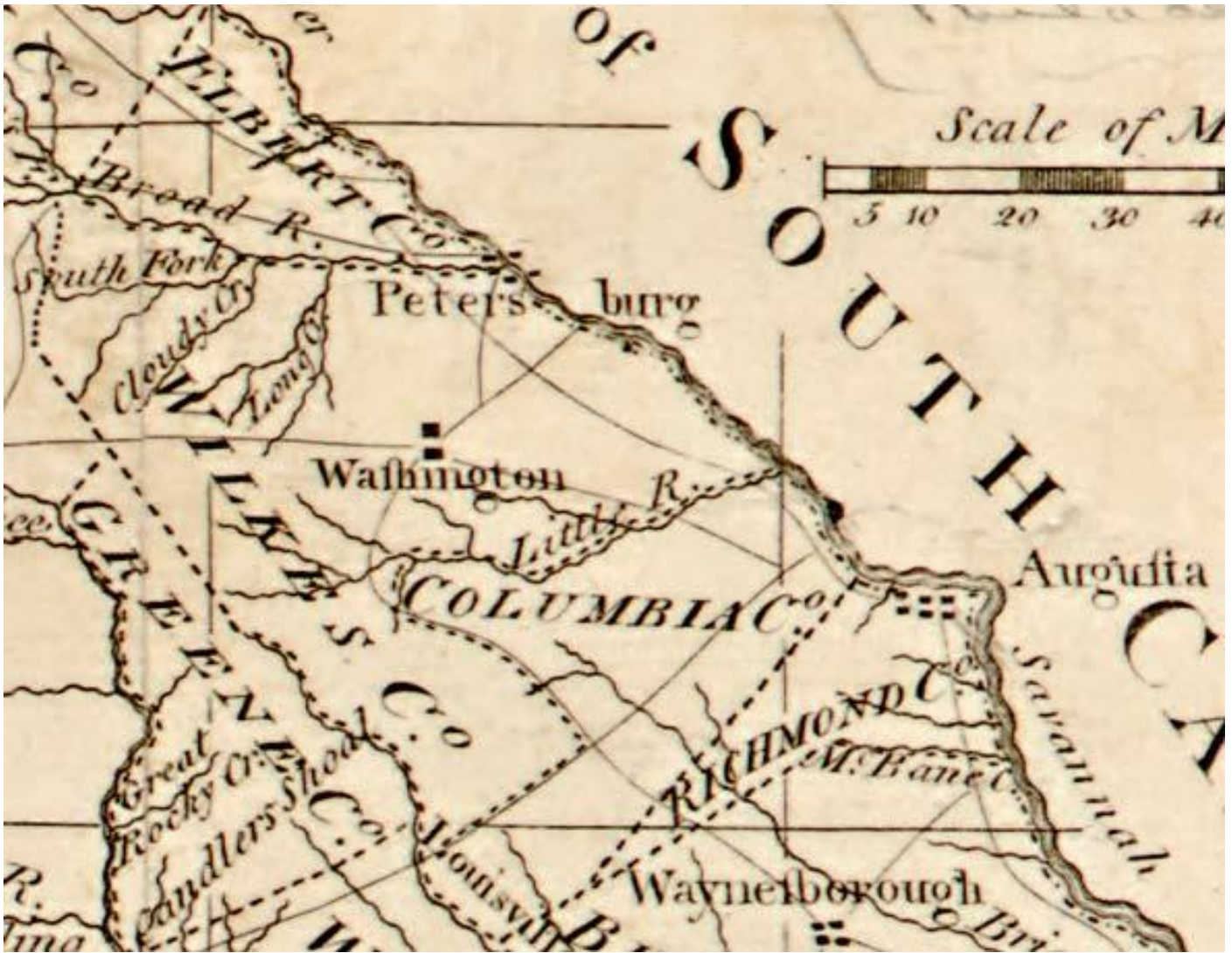
A transcription of the advertisement:

"INDEPENDENCE will stand at the subscriber's in Columbia County, near the mouth of the Little River, this season, at the low price of twelve dollars per mare. He was got by the old imported horse Baylor's Fearnought, out of a full bred Janus mare, and was bred by Col. Charles Dabney of Hanover County, Virginia. He is upwards of 16 hands high, remarkably lengthy, and of fine figure; he is remarkably sure, and scarcely a mare went by the last season, though he went to a large number. His colts are uncommonly large and very valuable. Good care will be taken of such mares as are left, but I will not be answerable for accidents. He may be either purchased or had for the fall season.

JOHN TANKERSLEY

March 2.

About "The Subscriber:" John Tankersley (SAR Patriot #P-330607) served as Captain of a Spotsylvania Co. VA Militia unit during the Revolutionary War. He resigned his commission in 1781 after leading his men from Fredericksburg to Williamsburg and on to Yorktown for the Siege in October. By the mid-1780's, he had purchased land and relocated to what was then known as the Upper part of Richmond County, GA. In 1790, Columbia County was formed from Upper Richmond. The county now encompasses the cities of Harlem and Grovetown, along with the unincorporated towns of Appling, Evans, and Martinez. A tributary of the Savannah River, the Little River is 72 miles long and begins about 5 miles north of Crawfordville, the seat of Taliaferro County. The river flows eastward along the boundaries of the counties of Wilkes, McDuffie, Lincoln, and Columbia. Below is a 1795 map of the Upper Savannah River Region showing "Little R.," in the eastern-central region of Georgia, along the Georgia and South Carolina border. Tankersley stated that he kept Independence near the mouth of the Little River, shown below, where the Little River flows into the Savannah River.



In 1954, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed the construction of a dam across the Savannah River, which created the Clarks Hill Lake, also known as Lake Thurmond. Consequently, the land in this area was flooded. It is the third-largest man-made lake east of the Mississippi River. Located in eastern central Georgia, it provides hydroelectric power, flood control, and opportunities for recreation. During the colonial, revolutionary, and post-revolution years, many plantations were located along the Savannah and Little Rivers. It would have been a prime location to engage in the practices of planting, farming, and all that went with it, including horse breeding.

INDEPENDENCE, as stated in the advertisement, descended from horses named Baylor's Fearnought and Janus, and was bred by Col. Charles Dabney of Hanover County, VA.



State of Virginia Historical Marker dedicated to Fearnought

As stated on this historical marker located in the independent city of Emporia, VA, **Baylor's Fearnought (1755 – 1776)** was quite an important name among horses in England and America.

Janus was also an important horse in the history of our country.

According to the website for the International Museum of the Horse, of the 63 identifiable Thoroughbred imports before the Revolution, two of the most important studs were **Fearnought** and **Janus**. John Baylor imported Fearnought in 1764 as a nine-year-old. Fearnought had a stud fee that was five times the amount charged for other good sires, and he was the most important Thoroughbred sire in America until Diomed was imported after the Revolution. **Janus** was imported as a ten-year-old by Mordecai Booth in 1756 and had a profound influence on the Quarter Horse.

Source:

<https://www.imh.org/exhibits/past/breeds-of-the-world/europe/thoroughbred/>

It seems that INDEPENDENCE “came from good stock” as the old folks might have said, being a descendant of both Fearnought and Janus. As for his size, the description “upwards of 16 hands high and remarkably lengthy” seems accurate as authorities say that Fearnought was 16 hands high and very strongly made.

With the Virginia counties of Caroline, Spotsylvania, and Hanover all being in fairly close proximity to each other, the story of INDEPENDENCE makes perfect sense geographically. His breeder, Col. Chas. (Charles) Dabney, was an officer in the American Revolution, and was born in Montpelier, Hanover County, VA, in 1745. According to sources, Dabney served in various Virginia-based units and was present in October 1781 for the Siege at Yorktown. John Tankersley was likely born in Caroline County but later moved to Spotsylvania County.

In summary, if you want to learn more about your ancestors, try researching newspaper archives if possible. You may just find a treasure trove of information.

And, if you ever find yourself in a boat or swimming near the mouth of the Little River at Lake Thurmond, know that you are approximately 330 feet above sea level and 130+ feet above the old stomping ground of INDEPENDENCE the Stud Horse. He was a Ladies Man.