

# REBURIAL OF JOHN PAUL JONES

WELL OVER A CENTURY AFTER HIS DEATH, THE BODY OF ONE OF AMERICA'S  
FIRST NAVAL HEROES WAS RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES

BY ADAM STANTON



The Coat of Arms of John Paul Jones.

Jones was born John Paul on 6 July 1747 in Kirkcudbright, Scotland. At age twelve he entered the British Merchant Marine and went to sea for the first time as a cabin boy. He became the first mate on a slaver brigantine in 1766 but soon left that trade in disgust. He was appointed master in 1769. On a 1773 trip to Tobago, West Indies, he killed the leader of a mutinous crew in self-defense. In order to avoid trial, he fled to the colony of Virginia and was then considered a fugitive by the British. At that point, he concealed his identity by adding the surname Jones.

With the outbreak of the American Revolution in 1775,



The birthplace and home of Jones is preserved in Scotland.



Battle between Continental Navy ship *Bonhomme Richard* and HMS *Serapis* on 23 September 1779 in which John Paul Jones stated, "I have not yet begun to fight." The original oil on canvas painting by Thomas Mitchell is on display at the US Naval Academy Museum in Annapolis, Maryland, near Jones' final burial site.