



COLONEL NINIAN BEALL.  
1625-1717

## RESEARCH PERTAINING TO THE BEALL PORTRAIT

By

REGINA MAGRUDER HILL, *Historian*

This Research was undertaken in order to clarify an evident mistake as to the identity of the Portrait which appears on Page 54 of the 1945 Year Book, Copyrighted 1945, and reported to be that of Colonel Ninian Beall.

This Portrait was contributed in good faith by the writer, George Magruder Battey, III, in the footnote to his article on page 53.

## RESEARCH DATA

FROM: "The Brooke Family of Whitchurch" by Thomas Willing Balch, 1899, pp. 35 and 36; and

Letters written to me by Mrs. Janie Martin West (Mrs. E. S.), 202 S. 16th Avenue, Yakima, Washington, and filed in the Archives of the American Clan Gregor Society.

Colonel Ninian Beall.....	b. 1625.....	d. 1717
his son, George Beall.....	b. 1695.....	d. 1790
his son, Thomas Beall of George, Esq.....	b. 1748.....	d. 1819
m. Nancy Ann Orme.....	b. 1752.....	d. 1827
their daughter, Eliza Ridgely Beall.....	b. 1789.....	d. 1854
m. in 1807 George Corbin Washington.....	b. 1789.....	d. 1854
He married as his second wife,		
Ann T. Peter.....	b. ....	d. Feb. 13, 1861
his daughter by the second wife,		

\*Eleanor Ann Washington.....b. Oct. 30, 1822.....d. April 13, 1849

Note by Compiler: \*This Eleanor Ann Washington is the painter who copied the miniatures of Thomas Beall of George, Esq., and his wife, Nancy Ann Orme, which were originally sat for in 1801.

FROM: "Early Days in Washington," by Sally Somervell Mackall, Copyright, 1899. On page 50 of this book are copies of portraits labeled as follows: "Ninian Beall" "Mrs. Ninian Beall".

On page 61 of the above book is a portrait of Mrs. George C. Washington, (Ann Ridgely Beall), by her daughter, Eleanor Ann.

This book goes on: "George C. Washington's daughter, Eleanor Ann, was the first to be laid to rest in this lot (Oak Hill Cemetery). She lies where she was want to sketch. Her miniatures of her mother, and of Ninian Beall and his wife, are now in the possession of Mr. Thomas Harrison."

NOTE from MRS. WEST: "She (Sally Somervell Mackall) was very deaf and Aunt Virginia Harrison was also deaf, therefore there was a misunderstanding as to who the portraits were of. Aunt Virginia

Harrison was much upset on her getting it wrong. I have heard her tell it often."

NOTE by Compiler: This picture entitled "Ninian Beall" is the same one which is in the 1945 American Clan Gregor Year Book, and the same one that also is in the following book with the captions given as follows:

FROM: "Ancestral Records and Portraits, Compiled from the Archives of the Colonial Dames of America" Vol. 2, page 434:

"Portrait of Thomas Beall of George Esq., from a miniature taken in 1801."

"Portrait of Ann Orme, wife of Thomas Beall of George, Esq., from a Miniature taken in 1801."

NOTE by Compiler: This same portrait is on page 161 of Vol. 42-43 of the "Records of the Columbia Historical Society of Washington, D. C., 1940-1941", in the article by George Magruder Battey III, and is the one used in the 1945 Year Book of the American Clan Gregor Society.

The picture which is in the 1945 Year Book of the Clan could not possibly be that of Colonel Ninian Beall, as he died in 1717, and the miniature was not made until 1801.

The picture could not possibly be of George Beall, son of Colonel Ninian Beall, as he died in 1790, and the miniature was not made until 1801.

According to the dates given in the Genealogical line and from the notes from the letter from Mrs. Janie Martin West, it could be of Thomas Beall of George Esq., grandson of Colonel Ninian Beall, as he did not die until 1819, at the age of 71. As the miniature was made in 1801, he would have been 53 when it was done, which is possible and probable.

Eleanor Ann Washington could not possibly have done a portrait of Colonel Ninian Beall or of her grandfather, Thomas Beall of George, Esq., as she was not born until 1822, long after both of them were dead. But, she evidently copied the miniatures which were made in 1801, and the information given shows proof of this fact.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM LETTERS OF

##### MRS. JANIE MARTIN WEST

"Mary Ann Washington Keyser of Baltimore, Maryland, daughter of Lewis William Washington and his wife, Mary Barroll, who wrote the history in "Ancestral Portraits and Records" under the head of Washington, and has the pictures shown therein, grew up with my grandmother and her brothers and sisters and wrote to my great uncle, Mr. Thomas Harrison, on December 20, 1912—'When the Colonial Dames published their records I prepared my own papers for the two volumes I am sending you . . . The first 20 pages of Vol. II are under the head of Washington . . . The Beall miniatures are from the originals in my possession and belonging to my half-brother who loaned them to me some twenty years ago. He is a single man.'



"I have the pictures Eleanor Washington painted and on the back is pasted a slip in my great Uncle Thomas Harrison's handwriting, (died 1925, age 98) is written 'Thomas Beall of George', 'Mrs. Thomas Beall of George'. Thomas Harrison was a brother of Aunt Virginia.

"George Corbin Washington, born 1789, died 1854, married second Ann T. Peter who died February 3, 1861. Issue by the first wife, Eliza Ridgely Beall, seven children, only one surviving, Lewis William Washington, born Nov. 30, 1812, died at \*Beall Air, October 1, 1871. Eleanor Ann Washington the painter, was the daughter of the second wife, Ann T. Peter. She was born October 31, 1822 and died April 13, 1849."

\*NOTE by Compiler: "Beall Air", the sixth oldest Washington home still standing (April 1938) in Jefferson County, West Virginia, was the home of a much later date of Colonel Lewis Washington. He was the son of George Corbin Washington of Georgetown, D. C., himself a son of General Washington's niece, Jenny, (and William Augustine Washington.) From: National Historic Magazine, Daughters of the American Revolution, April, 1938.

I wish to thank Mrs. West for the valuable help she has given me in preparing this article.

NOTE by the Historian: In a letter to me from Mrs. De Courcy W. Thom (Mary Washington), dated April 3, 1947, daughter of Mrs. Mary Ann Washington Keyser mentioned in the above article occurs the following:

"These miniatures belonged to my mother, Mrs. Keyser, and at her death I inherited them. On the back of his is written 'Thomas Beall of Geo. Taken in 1801, aged 53' and on hers is written 'Anne Beall, wife of Thomas Beall of Geo. Taken in 1801, aged 49.' The writing is old and not my Mothers, and I do not recognize it . . . Dr. Hall Pleasants has identified these miniatures as by Robert Field."

#### NEW MEMBERS TO MAY 1, 1947

- 948 Briscoe, Lt. John James, U. S. A., 2231 California St., N. W., Washington 8, D. C.
- 935jr. Dean, Paul Lynn, Jr., 3100 Conn. Ave., N. W., Washington 8, D. C.
- 942 Eldridge, Lt. Col. Alan Magruder, Sr., 627 Grant Avenue, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.
- 943a Eldridge, Mrs. Alan Magruder, Sr., 627 Grant Avenue, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.
- 945jr. Eldridge, Alan Magruder, Jr., 627 Grant Avenue, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.
- 944jr. Eldridge, Scott Magruder (Miss), 627 Grant Avenue, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.
- 939 Ewell, Miss Louise Camper, 1838 Fendall Ave., Charlottesville, Va.
- 936 Ewell, Nathaniel MacGregor, Jr., 119 Raymond Avenue, Charlottesville, Va.