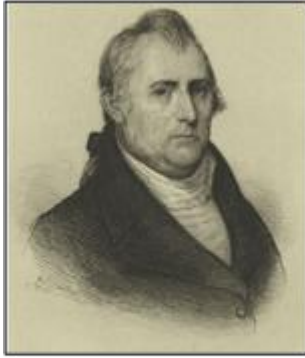


## Virginia: Edward Carrington



Portrait of Edward Carrington.  
Courtesy of the New York Public Library

Like the majority of his colleagues in the U.S. Marshal Service, Edward Carrington was active in local politics and was a veteran of the American Revolution. Born in Cumberland County, VA on February 11, 1748, Carrington worked as a lawyer, gentleman planter, and a local politician before the American Revolution began.<sup>134</sup> In 1775, he became a member of the Goochland County Revolutionary Committee and when the Continental Army accepted the Virginia artillery unit in March 1776, Carrington was one of the unit's lieutenants.

Almost a year and a half after the battles of Lexington and Concord, Carrington joined the First Continental Artillery as a lieutenant colonel and participated in the battles of Monmouth Courthouse (June 28, 1778), Hobkirk's Hill (April 25, 1781) and the siege of Yorktown (September 28–October 19, 1781) among a host of other battles.<sup>135</sup> <sup>136</sup> Additionally, Carrington served as General Nathaniel Greene's Chief of the Quartermaster Department during Greene's Southern Campaign of 1781 and after the siege of Yorktown through the end of the war (September 3, 1783).<sup>137</sup> After the American Revolution, Carrington initially returned to his private life as a lawyer and manager of his estates, but returned to public service as a Virginian delegate to the Continental Congress from 1786-1788.<sup>138</sup> <sup>139</sup>

Because of his long and honorable history of public service, and because they had become such close friends and confidants, President Washington appointed Carrington as the first U.S. marshal for Virginia in September 1789. As such, Carrington was charged with the monumental task of ensuring that his 68 deputies counted Virginia's population in a timely manner.<sup>140</sup> Unfortunately, the 1790 Census schedule for Virginia was destroyed when the British burned Washington D.C. in 1814, so there are few details of actual enumeration process. However the final report shows that Carrington and his deputies completed their enumeration by October

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<sup>134</sup> "History - The First Generation of United States Marshals/The First Marshal of Virginia: Edward Carrington," U.S. marshals Service, last estimated release October 23, 2019, <https://www.usmarshals.gov/history/firstmarshals/carrington.htm>. (Accessed October 23, 2019).

<sup>135</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>136</sup> "Carrington, Edward, (1748 - 1810)," Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, last estimated release October 23, 2019, <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=c000183>. (Accessed October 23, 2019).

<sup>137</sup> "Lieutenant Colonel Edward Carrington/Carrington, Edward. 1749-1810," National Park Service, last estimated release February 26, 2015, <https://www.nps.gov/york/learn/historyculture/carringtonbio.htm>. (Accessed October 23, 2019).

<sup>138</sup> "History - The First Generation of United States Marshals/The First Marshal of Virginia: Edward Carrington."

<sup>139</sup> "Carrington, Edward, (1748 - 1810)."

<sup>140</sup> "Summary of population of Virginia, by counties: 1790," in *Heads of Families/1790/A Century of Population Growth Virginia* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1908), NA:9.

24, 1791 and Virginia was the most populous state, with a population of 747,610 people.<sup>141 142</sup> For the monumental task of overseeing the enumeration of the largest state, Carrington also made the largest paycheck—500 dollars.<sup>143</sup>

Carrington served as a marshal for a bit more than two years, before becoming Virginia's Supervisor of Revenues—a more lucrative federal appointment—in 1791.<sup>144</sup> In 1794, Carrington retired from federal service and returned to his life as a private citizen, although President John Adams appointed him to the position of Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army in 1798.<sup>145</sup> In 1807, Carrington entered public service for the last time as the foreman of the jury that acquitted Aaron Burr during his treason trial.<sup>146 147</sup> He died in Richmond, VA on October 28, 1810.

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<sup>141</sup> "Virginia". *Return of the whole number of persons within the several districts of the United States: according to "An act providing for the enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States," passed March the first, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one*, pg. 50. PDF. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/content/census/en/library/publications/1793/dec/number-of-persons.htm>. (Accessed October 23, 2019).

<sup>142</sup> "Schedule of the whole number of persons within several districts of the United States...," *Return of the whole number of persons within the several districts of the United States: according to "An act providing for the enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States," passed March the first, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one*, pg. 3.

<sup>143</sup> *Gazette of the United-States*. [volume] (New-York [N.Y.]), 10 March 1790.

<sup>144</sup> "Spirits, Foreign and Domestic, Communicated to the Congress, November 1, 1791," *American State Papers*, NA, Finance 1: 110. Retrieved from <https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llsp&fileName=009/llsp009.db&Page=110>. (Accessed October 23, 2019).

<sup>145</sup> The U.S. was on the brink of war with France, when relations normalized, it eliminated the need for this position.

<sup>146</sup> "History - The First Generation of United States Marshals/The First Marshal of Virginia: Edward Carrington."

<sup>147</sup> "Carrington, Edward, (1748 - 1810)."