

Starnes Tour 2013 Bristol Condensed Talking Points

Welcome to Sapling Grove ... currently known as Bristol. We are headed northeast on a journey to the Starneses first permanent settlement in the southern USA. We are basically using the trail known as the Wilderness Road (just to the north of I-81 here), part of which was built by Frederick Starnes I and descendants. Below is a chronological list of important family events with **corresponding national and international events posted in red for reference**. Approximate US Interstate mile markers are given parenthetically. Important **rivers** are illustrated on the map on p4.

1710 Starneses arrive in NY from the Alzey Palatinate of Germany and live a hard life for about 30 yr in upstate NY and PA. Frederick Starnes I is 10 at the time. **American settlements are about 100 yr old and primarily situated in the northeast (NY, MA, RI, PA) and tidewater areas (VA, NC).**

1739-40 Frederick Starnes I and growing family leave PA, journey down the northern flank of the Wilderness Road to Draper's Meadows, VA (ca VA I-81 114) near the New River. **This river is actually one of the oldest in North America and flows north, ultimately emptying into the Kanawha River near Charleston, WV. Many German settlers were doing the same thing during this time period and settled all along the great Shenandoah Valley.**



1746 Possible first current spelling of name in Augusta County, VA survey, "the old Starns place" (ca VA I-81 105). There is however the earlier possibility of 1731 when the current spelling was used in Charleston, SC involving a deed.

1750 Stalnaker's Cabin (ca VA I-81 44) (current site of Holston Hills Country Club) was erected by Captain Samuel Stalnaker, Dr. Thomas Walker (W&M '37?)(right), and Col Patton enroute to exploring the Cumberland Gap and KY(below). Stalnaker was asked to join as guide since he had already been through the gap and into KY several years prior, but he declined, wishing to settle down with his family. Dr. Walker later built the first cabin in KY (below) and is credited with saving many lives there during the horrific winter of 1779-80.



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| 1. Walker is born in Lincoln County | 7. Walker's pool of exploration |
| 2. Thomas Diggle kills one of the Muddick's slaves | 8. Crossing the Kentucky River |
| 3. Journey delayed by bad weather | 9. Discovery of the New River (Greenbrier River) |
| 4. Success of Walker's discovery | 10. Settlement by Walker (George Salyer pool first map) |
| 5. Capture of King | 11. August 1800 (Starnes settlement) |
| 6. Walker's first trip to the Cumberland River | |

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1755 Shawnee attack on Draper's Meadows. Mary Ingalls captured by Shawnee Indians. Frederick I wounded in defense (ca VA I-81 114). It is quite possible that some of Frederick's sons performed work on Fort Loudon (ca TN I-75 68)(above) at this time. **This was an early skirmish in what is now known as the French 'n' Indian War. The world war was fought from 1754 to 1763 between the English and Colonial forces against the French 'n' Indian forces. Recognizing that the victory would be decided in North**



America, Parliament approved vast funding for the English effort here. As a result, construction on Forts Loudon (ca TN I-75 68), Old Fort (NC I-40 73) and Prince George (ca SC I-85 14) were begun along the colonial frontier. Similarly Col William Byrd ordered the construction of Fort Chiswell in VA (ca VA I-81 82, VA I-77 32). In the same summer, Samuel Stalnaker was also captured by the Shawnees. His wife and son were killed in the attack and may have been the source of the name Hungry Mother State Park. Stalnaker later escaped.

1756 Frederick Starnes I serves as Augusta (?) County commissioner in charge of purchasing locally produced beef for American troops.

1760 In June, Leonard, Adam and Joseph Starnes (under the command of Colonel Archibald Montgomery) are “defeated” by Cherokee under Chief Oconostota at Echoe (right) near present day Franklin, NC (loosely ca NC I-40 20) in a foiled attempt to free residents of besieged Fort Loudon (ca TN I-75 68). **The pass is opened with high cost about a year later by forces under LT Frances “Swamp Fox” Marion precipitating Cherokee surrender.**



1761 After mustering again, this time only to wait idly for two months at the Stalnaker drill field (ca VA I-81 32) for the unreliable Col William Byrd (left), Leonard, Adam and Joseph Starnes participate in the extension of the Wilderness Road down to the Long Island of the Holston near Kingsport, TN (ca TN I-26 1). **Major Andrew Lewis, and CPT Waddell were ultimately in charge of this undertaking (William Byrd having resigned) and it was here that the northern segment of Cherokee nation surrendered.**

1769 Frederick Starnes II moves to the present site of Chilhowie, VA (VA I-81 35) as the first land owner under **John Stuart's 1768 Treaty of Hard Labor**. He is followed by a large part of the rest of the family including Nicholas Starnes (of AL fame) (ca VA I-81 32), and the Gerlach family. It is also possible that Thomas Starnes preceded all of them, and settled in the same area in the early 1750's only to be pushed back to the New River Valley by Indian troubles.

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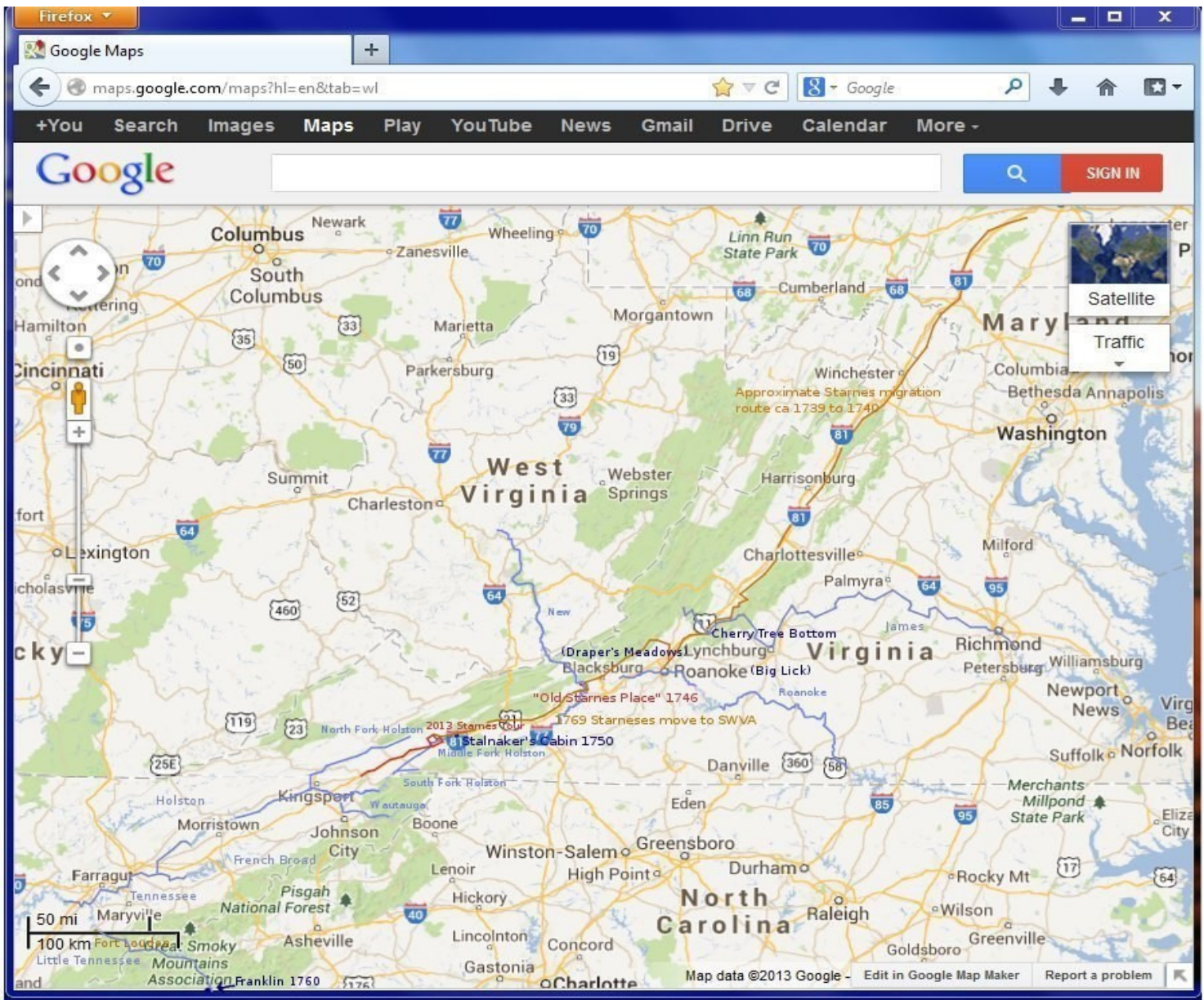
1775 Finishing a remarkable lifetime (especially for the time period) Frederick Starnes I dies and is buried at Sulpher Spring Cemetary near Chilhowie, VA (ca VA I-81 35). A significant grave marker is erected by the ST at the cemetary in 1995. **Note that the death takes place one year prior to the commencement of the Revolutionary War.**

Quiz

1. In what year AD did the Starnes family come to America?
 - a) 1610
 - b) 1710
 - c) 1810
 - d) 1910
 - e) 2010
2. Who is the progenitor of the Southern Starneses?
 - a) Sanford Steelman
 - b) Al Starnes
 - c) Leonard Starnes
 - d) Frederick Starnes
 - e) Lee Starnes
3. What was the name of the great settler highway to the land beyond the mountains used by the Starneses in the 18th century?
 - a) the Big Valley
 - b) the Highway to Heaven
 - c) US 11
 - d) the Bluegrass Parkway
 - e) the Wilderness Road
4. Which French 'n' Indian War fort possibly involved construction work by Frederick I's sons?
 - a) Fort Apache the Bronx
 - b) Fort Knox
 - c) the Old Fort
 - d) Fort Chiswell
 - e) Fort Loudon
5. Which famous landmark is closest to "the old Starnes Place" of 1746?
 - a) Lane Stadium at Virginia Tech
 - b) Washington Monument
 - c) Natural Bridge
 - d) Barter Theater
 - e) Chimney Rock
6. In what year did several Gerlach and Starnes families move to Chilhowie, VA?
 - a) 1710
 - b) 1739
 - c) 1755
 - d) 1769
 - e) 1775

Sources: *Of Them That Left a Name Behind*, Herman and Gerald Starnes, Heritage, 2002; www.wikipedia.org; Google Images; Google Maps; <http://pages.swcp.com/~dhickman/articles/stalnak.html>; <http://www.lauraandmark.com/hungry-mother-4.htm>

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Starnes Tour Map 2013
Journey of Frederick Starnes and family 1739 to ca 1800