

Irish Refugee, John Daly Burk, Friend of Thomas Jefferson and John Randolph



Trinity College in Dublin Ireland

John Daly Burk, of Petersburg, Virginia was born in Ireland, and educated at Trinity college in Dublin. Because of his political opinions and affiliations he was compelled to leave the country (1797) while yet a student at college. He first tried his fortune in Boston, and after wards in New York. But he received no encouragement.

His love for Ireland and his ardent democracy made against his success at the North, and he finally came to Virginia. Here he became the friend of Jefferson and John Randolph, both of whom encouraged the brilliant young refugee. He was a lawyer, poet, dramatist and historian, and was undoubtedly one of the most accomplished men in the state during his day.

He was the author of the History of Virginia in four volumes;

A History of the Late War in Ireland. Before he completed the fourth volume of the History of Virginia he was killed in a duel with a French gentleman at Campbell Bridge in Chesterfield county, Virginia, on the 11th of April, 1808.

Source: Some Irish Settlers in Virginia by Hon. Joseph T. Lawless, Richmond, Virginia.