

Notley Tippett of St. Mary's County, Maryland



Count Casimir Pulaski
“Father of the American
Cavalry”

Who was this young nobleman from Poland and what did he have to do with the life of **Notley Tippett**, a young farmer from St. Mary's County, Maryland? Notley is the patriot ancestor of five Chevy Chase members.

After early fame as a brilliant military commander in battles against Russia, young Pulaski was exiled to France, where he learned of the war for independence in America. Securing a recommendation from Benjamin Franklin in 1777, he sailed for Boston and reported to Gen. George Washington just before the Battle of Brandywine. He led a dashing charge that surprised the British and Congress rewarded Pulaski with a commission as a Brigadier General and command of all the cavalry. He formed a special infantry and cavalry unit, headquartered in Baltimore, known as “Pulaski's Legion.” He recruited soldiers from the Americans, French, Poles, Irish, and especially Germans, who were mainly deserters from the Hessian mercenaries employed by the British.

Notley Tippett was a young farmer whose grandfather Philip has first immigrated from England to Maryland in 1681, After a nine month tour of duty with the St. Mary's County militia in 1777, Notley enrolled in Count Pulaski's Legion in May 1778. Imagine how it expanded his world to be serving with this international unit, led by a dashing Polish officer.

In May 1779, Pulaski's Legion of about 600 arrived in Charleston, South Carolina in time to help defend against a much larger British force. After this pivotal victory, the next goal was Savannah. Newly arrived French soldiers joined with them to mount an assault on Savannah, during which Count Pulaski was killed and buried at sea. He was not yet thirty-five years old.

Many cities and states with large Polish populations continue to honor him with local and state holidays. On November 6, 2009, President Barack Obama signed a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress making Casimir Pulaski an American citizen, 230 years after his death

Notley Tippett was discharged from the 1st Maryland Line in November 1780, but re-enlisted and served to the end of the war in 1783. Such an adventure this young patriot farmer had experienced!

He married twice and for the next five generations, his descendants remained in the Bushwood area of rural St. Mary's County. His great-great granddaughter Julia (1853-1923) married Civil War veteran William G. Hill in 1871 in Leonardtown, and they later moved to Washington, DC, where they became the mutual ancestors of our five Chevy Chase members.

When we study our patriot ancestors in the context of their military experiences, we gain a new appreciation of their lives and contributions to our freedom.

Sources: Data submitted by members; Henry C. Peden, Jr., *Revolutionary Patriots of Calvert and St. Mary's Counties, Maryland 1775-1783*; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casimir_Pulaski; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casimir_Pulaski_Day