Proceedings of The Clarke County Historical Association

Volume XIV, 1956-1957

CONTAINING

NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF THE LOWER SHENANDOAH VALLEY

by

EVERARD KIDDER MEADE

Consisting of 333 articles first published serially in the Winchester Evening Star from January 5, 1948 to April 10, 1950 and here reprinted through the courtesy of its Editor, Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr.

Copyright 1958 by The Clarke County Historical Association

Printed by The Carr Publishing Co., Inc., Boyce, Virginia
Proceedings of The Clarke County Historical Association

Volume XIV, 1956-1957

CONTAINING

NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF THE LOWER SHENANDOAH VALLEY

by

EVERARD KIDDER MEADE

Consisting of 333 articles first published serially in the Winchester Evening Star from January 5, 1948 to April 10, 1950 and here reprinted through the courtesy of its Editor, Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr.

Copyright 1958 by The Clarke County Historical Association

Printed by The Carr Publishing Co., Inc., Boyce, Virginia
OFFICERS

Mrs. Richard Evelyn Byrd  President
Alexander Mackay-Smith  1st Vice-President
George H. Burwell  2nd Vice-President
Mrs. T. E. Blackwell  Treasurer
Mrs. Clifton Price  Recording Secretary
Mrs. T. E. Blackwell, White Post, Va.  Corresponding Secretary

DIRECTORS

Col. James M. Thomson  Mrs. William Donovan
Ralph N. Dorsey  Clay B. Carr
Vernon Eddy  Stuart Brown, Jr.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

PUBLICATIONS  FINANCE
A. Mackay-Smith  Ralph N. Dorsey

PORTRAITS  TOURS
Mrs. Edward McC. Williams  Mrs. Benjamin Crampton

ARCHIVES  CUSTODIAN
Miss Mabel Massey  Miss Louise Huyett

PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS — Loring C. Kackley

iii
Table of Contents

Indians ........................................................................................................... 1
Early Settlers — First White Settler — Mrs. Earle’s Grave .. 6
Lord Fairfax ......................................................... 7
George Washington ................................................................. 11
Religion ......................................................................................... 15

Quakers—Hopewell Friends Meeting (1734)
Frederick Parish (1744) and its Divisions .......... 16
Rev. James Thomson (1739-1812)
Buck Marsh (1772) and Bethel (1808) Baptist Churches .... 27
Lutheran Clergy of Winchester (1785)
Winchester Presbyterian Churches (1780) ............ 29
Northern and Southern Methodist .................. 31
Politics ................................................................................. 32
Colonial Times, Frederick Burgesses (1744-1776)

State Politics .......................... 33
State Constitutional Convention of 1776, Governors of Virginia From
Frederick County, Frederick’s State Senators, Frederick’s Members of
the House of Delegates, John Hopkins on Politics (1822), Constitution
of 1830, Constitution of 1851, Frederick’s Vote for President of C.S.A. (1861),
Military Rule (1865-1870), Gubernatorial Election of 1883.

Federal Politics ......................................... 39
Ratification of the Federal Constitution (1788), Congressional Representa-
tives (1788-1949), General Morgan’s Last Fight (1797)

Slavery (1713-1882) .............................................. 45
War ........................................................................... 53
French and Indian War (1754-1757) .................. 53
The Revolution (1763-1781) ................................. 56
War of 1812 (1813-1814) ...................................... 61
Lincoln’s War (1859-1874) ....................................... 68
First World War (1918) ........................................... 89
Education (1830-1902) ............................................ 90
Shenandoah River Navigation (1790-1858) ......... 94
Turnpike Roads (1850-1915) ................................. 97
Railroads (1829) ....................................................... 99
Frederick County (1738) ......................................... 100
Frederick Town, Later (1752) Called Winchester ... 104

Inns (1743); Ducking Stool (1746); Washington’s First Visit (1748); Chairs
(1755); Enlarged (1758); Clockmaker (1775); Ambler’s Hill (1785); Gen.
Morgan’s Home (1787); Dancing Master (1788); Minature Painter (1790);
Post Office (1791); Domestic Manufactures (1811); Newspaper War (1814);
999 Year Lease (1820); Cholera (1832); Market House (1856); Handley
Library (1910).

Winchester Worthies .............................................. 115
Barton, Conrad, Cooke, Holliday, Holmes, Jones, Mason, McCann, Mc-
Guire, Norton, DiFerrall, Parker, Rouss, Whitacre, White, Wood, Zane
Table of Contents (Cont.)

Stephensburg (1758), Later Newtown and Stephens’ City .... 129

Pugh Town (1797), Later Gainesboro ................................ 130

Clarke County 1836) ................................................................ 131
Newtown Resolutions (1834); Addition From Jefferson Defeated (1858);
Delegates (1836-1924); Senators (1895-1923); Clarke Towns — Battletown,
Millwood, White Post, Varle’s Description (1800); Post Offices (1799, 1800,
1811).

Battletown, Later (1831) Berryville ...................................... 136

Millwood and its Neighborhood .................................. 137
Carter Grant (1730); Harrison Tract (1740); Quitreents (1777); Morgan’s
Mill (1782); Tidewater Invasion (1784); Tuley’s Tanyard (1786); No
Trespassing (1789); Postmasters (1800); Westover Portraits (1814); Jerry
O’Connor; Meade and Burwell Sheep (1831, 1837); Millwood Merchant
(1836); First Winter of War (1862).

Great Houses of the Millwood Neighborhood .................... 144
Annfield, The Briars, First Burwell Home, Carter Hall, Chapel Green,
Chapel Hill, Clay Hill, Clark House, Ferry Farm, Glenowen, Lakeville,
Long Branch, Longwood, Lucky Hit, The Meadow, Mountain View, Page
Brook, Prospect Hill, Rosney, Saratoga, Springsbury, Summerville, The
Tuleyries, The Vineyard.

Millwood Worthies ............................................................ 157
Bradford, Burwell, Byrd, Carter, Holker, Keeler, Meade, Morgan, Nelson,
Page, Randolph.

Boyce (1879) ................................................................. 168

Northern Clarke County ............................................... 169
Fairfield, Audley, Clifton, Llewellyn, Lt. D. H. Allen, Nelly Custis, George
H. Norris, 4 Warner Washingtons, Bishop R. H. Wilmer.

Berkeley and Jefferson Counties .................................. 176
Charles Town Races (1786); Shepherdstown, Federal Capitol (1789);
Devil Do Your Worst (1790); Theft of Two Counties (1863); Toast to Three
Revolutionary Major Generals; Generals Darke and Stephenson Duel;
Magnus Tate’s Ear; Florence Vane; Matthew Page Andrews.

Historical Markers and Bibliography of Historical Works .... 181

Illustrations

Angus MacDonald ...................................................................... 4
Dr. Robert Mackey .................................................................... 8
Alexander Scott Tidball .......................................................... 102
Mrs. John Tayloe II ................................................................ 164
George H. Norris .................................................................... 172
Report of the President

The Clarke County Historical Association took a step forward this year. On July 2, 1958 the State Corporation Commission issued a Certificate of Incorporation to the Clarke County Historical Association. The Board of Directors met September 10, 1958 to draw up and adopt a set of By-Laws (copy of which is enclosed with these proceedings). On October 17, 1958 the membership met and approved the By-Laws as presented by the Board of Directors.

It is my sincere hope that the members of the Clarke County Historical Association will become more active as the program for the coming year unfolds. This summer we plan to reinstate our tours of Historical landmarks and homes in this and neighboring counties. Our annual business meeting will be the second Tuesday in May for the purpose of electing Officers and transacting any other pertinent business.

We were most fortunate in obtaining Dr. Richard H. Howland, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, as one of our guest speakers this year. Dr. Howland showed us slides of what the National Trust is doing in Virginia and other parts of the country.

For those interested in taking an active part in the preservation of History in Clarke County, there are many opportunities. First and foremost, I believe we should strive toward acquiring our own Headquarters, so that we can house all of our belongings under one roof.

We wish to thank Mrs. John T. Beardall for her donation to the Historical Association of several mementos of her father, Rear Admiral Albert M. Dupuy McCormick.

We, also, wish to thank the Grace Episcopal Church in Berryville for letting us use the Parish House for our meetings.

We are indebted to the Winchester Evening Star for allowing us to reprint the following articles by Edward Kidder Meade, that originally appeared in that newspaper.

HELEN B. BYRD
President
Everard Kidder Meade, Historian

Throughout the publication of its series of Proceedings, the Clarke County Historical Association has been extraordinarily fortunate in being able to enlist as contributors four historians of marked ability. In previous volumes we have recorded with gratitude and sadness the passing of Richard E. Griffith of Frederick County and of Curtis Chappellear of Fauquier County. Josiah L. Dickinson of Warren County is fortunately still with us.

This volume is published as a memorial to Everard Kidder Meade of “Edgewood”, who alone of the four was born in Clarke County and was possessed of a background which reflected its entire history. A descendant of Bishop Meade of “Mountain View”, whose “Old Churches and Families of Virginia”, published over a hundred years ago will always remain a classic, and of the children and grandchildren of “King” Carter, to whom Lord Fairfax deeded over 51,000 acres in 1731, Everard Meade was particularly equipped to record the history of the “old Millwood neighborhood” which was the center of this great tract. In addition to background he had insight, imagination, scholarship and a feeling for detail that was both meticulous and painstaking. The articles here printed and the list of his other writings indicate the unusual breadth of his interests and his versatility as a writer. He recorded with humor and gusto the colorful details which make history such entertaining reading. If synthesis were required he could pack successive epochs into the smallest possible compass — as in his brilliant “Brief Outline of Virginia History”. Readers of “Virginia’s Racial Problem, 1619-1948” have discovered his profound understanding of the political currents which have shaped this nation. His articles on Frederick Parish and on the Old Chapel Graveyard are recognized by church historians everywhere, while there is a constant demand from genealogists for “The Children of Major Lewis Burwell II of Gloucester County in the Ancient Colony of Virginia”. Although steeped in the traditions of a neighborhood which sets great store by such things, he never allowed tradition to warp his insistence on complete documentation.

As for the series of articles here gathered we are indebted to State Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr., Editor of the Winchester Evening Star, who had the imagination to ask Mr. Meade to draw from his accumulation of historical notes, the business acumen to publish them in the “Star”, and the kindness to allow us to put them under one cover. Even those who read them casually cannot fail to appreciate how much the Clarke County Historical Association owes to Everard Meade and how sorely we will miss him.

ALEXANDER MACKAY-SMITH

vii
Notes Toward A Bibliography
Of The Historical Writings Of
Everard Kidder Meade


The Children of Major Lewis Burwell II of Gloucester County in the Ancient Colony of Virginia, Vol. IV., p.6, 1944.


viii
The Cooke Brothers of Clarke County, Vol. IX., p.6, 1950.


The chapter "Clarke County, Virginia, In War" in the Official Program Welcome Home and Remembrance Day, Held at Berryville, Virginia, October 19, 1946.

"Frederick Parish, Virginia, 1744-1780, Its Churches, Chapels, Ministers and Vestries" by Everard Kidder Meade. Published by Cunningham Chapel Parish (successor to Frederick Parish), Winchester, Virginia, Pifer Printing Co., 1947, pp. 70. With Three Original Maps by Josiah Look Dickinson. Text and maps were previously published in two parts in Vol. V. (1945) and Vol. VI (1946) of the Proceedings of the Clarke County Historical Association.


Benjamin Crampton

The passing of Benjamin Crampton in 1957 marked the loss of one of Clarke County’s most valuable citizens, one who possessed invaluable knowledge of the historic personnel of Clarke as well as a detailed knowledge of places of historic importance.

Benjamin Crampton and his devoted wife were among the organizers of the Clarke County Historical Association and have rendered great and distinguished service to public causes including the work of our association.

It is with great regret that we record his passing.

— James M. Thomson
Indians

Shawnee Villages

The Shawnee Indians had settled in the general neighborhood of Winchester long before white settlers moved into the Lower Shenandoah Valley. The Shawnee cabins and Shawnee Springs adjoining the town itself were well known to Frederick’s early settlers. These Indians also had a large village on Babb’s Marsh, which was between three and four miles northwest of Winchester. A footnote in the fourth edition of Kercheval’s History of the Valley of Virginia states: “This village was founded about 1694 and stood until 1754.” The note apparently refers to the Shawnee cabins, but it could also be meant to apply to the Babb’s Marsh village.

Cornstalk was the most famous chieftain of the Shawnees.

February 3, 1948

Snakes

The first white settlers of Frederick County found it already inhabited by a large and thriving population of snakes. The most virulently poisonous varieties of this reptile family were the rattle-snake and the copperhead moccasin. These constituted a real menace, and took an annual toll of human life.

Many remedies were tried for snake bite. These included cupping, sucking the wound, and gashing the flesh deeply around it, then filling the gashes with salt and gun powder. Others were: boiling the white plaintain in milk and taking internally large doses of this brew; using a fern resembling walnut leaves and a plant having the appearance of the Seneca snake root as poultices, or boiling them for internal use. Instead of the last, a very poisonous plant so much like it that it was difficult to distinguish between the two was occasionally used by mistake, with disastrous results.

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Dodridge relates that when the offending snake could be captured, it was cut into two-inch pieces, these split and applied to the wound to draw out the poison, and the pieces burned to ashes “in revenge for the injury.”

January 20, 1948
'Gentlemen Associates'

Raids by Indian scalping parties had in 1756 become so numerous and successful that, as one historian wrote, "the beautiful valley of the Shenandoah was fast becoming a deserted and a silent place." Washington, who had been entrusted with the defense of the frontier, found it difficult to get Gov. Dinwiddie and the General Assembly to adopt measures which experience had taught him were essential.

At the height of this crisis, a company of one hundred gentlemen, headed by Attorney General Peyton Randolph and splendidly mounted and equipped, volunteered their services to secure the safety of the frontier. They were called the "Gentlemen Associates," and great things were expected of them, but not by Washington. He never doubted their courage, but he knew their total lack of experience and knowledge of Indian warfare.

The "Associators" for all their good intentions, accomplished nothing. Before they arrived on a scene of action, the Indians were safely away. Washington remarked in a letter to Gov. Dinwiddie that he regretted "to find their motions so slow." His headquarters were then in Winchester.

April 6, 1948

Scalp Market

The Virginia General Assembly quoted the following official prices for enemy Indians killed or captured within the limits of the colony:

1755. For each male above 12: killed, 10 pounds; captured, 10 pounds.
1756. Same as 1755.
1757. For each male: killed, 40 pounds; captured, 45 pounds.
1758. Same as 1757.

Of the bounties offered in 1757 and 1758, payment of 30 pounds of each was not to be made until two years, or slightly more, later, except that all payments to Indian allies must be made promptly and in full, either in goods or money. The Assembly also deemed it necessary to make the killing of a friendly Indian a felony.

The Acts establishing the above market will be found in Henning, Vols. VI and VII, appropriately indexed under the subject head, "Scalps." They were of special interest and pecuniary importance to residents of Frederick.

April 13, 1948
Cold Blooded Murder

The unprovoked murder of the family of the friendly Indian chieftain Logan in 1773 was one of the most atrocious acts committed by whites on Virginia's frontier. Logan, himself, charged Capt. Michael Cresap with the crime. The Rev. Dr. Joseph Doddridge, historian of The Indian Wars on the Western Frontier, and Thomas Jefferson supported the charge, while the Rev. John J. Jacobs denied it in his "Life of Cresap" and Samuel Kercheval supported the denial.

The murders were quickly followed by Dunmore's War in which three Winchester officers, Col. Angus McDonald, Capt. James Wood, and Capt. Daniel Morgan played so valorous a part. Cresap was long a noted Indian fighter. At the beginning of the Revolution he organized and commanded a Maryland Rifle Co., which rendered admirable service in the Continental Army.

The late Matthew Page Andrews, once of the faculty of the Shenandoah Valley Military Academy, stated in his history of Virginia that Luther Martin, who had married a daughter of Capt. Cresap, joined Burr's counsel because of his resentment over Jefferson's denunciation of his father-in-law for "murdering Logan's family in cold blood."

August 10, 1948

Indian Eloquence

In Kercheval is found this excerpt from the Cayuga chief's speech at the signing of the treaty ending Dunmore's War, which has been cited by the Rev. Joseph Doddridge as an authentic example of Indian eloquence:

"I appeal to any white man to say if he ever entered Logan's cabin hungry and he gave him not meat; if he ever came cold and naked and he clothed him not. During the course of the last long and bloody war, Logan remained idle in his cabin, an advocate of peace. I had even thought to live with you, but for the injuries of one man. Col. Cresap, the last spring, in cold blood and unprovoked, murdered all the relations of Logan, not even sparing my women and children. There runs not a drop of my blood in any living creature.

"This called on me for revenge. I have sought it; I have killed many: I have fully glutted my vengeance; for by country I rejoice at the beams of peace. But do not harbor a thought that mine is the joy of fear. Logan never felt fear. He will not turn on his heel to save his life. Who is there to mourn Logan? Not one."

August 31, 1948
Angus MacDonald (1727-1778) was born in Scotland. He fought in the Battle of Culloden in the Glengary Regiment, survived that bloody field and came to Virginia in 1754. He took part in the French and Indian War. In 1768 he was appointed attorney and agent for Lord Fairfax. In 1773 he was appointed a Gentleman Justice for Frederick Co., and two years later Lord Dunmore made him sheriff of that county. He was made Lt. Col. of Virginia Militia in 1774 and Gen. Washington offered him command of the 2nd Virginia Regiment, which was to be recruited, but he declined. Commanded the Wappatomica expedition in 1774. He was a member of the Committee of Safety for Frederick County and was for some years a vestryman and warden of Frederick Parish. He died at Glengary in Frederick County.
Early Settlers

First White Settler

There is, of course, no possible way of establishing now by satisfactory affirmative evidence to whom should go the distinction of having been the first white man to settle in the Lower Shenandoah Valley.

Dr. John W. Wayland’s claim that Adam Miller (Mueller) “must have been one of the first settlers, if not the first.” is given a high probability rating because of the documentary evidence in the naturalization papers issued to Miller in 1741. These state that he had “inhabited for fifteen years past on the Shenandoa.”

The Rev. Benjamin Allen’s assertions that Col. Morgan came to Frederick County “about the year 1726” and “erected the first cabin built on the Virginia side of the Potomac” lacks any documentary authentication.

January 22, 1948

Mrs. Earle’s Grave

Mrs. Anna Earle died and was buried at her home in Greenway Court Manor. She was the wife of Samuel Earle, one of the first two burgesses elected to represent Frederick Co. in the General Assembly and a church warden of the first vestry of Frederick Parish.

Josiah Look Dickinson of Front Royal, a noted authority on the Fairfax manors, states that Mrs. Earle’s grave is the third oldest grave west of the Blue Ridge, and that her tombstone was cut from the same type of Massanutten mountain rock as that used for millstones. The writer is indebted to Mr. Dickinson for its inscription, which reads as follows:

“Here lies the Body of Anna the Wife of Samuel Earle of the County who departed this Life the 30 day of December ADomini 1748 in the 41 Year of Her Age She was a Religious Devout & Godly Woman a Loving & Virtuous Wife on Indulgent Mother, a Liberal Mistress a kind Neighbor a true Patern of goodness an Example to all her followers and by all much Lamented I pray to God his Blessings and all Mortals to make such an end.”

The epitaph was engraved upon the tombstone in 14 lines.

January 24, 1950
Lord Fairfax

Lord Fairfax, The Man

The character of Thomas, 6th Lord Fairfax, has caused controversy ever since his death in 1781. Archdeacon Andrew Burnaby visited the Proprietor of the Northern Neck at Greenway Court in 1760 and gave his opinion of him in an appendix — written after the latter’s death — to a later edition of his book describing his American travels. He wrote:

“His manners were humble, modest, and unaffected, not tinctured in the smallest degree with arrogance, pride, or self-conceit. The produce of his farms, after deducting what was necessary for the consumption of his own family, was given away to the poor planters and settlers in his neighborhood. To these he frequently lent money. He was a friend and father to all who held and lived under him.”

Bishop Meade, whose father’s home was very near Greenway Court, wrote: “It deserves to be mentioned of Lord Fairfax that he never failed to perform his duty as a citizen and neighbor. The poor around him cultivated some of his lands and received all the benefits of the same.”

The order and deed books of the Frederick County court provide documentary evidence which goes far toward proving that Lord Fairfax was an honorable, upright, generous Christian, a good citizen.

June 16, 1949

One Fat Turkey

The first rental agreement recorded by Lord Fairfax in Frederick is a lease to Edward Corder and his wife for their natural lives of 200 acres in Greenway Court Manor for an annual rental of “one large fat turkey,” which must be delivered “ready for roasting” on the 25th of each December to Lord Fairfax, his heirs and assigns or to his cook or steward.

The lease stipulates that “if it shall so happen that the said yearly rent be behind and unpaid by the space of 12 hours after the same ought to be paid or that the said turkey when tendered should not be fat and ready for use and no sufficient distress upon the premises thereof is or may be found,” then the lease can be ended.

At an appropriate place Lord Fairfax incorporates a quotation from Horace. Its translation by the erudite Josiah Look Dickinson can be found by the interested reader in the footnote to his valuable and interesting copy-righted article, The Manor of Greenway Court, published in the 1944 Proceedings of the Clarke County Historical Ass’n.

July 8, 1948
This is a portrait of Dr. Robert Mackey (17 - liv. 1781) who was a surgeon in the Continental Army. After the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Dr. Mackey settled in Winchester, Va., and married Catherine Snickers of "Clermont", daughter of Edward Snickers, a large and wealthy landowner, who was the progenitor of such Clarke County, Va. families as the Wares, Striblings, McCormicks, Powers', Neills and Smiths.

The owner of this portrait states that Dr. Mackey was Lord Fairfax's physician and that the latter was seized with his final illness while visiting Dr. Mackey at the latter's home in Winchester; that Lord Fairfax was removed to his home "Greenway Court", accompanied on the trip by Dr. Mackey; and died shortly thereafter.
Fairfax's Top Boots

A pair of English top boots worn by Lord Fairfax, proprietor of the Northern Neck of Virginia, was at various times during four generations the proud possession of at least three prominent Winchester families, according to the late William C. Kennerly (born at Greenway Court in 1826), who stated the story of the boots was told him in 1870 by Dr. Robert Baldwin. It is:

Some ten years before his death, Fairfax rode to Winchester and was taken suddenly ill while calling at the home of Dr. Robert Macky, his friend and physician. When his condition permitted, he was driven back to Greenway Court in a carriage, and accompanied by the doctor. His top boots were inadvertently left in the Macky house, where they remained unnoticed for years. Later, they passed into the possession of Mrs. Joseph Tidball, sister of Dr. Baldwin and granddaughter of Dr. Macky.

To this, Mr. Kennerly added that Mrs. Tidball gave the boots to Gov. Frederick William Macky Holliday, a grandson of Dr. Macky, who devised them to the Virginia Historical Society. This last statement is in error. Gov. Holliday may have given, but he did not devise them to that Society. The name Macky is so spelled invariably in the very early records of Winchester and Frederick Co. The spelling Mackey was later and is now customarily used.

May 31, 1949
George Washington

Washington’s Physique

Washington’s appearance is described by his adopted son, G. W. P. Custis, in his Recollections and Private Memoirs of Washington, published in 1860, with a Memoir of the author by his daughter, Mrs. Robert E. Lee. His description follows:

The general himself said that in his “best days” he stood 6 ft. 2 in. in ordinary shoes and his weight never exceeded 220 pound. He was 6 ft. when laid out at death. His form was unique. It descended from shoulders to hips in perpendicular lines, the breadth of the trunk being nearly as great at the one end as at the other. His limbs were long, large and sinewy. His joints, feet, and hands were large, and could a cast have been made of his right hand (so far did its dimensions exceed nature’s model) it would have been preserved in museums for ages as the anatomical wonder of the 18th century.

Eyes, a light grayish-blue, deep sunken in their sockets, giving the expression of gravity and thought; hair, a hazel brown, very thin in his latter days. In his movements he preserved in a remarkable degree and to an advanced age the elastic step acquired in his service on the frontier. He had no superfluous flesh.

February 14, 1948

Washington Buys Land In Frederick Co.

Deed books of the Frederick County court establish the fact that George Washington at the age of 20 had bought and then owned 1161 acres of land in the county.

The first Frederick County land purchased by him was a tract of 453 acres lying near the head of Worthington Marsh and “granted by deed from the Lord Proprietor of the Northern Neck bearing date the 20th day of October, 1750.” This deed is not of record in Winchester, but is established by reference to it in Deed Book 12, p. 223. Washington was then 18 years of age.

On Dec. 4, 1750, James McCracken sold to “George Washington of the county of King George, Gent.” his home tract of 456 acres on the S. Branch of Bullskin, being the land taken up by David Griffith, Andrew Hampton, and Benjamin Borden in joint tenancy and sold by Griffith to McCracken. Washington paid 112 pounds “current money of Virginia” for it. The deed is recorded in Deed Book 2, pp. 209-210.

On March 17, 1752, Washington paid “George Johnston, Gent.” 115 pounds for 252 acres on the south fork of Bullskin upon which John Johnston lived and which had been granted to George Johnston by Lord Fairfax, Oct. 20, 1750. This transaction is recorded in Deed Book 2, pp. 478-80.

April 30, 1949
George Washington's Apple Trees

George Washington is not known to history as an orchardist, yet he was one of the first to promote the planting of farm orchards in the Shenandoah Valley. In Deed Book 12, Frederick County court, are recorded the first two leases of land owned by him in Frederick, both dated Dec. 1, 1767.

By the first he "Demised, Leased, and to Farm Letten" 226 and one half acres near the head of Worthington Marsh to Alexander Fryer and his two sons; by the second, an adjoining tract of the same size to James Barnard.

Both instruments required the lessees "to procure and plant at their own expense at the distance of 33 feet from each other (exactly in a line both ways) in the space of 5 years from the date hereof 100 apple trees of a good kind of Fruit for making Cyder, and at some convenient time before the expiration of 10 years the like number of peach trees," and that the lessees "use all possible care to preserve them from sustaining any damage either from plow, Cattle and horses, or other way, and if it should so happen that any of the trees be destroyed or die then in that care another of the same or better kind of fruit be planted in its place at the proper season of the year for setting out trees."

April 19, 1949

"Jacob's Staff"

In the original inventory of "Mount Vernon" effects is listed a "Jacob’s Staff." This article turned out to be a surveyor's tripod. It is made of oak, mounted with brass. Its three legs are each in two sections, joined with brass screws, to make it easier to carry on horseback.

This tripod may have been used by George Washington when he was surveying land in the lower Shenandoah Valley. It is now in the museum of the New York State public library in Albany. Its last Washington owner was Col. Lewis W. Washington of "Beall-air," once in Frederick Co., Va., now Jefferson Co., West Va.

July 1, 1948
NOTES ON THE LOWER SHENANDOAH VALLEY

A Sword From Frederick The Great

According to tradition, Frederick the Great sent Washington a sword in 1780 with this message, "From the oldest general of the world to the greatest." There is no known record of the fact, but the New Jersey Journal of Aug. 2, 1780 mentioned a picture with that sentence inscribed under it.

The sword has a straight pointed blade, with hilt and chain of polished steel, dotted with steel beads, and its original case was of white shark's skin. Washington wore it on many state occasions. It is represented in his portrait painted in 1834 by Vanderlyn for the House of Representatives.

After Washington's death it was owned by his eldest nephew, William Augustine Washington, by his son, George Corbin Washington, and then by the latter's only surviving son, Col. Lewis W. Washington of "Beallair," Jefferson Co. The second wife of the last, Mrs. Ella Bassett Washington, sold it to the State of New York. It is in the museum of the New York State Library in Albany, and, unfortunately, was badly damaged in the fire of 1911.

Col. Lewis Washington and the sword were captured by John Brown's raiders on Oct. 16, 1859, and John Brown was wearing the sword when he was himself captured two days later. Afterwards, it was returned to its owner.

April 29, 1948

Washington's English Coach

Soon after Washington became President, he imported a fine English coach. His arms were handsomely emblazoned upon its door: an allegorical picture, emblematic of one of the four seasons, was "beautifully painted on copper" by Cipriani on each of its four panels. It was drawn by four or six handsomely matched fine bays. In it, the President drove "the length and breadth of the land."

After his death, the coach was bought by George Washington Parke Custis. Years later, Mrs. Custis crossed the Blue Ridge in it on a visit to "Annfield" in the present Clarke County, then the home of her kinswoman, Mrs. Matthew Page. There she left it, finding its use impractical because of its great weight.

At "Annfield" the English coach remained until Bishop Meade, Mrs. Page's brother, had it dismembered. The back seat upon which General and Mrs. Washington used to sit, he kept in his study at "Mountain View." Some pieces were given to the General's friends. The remainder was made up into canes, snuff boxes, and picture frames. These were sold for the benefit of the church. "There can be no doubt," the Bishop wrote, "that at its dissolution it yielded more to charity than it did to its builder."

February 17, 1948
Lafayette's Pistols

After the Revolution, Lafayette gave Gen. Washington the pair of heavy horseman's pistols he had used during that war as a personal souvenir. These were inherited by Col. Bushrod Washington, the General's nephew. He bequeathed them to his cousin, George Corbin Washington. The latter lost one by theft and the other he devised to his son, Col. Lewis W. Washington of "Beallair," Jefferson Co., then in Virginia, now in West Va.

Owen Brown, son of John Brown, was a member of the party of raiders who captured Col. Washington at the time of the Harper's Ferry raid. He stole the Lafayette pistol, survived that affair, and in 1860 sent the pistol to one Thaddeus Hyatt who, very properly, and on Oct. 15 of the same year, returned it to its owner. The State of New York bought it from Col. Washington's widow and it can be seen today in the museum of the New York State library in Albany.

The other Lafayette pistol was stolen from a Philadelphia hotel room prior to 1841, when both were in the keeping of Silas E. Burrows to whom they had been loaned to carry to New York for a charitable exhibition. Since then its whereabouts has remained unknown.

May 1, 1948

Mount Vernon Relics

The Supply Bill passed by the New York legislature April 26, 1871, appropriated $20,000, "or so much thereof as may be necessary," for the purchase of certain Mount Vernon relics — providing their authenticity and desirability were both established by thorough investigation — from Mrs. Lewis W. Washington of Halltown, W. Va.

Mrs. Washington, acting up authority given her by her husband, had offered to sell to the State of New York twelve Washington relics formerly housed in Mount Vernon. These included the sword presented to Gen. Washington by Frederick the Great, a pistol given him by Lafayette, a gold watch chain and two seals, the first draft of his Farewell Address, May 1796, the tripod known as Jacob's Staff, and a number of Washington's surveying instruments.

The records of the investigations establishing the authenticity of these relics make valuable historical documents and are in the archives of the state library. The purchase was made and the full $20,000 paid Mrs. Washington. In 1873 the relics were deposited in the museum of the New York State Library in Albany.

April 27, 1948
Religion

Hopewell Friends Meeting

Hopewell Friends Meeting for worship was established in 1734, and its monthly meeting for business and discipline in 1735. At first the meeting for worship was called the Opeckan meeting because its site was some four miles northwest of Opequon Creek. It was named Hopewell probably after Hopewell in Lancaster Co., Pa. Its records antedate those of Frederick County by nine years. The minutes of its monthly meetings from 1734-1759 were kept in the home of William Jolliffe — some of whose descendants of the name still live both in Frederick and Clarke Counties — and were destroyed when his home was burned about 1759. From that year to the present time there is a continuous written record of its meetings.

Painstaking and thorough research has failed to establish when the first meeting-house was built. Dr. John W. Wayland in his authoritative HOPEWELL FRIENDS HISTORY, 1734-1934, states that it "was doubtless constructed of logs and may have been erected as early as 1734-1735."

In its peaceful cemetery rest many of the earliest settlers of old Frederick, their graves, as was then the Quaker rule, marked only by rough field stones.

(Note: The writer visited this grave-yard with Richard E. Griffith, the great authority on Frederick County records, a few weeks before his death).

February 10, 1948

"Waverly"

Some six miles north of Winchester stands "Waverly," one of Frederick's historic homes, built upon a tract of 2373 acres first owned by Alexander Ross. The site was part of a grant of 100,000 acres made to Ross and Morgan Bryan in 1730, eight years before the county itself was created. Ross laid off ten of his acres for a Quaker place of worship on a hill near his home. From this eminence a Hopewell Friends Meeting House has watched over a beautiful countryside since about 1734.

Ross died in 1748 and thereafter the "Waverly" estate had various owners until it was acquired by George Fayette Washington, a great nephew of Gen. Washington, in 1826. He and his descendants lived there until the place was sold to the late John W. Robinson of Winchester in 1923. The recorded deed and plat show that "Waverly's" then 510 acres completely surrounded Hopewell's 10 acres and that its northern boundary was, as it now is, the old Braddock Road, over which in 1755 Gen. Braddock and his volunteer aide, George Washington, marched to disaster on the Monongahela.

"Waverly" was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Fred L. Duncan in 1941, who have since then made it their home. They have restored and greatly improved the old stone mansion and the grounds.

March 10, 1949
Frederick Parish And Its Divisions

Frederick Parish

In Colonial Virginia, the Church of England was the official church, the Established Church. Its officers were a part of the county governments. Its vestries were elected by all the freeholders and householders of a parish, regardless of religious affiliations. In Frederick County, many non-conformists served on its vestries.

Frederick Parish was created by the same Act of the General Assembly which created Frederick County. The boundaries of each were identical. The parish was organized in 1744. Its four ministers during the colonial period were: the Rev. John Gordon, whose silver watch some “miscreant” stole; the Rev. William Meldrum, who won a long legal battle over his salary; the Rev. Benjamin Sebastian, a Revolutionary patriot who later betrayed his country for Spanish gold, and the Rev. Charles Mynn Thrus-ton, who became a distinguished officer in the Continental Army. Some of his descendants still live in the Valley.

The parish was often divided. Christ Church, Winchester, was organized as a separate parish in 1827. Finally, in 1866, Frederick Parish had shrunk until its boundaries encompassed only a comparatively small area in Clarke County and in that year Frederick was renamed Cunningham Chapel Parish. Its life span was 122 years.

January 6, 1948

Early Church Dates

A memorandum in the papers of Col. James Wood which has hitherto escaped the knowledge of church historians, proves that the Winchester church and three chapels of colonial Frederick parish were being built in 1745, a date two years earlier than any previously confirmed by documentary evidence. It permits the certain identification of two of the chapels and the almost certain identification of the third.

This memorandum is dated 1745, and has the following entries in Col. Wood’s well known handwriting — the numbers represent respectively pounds and shillings:

"By my order to Mr. Sam’l Earle towards his chapel 7:10"
"By do to Mr. Calmes towards his chapel 7:10"
"By do to Mr. Campbell towards his chapel 7:10"
"By Mr. Helme for the church 7:10"

The locations of the homes of Samuel Earle and Marquis Calmes make it certain that the chapels referred to as theirs must have been respectively, McKay’s and Cunningham. The location of Andrew Campbell’s home, and other known evidence, make it all but certain that “his chapel” was the Mecklenburg (Shepherdstown) chapel. The only church in colonial Frederick parish was the church in Winchester.

January 3, 1950
Winchester's First Church

The earliest record of the first church ever built in Winchester is found in a certified copy of the minutes of the meeting of the vestry of Frederick Parish held Oct. 9, 1747. At this meeting, 25 pounds were appropriated "towards finishing the church." On February 9, 1762, a contract was signed for building a new stone church to replace the wooden structure which had not been completed in 1747.

This contract called for a church 56 feet long, 32 feet wide, and 26 feet high, measuring from the ground "to the foot of the rafters" at a cost of 599 pounds. The vestry voted to accept it from Charles Smith, the contractor, on Feb. 17, 1755. It must have been badly built, for less than six years later, the vestry stated it was then "not worth its first cost, and soon would be ruinous."

Both these churches stood on the large lot on the southwest corner of the old public square. Church historians state that Lord Fairfax gave this lot to the parish, but this statement is strongly challenged by William Wood Glass. Lord Fairfax was buried in this lot, as were many others. When the lot and the church then standing on it were sold, the remains of Lord Fairfax were removed to a vault under the present Christ Protestant Episcopal church.

January 29, 1948

Illegitimate Children

In colonial days, the duty of providing for and taking charge of illegitimate children born in Frederick County devolved upon the vestry of Frederick Parish. Identity of the father could seldom be established except through voluntary admission on his part, and there were few of these.

The mother could always be discovered. Her offense was reported to the County court by the church wardens. The ordinary punishment for bearing an illegitimate child was 25 lashes on the bare back, "well laid on," at the common whipping post. If the mother happened to be an indentured servant, as much as two years might also be added to her term of servitude. Such severe sentences, however, were not long imposed in Frederick. The lashes were soon omitted and later the mother avoided in some cases any punishment or even appearance in court, provided she could and did relieve the county of all expense in regard to the child.

It was the duty of the church wardens to find suitable persons willing to give illegitimate children homes and to teach them to read and write. When these could be found, the county court bound the children over to them "according to law" as apprentices.

March 11, 1948
Rev. Benjamin Sebastian
Patriot — Traitor

On April 1, 1766, the vestry of Frederick Parish recommended young Benjamin Sebastian for Holy Orders to the Bishop of London, and certified him as "highly acceptable to this parish as their rector" should he obtain them. He was ordained and served as minister of the parish from March 3, 1767 to Jan. 8, 1768.

During the Revolution, he served in the patriot army for 3 years and made a good soldier. After the war he did not return to the ministry, but moved to Kentucky, where he practiced law and politics so successfully that he was appointed a judge of the Kentucky Appellate Court and became one of the more influential members of the state legislature. It seems certain that his great ability and engaging personality would have been rewarded with more and much greater honors but for his love of money and the lure of Spanish gold.

Spain was actively engaged in plotting a separation of "the western country from the eastern," offering money and military supplies to bring about this division of the United States. A legislative investigation later proved that Sebastian had acted as a paid agent of Spain for years in furthering her plots and intrigues against his own country. His public career ended in obloquy, he died 25 years later, on March 17, 1834.

November 1, 1949

Rev. Dr. Balmain's Pay As Army Chaplain

Alexander Balmain, D.D., came to Winchester in 1782, perhaps a little earlier, and thereafter until his death June 16, 1821, served as rector of Frederick Parish of the Protestant Episcopal Church — unofficially until 1785 and after that, officially. He died greatly beloved by people of all denominations and memorial tablets to Mrs. Balmain and himself are today in the present Christ Church, Winchester.

Dr. Balmain kept a journal throughout the period of his life in that town, which is now the property of Christ Church. The Handley Library has one of the three photostats of it in existence; another is in the Library of Congress, and the 3rd is in the William and Mary College library. In the Balmain Journal is a record of the pay he received for his services as an army chaplain in the Revolution. He was chaplain of the 13th Regiment of the Virginia line from Feb. 20, 1777, to May 22, 1778; and brigade chaplain from the latter date until March 25, 1783.

His journal records that in settlement of his accounts with the army he received eventually a total of 2146 pounds, 12 shillings, and 9 pence in interest bearing "final settlement certificates" and in addition, land bounties aggregating 7,500 acres of "western lands," a comfortable fortune in those days.

March 30, 1950
Winchester Subscribers

In 1784 these members of the congregation of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Winchester subscribed 81 pounds and 7 shillings current money of Virginia to finance its operations in its current fiscal year:


In the above list of 35 subscribers are the names of many families that will always be associated with the history of Winchester. Col. Wood was the first resident of the town to become Governor of the State of Virginia, and the son of its founder. William Holliday was a prominent merchant and the grandfather of Gov. Frederick William Mackey Holliday. Alexander White, eminent lawyer and brilliant debater, represented Frederick in Congress and held other political offices.

March 22, 1949

Vestry Election, 1785

On Easter Monday, March 28, 1785, a new vestry was elected for Frederick Parish of the Protestant Episcopal Church. The vestrymen elected with the number of votes each received, follow:

John Smith, 80 votes
Maj. Thomas Massie, 78 votes
Col. Richard K. Meade, 77 votes
John S. Woodcock, 66 votes
Edward Smith, 59 votes
Gerard Briscoe, 57 votes
John McDonald, 54 votes
Col. Charles Mynn Thruston, 52 votes
Strother Jones, 51 votes
Warner Washington, 46 votes
Thomas Bryan Martin, 44 votes
Isaac Hite, Jr., 43 votes

April 23, 1949
Cunningham Chapel

The records of Frederick County and parish prove that this chapel was under construction in 1747, in which year services were held in it. It was a clapboard building and cost about 50 pounds. The chapel stood a few yards south and a little east of the present Old Chapel in Clarke. It probably owes its name to the fact that one James Cunningham, a man often in trouble with the county officials, kept a tavern in his home on the hill just north of it.

On Jan. 1, 1760, Capt. John Ashby signed a contract with the vestry to make extensive repairs upon the building, agreeing among other things, to "make tight and secure the eaves of the roof to prevent the birds from coming in there at."

There was a very early graveyard adjoining this chapel in which burials may well have taken place as early as c. 1747, but not one of those who sleep in this ground can now be named. The land of both graveyard and chapel was owned by President William Nelson of the council, who, before 1772, deeded it to his son, Maj. Hugh Nelson. It lay in the Chapel Green plantation, which, in 1790, Maj. Nelson sold to Col. Nathaniel Burwell of "Carter Hall."

October 7, 1948

Trap Hill Congregation

From 1780 until 1791, when the present Old Chapel was built, there was no place of worship available for Episcopalians within the area which, in 1836, became Clarke County and in which there were then a considerable number of members of that denomination.

To meet this need, Mrs. Warner Washington, Sr., of "Fairfield," who was Hannah Fairfax, daughter of William Fairfax of "Belvoir," and sister of George William Fairfax, proposed to her fellow church members that they rent the house owned by a Mr. McMahon at Trap Hill, near Berryville, and use it as a place of worship, offering to have the necessary changes in the building made by her own carpenters and at her own expense.

This proposal met ready acceptance. The Trap Hill congregation was organized and the Rev. Alexander Balmain, then living in Winchester, was engaged as its minister. It is known that services were being held in the McMahon house as early as 1782. How long this congregation remained in being is not known, but certainly not later than 1791, for in that year a number of its members joined the Old Chapel congregation.

April 9, 1949
Trap Hill Subscribers

The only known record which gives in part the membership of the Trap Hill Episcopal congregation in what is now Clarke County is a list of its subscribers for September, 1782 - September, 1783. It is a fact of unusual interest that some subscriptions were made in tobacco. Names of the contributors and the amounts they pledged follow:

Warner Washington of "Fairfield," 1000 pounds of tobacco; Robert Throckmorton, 500; Francis Willis, Sr., 500; Henry Whiting, 500; Beverley Whiting, 500; Warner Washington, Jr., 500; Francis Willis, Jr., 500; George Noble, 500; Fielding Lewis, 500; and William Booth, 500.

Richard Eastin, 1 pound, no shillings; John Miller, 1-0; Nehemiah Garrison, 0-12; John Smith, 1-10; Thomas Noble, 1-0; Philip Eastin, 1-0; William Frost, 1-0; Marquis Calmes, II, 1-0; James Ware, 1-0; Benjamin Berry, 1-4; Benjamin Sedwick, 1-0; Edward Snickers, 3-0; James Armstrong, 2-0; Thomas Throckmorton, 1-0; Seckin (?) Dorsey, 0-12; John Clagett, 1-0; William Hiskman, 2-0; Martin Ashby, 1-0; J. Ball, 0-18; Ephriam Garrison, 0-12; and Joseph Hiskman, 0-12.

Warner Washington, Sr., was a first cousin of George Washington.

April 12, 1949

The Old Chapel

The Old Chapel in Clarke replaced a long ruinous Cunningham Chapel. It has never been known by any other name. Since it is of record that subscribers to its building fund were notified April 22, 1791, to pay their subscriptions and elect trustees, it seems probable that this church was completed in that year.

Its land, which includes the site and graveyard of the earlier chapel, was offered Frederick parish in 1790 by Col. Nathaniel Burwell and promptly accepted, being the same two acres of "Chapel Green" which Maj. Hugh Nelson had also offered to the Parish in 1773. Col. Burwell bought "Chapel Green" early in 1790.

The Old Chapel was built of native limestone. Except for necessary repairs, it remains unchanged. The boulders in front of the church were placed there in its early years for the convenience of women riders. In the Civil War, services were sometimes held to the accompaniment of the distant thunder of cannon. On its walls are marble memorial tablets to Bishop Meade. Dr. Robert C. Randolph of "New Market," and R. Powel Page of "Saratoga."

For a long time now it has been used only for burial services and an annual service on the second Sunday in September.

September 30, 1948
Old Chapel Subscribers

The first known authentic annual subscription list of members of the Old Chapel congregation in Clarke County was recorded by the Rev. Alexander Balmain, rector of Frederick Parish, and is entitled “A list of the subscribers at the Chapel Green, their subscriptions being dated from the 12th May, 1793.” Twenty-two subscribers pledged a total of 60 pounds, a large sum for those days. Every pledge was paid except one of less than a pound.

The names of the subscribers and the amounts subscribed follow: Col. Nathaniel Burwell, 6 pounds, 0 shillings; Rawleigh Colston, 6-0; John Wormeley, 6-0; Hannah Washington, 5-0; Beverley Whiting, 1-4; John Page, 4-0; Matthew Page, 4-0; Capt. Thomas Byrd, 3-0; Philip Nelson, 3-0; Warner Washington, 2-0; R. Kidder Meade, 2-0; Robert Page (of “Janeville”), 2-0; Matthew Wright, 2-0; John Milton, 2-0; John Nelson, of Berryville, 2-0; Thomas Stribling, 1-10; Thomas Parker, 1-10; William Snickers, 1-10; Charles Smith, 1-10; Robert Dunlap, 0-12; Lawrence Butler, 1-4; and George Eskridge, 2-0.

Robert Dunlap dropped from the list in 1797. In 1802, Bacon Burwell, Philip Burwell, Dr. John Thomson, and Henry Ashburn were added to it. Many subscribers increased their subscriptions.

March 26, 1949

Parson Weems

It is an amazing but authenticated fact that Parson Weems not only once occupied the pulpit of the Old Chapel, now in Clarke County, but also preached from it a sermon extolling to its evangelical congregation “Tom Paine and one or more noted infidels in America,” asserting that “if their ghosts could return to earth, they would be shocked by the lies which were told about them.” This occurrence took place on Sunday morning about 1810-1813.

The next day a member of the congregation left him for once “confused and speechless” when she roundly upbraided him for preaching such a sermon.

Weems is best known to history as the author of a biography of Washington, more fictitious than factual, yet so popular that its sale exceeded the combined sales of those written by Marshall, Irving, Ramsey, and Bancroft. He was also an itinerant book salesman, carrying his stock with him from place to place.

One day Bishop Meade, observing that he was offering for sale copies of Paine’s “Age of Reason” asked him if it were possible he could sell such a book. Weem’s instant reply, handing his questioner a copy of Bishop Llandaff’s “Answer,” “The bane and the antidote are both before you.”

February 24, 1948
Old Chapel Or Burwell Cemetery

Although this cemetery is generally known as the Old Chapel graveyard, its earlier name was, and its legal name is, the Burwell Cemetery. Col. Nathaniel Burwell gave its land to Frederick Parish by a deed signed Nov. 25, 1792.

A fragment of the stone wall with which, c. 1792, Col. Burwell enclosed a section as a burial lot for his own family, still stands, as does the wall with which Dr. John Thomson later enclosed his lot. In 1856, the ground was surveyed and laid off in lots and a stone fence built around the whole. The present wall was completed in 1900.

While so many of the names on its tombstones are those of families who helped mould Virginia’s civilization and influence her destiny from early colonial days, this cemetery has been and is “the graveyard of rich and poor, bond and free.” And with the Civil War it is forever linked by a thousand memories. Sixty-six Confederate soldiers sleep under its friendly sod.

It has had but three managers in the past century: Dr. Robert C. Randolph of “New Market,” 1849-87; R. Powel Page of “Saratoga,” 1887-1930; and, from 1930, Miss Mary F. Page of “Saratoga.” To this beloved graveyard they have given freely untold hours of their time. The value of their services is beyond estimate.

October 2, 1948

Private Topper Reburied

Private F. H. Topper, CSA, of the Clarke cavalry, was killed in action at Luray in 1864 and was buried there. Seventeen years later, surviving comrades had his remains brought to Berryville and reinterred, with full military honors, in the Green Hill cemetery. Capt. William N. Nelson of Millwood thought the Old Chapel cemetery more appropriate. In a letter published in The Clarke Courier of June 18, 1885, he wrote:

“There are many of our dead heroes buried at the Old Chapel. Among others, several of the comrades of young Topper in the Clarke cavalry: Maj. Hugh M. Nelson, that preux chevalier, the brave and genial Carly Whiting, and the dashing Holmes McGuire await there the last reveille. But his remains are to be carried by the Old Chapel where so many of his comrades rest, to be buried lonely in a cemetery where, as far as I can learn, no soldier of the Confederacy lies buried.

“In the Old Chapel cemetery there is a lot especially set aside for the Confederate dead of other organizations from other states. But the remains of Topper need not be buried among strangers. I shall be happy and honored to offer him a resting place in my own lot in that cemetery.”

December 31, 1949
Christ Church Pews

The following advertisement, printed in the town's newspapers in June, 1814, may be of especial interest to the congregation of Christ Episcopal Church, Winchester:

NOTICE

All persons are hereby respectfully informed that the pews in the Episcopal church in this town have been numbered and are now offered to such as are disposed to rent them for the ensuing year.

A subscription paper has been left at Mr. McGuire's, specifying the number and price of the pews, accompanied by a draft of the plan of the Church and pews, so that each person may designate that which he chooses. Such as are disposed to rent will find it to their advantage to make their choice as early as possible.

(Signed)  Alfred H. Powell
          Henry S. G. Tucker

In 1814 Christ Episcopal Church stood upon a large lot on the southwest corner of Winchester's old public square. The western boundary of this lot was Loudoun St; its southern boundary, Boscawen St.

September 22, 1949

Confirmation Class

On Tuesday, September 5, 1815, Bishop Richard Channing Moore confirmed a remarkably large class in the old stone church in Winchester. The names of those confirmed as listed by the Rev. Alexander Balmain, rector of Frederick Parish, follow:

Susan Payton, Elizabeth McGuire, Margaret Susan Grayson, Catherine Hall, Martha Davison, Eliza Smith, Mary Smith, Rebecca Mackey, Millicent McGuire, Jane Hammond, Isabella Coxe, Mary Strait, Cyrus B. Baldwin, Sidney Smith, Elizabeth Smith, Ann Carr, Louise Peyton, Martha Beeton, Robert Bryarly, Ann Mari Jones, Susan Brant, Sarah Anderson, Lucy Balmain, Robert O. Grayson, John McGuire, William Strother Jones and Susan Strait.

As Bishop Moore did not come to Virginia until the summer of 1814, it seems all but certain that he confirmed this class on the occasion of his first official visit to Winchester.

The Episcopalian church then stood in a lot at the northwest corner of Loudoun and Boscawen Sts.

May 3, 1949
NOTES ON THE LOWER SHENANDOAH VALLEY

Christ Church Rectors

The restoration and rebuilding of Christ Protestant Episcopal Church, Millwood, Clarke County, after the disastrous fire of Monday morning, Oct. 27, 1947, have advanced to the point where it is confidently expected that services can and will be held in it in the very near future.

This church was consecrated Christmas day, 1832. A complete list of its rectors during the 117 years since its consecration, with the term of service of each, follows:

The Rt. Rev. William Meade, 1832-35; Rev. Horace Stringfellow, 1835-40; Rev. William G. H. Jones, 1840-1846; Rev. John Francis Hoff, 1847-58; Rev. Joseph Ravenscroft Jones, 1858-81; Rev. Corbin Braxton Bryan, 1881-91; Rev. (later Bishop) John Poyntz Tyler, 1892-96; Rev. Dr. Joseph Courtney Jones, 1896-1903; Rev. Edward H. Ingle, 1903-05; Rev. Dr. John Maxwell Robeson, 1906-15; Rev. B. Duvall Chambers, 1916-34; Rev. Dr. Robert A. Goodwin, 1934-40; Rev. Claudius P. Shelton, 1941-42; and the present rector, the Rev. G. Peyton Craighill, who followed his predecessor in 1942, after the latter had left to become an Army Chaplain in the 2nd World War.

November 3, 1949

“Bishop’s Chapel”

In a communication to the vestry of Frederick Parish dated “Christmas 1818,” Bishop Meade proposed building “a small neat frame house” in the northeast corner of the churchyard of Christ Church, Millwood, to be used as a Sunday School room and for religious instruction of colored servants.

He stated that “occasional and not infrequent Sunday morning services” could be held in it “for the drivers and the boys coming behind the carriages, and for any other servants in the neighborhood, especially for the young ones whose mistresses had prepared them at home” for participation; and that he “would regard it as a privilege to perform his part” in conducting such services.

The bishop stated further that he was “impressed with the duty of making a greater effort than heretofore in behalf of the religious education of the servants” and offered, if the vestry approved putting up the building, to pay for it, “unless there be those who from feeling and principle” wished to share the cost.

The vestry gave its approval. Miss Roberta P. Burwell, daughter of Dr. Lewis Burwell of “Prospect Hill,” contributed $500. “The small neat frame house” was built. It has always been, and continues to be, called “The Bishop’s Chapel.”

November 8, 1949
Rev. James Thomson

James Thomson was born near Glasgow, Scotland, in 1739, came to Virginia in 1767, and was tutor in the home of Col. Thomas Marshall, "Oak Hill," Fauquier County, but soon left for England to seek ordination. Licensed for Virginia, Feb. 28, 1769, — the original license signed by the then Bishop of London is now owned by Col. James M. Thomson of Clarke County — and receiving the King's Bounty, March 7, he returned and was rector of Leeds Parish, Fauquier, from 1769 until his death in February, 1812.

He lived at the Glebe, near Salem (now Marshall), and had a school at his home. An ardent patriot, he preached the cause of the colonies in pulpit and schoolroom. His views, states Beveridge in his biography of the first Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, influenced those of his distinguished pupil, young John Marshall.

Bishop Meade said (Old Churches, etc., II, p. 219) that the Rev. Mr. Thomson's sermons "were marked by more taste and talent" than most of those he had read. Therein lies the probable explanation of this minister's selection to preach Lord Fairfax's funeral sermon. For his services on that occasion it is of record that he was paid 10 pounds.

Upon his return to the colony, Mr. Thomson married Miss Mary Ann Farrow of Leeds Manor. The Thomsons of Clarke and of Jefferson County, W. Va., are their lineal descendants.

March 24, 1949
Baptist Churches

Buck Marsh Church

That this church was built before June 21, 1783, is attested by a deed of that date by which John Barnett gave the lot upon which it stood to members of its congregation. In 1773, the donor’s father, James Barnett, had resigned from the vestry of Frederick Parish to join the Baptist Church. This land is now owned by U. S. Senator Harry F. Byrd, and is about half a mile west of Berryville.

In 1772, Daniel and William Fristoe, brothers and Baptist ministers, preached in private homes in Battletown (Berryville), won converts, who formed a congregation. “On the 2nd Saturday of Sept., 1772,” Miss Mary W. Gold states (proceedings Clarke County Historical Ass’n, Vol. V, p. 45), “a church of 29 members was regularly constituted by Rev. John Gerrard and called The Church of Christ at Buck Marsh.”

In 1840 a member of its congregation wrote that bricks were being made to replace the old with a new church in Berryville. Tombstone inscriptions show that burials were made in the old church’s yard as late as 1855. These were copied by Benjamin Crampton in 1941. The eminent James Ireland was pastor of Buck Marsh from 1786 until his death in 1806.

June 5, 1948

Old Bethel Church

The organization and purposes of this church are recorded on page 1 of its minute book for 1808-19 in these words: “At a meeting at Bethel Meeting House Saturday the 16th July 1808” those present “Do Covenant and Agree to unite together in a church to be called Bethel, to watch over each other for good and by Divine assistance to bear each other’s burdens.”

The minute books give its history from 1808 to 1931. The present brick church, with its hand-wrought woodwork, was built between 1833-36, replacing the Bethel meeting house, believed to have been a log building used before 1808 as a Baptist church. Family names which will always be associated with Old Bethel include Kerfoot, Sowers, McKay, Harris, Burch, Bowen, Morgan, Green, Davis, and Earle.

In late years when this, the oldest Baptist church in Clarke, seemed doomed, its financial, legal, and management positions were put in sound condition by the inspired leadership of Beverley B. McKay of Millwood, and it is today an honored and revered shrine. Present trustees are A. Mackay-Smith, chairman, Beverley B. McKay, Col. C. T. Wiley, Alfred M. Kerfoot, and Mrs. Henry E. Hawkins. Annual services will be held this year Sunday, Aug. 22.

August 7, 1948
Milly Had 2 Husbands

One of the purposes for which the Old Bethel Baptist church in Clarke County was organized was "to watch over each other for good." That the congregation put this precept into practice in regard to its Negro as well as its white members is shown by the following extracts from its minute book:

Business meeting, November, 1808: "Brother Davis informs the church that Sister Milly, the property of Samuel Bryan, that it appears she has two husbands. Brother Davis is appointed to make inquiry and cite her to appear at our next day of business."

Business meeting, Dec. 10, 1808: "Sister Milly, the property of Samuel Bryan, agreeable to the request of the church, came forward and related her exercise of mind, for having two husbands, prior to conversion, and gave full satisfaction to the church."

October 26, 1948

Lutheran Clergy

The late Dr. A. D. Henkel, the well known antiquarian, whose home was 29 S. Cameron St., was especially interested over a long period of years in collecting and keeping all the information he could find concerning the Lutheran churches of Winchester. His intention was to turn over all this material to the historian who he hoped some day would write a history of them.

The following list of clergymen who ministered to Winchester's Lutheran congregations, with the years of their service, was carefully compiled by Dr. Henkel, and made available through the courtesy of his daughter, Miss Virginia Henkel:

The Rev. Christian Streit, 1785-1812; Abram Reck, 1813-27; Lewis Eichelberger, 1828-33; N. W. Goertner, 1834-36; Theophilus Stork, 1837-41; J. R. Reiser, 1842-43; J. Few Smith, 1843-48; Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1848-55; A. Essick, 1855-57; W. M. Baum, 1858-61; T. W. Dosh, 1862-72; D. N. Gilbert, 1873-87; L. G. M. Miller, 1888-95; W. S. Seabrook, 1895-1902; George S. Bowers, 1902-1918; A. A. Kelly, 1919-24; Charles A. Freed, 1925-29; Luther A. Thomas, 1930-36; C. W. Lowe, 1936-38; Carl A. Honeycutt, 1939-44; and from then, the Rev. William E. Eisenberg, present minister of Grace Lutheran Church.

September 28, 1948
Presbyterians

Piccadilly Street Church

The restoration of the Presbyterian Church on Piccadilly Street and the publication of A History of the Presbyterian Church in Winchester, Virginia, 1780-1949, by Robert Bell Woodward in collaboration with Clifford Duval Grim and the Rev. Dr. Ronald S. Wilson (Pifer Printing Co., Winchester, 1950), are notable achievements, made possible chiefly by Mr. Grim’s devoted labor, research and competent directing.

The restored building, “a barnlike gray structure of rubble field stone built in 1788-1789,” is Winchester’s First Presbyterian Church. Gen. Daniel Morgan was buried in its graveyard. After its sale to the Baptists in 1834, it was used as their church and later sold to the colored Baptists; then it became a colored school, and next an armory. In 1932 it was bought by the Presbyterians. In the Civil War, Union troops used the building as a stable.

The history presents records of Winchester’s Presbyterian Churches, ministers, and congregations, all carefully authenticated by a prodigious amount of competent research. It makes a valuable addition to the libraries of those interested in the Valley and its families. In so meritorious a work, it is regrettable that there should be a parenthetical reference to Gen. Morgan as “another Stonewall Jackson if you please” (p. 10).

March 23, 1950

Rev. Moses Hoge, D.D.

Dr. Hoge was a son of James and Nancy (Griffith) Hoge, and a grandson of William Hoge, who came to Virginia from Scotland in 1680 and finally settled on the Opequon. He was born Feb. 15, 1752, in Middletown, Frederick County.

Ordained minister in 1782, he was Convenor and first Moderator of the Winchester Presbytery, which held its opening session in the old stone church on Piccadilly Street, Dec. 4, 1794, and heard him preach from Matthew 13: 31 and 32. Dr. Hoge was president of Hampden-Sydney and Professor of Divinity for the Virginia Synod, 1813-1820, and died in the latter year, leaving many descendants.

John Randolph of Roanoke reportedly said, “Dr. Hoge is the greatest orator I ever saw in the pulpit or out of it.” It was currently axiomatic that only two men could control the turbulence of Prince Erward Co. court day crowds: John Randolph by his oratory, and Dr. Hoge by his presence.

It will interest many to know that the distinguished educator, William H. Whiting, Jr., a former acting president of Hampden-Sydney, supplied the material for this article. Dr. Whiting lived for many years in Clarke and established Clay Hill Academy, one of Virginia’s finest schools in its day.

April 1, 1948
Rev. Dr. William Hill

Winchester Presbyterians have been blessed throughout their long history by having had for extended periods the services of clergymen of exceptional ability, consecration, and devotion. The first of these to preach from a pulpit of his own in the town was the Rev. Dr. William Hill (1769-1852). He was a leader of the so-called "New School Movement" in his church, and before his death was recognized as one of its most prominent ministers.

But Dr. Hill will probably be remembered in history, not for his services to the Presbyterian faith, but for his intimate personal friendship with that rough, tough and ready fighter, Gen. Daniel Morgan, and, because of that friendship, the invaluable contributions he was enabled to make to his authentic biography.

After his election to Congress, Morgan left "Soldier's Rest," near Battletown, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton E. Price, and removed to Winchester. There Dr. Hill soon won his entire confidence and devoted friendship. In the many long hours they spent together, Morgan told him the complete story of his life. The substance of his conversations with the general were made available by Dr. Hill and have been published.

March 20, 1948

Kent Street Church and Gen. Jackson

In 1827 "Old School" Presbyterians built on the N. E. corner of Kent and Water (now Boscawen) Streets the "Kent Street Church," and "Stonewall" Jackson gave this church a place in Virginia history.

When Gen. Jackson arrived in Winchester on Nov. 4, 1861, to take command of the Valley district, the beloved Rev. Dr. James R. Graham was its pastor, and it had earlier been blessed with the services of the Rev. Dr. William Mayo Atkinson.

Jackson spent the winter of 1861-62 in Dr. Graham's home on N. Braddock St., became his warm and intimate friend, and a member of his congregation. Only military necessity ever caused the General to miss a service at the Kent St. Church or a Wednesday evening prayer meeting in its Sunday School room. He may have sat with Mrs. Graham, who was Fanny Bland Magill, in her pew, the second from the front on the left hand side. Before the winter was over, Gen. Jackson knew and loved Winchester and its people, and was loved and admired by its inhabitants.

The Kent St. Church was sold in 1809. Upon its site now stands the Byrd building in which are the offices of Sen. Harry F. Byrd, Thomas B. Byrd, and State Sen. Harry F. Byrd, Jr., and which houses the Winchester Evening Star.

June 15, 1948
Methodists

Church Battle

The War Between the States caused a sharp break between Northern and Southern Methodists. That conflict over, the Baltimore Conference claimed ownership of Methodist churches in Clarke County and sent a Rev. Lanahan to take possession. He announced he would preach in the Berryville church at the same hour on Sunday night that Rev. William Hedges, the pastor, always had preached there.

When that hour came, both ministers were in the pulpit, each determined to preach. Whenever Hedges started to speak, Lanahan started, and whenever Lanahan started, the choir sang him down. This kept up for several hours. The choir was just about all in when the young men of the community took a hand by passing up a note telling Lanahan he had just ten minutes in which to leave town. Greatly alarmed, he called for a magistrate. Magistrate Mathew Pulliam stepped forward and upon his assurance of a safe conduct out of Berryville, Lanahan hastily departed.

Later, the courts ruled that the church structures were owned by their congregation.

June 29, 1948

Deed Of Trust

In 1867, George H. Burwell I of "Carter Hall" gave a deed of trust to George and Philip Hansucker, James M. Shearer, Adrian Hardesty and George E. S. Phillips, trustees, and their successors, for the lot upon which the Millwood Methodist church now stands.

The land was given as "a donation or dedication in trust for the use and benefits of its congregation. Then follows this provision: 'Shall a division in the Methodist Episcopal church hereafter occur, a majority vote of the whole number of communicants shall determine to which branch of the church the congregation shall belong; which determination shall be conclusive as to the land.'"

At the time the northern branch was vigorously asserting a right to the property of the southern branch and its attempt to enforce is claim in neighboring Berryville had aroused bitter resentment throughout Clarke. The donor, himself a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, stipulated that "no burials shall ever be made upon the land thereby granted."

June 12, 1948
Politics
Colonial Times

*Frederick Burgesses 1744-1776*

The burgesses who represented Frederick County in the General Assembly and the years each served, as shown by the House Journals, are herewith given:

- **Assembly of 1742-47**: Samuel Earle and Andrew Campbell from Sept. 4, 1744.
- **Assembly of 1748-49**: George Fairfax and Gabriel Jones.
- **Assembly of 1752-55**: Gabriel Jones, George William Fairfax, and Isaac Parkins. (Parkins replaced Jones, Session of Aug. 22, 1754.)
- **Assembly of 1756-58**: Hugh West and Thomas Swearingen.
- **Assembly of 1758-61**: George Washington and Thomas Bryan Martin.
- **Assembly of 1761-65**: George Washington and George Mercer.
- **Assemblies of 1766-68, May, 1769, 1769-71**: Robert Rutherford and James Wood II.
- **Assembly of 1772-74**: Robert Rutherford, James Wood II, and Isaac Zane. (Zane replaced Rutherford, who had resigned to become coroner of Frederick Co., Session of March 4, 1773).
- **Assembly of 1775-76**: James Wood II and Isaac Zane.

The journal of the House ends with this entry: “May 6, 1776. Several members met but did neither proceed to business or adjourn. FINIS.”

November 12, 1949

*Washington’s Vote In Frederick*

Three times George Washington sought election as one of the two Burgesses to represent Frederick County in the House of Burgesses of the General Assembly of Virginia. He ran, first, for election to the General Assembly of 1756-1758, and was badly defeated. He ran again for election to the General Assembly of 1758-1761 and polled the highest vote given any candidate. He ran with similar success in 1761, when he was elected a burgess from Frederick to the General Assembly of 1761-1765. The votes given each of the various candidates in the three elections follow:

- **First election**: Hugh West, 271, Thomas Swearingen, 270, George Washington, 40.

January 15, 1948
State Politics

Convention of 1776

This convention met in Williamsburg May 6, 1776, to draft a constitution for the Commonwealth of Virginia and to organize its first government. The delegates from Frederick were Col. James Wood 2d and Isaac Zane.

On June 12, it adopted a Bill of Rights, and on the 29th it unanimously approved Virginia's first constitution. The main provisions of this document have been correctly given in previous articles, except that it was erroneously stated that the State Senate was selected by the House of Delegates. Under his, as under all subsequent state constitutions, the Senate and the House of Delegates have always been elected by popular vote. Under the constitution of 1776, no other state officers were so elected.

To effect immediate organization of the State government, the constitution empowered the convention, sitting as a House of Delegates, to elect such state officers as it deemed necessary, except the Senate which it provided was "to be first chosen by the people."

On May 15, the convention directed the Virginia delegation in the Continental Congress to move adoption of a declaration of independence from England.

November 13, 1948

Governors of Virginia From Frederick County

Frederick County has given the Commonwealth of Virginia four of its governors up to the present time. Three of these were born in the county, two in Winchester. And Winchester was for years the home of the fourth, as it was the home of his father and now is the home of his oldest son. The four governors:

James Wood, Jr., born at "Glen Burnie," Winchester, Jan. 28, 1741; governor, 1796-1799; died in Richmond, June 16, 1813; buried in St. ohn's Church cemetery, Richmond.

Frederick William Mackey Holliday, born in Winchester, Feb. 22, 1828; governor, 1878-1882; died in Winchester, May 29, 1889; buried in Mt. Hebran cemetery, Winchester.

Charles Triplett O'Ferrall, born near Brucetown, Frederick County, Oct. 21, 1840; governor, 1894-1898; died in Richmond, Sept. 22, 1905; buried in Hollywood cemetery, Richmond.

Harry Flood Byrd, Sr., born in Martinsburg, W. Va., June 10, 1887; governor, 1926-1930 (present senior U. S. Senator from Virginia); home, "Rosemont," Berryville, Clarke County.

November 10, 1949
State Senate Created

Virginia's first Constitution, adopted June 29, 1776, created a State Senate of 24 members to be elected by the House of Delegates. These thus became the upper and lower houses of the General Assembly. This Constitution provided that a fourth of the Senate be retired annually and, after giving effect to this provision, that the term of all Senators be 4 years. The Senate could approve or disapprove but could not originate legislation.

Later Constitutions and amendments thereto made great changes in the powers and duties of the Senate, whose members are now and have for many decades been elected by vote of the people. Naturally, reappointments of Senate Districts have been numerous. The composition of Frederick's district from 1776 on, follows:

1776 Frederick, Berkeley, Hampshire; 1786 Hardy added; 1801 Jefferson added; 1819 Frederick, Jefferson; 1836 Clarke added; 1852 Frederick, Clarke, Warren; 1869 Frederick, Clarke, Shenandoah; 1871 Frederick, Clarke, Warren; 1895 Frederick, Shenandoah; 1904 Shenandoah, Frederick, Winchester; 1924 Frederick, Shenandoah, Clarke, City of Winchester.

Robert Rutherford, elected in 1776, was the first, and Harry F. Byrd, Jr., elected in 1947, is the present State senator from Winchester's Senate district.

June 18, 1948

State Senators

Herewith is presented a complete list of the State Senators whom from 1776 to the present time have represented in the Virginia General Assembly the Senate District of which Frederick Co. has been, or is, a part. Numbers following names of Senators indicate years served when these were more or less than four:


1848 — 1948


June 19, 1948
House of Delegates

The House of Delegates was established by the first constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia, adopted by unanimous vote, June 29, 1776. It was the only part of the State government directly elected by the qualified voters of Virginia. To make that government truly and directly responsive to the will of the people, the House was given extraordinary powers and its members short terms.

All laws must originate in it. The State Senate had only the right to reject, approve, or, with House assent, amend legislation. The House elected the governor, but could not elect any governor for more than three terms of one year each. It also elected State senators, and, by joint ballot with the Senate, the members of the Council, who could approve or reject appropriation bills, but only in their entirety. Each county, regardless of population, elected two delegates by popular vote, suffrage qualification remaining the same as in the later Colonial period.

The House of Burgesses in the Colonial General Assembly was in a sense a comparable predecessor of the House of Delegates. Later constitutional changes have diminished the powers given by the first constitution to the delegates.

September 18, 1948

Frederick Co. Delegates


It was provided that the delegates to the May, 1776, convention should constitute the membership of the first House of Delegates. It convened Oct. 7, 1776.

October 19, 1948
Hopkins Advises

In 1806, John Hopkins, an eminent Richmond lawyer, married Cornelia Lee, daughter of William Lee of "Greenspring." In 1807, he bought "Hill and Dale" in what is now Clarke County and became a member of the Winchester Bar.

In his will, dated Dec. 10, 1822, and probated Nov. 7, 1828, he solemnly advises his children to avoid politics. That advice is herewith quoted:

"I wish to guard them (his offspring) against intermeddling with politics. Politics have been the bane to my happiness, but have never been of any real benefit. I believe and I fear the Republic cannot last long. I have seen in my time vice in its most hideous form elevated to the highest honors. I have seen patriotism made the theme of noisy bidders to cajole and deceive the sovereign people, that pretended patriots might mount high in the people's trust and estimation. I admonish my children to stand steady and firm at all times in the true interest of the country, unawed by power; unswayed by foreign influence or domestic faction."

John Hopkins, Jr., the testator's only son, married Miss Abby Byrd Page, daughter of John Page of "Page Brook." They lived in Winchester at 24 W. Piccadilly St. in the house which is now the home of Mrs. Constance A. Buckley.

April 16, 1949

Constitution of 1830

For thirteen years Virginia's western counties had sought changes in the organic law to give due weight to their greatly increased white population, before their growing resentment forced, in 1829, the holding of a convention to revise the state constitution.

Frederick and Jefferson Counties elected John R. Cooke, Alfred H. Powell, Thomas Griggs, Jr., and Hierome L. Opie to represent them in the convention. Opie resigned and was replaced by James M. Mason.

Western Virginia asked for redress of many grievances, but the most important demands were for greater representation in the legislature and an almost unrestricted white suffrage. On both these issues, the delegates from the eastern counties — who were in control of the convention — made some concessions. But on the whole, the western counties got little of what they asked.

The new constitution apportioned 55 of 134 delegates and 13 of 32 senators to counties west of the Blue Ridge. It extended the Governor's term from 1 to 3 years, and provided that all voting must be viva voce, and not by ballot. This constitution was adopted in April, 1830, by a vote of 26,055 to 15,563, but the counties west of the Blue Ridge voted against it, 13,337 to 6,110.

December 16, 1948
NOTES ON THE LOWER SHENANDOAH VALLEY

Constitution of 1851

A convention met in Richmond in 1850 to write a new — the third — constitution for Virginia. Its delegates divided into "Conservatives," who sought to retain the "old order," and "Reformers," who wished to establish a "new order" through a sweeping revision of the organic law. The western counties supplied most of the "reformers," called "Radicals" by their opponents, and picked up enough strength in eastern Virginia to give them control.

The delegates who represented Frederick, Hampshire, and Morgan counties in the convention were Richard Evelyn Byrd I, James E. Stewart, Thomas Sloan, and Charles Blue. Representing Jefferson, Berkeley, and Clarke Counties were Charles James Faulkner, Andrew Hunter, William Lucas, and Dennis Murphy.

The "Reformers" got what they most wanted; manhood suffrage, without educational or property restrictions; apportionment of the Assembly on a population basis for the House of Delegates and a mixed population and property basis for the Senate; popular election of practically all state and county officials, and the judiciary; abolition of the State Council; biennial meetings of the Assembly.

In October, 1851, the voters approved the constitution, 75,748 to 11,060.

December 18, 1948

Vote of Frederick in C.S.A. Election

The results of the election of 1861 in Frederick Co., Virginia, Confederate States of America, as reported in the Winchester Virginian of Nov. 21, follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Winchester</th>
<th>County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Davis</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephens</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. M. T. Hunter</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boteler</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Davis and Stephens were elected President and Vice President of the Confederate States for terms of six years; R. M. T. Hunter was elected to the Senate of the Confederate Congress; and Alexander R. Boteler, to represent Frederick's congressional district in the House of Representatives of that body.

Polling places in Winchester were the courthouse, Grim's, Higgins', and the engine house; in the county, Russell's, Swier's, Middletown, Pughtown, Dolan's, Newtown, Brucetown, and Anderson's.

October 12, 1948
Three General Orders

From April 3, 1865, to January 26, 1870, Virginia was practically under military rule. In 1867, the Congress of the United States by legislative enactment removed the Old Dominion from the roster of states and made it Military District No. 1. That body was undecided whether the state, which more than any other had made its own existence possible, became thereby a "conquered province" or a "territory" of the United States, but finally decided in favor of the latter designation. From the Hq. of Military District No. 1 the following General Orders were issued:

G. O. No. 65, Sept. 12, 1867. Ordered that delegates be elected to write a new state constitution, and the holding of an election for that purpose on October 22. G. O. No. 68, Oct. 4, 1867. Prescribed rules and regulations to govern the election ordered by G. O. No. 65.

G. O. No. 77. Nov. 2, 1867. Announced the names of the delegates elected and ordered them to convene in the hall of the House of Delegates, Richmond, on Dec. 3, 1867, to transact the business for which they were elected.

December 21, 1948

Election of 1885

In the gubernatorial election of 1885, Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, Democrat, defeated John S. Wise, Republican, by a narrow margin after one of the bitterest campaigns in Virginia history. The result ended Mahoneism and proved to be the decisive and final victory in the long struggle the state had waged since the Civil War to restore and maintain competent and honest government for the Commonwealth.

Both sides recognized the importance of victory and went all out to win. In Winchester, where in the May municipal election Mahoneites had had a small plurality, frenzyed and incendiary oratory by Republican speakers at times stirred the townspeople to physical encounters. The official vote showed that Gen. Lee had carried the state by 152,544 votes to 136,510; he carried Winchester 476 to 461; Frederick County, 1657 to 656; Warren, 1122 to 252, and Clarke, 1183 to 366.

Commenting upon the result, the Winchester News said: "Among the many gratifying incidents of the contest, none is so practically pleasant as the fact that this good old town has been redeemed. Of course, the majority of the Democracy is small, but it will grow; and gives hopes that they will continue to hold it in the interest of peace and good government."

January 10, 1950
Federal Politics

Ratification Wins

In 1788, Frederick County elected two delegates to represent it in a state convention which later in the year was destined to ratify the proposed Federal Constitution by Virginia.

The pro-ratification candidates John S. Woodcock and Alexander White, were opposed by Gen. John Smith and Col. Charles Mynn Thruston. They had strong support from the two Winchester newspapers, the Gazette and the Centinel.

All four candidates were men of tried and proven patriotism, leading and trusted citizens, well known to the electorate. The issue, one of pre-eminent importance to the infant nation, was ably and, at times, bitterly debated. On the one side was White, noted for his brilliance in debate; on the other, Col. Thruston, that ardent and ruthless fighter for causes in which he believed.

The election was held in Winchester on Tuesday, March 4, and resulted in a decisive victory for the ratificationists.

The vote follows:
Woodcock, 191
White, 162
Smith, 117
Thruston, 71

March 27, 1948

Convention of 1788

The convention of 1788 met in Richmond and, after what was probably the ablest and most brilliant debate in Virginia history, ratified, on June 27, by a vote of 89 to 79, the constitution of the United States. Every delegate from Lower Shenandoah Valley voted for ratification. So did Gabriel Jones and Col. Nathaniel Burwell, the one a former and the other a later resident of Frederick.

The opposition was led by George Mason and Patrick Henry. It was based upon the belief that the constitution did not protect the rights of the individual states and would lead to the abrogation of these rights by the Federal Congress. How far this belief was justified can be judged by the course of past and current events. Ratification was only secured by agreement of the convention to recommend to Congress adoption of a Bill of Rights and certain amendments, and a “form of ratification” which reserved to the states all rights not specifically granted the Federal government, and stated “the powers granted under the Constitution, being derived from the people of the United States, may be resumed by them whenever the same shall be perverted to their injury or oppression.”

October 28, 1948
Thirteen Toasts

When on June 29, 1788, news came that Virginia had ratified the Federal Constitution, "the extreme joy of the inhabitants of this town was fully evinced by the sparkling eyes and elated spirits which shone conspicuous through all ranks of people." So stated the Winchester Gazette in its issue of July 2.

The people had not heard of New Hampshire's ratification four days before Virginia's, and hence believed it was the vote of their own state which gave effect to the Constitution. All next day they celebrated the great event, climaxing the festivities with a magnificent supper in Edward McGuire's fashionable tavern, after which toasts were drunk to:


Water was not the beverage used.

October 29, 1949

Congressional District 1788-1948

The various apportionments of Virginia's congressional districts and the composition under each of the one which included Frederick, are herewith given:


September 8, 1949
Virginia Representatives

Virginia had 10 of the 65 members of the House of Representatives of the 1st U. S. Congress, which convened March 4, 1789. She had the largest state delegation in that body. Today only 9 Virginians represent the Old Dominion in the 81st Congress in its House membership of 435.

The first apportionment of representatives was made by the U. S. Constitution (Article I, Section 2, par. 3), which allotted Virginia 10; Massachusetts, 8; Pennsylvania, 8; New York, 6; Maryland, 6; Connecticut, 5; North Carolina, 5; South Carolina, 5; New Jersey, 4; New Hampshire, 3; Georgia, 3; Delaware, 1; and Rhode Island, 1.

The Constitution provided that vacancies in the House be filled by special elections; that the representative should not exceed one for each 30,000 of a state's population; that an actual enumeration be made within 3 years after the meeting of the 1st Congress, "and within every subsequent term of 10 years, in such manner as they shall by law direct."

Virginia's representation in the House as determined by each Federal census follows: 1790 census, 19 members; 1800, 22; 1810, 23; 1820, 22; 1830, 21; 1840, 15; 1850, 13; 1860, 11; 1870, 9; 1880-1920, 10; and 1930-40, 9.

August 18, 1949

Frederick Congressmen 1789-1809

For 20 years after the United States government began to function, Frederick County's congressional district was represented entirely by residents of the county. The most bitterly contested elections during that period were those of 1794 and 1796 when Robert Rutherford and Gen. Daniel Morgan opposed each other. Rutherford, after defeating Morgan, was defeated by him. He then unsuccessfully contested the latter's election.

The Congress to which they were elected and the names of the successful candidates follow: 1st Congress, 1791-93, Alexander White; 2nd Congress, 1793-95, Alexander White; 3rd Congress, 1795-97, Robert Rutherford; 4th Congress, 1797-1799, David Holmes and Gen. Daniel Morgan; 5th Congress, 1799-1801, David Holmes and Robert Page; 6th Congress, 1801-1803, David Holmes and Gen. John Smith; and both Holmes and Smith were also elected to the 7th, 8th, and 9th Congress, 1803-1809.

August 20, 1949
Revolutionary General Wins Last Fight

Gen. Daniel Morgan's first political battle was fought against Robert Rutherford for election to the 4th Congress. It was a case of a rank amateur pitted against a skilled, experienced professional. Rutherford had been winning elections for nearly 30 years and he won this one.

But Morgan was an apt student of all forms of combat as well as a rugged fighter. Two years later he defeated Rutherford for election to the 5th Congress (1797-99) in one of the most uninhibited political campaigns ever waged in the Valley. The latter contested his election. His supporting charges may be summarized as follows:

1. That the illegal votes cast for Morgan by residents of Loudoun County exceeded in number the general's majority. 2. That Rutherford voters left the polls without voting, "discouraged by the great number of unlawful" Morgan votes "and reluctant to enter into a crowd of men heated by feasting and carousals." 3. That money was given or promised by Morgan or his friends for acts of bribery and corruption.

The committee of elections reported, Dec. 7, 1797, "that the proofs adduced . . . . were wholly insufficient to support the allegations." The House concurred and the charges were dismissed. Daniel Morgan had won his last fight.

October 18, 1949

Congressmen 1809-1861, Frederick District

The names of those elected to represent Frederick County's district in Congress during the period 1809-61, with the years each served, follow:


The election of Jared Williams of Frederick to the 18th Congress (1823-25) was unsuccessfully contested by his opponent, Alfred H. Powell of Winchester.

Correction: In an earlier article it was erroneously stated that the distinguished David Holmes represented Frederick's congressional district 1797-1809. He began the practice of law in Winchester but later established a law office in Harrisonburg and was six times elected to Congress from the Rockingham district, and then declined nomination for a seventh term.

September 6, 1949
Frederick District's Congressmen, C.S.A.

Virginia's representatives in the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States were elected by the Virginia Convention of 1861; those who represented the State in the First and Second Congresses, C. S. A., were elected by popular vote. By an ordinance passed June 28, 1861, the Convention reapportioned Virginia into 16 Congressional Districts. By this reapportionment, the Tenth District consisted of Frederick, Clarke, Shenandoah, Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Hampshire, and Hardy Counties. Representatives from the Tenth in the Confederate States Congresses were:

PROVISIONAL CONGRESS: James M. Mason of Winchester from July 20, 1861 to his appointment as Special Commissioner to England, Aug. 29, 1861; Alexander R. Boteler, of Jefferson County, who took his seat Nov. 27, 1861, to Feb. 18, 1862.

SECOND CONGRESS: Col. Frederick W. M. Holliday of Winchester whose battle wounds had incapacitated him for service in the field, Feb. 18, 1864, until its adjournment, sine die, at 2 p. m. Saturday, March 17, 1865, never to meet again.

NOTE: On July 25, 1862, President Davis approved and sent to the Provisional Congress the nomination of G. B. Graves for postmaster of Winchester.

January 14, 1950

Congressmen 1870-1949, Frederick District

The names of those elected to represent Frederick County's district in Congress, 1870 to the present time, with the years each served, follow:


Thomas W. Harrison, Sr., 1923-29; J. A. Garber of Harrisonburg, 1929-31; John W. Fishburne of Charlottesville, 1931-33; A. Willis Robertson of Lexington, 1933-46; and Burr P. Harrison of Winchester, 1946 to the present time.

To correct errors in a previous listing, the Frederick district's congressmen for the first 20 years, all of whom were Frederick County men, are herewith correctly given: Alexander White, 1789-93; Robert Rutherford, 1793-97; Gen. Daniel Morgan, 1797-99; Robert Page, 1799-1801; Gen. John Smith, 1901-09.

In a subsequent issue of the Evening Star, pertinent notes upon some of the congressional elections, 1870-1949 will be given.

January 5, 1950
Congress Election Notes 1870-1949

The following notes are explanatory of the elections and terms of service of various congressmen from Frederick County’s district:

Lewis McKenzie took his seat Jan. 31, 1870, qualifying under a law passed by the U. S. Congress, July 2, 1862. Charles Whittlesey unsuccessfully contested his election.

John S. Barbour, though re-elected, resigned March 3, 1883, to become a U. S. Senator. John Paul resigned Sept. 5, 1883, when his election was contested by Charles T. O’Ferrall. The latter resigned Dec. 28, 1893, having been elected Governor of Virginia. He was succeeded by Smith S. Turner, who took his seat Feb. 12, 1894.

James Hay resigned Oct. 1, 1916, to accept appointment as a Federal judge. He was followed by Thomas W. Harrison, who took his seat in the House Dec. 4, 1916. Mr. Harrison’s election in 1920 was contested by John Paul, Jr. Before a Republican House decided this contest in favor of the latter late in 1922, Judge Harrison had already been triumphantly re-elected by the voters of his district.

In 1946, A. Willis Robertson resigned his seat in the House to become a U. S. Senator. He was succeeded Nov. 5, 1946, by Burr P. Harrison, son of Thomas W. Harrison, whose present term expires March 3, 1951.

January 7, 1950
Slavery (1713-1882)

Treaty of Utrecht

The Treaty of Utrecht was signed April 11, 1713, in the city of Utrecht in the Netherlands. Directly and indirectly it can be said to have influenced the entire history of Virginia as a Colony, Dominion, and Commonwealth, and will continue to influence the course of events in every county in Virginia for unknown years to come.

This treaty gave England a monopoly of the slave-carrying trade. This monopoly was too profitable for the English to forego, and the result of it was to force on the colony against its will, slavery and a large Negro population.

No colony made a more prolonged or strenuous effort to prevent the imposition of Negro slavery upon it, and none so great and earnest an effort to rid itself of the incubus of a Negro population. But for the monopoly provision in the Treaty of Utrecht, the colonists might well have succeeded in both endeavors.

Virginia’s early colonial legislation proves conclusively its hostility to any Negro population, slave or free. The colonials appraised correctly the dangers inherent in a population of whites and Negroes.

Before the Treaty of Utrecht, there were probably not more than 12,000 Negroes in Virginia. After it, the yearly increase was very great.

October 5, 1948

Slave Owners, 1805

The Frederick County Land Book for 1805 gives a complete record of slave owners and the number of taxable slaves, horses, and carriages owned by each within William Kercheval’s district. This district included a large part of the present Clarke County.

The names of the larger owners and their holdings of these classes of property, as given in the Land Book, follow:

Col. Nathaniel Burwell of “Carter Hall,” 175 slaves, 103 horses, 1 coach; John Page of “Page Brook,” 59, 40, 1 stage wagon; Matthew Page of “Annfield,” 58, 41, 1 chair; Nathaniel Burwell, Jr., of “Saratoga,” 33, 16; Capt. Thomas Taylor Byrd of “The Cottage,” 29, 13, 1 stage wagon; Robert Page of “Janeville,” 27, 15, 1 coachee; Maj. Lawrence Lewis of Fairfax County, 19, 12; James Singleton of “Lands End,” 199, 8, 1 coachee; William Helm, 18, 14, 1 stage wagon and 1 coach; John Milton of “Milton Valley,” 17, 25, 1 stage wagon; William Snickers of “Clermont,” 17, 17, 1 coachee; John P. Woodock of “Poplar Hill,” 14, 10, 1 stage wagon; and Joseph Tuley of Millwood, 14, 10.

The Burwells and Pages remained the largest slave owners in Clarke.

December 7, 1948
Frederick Colonization Society

The American Colonization Society was organized in 1817. Judge Bushrod Washington was elected its first president and John Taylor, William H. Crawford, Henry Clay, Andrew Jackson, and Bishop Meade were elected vice presidents. The object of the society was the colonization of emancipated Negroes with their consent in Africa.

Before 1828 some 30 auxiliary colonization societies had been organized in various counties in Virginia. One of the most active of these was the Frederick County auxiliary of the colonization society. Nathaniel Burwell of "Saratoga," in the present Clarke County was its president. Obed White, treasurer, and Augustine C. Smith, secretary.

Whether its records are still in existence is not known. It is known that a number of its members freed slaves upon the condition that they would accept transportation to Liberia, and paid their removal costs. Mrs. Matthew Page, according to the records of the American Colonization Society, emancipated 33 of her slaves, paid their passage to Africa, and provided them with necessary supplies for one year.

February 3, 1949

Murder of Dr. Berkeley

The most sensational crime occurring in Frederick in its first 75 years was the brutal murder of Dr. Robert Berkeley, for which three of his slaves, the Negroes Landon, Randolph (a runaway fugitive), and Sarah, were tried, convicted, and hung in Winchester, while two others, Barnaba and Robert, were transported.

The trial record in the Frederick Court Minute Book, 1817-1820, proves the crime was planned and executed by Landon, Randolph, and Sarah. On the night of May 12, 1818, Landon went to Dr. Berkeley and told him Randolph was in Sarah's cabin. The latter immediately accompanied him to the cabin. Randolph was awaiting his arrival, armed with a heavy club with which he clubbed him to death. They, assisted by other slaves, burned his body and buried the bones. Sarah the next morning went to the house, unlocked a sideboard with Dr. Berkeley's keys, and removed a bag of money.

Col. Augustine C. Smith, one of the ablest lawyers of his day, was assigned by the court to defend the prisoners, but the evidence of guilt was overwhelming. Dr. and Mrs. Berkeley, who was Julia, a daughter of "Councillor" Carter, both descended from noted colonial Virginia families, lived in abundance upon an estate of 2500 acres and owned 40 to 50 slaves, whom they treated with kindness and consideration.

August 21, 1948
Clarke Slave Sale

The sale of slaves owned by Matthew Page of "Annfield" at the time of his death was the largest one ever held in Clarke and, probably, in Frederick County also. It took place at his late home, Dec. 28, 1826, and was renewed and completed on August 17, 1827.

There were two remarkable facts about this sale and neither could well have been accidental: One was that while the auction attracted a large number of professional slave dealers, not one of them was able to buy any of the more than 100 Negroes auctioned off; the other was that when husband and wife were sold to different persons, the homes of the purchasers were close enough to cause little disruption of the normal family life of the two slaves.

The sale was required by law in the administration of Mr. Page's estate. Prior to it, the Frederick court appointed Francis Otway Byrd of "Oakley" and Nathaniel Burwell of "Saratoga" to appraise the value of the "Annfield" Negroes, and approved their valuation of $45,480. Those sold did not include 54 devised by Mr. Page to his widow and blood relations; nor Mrs. Page's dower interest of one-third of the whole, nor 14 unable to work because of age or physical infirmities. These last were maintained at "Annfield" for the rest of their lives.

April 21, 1949

Emancipation Debate

The greatest debate ever held in Virginia's House of Delegates was on emancipation in the Assembly of 1831-32. Both sides of the issue were so ably presented that the debate attracted and held the interest of the nation.

Undoubtedly the majority of Virginians approved abolition of slavery at or about the time the Assembly convened on Dec. 5, 1831. The question was how to effect it, and two governing principles were recognized: 1. Any emancipation must be of slaves born after further date, and 2. Removal of those freed must follow emancipation.

In 1831, the number of Delegates from and the per cent of the Negro population in each section were: Tidewater, 36, 56.2%; Piedmont, 42, 53.8; Valley, 24, 22.7, and trans-Alleghany, 31 and 9.9%. The debate proved that emancipation sentiment was strongest where the Negro population was smallest.

The decisive vote was on a motion to postpone any legislative action on emancipation, which was carried by a vote of 71 to 60. Frederick's Delegates were John B. D. Smith, James G. Bryce, and William Wood. Smith voted for postponement. Bryce and Wood voted with emancipationists on every roll call.

January 27, 1949
The Randolph Plan

In Virginia's historic legislative debate on emancipation, 1831-32, Thomas Jefferson Randolph, grandson of Thomas Jefferson, offered a bill which the House of Delegates would probably have approved, if the emancipationists had been able to unite in its support, which they were not.

The Randolph plan, generally believed to represent Jefferson's views at the time of his death, was, in brief: that the children of all female slaves born on or after July 4, 1840, should, if they remained in the State when the males reached the age of 20 and the females the age of 18, become the property of the State; that the Commonwealth should hire them out until the net sum received from their hire was sufficient to pay the costs of their removal beyond the limits of the United States, and that they then be removed to some suitable colony. It was stipulated that this bill be submitted to the voters for their approval.

The chief attack upon it was made on the ground that it involved confiscation of private property without remuneration. It was approved by all counties west of the Blue Ridge. The only delegate from Frederick, Berkeley, and Jefferson Counties to oppose it was Delegate John B. D. Smith of Frederick.

January 29, 1949

Bryce Preamble

The House of Delegates, 1831-32, appointed a select committee to consider and report upon proposed slavery legislation. The committee reported "That it is inexpedient for the present Assembly to make any legislative enactment for the abolition of slavery."

Delegate Bryce offered a preamble to the report which declared slavery to be an evil, and emancipation and removal of slaves to be "in accordance with the sentiments of the community," but since the removal of Negroes already freed "will absorb all our present means," it stated that any further action "should await a more definite development of public opinion."

On Jan. 25, the preamble was adopted by a vote of 67 to 60; the Valley voted for it 21 to 2, and the trans-Alleghany counties 27 to 2; Tidewater voted against it 23 to 11 and Piedmont, 33 to 8. The vote for the preamble and the committee report combined was 65 to 58; the Valley voted 20 to 2 for and trans-Alleghany, 25 to 2; Tidewater voted 23 to 11 against and Piedmont, 31 to 9.

A little later the activities of rabid Northern abolitionists checked and then reversed the flow of the tide for emancipation sentiment in Virginia.

February 1, 1949
The Evans Restaurant

There are probably few persons now living in Winchester who ever heard of the "high class restaurant" of Randal Evans on Loudoun St. Yet, many decades ago the excellence of its cooking and of the quality of the foods it served gave it a great reputation and the patronage of the elite in the town and its adjoining counties.

The great specialty of the Evans restaurant was oysters. Fresh oysters were then hard to find west of the Blue Ridge. Evans not only had them but knew just how to cook them.

Randal Evans, owner and manager of the restaurant, had been a slave. He was emancipated in 1833. Freed slaves under Virginia law could remain in the state not longer than one year, but in 1834 the General Assembly passed an Act permitting Evans to remain in Virginia five more years to earn money to buy the freedom of his family.

His wife, Harriet, died in 1848; he died, liked and respected, in 1871. Both are buried in the servants section of the Old Chapel cemetery in Clarke County.

December 2, 1948

Emancipates Daughters

The will of Alfred Wells, "a free man of Colour," was signed Oct. 7, 1844 and probated in the Winchester Corporation Court Nov. 2 of that year. It is of great interest because one of its provisions concerns a phase of contemporary Virginia history. That provision reads as follows:

"Whereas I many years since purchased of Miss Emily Smith, now Page, the wife of Mr. John W. Page, my late wife Isabella and her two children, Maria and Emily, and for which I have the bills of sale from the said Miss Emily Smith, and whereas it is not my wish by any means that my said children should be slaves after my decease, and inasmuch as some doubt may arise hereafter in regard to the condition of my said children, for the purpose of removing all doubt, I hereby emancipate, manumit and forever set free my said children, and hereby charge my executor to see that they have full benefit of this provision."

At that time some rascally slave dealers and their confederates were, whenever opportunity offered, kidnapping children of free Negroes and selling them. It was wise to have of record evidence to prove their real status. To end such nefarious business, Virginia made it a crime punishable by death on the gallows.

May 17, 1949
A Letter From Liberia

Mrs. Matthew Page of "Annfield" in Clarke, after Page's death, freed many of her slaves, sent them to Liberia, and provided for them there. In the Annfield Papers owned by the late historian, Matthew Page Andrews, is a letter from one of these to Mrs. Page's daughter, Sarah, who married the Rev. Charles W. Andrews. The letter in part follows:

Monrovia, Liberia, Dec. 29th, 1847.

By these few lines you may know that I am well and the family and I do hope these few lines will find you and the family the same . . . as to the regards of the Colony any man can live heare that will Work and if a man has got money he can live. All the Fault I find in this Place is things is so deare I has to Work to get something to eat and as fast as I get a little money has to take it all to buy clothes for My Children. Please Miss Sally send money or buy some goods for I am in want of them to get me a house built . . . also the following articles Tobacco, Cloth & Flour & Meat, Powder & guns and nails.

Your obdt servant
Peggie Potter

February 12, 1948

"Uncle Robin"

Sen. James M. Mason of Winchester wrote the Fugitive Slave Law, Congress passed it, Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe nullified it. The last statement is essentially but not literally true, for after the publication of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in 1852, enforcement of the Act where enforcement counted became practically impossible.

In 1829 John White Page moved from "White Hall" in Clarke to Winchester "that his children might attend Mr. Bruce's highly approved classical and scientific school," the Winchester Academy, or so says the Winchester Republican. He knew well slavery as it existed in Virginia, at least, and he was so outraged by Mrs. Stowe's calumnies that to refute them, he immediately wrote "Uncle Robin in His Cabin in Virginia and Tom Without One in Boston."

"Uncle Robin" appeared in 1853 from the publishing house of J. W. Randolph in Richmond. The author stated in his preface that if the book proved "successful in removing odium from a much slandered Southern community, and throwing it back upon the latitude to which it belongs, his object is effected." It was well received in Virginia. To the North it remained unknown.

August 5, 1948
Church Benefactor

George Smith, a prosperous free Negro of Winchester, signed his will on Jan. 19, 1858, and only 19 days later it was probated in the Corporation Court. He gave to his "warm friend, Courtney Leonora, widow of Moses Leonard," his interest in his house and lot on Water St., now Boscawen, "during her natural life only. Upon her death both were devised to the African Colored Methodist Episcopal church in Winchester to be disposed of by its trustees in such a manner as they think best to be applied to the erection of a new church edifice, or in such a way as they may think will most promote the interest of the church."

A bequest to the minister was made in these words, "I will and bequeath to Bob Robinson my blue frock coat and my black frock coat."

After leaving all the rest of his property of all kinds to his friend, Courtney Lenora, for her life, the will provides that after her death it is to be sold and the money used in building a new church. George designated William R. Denny, Daniel Bush, and Isaac Faulkner as trustees to hold and apply to the purposes named his gifts to his church.

June 14, 1949

Barton Slaves Freed: A Sad Parting

David W. Barton of Winchester freed many of his slaves shortly before the Civil War. Some of these were sent to Liberia. Others, who from advanced age or youth were not regarded as equal to the trials of the journey, were settled in this country. Mr. Barton's son, the late Robert T. Barton, in a letter to Beverley B. Munford of Richmond, dated March 19, 1907, tells of the affection of his family for them and their affection for his family. He wrote:

"I was a small boy at the time, but I remember the incident perfectly. I recall the weeping family that parted with these servants, who were very dear to us. Many years afterwards I received a visit from one of the women, a nursery assistant, to whom, as a child, I was very much devoted. I do not believe that two near relatives could have had a more affecting meeting. She stayed in Winchester for nearly a week, coming to my house every day.

"The other servants who went away kept up the most affectionate relations with our family for many years, and the old ones, who could not get away, were supported by my brothers and myself after the war until they died."

December 24, 1949
“Mammy Evelyn”

Evelyn Williams, "Mammy Evelyn," died at "The Glen," the home of Capt. and Mrs. William Page Carter, Nov. 21, 1882, at the age of 83 years. She was buried in the family lot of the "Saratoga" Pages at the Old Chapel in Clarke County. The pallbearers were R. Powel Page, John Esten Cooke, Capt. Carter and Thomas H. B. Randolph — all onfederate veterans; and two Negroes, Henry Randolph and Jack Lockley.

“Mammy Evelyn” was tenderly cared for in her last illness by Mrs. Carter and Mr. Page, both of whom she had devotedly nursed in their infancy and childhood. In an obituary, John Esten Cooke wrote:

“This kind and devoted mammy, formerly servant of Dr. Robert P. Page of "The Briars," and one of the last survivors of the old race of family servants, had nursed two generations and was regarded by those whom she had hourly watched and cherished, not as a servant, but as a dearly beloved friend. She was in many respects a remarkable character, rarely intelligent, wholly disinterested, and with the kindest heart. Faithful among the faithful and devoted to the children she nursed, she was a true mother to them night and day to the last hour of her life.”

December 14, 1948
War

French and Indian War (1754-1757)

"A Charming Sound"

In the woods not far from Great Meadows on May 28, 1754, Washington attacked a French detachment and, after a brief but hotly contested fight, killed or captured every man in it except one. The next day he sent his prisoners to Gov. Dinwiddie, who was then in Winchester.

On p. 370 of the London Magazine for 1754 is reproduced a letter he supposedly wrote one of his brothers, three days after this skirmish, and in which appears the following sentence: "I heard the bullets whistle, and believe me, there is something charming in the sound."

This "rodomantade," as Horace Walpole called it, reached the ears of George II and caused him to remark, "He would not say so if he had been used to hear many." Washington agreed. Years later, when asked if he had ever made such a statement, he replied, "If I said so, it was when I was young." (Gordon, Hist. Am. War, II, p. 203).

The action of May 28 is doubly historic. It was Washington's first engagement. It was the beginning of the French and Indian War.

April 17, 1948

For Gallantry

"As a reward and compensation for their gallant behavior and losses on the Monongahela," Virginia's General Assembly voted in August, 1755, the following sums to Virginia officers and men who fought with Braddock on the field of his disastrous defeat:

Col. Washington, 300 pounds; Capts. Adam Stephen, Thomas Waggoner, and Robert Stewart, 75 pounds each; L'ts. Wm. Bronaugh, Hector MacNeal, and Henry Woodward; and James Craig (Craik), Surgeon, 30 pounds each; "and to each private man who survived and continues in the service, 5 pounds above regular wages."

Capt. Adam Stephen, then living in Frederick, was the gallant but ill-starred Adam Stephen who became a Maj. General in the Continental Army. Capt. Stewart caught Gen. Braddock in his arms as that unhappy commander fell from the sixth horse he had ridden that day, five having been killed under him in the battle. Dr. Craik remained with George Washington the remainder of the latter's life and attended him during his last illness.

May 15, 1948
For Bravery

Virginia's General Assembly in January, 1762, passed an Act rewarding officers for the bravery they had shown and the hardships they had endured in their campaign against the Indians with a full year's extra pay, in addition "to what is due them":

Col. William Byrd
L't. Col. Adam Stephen
L't. Charles Smith
L't. William Cocke


June 8, 1948

Valley Defense

After Braddock's defeat, French and Indian raiding parties had reduced the Shenandoah Valley to a scene of desolation and horror. Ill-advised and ineffectual defense measures caused a steady stream of Valley settlers to abandon their homes and seek new ones elsewhere.

This situation spurred the General Assembly to provide protection in 1757. Belatedly, it made provision for a Virginia Regiment of 1272 officers and men and for three Ranger companies of 100 men each. It authorized filling the ranks for a two year period by: 1st, drafting all vagrants; 2nd, drafting 1 of every 40 able-bodied militiamen who were not qualified to vote in an election of burgesses; and 3rd, paying a 5 pound enlistment bounty for volunteers, should this be necessary. George Washington was continued in command. An Act which carried the death penalty for desertion was renewed for one year, a most needed provision. Authority was given to punish disobedience and some other defenses by whipping.

The cost of this military establishment was to be financed by calling in outstanding treasury notes and issuing new ones in an amount not to exceed 80,000 pounds. The Militia Act was extended for 3 years and rewards for enemy scalps were offered.

July 9, 1949
Spectacular Hangings

The appalling number of desertions from the Virginia Regiment in the summer of 1757 threatened any effective defense of the colony's exposed western frontier and convinced Col. George Washington, commanding, that the only way this evil could be checked was by the spectacular execution of several deserters.

In July, Washington had a gallows nearly 40 feet high erected in Winchester. On the 15th of that month he wrote Col. John Stanwix, "I am determined, if I can be justified in the proceeding, to hang 2 or 3 (deserters) on it" and that the gallows "has terrified the rest exceedingly." Among captured deserters were Ignatius Edwards and William Smith. They had been condemned to death by shooting and Gov. Dinwiddie had approved their execution.

On July 28 these two men were carried to the platform of the 40-foot gallows and hanged in the presence of all the newly recruited companies and many of the townspeople. It was a terrifying spectacle and one not easily forgotten.

In a letter dated Aug. 3, Washington reported the executions to the governor and added, "Your Honor will, I hope, excuse my hanging instead of shooting them. It conveyed much more terror to others; and it was for example sake we did it."

June 28, 1949
The Revolution

Hillsborough Ukase

Probably no action of the British government so angered the pioneer inhabitants of the Shenandoah Valley as did the Hillsborough proclamation of October, 1763. This ukase restricted white settlement — roughly — to lands east of the crest of the Alleghenies and peremptorily ordered the return of those who had established homes west of this boundary.

The settlers of the Valley and their descendants for several generations were born pioneers. They were a hardy lot, fiercely democratic and self-assertive, whose land hunger constantly impelled them to seek new frontiers. Before 1763, a stream of Frederick County men had begun to flow across the Alleghenies into Kentucky and Ohio. This migration could neither be recalled nor checked, as the early records of Frederick prove, by any government edict.

The Hillsborough proclamation would have robbed Virginia of the present state of Kentucky and the great Northwest Territory. It was therefore no more palatable to eastern than to western Virginia; no attempt was made by the government of the colony to enforce it. The only practical result of Lord Hillsborough's ukase was to create resentment against England in Virginia.

December 11, 1948

Winchester in 1775

Philip Fithian, that most interesting diarist and describer of the Virginia colonial scene, visited Winchester in 1775. He was then an itinerant Presbyterian clergyman. Earlier, he had been tutor in the family of Robert Carter of "Nomini Hall." On June 6 he visited Winchester and here is his account of what he saw there:

"After dinner, with Capt. Holmes and Capt. Hunter, I rode to Winchester — The Court was sitting — Mars, the great God of Battle, is now honored in every part of this spacious Colony, but here every Presence is war-like, every Sound is martial! Drums beating, pipes and Bag-Pipes playing, and only sonorous and heroic Tunes — Every Man has a hunting-shirt, which is the Uniform of each Company — Almost all have a Cockade and bucks-tale in their Hats to represent that they are hardy, resolute, and invincible Natives of the Woods of America."

February 10, 1949
Morgan's "Long Rifles"

In the summer of 1775 a company of Frederick County riflemen under Daniel Morgan, then a newly commissioned captain in the Continental Army, made one of the greatest marches in all the military history of the United States. Setting out from Winchester, they marched the 600 "bee line" miles between that town and Washington's army at Cambridge, Mass., in an amazingly short time, without the loss of a single man and without a single man falling out. Much of the march was through virgin wilderness.

Morgan had raised this company. He knew every man in it. John Humphrey was its 1st Lt., William Heth and 2nd Lt., and George Poterfield top sergeant. The company when it left Winchester mustered 96 men on its rolls. They were young men, endured to hardship, and expert marksmen with their long rifles. In fact, the deadly marksmanship of this company and others from the Lower Shenandoah Valley played an important part in the outcome of more than one battle of the Revolution.

In the records of Frederick County has been preserved the muster roll of Morgan's "Long Rifles."

January 28, 1948

A Proud Record

Citizens of Frederick County were as generous in supporting the Revolution with their substance as they were prodigal in giving it their blood. This proud record is written upon page after page of the order books of the county court, which list the quantities of cattle, hogs, sheep, flour, corn, etc., furnished by the county for "Continental use."

It was, of course, true that payment was asked then or later. It is equally true that the supplies were provided when the chances of ever being paid seemed dim. In this record appear the names of all the families known to the early history of Frederick, with not more than several exceptions, and of many others not so known.


May 13, 1948
"For Continental Use"

In the first 49 pages of Order Book 18 of the Frederick County Court is the record of the fact that in April, May, and June of 1870, Frederick citizens swore they had supplied "For Continental Use" 1937 gallons of whiskey and 63 gallons of cider. This meant for consumption by Continental troops, in all probability.

Unfortunately, the record does not show when and to whom this great quantity of whiskey was delivered. Such claims had to be attested before and certified by the county court, before they could be presented for payment to the Continental Congress.

These claims seem to prove that whiskey was very generally distilled in the homes of Frederick in that period and that the leading and most respected citizens engaged in both making and selling it. Listed among the claimants are such men as Col. Charles Mynn Thruston, erstwhile rector of Frederick Parish (458 gallons), Alexander White, Thomas Buck, William Helm, Joseph Glass, James Vance, James Knight, Robert Allen, and Thomas Shepherd.

May 4, 1948

Convention Prisoners

Burgoyne surrendered to Gen. Gates in 1777 under an agreement entitled "Articles of Convention." Thereafter, his army was known as "The Convention Army." No other episode in Frederick's history has been presented by its historians with so much of error and confusion as that of the internment of German Convention prisoners in the barracks near Winchester. The facts are these:

The Convention Army did not reach Virginia until January, 1779. It was imprisoned in the Albemarle Barracks, near Charlottesville, from then until Nov. 20, 1780, when its British troops began their march to Frederick, Md., via Staunton and Winchester. Several weeks later the German troops marched via Staunton to Winchester, where they were interned. On Jan. 12, 1781, Jefferson ordered them back to Albemarle Barracks; on Feb. 18 he again ordered their removal to Winchester. Then on June 3 and 4, Lafayette sent urgent orders for their immediate removal to Frederick, Md., and these orders were promptly obeyed.

Throughout their stay in Virginia, Col. James Wood and not Gen. Morgan, had official charge of all Convention prisoners.

July 15, 1948
Commission Declined

From "Headquarters Morris Town 16th March 1777" General Washington sent the following letter to Angus McDonald of Winchester, then a distinguished lieut. col. of Virginia militia with a long record of combat and field command experience:

"Sir: Being informed that you are not yet in the Continental Service, I have taken the liberty to appoint you Lieut. Col. to one of the 16 additional Battalions (regiments), the command of which I have given to Mr. Thruston. I sincerely wish that you would accept this office; and let me entreat you not to permit the love you have to the Cause to be smothered by any neglect of attention to your military character. The conflict is of too serious and important a nature to be managed by men totally unacquainted with the duties of the field. Gentlemen who have from their youth discovered an attachment to this way of life are in my opinion called upon in so forcible a manner, that they ought not to withhold themselves. You will be pleased to communicate your Resolution by the very first opportunity. I am Yr. obdt. Servt. G. Washington."

It was humiliating to be asked to serve under an inexperienced company captain, but lately rector of Frederick Parish. Col. McDonald declined the commission in a courteous letter to Washington, dated April 20, 1777.

July 14, 1949

General Morgan Answers Virginia's Call

When Cornwallis invaded Virginia in 1781 Gen. Daniel Morgan had been forced by ill health to retire from active service and was living at "Saratoga" his home in Frederick (now Clarke) Co. The military situation was then desperate. Only an entirely inadequate force under La Fayette was available to oppose the British.

On Saturday, June 2, the General Assembly hurriedly passed this resolution: "Resolved that his Excellency the Governor be desired to call for the Immediate assistance of Brig. Gen. Morgan to take command of such Volunteers, Militia or Others as he may be able speedily to embody and March to join the Army under the Command of the Hon. Maj. Gen. Marquis La Fayette; that this Assembly have the utmost Confidence in the active exertions of Gen. Morgan in the present emergency and that the Governor do transmit to the said General so many proper commissions as may be necessary for the Field Officers, Captains, Subalterns and Others by him to be appointed."

Gov. Nelson immediately transmitted this resolution to Gen. Morgan who at once set about the difficult task it assigned to him. In a short time Morgan joined La Fayette as commander of his cavalry. His health was unable to stand the strain of such arduous duty and forced his retirement early in August.

August 2, 1949
Maj. Nelson's Cavalry

Major John Nelson's "corps" became well known to citizens of Winchester. In June, 1781, La Fayette ordered it there to refit and wrote to Gen. Morgan asking him to see that its men and horses be put in shape for field service without delay. The story of what followed is told by Morgan in a letter to Gov. Nelson, dated Sept. 20, 1781, which is herewith quoted in part.

"I immediately employed a number of Macanicks, who dispatched the work in a short time on my promise to see them paid . . . the core was completely equipped, their horses shod and in good order. Armond (Armond) and myself signed the accompt and the workmen sent it down by Mr. Bush of Winchester who presented it to the auditors, and says that he and the accompt were both Treated with Indignity . . . . If it is not paid I shall be obliged to pay it myself. Mr. Bush told me the auditors told him that I ought to pay it if I made such bargains as them — for my part I think the workmen worked as cheap as they did or do for (in) common."

Order Book 18 of the Frederick County court shows that John Hite presented a bill for 55 pounds for firewood for and damage done by the troopers, and David Brown another 80 pounds for furnishing quarters and firewood, and damages.

September 1, 1949

Prisoners of War

A large number of prisoners of war captured at Yorktown were marched through Ashby's Gap and confined in barracks near Winchester. There they were guarded by Maj. Nelson's "Virginia cavalry."

In a letter dated "Saratoga, Nov. 25th, 1781," Gen. Daniel Morgan wrote to Washington lamenting "the great loss of prisoners which will or I fear already has taken place." He stated the barracks were hardly adequate for one-half the men occupying them and of the prisoners not more "than 800 could be paraded a few days ago." He emphasized the inadequacy of food supplies of both guards and prisoners, adding "but the inhabitants refuse furnishing either them (the cavalry) or the prisoners with provisions."

In his reply, dated Philadelphia, Dec. 12, Washington stated that Gen. Lincoln, secretary of war, had issued instructions to Col. Wood "who has long had the superintendence of prisoners on the frontier. A very troublesome business and not to be envied."

"Saratoga" is in the present Clarke County and is now the home of Misses Agnes R. and Mary F. Page. The Col. Wood of Washington's letter was Col. James Wood Jr., later Governor of Virginia.

April 8, 1948
NOTES ON THE LOWER SHENANDOAH VALLEY

War of 1812

Flying Artillery Co. Frederick Militia

James Singleton, of that part of Frederick which became Clarke County ("Land's End"), commanded what was known as "the Valley Brigade" of Virginia militia in the War of 1812. He held the rank of brigadier general and brigade headquarters was in Winchester. From that town he wrote on April 23, 1813 the following self-explanatory letter to Gov. James Barbour:

"An act of the last Assembly, authorizing a company of flying artillery to be raised in each brigade, has induced me, upon the application of Mr. John Mackey, to name him for the command of that company to which the 16th Brigade (the "Valley Brigade") is entitled.

"Mr. Mackey is the son of that worthy man lately dead, Doctor Robert Mackey. Mr. Mackey has had a virtuous and liberal education; he is sober, sprightly, active, prudent; commanded a platoon in the action at Williamsburg, in Canada, under Boyd, with great credit, and think him every way qualified for the command. I avail myself of this opportunity to assure your excellency that for your official and personal success you have the best wishes of Yours & c."

Very numerous descendants of this Mackey family now live in Clarke and Frederick.

July 23, 1949

Capt. R. C. Burwell's Co.

The payroll of Capt. Robert Carter Burwell's company of the 51st Regiment of Virginia militia, Frederick County, for the period 6 July 1813-28 Sept. 1813 was preserved in the records of the State auditor's office in Richmond. The company was then stationed at the "Flying Camp," Camp Holly, and its services entitled its members to share in the land bounty provided by Congress for veterans of the War of 1812.

Commissioned officers of the company during the above period were Capt. Burwell, Lieut. Walker Y. Page, and Ensign Elias Baker (Buchen?). The non-commissioned officers were: Sergeants John W. Grove, Adam Ralph (Rapp?), John Ridgeway, and John Gearing, and Corporal John Newcomer, Edward Williams, William Jacobs, Samuel Snapp and Hezekiah Webster. The payroll lists the names of 68 privates, one of whom deserted.

Capt. Burwell built "Long Branch," one of the most beautiful homes in what is now Clarke County, and died there within a month after leaving camp from a disease contracted at Camp Holly. Page was the 4th son of Robert Page, Jr., of "Broadneck," Hanover County, and Mary Carter Braxton, his wife. The grandfathers of both were beneficiaries of the 1730 Fairfax Grant of 50,212 acres "on Shenandoah River."

July 16, 1949
Capt. J. H. Sower’s Co.

The infantry company of the 51st regiment, Frederick County militia, commanded by Capt. James H. Sowers, served three months in 1813 at the “Flying Camp.” Its stay there was practically coincident with that of Capt. Burwell’s company of the same regiment. Its war service entitled it to the benefits of the Land Bounty Act passed by Congress to reward veterans of the War of 1812.

At this camp, the company’s commissioned officers were Capt. Sowers, Lieut. John B. Earle, and Ensign Matthew Rust. It carried on its muster roll 4 sergeants, 4 corporals, 64 privates, and 2 musicians, a total of 77 men and officers.

The Sowers company was largely recruited from the young men of the White Post neighborhood and included many well-known Clarke County names. In its ranks were John Philip, and William Carper, Smith, David and Thomas Grubbs, Levi Romine, Adam Lichliter, Peter Wolfe, Henry Turner, Abram Buckley, and David Little — to mention a few.

For some 175 years the Sowers family has given that part of Frederick which is now Clarke County many of its prominent and successful farmers. Through six generations they have maintained an enviable reputation as upright, useful, and valuable citizens of the communities in which they lived.

July 26, 1949

Craney Island Victory

On June 21, 1813, simultaneous British land and sea attacks on Craney Island, key to Norfolk’s defenses, were decisively repulsed without the loss of a single American soldier. Lt. Col. Henry Beatty of Frederick Co. was the commanding officer and Maj. James Faulkner of Martinsburg was the next in rank.

To meet the land attack made by a column of some 2000 British infantry and marines over the shallow water n. and w. of the island, Maj. Faulkner moved his battery of 2-24 and 4-6 pounders to a position from which he directed an annihilating fire into the British ranks, which soon drove them back in wild disorder. Faulkner then moved his guns back to their seaward emplacements, and their fire aided in the repulse of the sea attack, during which 4 or 5 British barges were sunk and Admiral Warren’s barge was captured. Possibly 3000 British were engaged, with a loss of “not less than 200 men.”

In forwarding Col. Beatty’s report to Sec. of War Armstrong, Gen. Robert W. Taylor, commanding at Norfolk, stated: “The whole force on the island was 50 riflemen, 446 Inf. of the Line, 91 state artillery and 150 sailors and marines. Of these, 43 were sick.”

This was the only important engagement fought in Virginia during the War of 1812.

February 16, 1950
Beatty Court Martial

It was ironical indeed that just one month after his brilliant victory at Craney Island, Lt. Col. Henry Beatty of Frederick County was tried by a general court martial on charges preferred by Capt. Gregg of the 4th Regiment and based on the Colonel’s conduct in that engagement.

The court martial over which Col. Clark presided had to consider these four charges made by Capt. Gregg:

1. That on June 22, 1813, Col. Beatty during the time of the attack showed a disposition to strike the colors in the face of the enemy before he had approached within musket shot; and a disposition to retreat. 2. Neglect of duty in not making suitable preparation for a retreat had one been necessary, and for not carrying out the general orders of June 2. 3. That he showed partiality for some under his command. 4. Ungentlemanly conduct; specification, charging Capt. Gregg with falsehood and with neglect of his duty when he was guilty of neither.

The court honorably acquitted Col. Beatty of all the charges except the specification of the fourth, for which he was ordered to be privately reprimanded by Col. Clark. The charges were generally viewed as “a malicious persecution.”

March 12, 1950

Henry St. George Tucker

Henry St. George Tucker of Winchester organized and commanded a cavalry campany in the war of 1812. He drilled it assiduously and, when he thought it sufficiently proficient for active service, marched it to Richmond — upon what authority, if any, is far from clear. There Gov. Barbour promptly rejected his offer of its services.

To make the rejection more palatable, an A. G. O. General Order, dated July 12, 1813, was issued by order of the Governor and the Commander-in-Chief, Va. Militia, acknowledging “the tender of services made by Capt. Tucker and his brave comrades from Winchester” and stating that “although the recent movements of the enemy and the position he now occupies render unnecessary to accept the patriotic tender, yet the motive which produced it will be honored by a grateful country.”

There was a sequel. It followed quickly. The ink had, figuratively, hardly dried on the above paper before Gov. Barbour received a dispatch from Norfolk informing him the British had landed at Old Point Comfort and were ravaging all the countryside. Capt. Tucker was immediately informed that the services of his company were needed and were accepted. He was ordered to march at once to Hampton and to operate against enemy raiding parties from that place.

March 7, 1950
No Admirals

The Republican Constellation, a Winchester newspaper, had this to say in an editorial published in its issue of March 1, 1814:

"A proposition has been made by Mr. Richardson of Massachusetts for the creation of Admirals in the Navy of the United States. Some newspaper editors are anxious for the adoption of this measure and think it perfectly consistent with our Republican principles; and that it would operate as a powerful stimulus in the hour of battle; but we believe that our naval heroes are as capable of achieving exploits equally great under the plain and simple title of Captain, or Commodore, as under that of Admiral of the Blue, or Knight of the Garter."

This editorial was, perhaps, a fair sample of the ebullient democracy of Frederick County in that period. The Republican party was then the Jefferson party. Later, it was known as the Democratic party.

September 11, 1948

Off to War

On March 5, 1814, a large part of Winchester's population gathered to cheer the town's own artillery company as it left for Norfolk and three months of active participation in the War of 1812. Marching with it for the same destination was Capt. Vanhorn's company, the Pughtown Rifles. Both were under the command of Col. W. Henry Beatty, whose home was in what is now Clarke County.

The artillery company of 51 men was a part of the 1st Battalion, 31st Reg't., Virginia Militia. Its commissioned officers were Capt. William Morris, 1st Lt. George W. Kiger, 2d Lt. Isaac Lauck, 3d Lt. William Streit, and 4th Lt. John Poe.

This company, said the Winchester Constellation in describing its departure, "with one or two exceptions are all unmarried men enjoying a full state of youthful vigor and manly enterprise, and of respectable standing in society."

So the artillery men marched gayly away to the acclamation of their fellow townsman, and ascerted to the county line by Capt. Thomas Roberts' infantry company. They were destined to find the climate of tidewater a more deadly enemy than the British. It was to cost them many casualties before their return.

July 19, 1949
Valley Detachment

On July 4, 1814, the War Department requisitioned 12,000 men and officers of Virginia's Militia for the service of the United States. On the 20th, Virginia's Adj. Gen., Moses Green, ordered Gen. James Singleton of the 16th or Valley Brigade to organize from his command a detachment of 957 men, including 54 commissioned officers, as part of the above force; and to have it fully supplied, equipped, and ready to march within 10 days.

The 16th included 3 Frederick County regiments, the 31st, 51st, and 122nd. As part of the brigade's detachment, Gen. Singleton ordered the 31st to supply its colonel, John H. Bell, and 158 men to include 10 commissioned officers, and Capt. Coyle's Light Infantry Co., the 51st, to detach 160 men, including 10 commissioned officers, and Capt. Pittman's Light Infantry Co., the 122nd, to supply its colonel, Griffin Taylor, and 122 men, including 5 commissioned officers, and Capt. Ireland's Light Infantry. Maj. Dougall Campbell of the 67th and Major James Hite of the 55th were also assigned to duty with the detachment.

Cols. Taylor and Ball both lived in that part of Frederick which is now Clarke County, as did a number of the commissioned company officers.

August 9, 1949

Brigade Order

"To Colonels and Commandants of Regiments within the 16th Brigade:

"Gentlemen: When the enemy are pressing forward on the Capital of the Union and the swords of violence falling upon our heads, it would not less betray a criminal apathy than a want of patriotism to await the orders of remote authority — we must meet the invader, if not at the threshold of invasion, where he may be found on our soil.

"Therefore order your respective detachments to be ready to move tomorrow evening — furnish by contract or impressment the necessary rations, camp equipment, etc. — the 51st and 31st will rendezvous at Winchester; the 55th, 67th, and 122nd will assemble at the places appointed by their respective Colonels and march forthwith to the following points — the 55th and 67th to Leesburg, the 122nd, 51st and 31st to Snickers Ferry, and await further orders. The responsibility for this movement will rest on James Singleton, General, 16th Brigade. Winchester, Aug. 24." (1814).

It is an interesting coincidence that this order was issued on the day the British captured Washington.

August 16, 1949
Washington Captured

Late in the afternoon of Thursday, Aug. 25, 1814, a courier dashed into Winchester with the all but incredible news that on the preceding day the British had routed the American Army at Bladensburg, had captured Washington that afternoon, "blown up the President's house," and set fire to the city.

Such was the account, said the rider, brought to Hagerstown, Md., that morning, by a 13-year-old boy, an express post rider between the capital and that "city." The boy had galloped out of Washington at 4 P.M. on the 24th and had reached Hagerstown at 9 the next morning. From that town it had been relayed by courier to Martinsburg.

Winchester was then the center of all military activity in the Lower Shenandoah Valley. It was the headquarters of Valley Brigade of Virginia Militia, the 16th brigade of the 3rd Division. It was also headquarters for recruiting in the Valley for the U. S. infantry and artillery.

Never before since the French and Indian War had the town known so much excitement. That night many of its citizens went to bed hoping the news would prove only a tale of an excited boy. It was confirmed next day by Winchester's own post rider from Washington.

August 11, 1949

To Baltimore's Aid

When a detachment of 957 men of the Valley Brigade under Gen. Singleton reached Washington soon after its capture by the British, it was immediately ordered to Baltimore, then threatened by enemy attack, and encamped there before Sept. 5, 1814.

At Baltimore was a full brigade of Virginia Militia commanded by Gen. Douglas and since there were not enough Virginia troops for two general officers, Singleton returned to Winchester, leaving Col. Griffin Taylor in command of the detachment. The records show its other commissioned officers were:

Col. Ball; Majs. Campbell and Hite; Capt. Davenport (Adjutant), Coyle, Pittman, Ireland, Taylor, Cokrel, Mastin, Gustin, Lisle, Conn, Newkirk; Lieuts. Throckmorton, Wilson, Powell, Gamer, Myers, Trotter, Sybert, Lemon, Coontz, Glass, Kendrick, Cookus, Carson, Ashby, Ogden, Gallaher, Long; Ensigns Snider, Sumerville, Collins, Robinson, Bailis, Maslek, Pitcher, Campbell, Wilson, Roberts, Moler, Turner, Martin, Walters, Lucas, Bowen, Settle, also, rank not given, Dr. Samuel Taylor, surgeon; W. M. Robertson, surgeon's mate; Charles McCormick, Q. M.; E. E. Cooke, wagon-master; Henry Vanmetre, forage-master.

Excepting its cavalry company, the detachment had no combat service here.

August 25, 1949
Cavalry Capture Barge

Captain Eben Taylor's company of the Frederick County militia was a cavalry and not a sea-going outfit, yet on Sept. 27, 1814, it gave a good account of itself both in and on water.

The company, made up chiefly of men from what is now Clarke County, charged two barges from a British warship just as they shoved off from a landing place at Porto Bello on St. Mary's River, Md. They seized the first, or nearest, then manned the oars and gave chase to the second. But they soon found that they were not in the class with the British tars as oarsmen, and abandoned the chase.

The cavalrymen had been attached to the command of Col. Fenwick of the Maryland militia. In his report to the Secretary of War, he stated: "The brave Virginians today captured a barge and 12 prisoners and killed or wounded three men at Porto Bello on St. Mary's River.

"Of the officers and men of Capt. Taylor's corps it is impossible to say who behaved best; they all acted the part of brave men. Captured 3 seamen, 2 artillerymen, 1 sergeant, 1 steward, 5 regulars. All were from HMS Diadem."

August 27, 1949

Artillery's Homecoming

The Republican Constellation of July 2, 1814, thus describes the welcome given the Winchester artillerymen upon their return from active service in Tidewater:

"Capt. Morris's Company arrived in town yesterday from Craney Island after an absence of 4 months from the bosoms of their friends and families. They were met at the Camp Ground of the South Common of this borough by Capt. Roberts' Riflemen; and after several discharges of cannon and a mutual salute, they marched into town with drum and fife to the unspeakable joy of their friends and we are happy to say all are in excellent health.

"'Return, return, Columbia's sons, return,
We hail you welcome as the morning sun;
From war's alarms and cannon's awful roar;
Where noxious damps infest the foggy shore.'

"Mr. Ferguson will preach this evening in the Court House in consequence of the return of our citizens from Norfolk."

September 13, 1949
Lincoln's War

War of 1861-1865

Officially, the U. S. government has always called this war the War of the Rebellion. Since that term gives offense to the South and is factually wrong, it is now seldom used anywhere in the nation. In the South, the war has been variously named as the Civil War, the War between the States, the War for Southern Independence, and the War of Secession. Foreign writers call it the American Civil War. The Negroes used to speak of it as Lincoln's War.

Gen. Robert E. Lee almost if not invariably spoke and wrote of it as the Civil War. Jefferson Davis and Alexander Stephens used, in their memoirs published some years after the conflict, the term War between the States. Many Virginians have adopted this name and today insist upon its use. They contend the term Civil War is barred by the dictionary definition of civil war; others disagree with their interpretation of that definition.

The name once given the conflict by the Negroes, Lincoln's War, seems appropriate enough. Since Lincoln forced the issue by rejecting compromise proposals and by attempting to relieve Fort Sumter against the advice of his own cabinet, the War was certainly in a particular sense his war.

November 23, 1948

Harper's Ferry Raid

On Sunday night, Oct. 16, 1859, John Brown, outlaw with a price of $3250 on his head, seized the U. S. Arsenal at Harper's Ferry, captured several nearby slave owners, armed their slaves and added them to his force. Grossly inaccurate early reports created a general belief that here was servile insurrection. Every detail of the quick suppression of this mad adventure is well known.

The raid was made possible by a secret committee in Boston of which the most active members were Frank E. Sanborn, George L. Stearns, T. W. Higginson, Gerrit Smith, Theodore Parker, and Dr. S. G. Howe. They supplied Brown with 1000 pikes, several hundred pistols, and some rifles with which to arm Negroes, slave and free, who were confidently expected to join him in great numbers — none did. They raised about $4000 to finance the undertaking and Sanborn stated, “at least $3800 was given with a clear knowledge of the use to which it would be put.”

Seizure of the arsenal made all of them guilty of high treason, and some immediately fled the country. No indictments were sought against those who remained. Emerson, Longfellow, and Whittier voiced approval of this act of treason after the event.

April 16, 1948
John Brown's Trial

John Brown went on trial for treason, conspiring with slaves to commit treason, and murder before Circuit Court Judge Richard Parker in the Charles Town court house just one week after his capture at Harper's Ferry. On Oct. 31, 1859, he was found guilty as charged. The jury was out 45 minutes.

Perhaps no other trial has so excited this nation. The prisoner was both prosecuted and defended by counsel of exceptional ability. Judge Parker even permitted him to cross-examine witnesses. Brown knew he was doomed and apparently saw in his trial a golden opportunity to win for himself a martyr's crown and to embitter further sectional animosities, and used it for these purposes.

"Moderate" abolitionists, such as John A. Andrew and Horace Greeley, admitting his guilt, criticized the early date and "undue haste" of the trial (the first was governed by SS 2, Chap. CCVIII, Va. Code, 1849). But Daniel W. Voorhees, the great Indiana lawyer, declared the court entitled to the "respect and veneration of the American people and of the world," while John Brown himself publicly stated, "I feel entirely satisfied with the treatment I have received on my trial."

Frederick and Clarke Counties were then in Judge Parker's circuit.

March 23, 1948

John Brown's Rescue

When news of John Brown's capture reached his Boston backers, some of them began plotting a rescue. "What Kansans had done in storming towns and prisons, Kansans could do again and Massachusetts men, too." (Villard's John Brown, p. 511). So thought Higginson, Stearnes, Le Barnes, Redpath, Spooner, Howe, and others.

Finding aid from Kansans unobtainable, they approved Lysander Spooner's plan to kidnap Gov. Wise of Virginia and hold him as a hostage on the high seas, a plan also endorsed by Wendell Phillips and H. I. Bowditch. The scheme was reluctantly abandoned only when its financing proved impossible.

The plotters next approved an overland invasion and storming of Charlestown by Ohio men and 100 "liberty-loving German-born New Yorkers," whose services could be had at a price and set the attack for Nov. 30. Dr. Howe urged supplying the invaders with Orsini bombs and hand grenades, as these "would certainly terrify the Virginia chivalry guarding the prisoners." The Ohio force proved a myth, and when not enough money could be raised to satisfy those "liberty-loving" Germans, the last hope for a rescue disappeared.

John Brown, on record as opposing any rescue attempt, was left to his fate.

March 26, 1948
Ominous Warning

An unexpected result of John Brown’s raid and one ignored by most historians, was the voluntary organization of members of the young men of the Shenandoah Valley into infantry and cavalry companies and batteries of artillery. They thus got a basic military training which made itself felt in the early battles in Virginia of the War Between the States.

The Valley expected rabid abolitionists to applaud the raid. It expected neither its approval nor sympathetic condonation by eminent New England writers and much moderate Northern opinion. (Longfellow thanked God in his diary for the raid and Emerson served on a committee to finance an appeal from Brown’s conviction.) When that developed, the Valley read it as an ominous warning that war was near.

Immediately additional military companies were formed in all the Valley counties. Such companies were organized in Winchester, Millwood, Berryville, Charles Town, Martinsburg, and Shepherdstown, as well as elsewhere. There sprang up a great demand for textbooks on drill and tactics. All classes enrolled and learned the business of war as best they could. They, alas, soon had use for their knowledge.

July 17, 1948

Berryville Company

Until the execution of John Brown and his captured associates, this company, organized in October 1859 as Clarke Guards, took part in guarding Charles Town prison and prevented the escape of two of Brown’s men. Reorganized later as Clarke Rifles, it went through four years of war in the Stonewall Brigade as Co. I, 2nd Va. Inf., C.S.A.

Its greatest individual service was saving Jackson’s ammunition and supply trains and, perhaps, the general himself, from capture. When the company was on picket near Port Republic, Sunday morning, June 8, 1862, Henry Kerfoot of the Clarke Cavalry dashed up to Capt. S. J. C. Moore with the news that Union cavalry with fieldpieces was approaching at full gallop. Gen. Jackson and his staff had spent the night in the village and his unguarded wagon trains were just south of it. Moore, later promoted to lieutenant colonel, instantly ordered Kerfoot to warn Jackson, then disposed Co. I so advantageously that it was able to check the enemy until help came.

Gen. Jackson escaped under fire of a fieldpiece, but some of his staff were captured.

July 27, 1948
Constitution of 1861

A State convention of delegates elected by the qualified voters of each county in Virginia convened in Richmond Feb. 13, 1861, to consider the momentous question of secession. A large majority of their number was known as strong "Union" men.


On April 4, what amounted to a secession resolution was defeated by a vote of 90 to 45. On April 7 the convention approved an ordinance of secession by a vote of 88 to 55. The delegates from Frederick, Clarke, Berkeley, and Jefferson again voted in the negative. Turner of Warren voted for it, and Barbour of Jefferson was given permission to change his vote to the affirmative.

The Ordinance was ratified by the people of Virginia by a vote of 128,884 to 32,734.

January 4, 1949

Virginia Joins C.S.A.

After Virginia passed its Ordinance of Secession April 17, 1861, she stood alone; a small country, which had made no war preparations, facing a mighty nation, which for weeks had been mobilizing all its war resources, and already had large armed forces on her borders, Virginia was certain to be invaded within days or weeks.

Alliance and then union with the Confederate States was an immediate and imperative necessity. These were the measures taken, subject to ratification of the Ordinance by Virginia's electorate—a foregone conclusion: A Convention for a temporary union was negotiated between representatives of the two governments on April 24. It was unanimously ratified by Virginia, April 25; and by the C. S. Congress, May 6.

On April 29, Virginia's Convention elected five men to represent her in the Provisional Congress, C. S. A. On May 1, it instructed them to proceed to the Confederate Capitol and ask for Virginia's admission to the Confederacy; on May 2, Gov. Letcher certified and approved these measures. On May 7, President Davis transmitted Virginia's request to the Provisional Congress. It enacted the necessary bill by unanimous vote at once and President Davis signed it. So on May 7, 1861, Virginia became one of the Confederate States of America.

December 13, 1949
Clarke Companies C.S.A.

The day Virginia seceded, April 17, 1861, Clarke's three volunteer military companies marched off to Harper's Ferry and four years of bitter war. Their finest eulogy would be the recital of their war records in detail. They were:

1. The Clarke Cavalry. Became Co. D, 6th Va. Its commanders were Capts. Hugh M. Nelson, D. T. Richards, and J. McK. Kennerly. The first was promoted and died in the service; the second was promoted and wounded; the third was wounded. This company never surrendered. It disbanded after Appomattox.

2. Nelson Rifles (The Millwood and White Post Co.). Became Co. C, 2nd Va. Inf. Stonewall Brigade. It was commanded by Capts. Wm. N. Nelson, Robert C. Randolph (twice), Wm. W. Randolph, and L.t. Philip Nelson. The first was incapacitated by wounds, the second was killed in action, and the third was similarly killed two days after promotion to command of the 2nd Va. Nine survivors surrendered at Appomattox.

3. The Clarke Rifles (The Berryville Co.). Became Co. I, 2nd Va. Inf., Stonewall Brigade. Its commanders were Capt. S. C. Bowen, who resigned; Capt. S. J. C. Moore, twice wounded and twice promoted; and Capt. J. H. O'Bannon. Late in 1864 it was combined with Co. I. Four survivors surrendered at Appomattox.

July 22, 1948

The Clarke Cavalry

Officially, this organization was Co. D, 6th Va. Cavalry, C.S.A. To its men and officers, its regimental and brigade commanders, and Gen. Stuart, it was always the Clarke Cavalry. Stuart himself taught it the art of cavalry fighting, and it learned a lot about war from "Stonewall" Jackson in his Valley Campaign.

At Cedarville and on the plains of the Rapidan it led charges under the eyes of Jackson and Lee, respectively, which stirred their blood and won their praise. At Gettysburg it led the charge of the 6th Va. which routed the 6th U. S. Regulars. It rode with Stuart on his Pennsylvania raid and helped him capture Pope's headquarters. Whenever the 6th Va. had hot work ahead, the Clarke Cavalry was customarily passed to the front, given the post of honor and of death. It fought in innumerable battles and skirmishes.

When it rode off to war in 1861, it was a superbly mounted troop of born riders and a fair cross section of the county's population. Its gallantry, dash, and fighting qualities gave the Clarke Cavalry a great reputation and attracted to its ranks men from other counties and states.

July 20, 1948
The Millwood Company

This company, made up of men from the Millwood and White Post neighborhoods, came under Jackson's command the day it took the field. As Co. C, 2nd Va. Inf., C.S.A., it served throughout the Civil War in the immortal Stonewall Brigade. It was organized and led by Capt. Wm. N. Nelson of "Linden" until he fell, badly wounded, at 1st Manassas, where it lost 17 of its 57 men, killed or wounded.

Co. C made a record march of 42 miles in Jackson's Valley Campaign. It was in the Stonewall Brigade's famous charge at Cold Harbor which captured a vital battery, after other brigades had tried and failed. It had two of its commanders killed in battle, the brothers, Robert C. and Wm. W. Randolph of "New Market"—the latter, two days after his promotion to Colonel of the regiment. In four years of fighting, it fought but once on Clarke soil, at Cool Spring in 1864.

On its muster rolls are many names borne by or known to Clarke's present generation. These include: Berlin, Burwell, Chrisman, Copenhaaver, Dearmont, Estep, Funkhouser, Grubbs, Hay, Hibbard, Holland, Jolliffe, Keeler, Kerfoot, Lewis, Lindsey, Lloyd, McCormick, Meade, Nelson, Randolph, Royston, Ryan, Shearer, Sowers, Sprint, Thompson, Trenary, Weir, Whiting, Willingham, and Wilson.

July 24, 1948

Frederick Companies C.S.A.

In the office of the clerk of the Frederick County Circuit Court, Winchester, is a Muster Roll of the 5 infantry and 7 cavalry companies which "were Winchester and Frederick Co. companies in fact in the War in Defense of Virginia, 1861-1865." All the infantry companies, except Co. H, 13th Va., served in regiments of the Stonewall Brigade, and many Winchester and Frederick Co. men were on the rolls of the Rockbridge Artillery, Chew's and Cutshaw's Batteries — the last often called the Newtown Artillery. These companies and their commanders, as given in the record, follow:


Frederick County men also served with many other organizations.

February 9, 1950
Frederick and Clarke Officers, C.S.A.


December 20, 1949

Jefferson County, Va., Companies, C.S.A.

Jefferson County, Virginia, supplied ten complete companies to the armed forces of the Confederate States: five of these served throughout the Civil War with the 2nd Va. Infantry of the immortal Stonewall Brigade; four were cavalry of Rossier's and Wickham's Brigades, and the tenth was Chew's famous battery. Altogether some 1600 of her sons fought for and many of them died for the South.

The infantry companies were: Co. A, Capt. John W. Rowan (Jefferson Guards of Charleston); Co. B, Capt. Vincent M. Butler (Hamtramck Guards of Shepherdstown); Co. G, Capt. Lawson Botts (Botts Greys of Charlestown); Co. H, Capt. J. H. L. Hunter (Letcher Riflemen of Duffield's Depot); Co. K, Capt. George W. Chambers (Floyd Guards of Harper's Ferry). The cavalry companies were: Co. A, 12th Va., of Charlestown, Capt. John H. Henderson; Co. B, 12th Va. of Charlestown, Capt. Robert W. Baylor; Co. D, 12th Va., of Moler's Cross Roads, Capt. John L. Knott; Co. F, 1st Va., of Shepherdstown, Capt. William A. Morgan; and Chew's mounted battery, Capt. R. Preston Chew. This battery was organized Nov. 11, 1861.

The officers listed above were company commanders when their companies were enrolled in the Provisional Army, C. S. A. Subsequently, there were constant changes in company command, due chiefly to casualties and promotions.

February 11, 1950
Confederate Companies, Berkeley County

From Berkeley County, Virginia, went five companies as units — two infantry, two cavalry, and one artillery — to fight for the Southern Confederacy, while many more of her sons joined other organizations of its military forces. The infantry companies were enrolled in the 2nd Va. Inf. of the Stonewall Brigade, the regiment which made the record breaking march of more than 40 miles in one day and under adverse weather conditions. The Berkeley units, and their commissioned officers when they entered the Confederate service were:


Officer casualties were particularly heavy in the infantry companies.

March 16, 1950

Stonewall Brigade

This famous brigade was recruited in the Shenandoah Valley and the western mountains. It was organized and trained by Gen. Jackson at Harper's Ferry in the spring of 1861, and was then officially known as the First Brigade of the Army of the Shenandoah. It consisted of five Virginia infantry regiments, the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 27th, and 33rd, which at first were commanded by (respectively) Col. Allen, Col. Preston, Col. Harper, Lt. Col. Échols, and Col. Cummings.

Col. G. F. R. Henderson, C. B., of the British army, the noted military authority, had this to say of these Virginians of the Valley: "No better material for soldiers ever existed than the men of the Shenandoah Valley. All classes mingle in the ranks, and all ages; the heirs of the oldest families, and the humblest of the sons of toil; boys whom it was impossible to keep at school, and men whose white beards hung below their cross belts. To social distinctions they gave little heed. They had taken arms to defend Virginia. They had implicit faith in the righteousness of their cause."

After Gen. Jackson's death, this brigade was accorded the honor of being officially named "the Stonewall Brigade."

February 24, 1949
Suitable Welcome

In 1861, the Rev. Dr. William Nelson Pendleton was rector of the Episcopal Church in Lexington. But he was also a graduate of West Point, and when Virginia seceded, he became Capt. Pendleton, commander of the Rockbridge battery.

Gov. Letcher ordered this battery to Harper's Ferry. Upon its arrival there it was quartered in a church already occupied by an infantry company known as the "Grayson Daredevils." The infantry, wishing to extend a kindly welcome to the artillery and to show it fitting hospitality, assigned the pulpit to Capt. Pendleton as suitable lodging in which he would feel at home, and at once christened the four field guns Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The Rockbridge battery was recruited largely from theological seminaries and soon won a great reputation for itself. Capt. Pendleton in time became Gen. Pendleton, chief of artillery, Army of Northern Virginia.

February 22, 1949

Maps of Winchester’s Battlefields

Three battles of Winchester were fought in the Civil War. The first and, militarily, most important, was Stonewall Jackson’s rout of Gen. Banks, May 25, 1862. In the second, Ewell, in a preliminary to the Gettysburg campaign, crushed the Union forces under Milroy, June 15, 1863. Gen. Sheridan defeated Gen. Early and captured the town in the final battle, Sept. 19, 1864.

These battles form no insignificant part of Winchester’s history. Good maps of the terrain over which they were fought as it was when the actions took place are available, as are accurate and detailed descriptions of troop positions and movements. To translate these maps in terms of today’s geography is now practically impossible, even for the well-informed. To prepare such maps now would be a difficult undertaking, requiring a considerable amount of careful research.

Nevertheless, it could be done and at no great cost. The maps themselves would not only be a notable addition to the city’s records but they would attract many new visitors to Winchester. Fifty years hence, if this is neglected now, the authentication of such maps in terms of the then geography of Winchester and its surrounding country might prove impossible; or, if not, the cost would be very great, if not prohibitive.

April 6, 1950
Civil War Engagements in Clarke County

The J. E. B. Stuart camp of Confederate Veterans was organized in Berryville August 12, 1891, with Col. S. J. C. Moore, C. S. A., as commander. One of its purposes was to gather and preserve the war history of Clarke, 1861-1865.

A committee was appointed to select the most important engagements fought on Clarke soil, so that historical markers might be placed to commemorate them.

The committee's report was approved by the camp; the markers were erected at appropriate places. The engagements as listed by the committee follow:

Battle of Cool Spring, July 18, 1864, near Castleman's Ferry; Fight at the Double Toll Gate, Aug. 11, 1864; Fight at Berry's Ferry, July 19, 1864; Battle of Berryville, Sept. 3, 1864; Fight at Gold's farm, Sept. 4, 1864; The Buck Marsh fight, near Berryville, Aug. 13, 1864; Fight at Mt. Airy, Sept. 15, 1864; The Vineyard fight, Dec. 16, 1864; Mt. Carmel fight, Feb. 19, 1865; Fight at Col. Morgan's lane, Aug. 19, 1864.

In the fight at Morgan's lane, Mosby's men, who had caught a large detachment of the 5th Michigan cavalry, red-handed, burning private homes and mistreating the inmates of them, practically annihilated the house burners. They gave no quarter.

September 20, 1949

Mrs. McGuire's Diary

Mrs. John P. (Judith Brockenbrough) McGuire and her family were war refugees from their home near Alexandria from May 4, 1861. The following excerpts from her diary were written while they were guests of Judge John E. and Mrs. Millicent (McGuire) Page, who then lived at The Briars, in Clarke:

June 12. We found ourselves at his door (The Briars) receiving the warmhearted welcome of the kindest of relatives and the most pleasant of hosts.

June 18. (A day at Mountain View, Bishop Meade's home.) I remember how opposed the Bishop was to secession only a few months ago. He clung to the union with a wholesouled love for all he had been educated to revere, as long as he could . . . . when the proclamation came out for 75,000 troops and claiming Virginia's quota to assist in fighting her Southern brethren, he could stand it no longer; and I only hope the revolution may be as thorough throughout the land as it is in his great mind.

July 3. The Bishop of Louisana (Bishop Polk) has been to Mountain View to consult Bishop Meade on the subject of his taking the field. I do not know what advice was given.

Note: Lt. John Johns, Jr., C. S. A., and Miss Mary Mercer, daughter of Rev. John P. and Mrs. McGuire, were married by Bishop Johns, the groom's father, at The Briars, Sept. 11, 1861.

February 18, 1950
Serious Nuisance

A legend, current in Clarke 50 years ago, that entire families from the Millwood neighborhood watched the first battle of Winchester from their carriages, parked within rifle fire of both lines, is probably untrue. But it does lend emphasis to the following anecdote here quoted practically verbatim from the charming chapter contributed by Mr. J. Townsend Burwell to the Rev. B. D. Chambers' "Old Chapel and The Parish in Clarke County":

When the war first began few people had any conception of what lay ahead of them. The story is told that when information reached Millwood of the coming of the first Federal troops to Winchester, it was regarded as a very serious nuisance. Legend has it that, upon hearing the news, Mr. George H. Burwell of Carter Hall forthwith "put a boy on a horse" and sent a note to his friend, John E. Page. He informed Mr. Page that he would stop by for him in the carriage the following morning and asked for his company to Winchester on important business.

When Mr. Burwell arrived early next day, Mr. Page inquired the object of the trip and Mr. Burwell replied: "Why, John, we're going up to Winchester and tell that Yankee general we can't have any fighting around here."

October 27, 1949

Gen. Milroy Aneedotes

The two anecdotes here given are of questionable authenticity. They were, however, frequently told in Winchester during the dark days of Gen. Milroy, the Union commander's occupancy, and they brought some amusement to its much harressed people.

An old man asked Milroy for a pass and the general asked him if he would take the oath. "With the greatest pleasure," was the reply, "just put it in a box so I can carry it." "I meant," said Milroy, "will you swear to support the Constitution of the United States?" "Oh, my God, I can't do that," replied the old man, raising his hands in horrified protest, "I have got a wife and six children to support already."

A lady went to Gen. Milroy and requested a pass. He shouted, "I will give you a pass to Hell." She smiled. "Why, General," she said, "I did not know your lines extended that far. I have often heard they did, and now I know it is true, for I have it from your own lips."

October 16, 1948
"Let Us Pray"

The joy and elation with which most of the people of Martinsburg had received the news of the great Confederate victory of first Manassas had in the following 48 hours given way to a feeling of deepest anxiety in many homes over the still unknown fate of sons who had fought on that field.

In one of these, David Holmes Conrad sat talking with his wife and daughter when he heard a wagon approaching his house. He went out to meet it. In it were the bodies of his only sons, Holmes A. and Tucker Conrad. Beside them on the wagon bed lay the body of their cousin, Peyton Randolph Harrison — all three members of the same company, 2nd Va. Infantry, and of what was soon to be known as the Stonewall Brigade.

Mr. Conrad reentered his home and the room where his wife and daughter were waiting. He said only, "Let us pray." They asked no questions. But as they knelt in prayer, they knew with a dreadful certainty that some terrible calamity had befallen their home.

The three soldiers had been killed by the same enemy volley, according to some accounts; by the same shell, according to other reports. David H. Conrad was the elder brother of the distinguished Robert Y. Conrad of Winchester.

July 28, 1949

Strange Spectacle

In the early summer of 1861, Col. T. J. Jackson, soon to receive the rank of general and the appellation of "Stonewall," was operating with his brigade north of Martinsburg. By clever ruse and stratagem, he captured more than 50 engines of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad and a large number of its freight cars.

This rolling stock was desperately needed by the Confederacy but the greater part was destroyed, since burned bridges appeared to make the removal of any of it impossible.

Later, the people of Winchester were treated to the amazing spectacle of 20 of these B. and O. engines being hauled through its streets by teams of 32 horses for each locomotive. They had been thus brought to the town and thence to the old Central Virginia railroad.

Col. Thomas S. Sharp is said to have made this strange removal possible by suggesting putting broad tires on the wheels of the engines. The engines served the Confederacy well. After the war the B. & O. recovered all but one of them, and the officials of the railroad were so impressed by Sharp's ingenuity that they offered him a job of master of transportation for their railroad.

March 15, 1949
Military Confiscation

Among the papers of George H. Burwell I of "Carter Hill," Clarke County, are receipts for property seized by Union officers in April and June, 1862.

On April 2, Capt. Melvin Bremer, 1st Michigan Volunteer Cavalry, seized five horses described as "One black stud horse, one black guelding, one chestnut colored guelding & two bay gueldings of the value of $125 each."

Capt. Bremer, accompanied by the usual cavalry force, paid "Carter Hill" a return visit April 18 and appropriated five more horses "of the value of $125 each," despite the printed statement on the receipt form that "Government officers will refrain from taking any more horses, as the present levy is sufficient."

On June 25, Capt. James I. David, At. Q. M. 5th Cavalry Corps, seized 150 bushels of Mr. Burwell's corn and another horse, appraised as usual at $125.

Each receipt stated: "The owner of the said property will be entitled to be paid for the same after the suppression of the rebellion, upon proof that he has from this date conducted himself as a loyal citizen of the U. S., and has not given aid or comfort to the rebels." This was, of course, simply a disingenuous way of confiscating private property.

July 2, 1949

Letter from Pelham

For Robt. Burwell, Henry's battery.

The Bower, Oct. 5, 1862.

Dear Burwell: I have issued an order to Capt. Henry to assign you to duty as lieutenant. I have recommended you for promotion, and expect your commission will be shortly forwarded to these headquarters. I am satisfied you will do credit to my selection and prove worthy of the trust reposed in you. The recommendation was made not only because I know you would make a competent and efficient officer, but also as a reward for distinguished gallantry on many a field. I congratulate you on the high character you have won and sustained so nobly. Your reputation for gallantry is deserved, and no one will be more ready to do justice to it and to yourself that Your Friend, Jno. Pelham."

The writer of this letter was "The Gallant Maj. Pelham," a brilliant young artillery officer in Gen. Lee's army. He was killed in action within a few months. Robert Burwell, son of Nathaniel and Dora W. (Page) Burwell of "Glenvin" in Clarke, died from a wound received at Brandy station. He was then 19. Maj. Mathis W. Henry married a sister of Lt. Burwell. He is survived by his daughter, Mrs. Courtney Byrd Jones of Millwood, three grandsons, and two granddaughters.

May 24, 1949
A Silver Cup

On June 21, 1863, Gen. Stuart, while screening Longstreet's movements in the Valley, was struck by a general advance of enemy cavalry with infantry support. In that day's desperate fighting, Col. Peter G. Evans, C. S. A., was mortally wounded leading a headlong charge of his 63rd North Carolina at Upper-ville against the 1st Maine.

Private E. P. Worcester of the Maine regiment picked up his saddlebags and found in them a silver cup engraved with the name, "Lizzie Johnston." He kept it for 50 years then decided to find "Lizzie Johnston" if he could and give it to her. He had an account of how the cup came into his possession published in the Charlotte (N. C.) Observer with a statement of his wish to return it, and his address.

Friends of Mrs. Robert D. Johnston read and then sent her a copy of the account. They knew that she was a daughter of Col. Evans, had given him the cup, and was the "Lizzie Johnston" of its inscription. Mrs. Johnston wrote to Worcester. He sent her the silver cup with a letter expressing "great pleasure that after 50 years I am permitted to return (it) to its rightful owner." Both cup and letter are now prized possessions of her son, Capt. Ewart Johnston of Clay Hill in Clarke County.

September 3, 1949

Prices in 1863

Federal authorities at Harper's Ferry in 1863 permitted residents of Frederick, Clarke, and Jefferson to buy "family supplies" there, provided imposed conditions were met. Goods purchased had to be paid for in U. S. money or by barter.

Thomas H. Percival, "Local Special Agent," issued a permit Nov. 20 to D. J. Turner, who lived near the Old Chapel in Clarke County, authorizing him to buy (and transport to his home) from Koonce Reed & Koonce, Harper's Ferry merchants, the following supplies:

- 6 candles $1.50
- 30 lbs. sugar $5
- 6 lbs. nails 60 cts.
- coffee (presumably 1 lb.) $1.50
- "2 pepper" 80 cts.
- "2 soda" 40 cts.
- 12 yd. cotton $6.50
- 20 yd. calico $5.60
- 1 gal. coal oil $1.50
- 1 lb. candy 35 cts.
- 1 oz. indigo 20 cts.
- 1 2-lb. tobacco 75 cts.
- 1 comb 15 cts.
- 1 handkerchief $1.12
- "tobacco" 42 cts.

Mr. E. L. Alger of Millwood owns the original permit and the itemized statement, marked "paid," of the goods sold.

May 8, 1948
Col. Randolph’s Death

On the morning of May 5, 1864, the Stonewall Brigade took position on the left of the Confederate line of battle in the Wilderness with orders to check Grant’s frontal and flank attack on this wing until adequate reinforcements could be brought up. The 2nd Va. Inf., under command of Col. William Wellford Randolph of "New Market" in Clarke Co., held the extreme left of the brigade front.

This regiment was soon hotly engaged on both front and flank. Col. Randolph, by bold and skillful use of the densely wooded terrain, held his ground until a courier brought the welcome news that a Louisiana brigade was at hand. Lt. Sam Grubbs, one of six of his name from Clarke who were killed or wounded fighting for the South, had been killed earlier in the day and his body lay outside the Confederate lines. Col. Randolph, during a lull in the battle, was endeavoring to recover that officer’s body, when he was shot through the forehead and killed.

At the time of his death, he was Clarke’s representative in the House of Delegates. In September, 1863, he married Ada Stuart of King George County. Their son, named after him, was born in July, 1864. Father, mother, and son now rest in the Old Chapel Cemetery in Clarke County.

January 11, 1949

Weir’s Luck

Private James Elliott Weir, whose home was near Millwood in Clarke Co., had come unscathed and without serious misadventure through three and a half years of hard marching and fighting with Co. C, 2nd Virginia Infantry, Stonewall Brigade, C. S. A. It took a lot of good luck to do that.

Then, late in the afternoon of May 10, 1864, when the Army of Northern Virginia was in line of battle near Spotsylvania Court House, the enemy by a sudden, sharp attack carried the breastworks of the brigade on the left of the Stonewall Brigade, exposing the flank of Co. C. Weir was captured. As he climbed over the works under guard he managed, unobserved, to throw himself flat on the ground and feign death. The ruse succeeded. A little later, the Confederates counterattacked, regaining the lost position. Weir picked himself up and rejoined his comrades. Luck was still with him.

But less than 48 hours later, another enemy attack proved disastrous. The entire division was driven back in confusion and lost 3,500 men in prisoners alone. Weir was again captured, but this time his good luck had run out. He spent the remainder of the war in a Union prison.

January 18, 1949
Yankee Saves Newtown

On the night of May 29-30, 1864, Major Harry Gilmor, C.S.A., attacked and burned one of Maj. Gen. David Hunter's wagon trains near Newtown, originally named Stephensburg and now Stephens City. On the 30th, Hunter in retaliation issued the following order to "Major T. Quinn, Commanding First New York Cavalry:

"Major: You will detail from your command 200 men, with proper complement of commissioned officers, to proceed to Newtown tomorrow morning at 3 o'clock, for the purpose of burning every house, store, and outbuilding in the place, except the churches and houses and outbuildings of those who are known to be loyal citizens of the United States. You will also burn the houses, etc., of all rebels between Newtown and Middletown."

Major Quinn had previously saved citizens of Winchester from many indignities and loss of personal property by the exercise of his military authority. The order quoted was repugnant to him and the officer he selected to execute it would not burn the town. Another was sent who contented himself by burning several homes (including the Methodist minister's). The humane Major Quinn had saved Newtown from destruction by fire.

July 12, 1949

Vendetta

Col. Angus McDonald, CSA, of "Hawthorne" in Winchester, was captured by Gen. David Hunter in June, 1864, and died in Richmond Dec. 1, 1864, from the hardships he endured during his captivity. For these his sons held Col. David Hunter Strother, Hunter's adjutant general, responsible. The eldest, Maj. E. H. McDonald, 7th Va. Cavalry, notified Strother through a letter sent to his wife of their determination to exact vengeance. That letter, dated June 22, 1864, is here reproduced:

"Mrs. David Strother: My father, Col Angus McDonald, was recently arrested by the forces under Gen. Hunter as a prisoner of war; and taking into consideration his feeble health should have been at once paroled, but for the influence of your husband. His detention and exposure with a moving army will greatly endanger if it does not destroy his life. I have taken this means to give Col. Strother notice that the measure of pain, which, to gratify his private malice, shall be visited on my father shall be meted out to him even unto death, if death be the result of my father's confinement, and this determination will survive, no matter when the war ends or where he may be found. To this purpose, I pledge the lives of nine sons."

Before his death, Col. McDonald persuaded his sons to forego this vendetta. At the time of his capture, he was in his 65th year.

July 7, 1949
Battle of Cool Spring

On the morning of July 18, 1864, three of Gen. Crook's infantry brigades crossed the Shenandoah a mile north of Castleman's Ferry unobserved by Gen. Early's pickets, and established a skirmish line across the Cool Spring and Westwood farms. They were guided by a Confederate deserter, John F. Carrigan, who once lived nearby.

Gen. John C. Breckenridge, late vice president of the U. S. and ranking officer of Early's army nearest the scene, was attending services in Grace Church, Berryville, when a courier brought him this news. He ordered Ramseur and Gordon, whose divisions were encamped in Col. Josiah Ware's woods, to make contact with the enemy and skirmish with him until Rodes' division came up from Gaylord. Rodes, arriving, moved through a deep ravine and, undetected, took position in the rear of the Unionists.

Gordon and Ramseur drove in the Yankee skirmish line and fiercely attacked his front. When Rodes assailed his rear, the enemy became panic-stricken and rushed headlong to re-cross the river. Many missed the fords and were drowned. The fight at Cool Spring, alike from the numbers engaged and the resultant casualties, was the largest and the only engagement ever fought on Clarke's soil which can be properly described as a battle.

September 29, 1949

The House Burners

When Maj. Gen. David Hunter, U. S. A., returned to the Lower Shenandoah Valley in July, 1864, after his inglorious flight before Gen. Early's small force, he lost little time in resuming the house burning activities for which he was already noted. In Jefferson, Berkeley, and Frederick were the homes of many of his blood kin who were fighting for the South. Their families, connections, and friends were favorite objects of his venom.

Under his orders, Capt. Wm. F. Martindale and a detachment of the 1st N. Y. Veteran Cavalry burned the home of his cousin, Andrew Hunter, in Charlestown, with all its contents, including family portraits, and all the outbuildings. Martindale rode on to "Fountain Rock," the beautiful home of Alexander R. Boteler, Confederate congressman from the district which included Clarke and Frederick. Occupying it were Mr. Boteler's two daughters and the 3 young children of one of them, who was then ill. Again the house and all its contents were burned.

Next, Capt. Martindale and his men visited "Bedford," the home of Edmund J. Lee, 1st cousin of Gen. R. E. Lee, and burned the house and everything in it. "Boydville," the home of Charles James Faulkner, and its contents, were saved from a like fate only by the intervention of powerful Union friends.

March 11, 1950
Mrs. Gordon’s Retreat

On the morning of the final Battle of Winchester in 1864, Gen. John B. Gordon, whose division was encamped on the Martinsburg pike, had Mrs. Gordon’s light carriage brought up and ordered his wife to “retreat” in it immediately.

The two-horse vehicle, driven by a faithful but scared Negro boy, overtook some of Rodes’ men just as Federal cavalry charged. With the team at full gallop, the carriage entered a broad stream. The tongue broke off, the horses went on, but Mrs. Gordon, her driver, and the carriage stayed in the middle of the run. Confederates caught the horses, made hasty repairs, and got the carriage underway again just as the enemy’s horse pushed forward. It was a narrow escape from capture.

Late in the day, as Gen. Gordon was retreating through Winchester, he was horrified to see his wife standing in the street opposite Mrs. Hugh Lee’s home attempting to rally defeated Confederates and oblivious to all danger. Duty called and he could pause only long enough to order her to enter the house and stay in it.

But Mrs. Gordon appealed to passing soldiers to hitch the horses to her carriage, as her driver was too terrified to do it. They did, and this indomitable woman dashed out of the town, with her young son and several wounded Confederates, just ahead of the pursuing Unionists.

February 17, 1949

A Fatal Scout

Carlyle Fairfax Whiting, John T. Crown, and Marquis Calmes of the Clarke Cavalry made a successful scout Nov. 3, 1864, capturing 11 prisoners.

These, they allowed to keep their unloaded weapons, after taking from them what they thought was all their ammunition, but some escaped their search. The party was nearing the Confederate lines above Front Royal when the prisoners managed to load their rifles unobserved and, firing a volley into the backs of their captors, killed Calmes and Whiting and wounded Crown, who made good his escape.

Some days later, Carlyle Whiting’s body was recovered and brought to “Clay Hill,” the home of his grandfather, Francis B. Whiting. After dark it was placed in a spring wagon and, accompanied by a few men, driven by unfrequented lanes to the Old Chapel where interment was made hurriedly, without religious services. Enemy detachments were about. However, the burial party escaped their observation and interference.

This gallant young soldier was the only son of William Wilmer Whiting of “Roseville.” Wounded at 1st Manassas and incapacitated for further infantry service, he had joined the cavalry. Calmes was a descendant of the Marquis Calmes who was one of the first justices of Frederick County.

November 4, 1948
A Night Burial

After calling on his Whiting kin at Clay Hill in Clarke the afternoon of Nov. 15, 1864, William Armistead Braxton rode off to rejoin Co. D of Mosby's command. He encountered some of Capt. Blazer's men and was mortally wounded, but managed to escape capture and ride to The Vineyard, nearby.

There Mrs. Phillip Pendleton Cooke and her daughters made him as comfortable as possible, and sent word to Clay Hill. Wm. Wilmer Whiting got Dr. Benjamin Harrison. Despite their efforts, Braxton died about 9 o'clock that night. The county was full of Yankees and since it was considered dangerous to have even a dead Confederate found in the house, it was decided to bury the body immediately on Calmes Neck. This was done in the dead of night, which was very dark.

Years later when Mrs. Henry Dallam came to Clay Hill trying to locate her brother's grave, no trace of it could be found, nor even its location identified.

Two of Mrs. Cooke's granddaughters, Mrs. A. B. Bevan and Miss Anne C. Meade, now live in Winchester. Benjamin Harrison, postmaster at Boyce, is a grandson of Dr. Harrison. Clay Hill is now the home of Capt. and Mrs. Ewart Johnston.

April 20, 1948

James W. Singleton

Among the long forgotten adventurers who left Frederick in the early decades of the 19th century to seek their fortune in the Northwest Territory was James Washington Singleton. He was probably born at "Land's End" in Clarke, a tract adjoining "Shenandoah Hill," now known as "Shan Hill" and the home of George P. Greenhalgh, Jr.

Singleton, a self-taught lawyer, went first to Kentucky and then to Illinois, where he "rode the circuit" with Abraham Lincoln. Later he built "Boscobel" near Quincy and in this home he entertained lavishly. His part in the construction and extension of railroads entitled him to rank as one of the builders of the West.

He resigned his commision as brigadier general of Illinois militia in 1862 to devote his efforts to ending the Civil War by a negotiated peace. Going to Washington, he gained Lincoln's complete confidence, his approval and private encouragement of his peace plans.

Singleton's efforts all failed although he persisted in them and, in their behalf, was actually in Richmond as late as March 23, 1865, the visit made possible by Lincoln himself. His part in peace negotiations remains largely an unwritten chapter in the war's history.

November 6, 1948
NOTES ON THE LOWER SHENANDOAH VALLEY

Mosby Disbands Command

Col. John S. Mosby's partisan force, the 43rd battalion, Virginia cavalry, Army of Northern Virginia, had wrought such havoc on Sheridan's lines of communication in the Lower Valley that he and the swashbuckling Custer had hung captured members of the 43rd as outlaws. Retaliation in kind had quickly stopped this.

After Appomattox, Stanton wished to outlaw Mosby, but Gen. Grant ordered him informed that he and his men would be accorded the same surrender terms given Lee's army. A truce was arranged during which Mosby and Gen. Chapman, with groups of their officers, met in Millwood, in the house which is now the home of Mrs. Henry S. Jenkins, April 18, and 20, 1865, to discuss the surrender of the former's command.

At the latter meeting, Mosby stated he would disband but would not surrender his force. At the expiration of the truce he and his officers mounted and galloped rapidly to the Shenandoah, closely followed by Union cavalry.

Next day he mustered and disbanded his command at Salem (now Marshall) in Fauquier. On the 22nd, some 200 of his men rode to Winchester and surrendered there. The U. S. government, after vainly offering a reward of $5000 for his capture, again offered to parole Mosby, and he was paroled in Lynchburg late in June, 1865.

October 1, 1949

A Fine Achievement

At the close of the Civil War every square mile of land within a wide radius of Winchester held graves of Confederates who had been buried where they fell in action. Many of the thousands of ill and wounded Southerners cared for in the city's hospitals and homes died and were buried in an Episcopal graveyard over which cattle grazed at will, its enclosure having long been destroyed.

To discover, identify, and remove these honored dead to a suitable resting place was, under prevailing conditions, a task of appalling difficulty. Yet a month after Appomattox, the noble women of Winchester, so noted for their devotion to the Confederacy, had started to organize and direct a movement which led to the re-burial within a year of nearly 3000 Southern soldiers in what is believed to be the first Confederate Cemetery established after the war, "The Stonewall Cemetery."

Mrs. Cornelia McDonald credits Mrs. Philip Williams and the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. A. H. Boyd with initiating the movement, and creating the Stonewall Memorial Association, which had so large a part in directing it. Mrs. Williams was president and treasurer of this Association. Its vice presidents were Mrs. A. H. H. Boyd, Miss Mary Kurtz, and Miss Tillie Russell; its secretary, Miss Lucy Williams. Soldiers from every state of the Confederacy sleep in the Stonewall Cemetery.

February 2, 1950
John C. Underwood, Clarke Resident

Few in Clarke today know that the notorious John C. Underwood of Herkimer, N. Y., once lived in the county. His neighbors disliked him so greatly that he soon left. But in 1861 he followed Union bayonets to Alexandria as U. S. District judge and thereafter, until his death in 1874, was the highest Federal judiciary officer in Virginia.

It was a grand jury of whites and Negroes of his court which indicted Jefferson Davis for treason. He was chairman of the convention which wrote this state's "Underwood Constitution," disfranchising from voting and office holding some 95 per cent of the whites, provisions which were eliminated before that instrument became effective.

Underwood first appears in Clarke records May 13, 1849, when he signed a trust deed on 406 A. of land, along the road from Ashby's Gap turnpike to Snicker's Ferry, to secure to George Strother payment of $2,280.74 due him on the purchase price of $2,800 for that tract. In 1853 when he had left Clarke, he gave Mrs. Lucinda Moyer a free life lease on a house and 4 A. of his land, "in consideration of assurances of protection given by me before she came to Virginia." It was not until 1881 that his widow finally sold the tract for $1800 to Thos. E. Woodward of Jefferson Co., West Va.

February 14, 1950

Wreath of Immortelles

Gen. Richard Taylor, C. S. A., son of U. S. President Zachary Taylor, commanded a Louisiana Infantry Brigade in Gen. Jackson's army during the Valley campaign. Years later, he placed to the memory of the Valley's daughters this "humble wreath of immortelles":

"Those women sent husbands, sons, lovers to battle as cheerfully as to marriage feasts. Their devotion to the Southern cause was wonderful. No oppression, no destitution, could abate their zeal. Wives and daughters of millers whose husbands and brothers were in arms worked the mills night and day to furnish flour to their soldiers. To the last, women would go distances to carry the modicum of food between them and starvation to a suffering Confederate. Should sons of Virginia ever commit dishonorable acts, grim indeed will be their reception on the further shores of the Styx. They can expect no recognition from the mothers who bore them."

Mrs. "Betty" (Taylor) Dandridge of Winchester, younger sister of Gen. "Dick" Taylor, was mistress of the White House during the presidency of her father. She owned the sash (now at Mt. Vernon) worn by Braddock when he was mortally wounded. Her 1st husband was Maj. W. W. S. Bliss. Her sister, Mary Knox Taylor, married President Jefferson Davis.

October 25, 1949
First World War

Honor Roll of Co. I

Co. I, 2nd Va. Inf., was Winchester’s National Guard company until in the 1st World War it became Co. I, 116th Inf., 29th Div., when recruits from many states raised its strength to 250 men. I Co. sailed for France June 15, 1918. It was trained and commanded by Capt. Robert Y. Conrad, who fell in action leading a charge.

War Department records revised to May 31, 1921, list its overseas dead as 19 killed in action, 2 who died from wounds, and 5 from other causes. The battle fatalities all occurred in the Argonne between Oct. 8-24, inclusive. The many who were wounded and recovered are not listed here. The overseas Honor Roll follows:


"Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori."

November 15, 1949

Capt. Ewart Johnston’s Flank Attack

On Oct. 8, 1918, Cos. I and L, 116th Inf., 58th Brigade, 29th Div., led respectively by Capts. Robert Y. Conrad and Ewart Johnston, captured the 3rd German line on Malbrouck Hill on a 2000-meter front by a fine bayonet charge. Immediately the Virginians were raked by devastating artillery and machine gun fire from enemy positions on their front and flanks, while his heavy interdiction fire prevented the advance of the support battalion, scheduled to pass through and continue the attack.

"At this more or less critical time for all three battalions," states the official history of the 29th Division, "Capt. Johnston of Co. L launched a sudden flank attack against the hill on his own initiative. The attack was driven home with the bayonet. Thanks to the quickness with which the plan was conceived and executed, all positions were taken; 210 prisoners, including a battalion commander and his staff, were captured."

This attack enabled the 58th Brigade to reach its objective all along its front and probably saved it from a severe repulse. Its success and his "extraordinary heroism in action during the attack on Malbrouck Hill and Consenvoye Woods" won a DSC for Capt. Johnston, whose home is now "Clay Hill," in Clarke County.

October 20, 1949
Education (1830-1902)

Rosny School

Thomas F. and William F. Nelson, sons of Philip Nelson of “Long Branch” and grandsons of Gov. Thomas Nelson, opened Rosny school, a mile or less south of Millwood in Clarke, then Frederick County, Oct. 1, 1830. On August, 1832, they sent out a circular letter to prospective patrons stating the 3rd term would open Oct. 1 and continue 10 months.

The subjects taught were “the Latin and Greek languages; mathematics, subsequently to arithmetic; history; geography; and all the usual branches of English education.” Selection subjects were “the study of the globes,” and French and Spanish “at the additional price of $12 each.” Patrons were told that the number of pupils was limited to “12 or 15” and that there were still several vacancies. The cost of tuition and board for the 10 month term was $150.

The situation was described as “healthy and possessing moral and religious advantages” and parents were informed that “we shall be prepared with a conveyance, which will assure the regular attendance of the boys at church.”

The prospectus concluded with “recommendatory notices” from Hugh Nelson of “Belvoir,” Albemarle County and Bishop William Meade of Mountain View.”

October 13, 1949

Oak Grove Academy

A charter for Oak Grove academy was granted by Virginia’s General Assembly in 1835. The school building was put up in 1836. “It was constructed of stone, was large and well lighted, with a hipped roof of four slopes.” It stood in a now non-existent grove, where the Blue Ridge country day school now stands, adjoining the Millwood-Berryville pike, just north of Millwood.

That the academy was a success financially in its early years is proved by an Act of the Assembly in 1847, which limited the value of the property which could be held under its charter to $50,000. Prof. J. Worthington Smith was its principal, 1853 to his death, Oct. 21, 1856. He was probably succeeded by William Wellford Randolph of “New Market,” who, if tradition is believed, had the pupils “tote” their-and-his drinking water from the “Carter Hall” spring, more than a quarter of a mile away.

The academy’s last trustees were the Rev. Jos. R. Jones, Dr. Robert C. Randolph, and James H. Clarke. In 1871 they permitted Dr. A. C. Randolph, as chairman of the trustees of the Prospect Hill lodge of Masons, to erect their hall, “a large, unsightly frame structure,” over the old building. The history of the Oak Grove academy ends in 1872, when it became a part of Clarke’s new public school system.

November 19, 1949
Public School Issue

There was no public free school system throughout Virginia until after the Civil War. From 1820 to 1860 there was an exceptionally large number of excellent private schools, often called academies, in which great emphasis was placed on the classics.

In December 1841, a meeting was held in Winchester to select delegates to an educational convention in Richmond. This meeting went on record as in favor of a state-wide liberal system of education. It then appointed Robert Y. Conrad, Richard Evelyn Byrd, and William Wood as delegates to the convention. This convention accomplished little of importance.

Frederick County voted against the establishment of free schools in an election held June 3, 1847. Four years later, 1851, when that issue was again presented to the county’s voters, the result was the same.

The Richmond Examiner expressed the opposition of probably a majority of Virginians to public free school in uninhibited language when it wrote, “Free schools are of the same brood of damnableness whose mother is Sin and whose Daddy is the Devil.”

December 23, 1948

First Free Schools

The “Underwood Constitution” of 1870 required the Virginia General Assembly to provide by law for a uniform system of public free schools, and for the introduction of this system into all the counties by 1876.

At the earnest solicitation of the local authorities, Prof. Archibald Magill Smith, then head of the Shenandoah Valley Academy and later principal of the Episcopal Female Institute of Winchester, agreed to organize the new system, which went into effect in Winchester in February, 1871. He was appointed Superintendent of schools for both Frederick County and Winchester.

In 1870, Winchester had 778 white children of school age and 268 Negro children of like age. The first year's enrollment was 285 white and 117 Negro children.

In 1873 the cost of Winchester's public free schools was $4500. One-third was paid by the State; one-third from the Peabody Fund, and the remaining third from Winchester's taxpayers.

December 9, 1948
The Linden School

In September, 1884, Capt. William N. Nelson opened a boarding and day school for boys at his home, "Linden," in Millwood, Clarke County. In announcing its establishment, he said it was "situated in one of the pleasantest and healthiest neighborhoods in the Shenandoah Valley" and its purpose was the preparation of its students "for college or business life."

Ten to 12 boarders could be accommodated. The charge for them for a nine-month school year was $300; for day scholars $50. The subjects taught were Latin, Greek, German, and "the English branches." Capt. Nelson promised patrons that "every attention will be given to the physical, mental, and moral welfare of boys entrusted to my care" and assured them he had secured "a first rate teacher."

The life of the "Linden" school was short, as it was followed by the late William H. Whiting’s Clay Hill Academy in 1888. Not much is now remembered about it, except that some of the boarders came from Georgia and "were very bad boys." Capt. Nelson received a wound at 1st Manassas from which he never recovered. He is described in "Old Chapel, Clarke County," as much beloved, "a nobleman without a peer." He was the first commander of the Millwood company, Co. C, 2nd Va. Inf., Stonewall Brigade.

December 29, 1949

Clay Hill Academy

William H. Whiting, Jr. established this boarding and day school for boys in 1888 at his Clarke home, Clay Hill. When he closed it 14 years later, it ranked with the best schools in Virginia and deserved to, if the decisive rating factors are ability to train the mind, impart knowledge, and mold character.

Its physical plant, costing probably less than $3000, would evoke only scorn from any self-respecting county school board today, but the health of its boys was excellent. It had no athletic field, but it had a football team undefeated in three, if not four, consecutive years. Its boys were strangers to school class rings, annuals, cap and gown commencements, but they had an intimate acquaintance with English, Latin, mathematics. They never heard a baccalaureate sermon but they went to church every Sunday.

Clay Hill had the honor system and it used that great stimulant to schoolboy study, "keeping in" after school. Its boys could take college, West Point, and Annapolis entrance examinations in their stride.


July 13, 1948
William H. Whiting, Jr.

Few living Virginians have exercised such a profound influence for good upon so many young men as has Wm. H. Whiting, Jr. of "Clay Hill." Although he has now made Hampden-Sydney his home for more than four decades, he was born and reared in Clarke, and Clarke proudly claims this distinguished educator and scholar as her own.

Dr. Whiting, B. A., M. A., D. Litt., LL.D., Phi Beta Kappa, was graduated from Hampden-Sydney college in 1880 at the head of his class. After teaching in various schools, he returned to Clarke and established Clay Hill academy. From 1902 until his retirement in 1939, he was continuously on the faculty of Hampden-Sydney, with the exception of one year, and was its acting-president in 1904-5, and 1908-9. His literary work has been extensive and excellent. He is a graceful and charming speaker.

Dr. J. D. Eggleston, in accepting for Hampden-Sydney a gift of a portrait of Dr. Whiting, paid him this tribute: "What Erasmus said of Thomas Moore may with equal truth be said of him: 'What hath Nature ever fashioned more tender, more charming, more happy' than the character of William H. Whiting?"

July 10, 1948

"... And Inwardly Digest"

The late Dr. William H. Whiting, Jr., who was so widely recognized as one of the better authorities on education in this state, contributed a paper on Clarke schools to the 1942 proceedings of the Clarke County Historical Assn. The views expressed in the following excerpt on the general problem are as pertinent now as then:

"... the conclusion is fully justified that the work done in the public schools of Clarke County 70 years ago was well done. The teachers were competent; they perhaps did not know of some of the approved methods of today; but they knew the subject matter of their courses; they were not specialists; but they had liberal educations; they knew human nature and were familiar with the background of each pupil.

"The emphasis today seems placed on the method rather than on the material to be taught. No pupil ... would have added 1-2 and 1-4 and have brought out 2-6 as the answer — something that often happens in the case of high school pupils in these latter days. The curriculum was not very broad, but it was deep, and those who finished it were fitted for college and for life. The teachers were of a type to stimulate and help their pupils to become men and women of earnest purpose and upright character."

December 15, 1949
Shenandoah River Navigation

Berry's Ferry

It was customary in colonial days and for some years thereafter to name Virginia ferries for the man who operated them. Berry's Ferry across the Shenandoah used to be within a short stone's throw of the present bridge of the Lee-Jackson highway.

The Virginia Gazette and The Winchester Advertiser carried the following notice in its issue of August 26, 1790:

"This is to give notice that I intend to petition the next General Assembly of this State for leave to erect a Ferry over the river Shenandoah, from my lands in the County of Frederick to Col. N. Burwell's lands in the same County, at Ashby's Gap.

"Joseph Berry."

The petition was granted by the General Assembly. Berry's Ferry came into being and a ferry was operated under that name until the early years of the present century.

March 16, 1948

A Berry's Ferry Lease

By a lease dated Dec. 8, 1796, and recorded in Deed Book 25 of the Frederick County Court, Robert Wormeley Carter, son of Col. Landon Carter of "Sabine Hill" in Richmond Co., conveyed to John Morgan and John Brahan "for and during the full and term of their natural lives" Lots Nos. 1 and 2 containing 300 acres of his Shenandoah tract, "and all the privileges and advantages arising from the Ferry thereon."

Col. Landon Carter quaintly described the above tract in his will as lying on "the Blue Ridge or Virginia side of the Shenandoah." The ferry was then and earlier known and is now remembered as Berry's Ferry. Its site was near the present Lee-Jackson Highway bridge over the Shenandoah. A ferry was in operation on or near the site as early as 1743, by John Kersey. Later, it was operated by Patrick Combs. Operation of Berry's Ferry was discontinued in 1904.

Under their lease, Morgan and Brahan agreed to pay annual rent of "50 pounds Virginia currency in Spanish milled dollars at their present value or in other Gold and Silver equivalent," and to pay all taxes and quit rents. They agreed to "keep up the ferry with sufficient boats and hands for the conveyance of passengers from the landing of the said Carter to the lands of Nathl. Burwell, Esq. on the opposite shore."

January 26, 1950
NOTES ON THE LOWER SHENANDOAH VALLEY

Navigation Lottery

The Winchester Gazette of April 20, 1811, gave front page coverage and plenty of space to the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers Navigation Lottery ("a scheme for improving the navigation of the Shenandoah"), by Authority of the State of Maryland.

In "the first class of 20,000 tickets" the following prizes were offered "the adventures" (purchasers of tickets): 2 of $25,000 each; 1 of $15,000; 1 of $10,000; 4 of $5,000; 10 of $1,000; 18 of $500; 50 of $100; 100 of $30; 197 of $20; 1000 of $12; 2006 of $10, payable in 1 ticket each in the 2nd class at $12.

Charles Simms was president and a director of the lottery. The other directors were Jonah Thompson, John Mason, Henry Foxall and William Stewart.

An appeal was made to "the patriotic and public-spirited" to "countenance and encourage" the lottery. Tickets were put on sale in most of the towns in Frederick, Berkeley, and Jefferson Cos.

In Winchester, they could be bought from John Bell, Isaac Baker, William Davis; Millwood, Bacon Burwell, Esq.; White Post, Oliver Funston; Front Royal, Thomas Buck, Thomas Mullen; Stephensburg, David Wilson; Berryville, George S. Lane; Martinsburg, Elisha Boyd, Esq., Col. David Hunter.

In that era, lotteries were a favorite means of financing many activities.

February 7, 1950

New Shenandoah Company

The Assembly incorporated the New Shenandoah Company Feb. 8, 1814, and required it to make the Shenandoah navigable in "dry seasons for vessels drawing 1 ft. of water from the highest navigable places on its North and South branches" to the Potomac within 5 years.

The company was given the right to condemn land necessary "for locks and canals." Capital stock of $100,000 in $50 shares was authorized and it could be increased when and if necessary, but $50,000 must be subscribed by May 1. Subscription books were to be opened in Martinsburg, Charles Town, Woodstock, Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Winchester; those in Winchester to be under the direction of James Singleton, Griffin Taylor, James Ware, Isaac Hollingsworth, Thomas Buck, and David Carlile.

The Act required tolls to be taken at "Little Falls or other place." Toll rates were enumerated and included these: Hogshead of wine, 66 cts; hoghead of rum, 55 cts; hoghead of tobacco, 44 cts; bushel wheat, 2 cts; bushel corn or salt, 1 ct; ton of ore, 20 to 90 cts.

The Act of Feb. 8 stated that the earlier company had "failed to complete navigation within the time limit of its charter" and had agreed under certain conditions to give up "its claims thereto."

October 6, 1949
Boating Flour

In the years preceding the Civil War and before the county had a railroad running through it, no wheat was shipped from Clarke. The crop was sold to local millers who ground it into flour. They had the flour hauled in barrels to the most convenient spot on the Shenandoah river, where it was loaded on flat bottomed boats and carried to Harper’s Ferry. There it was transferred to Baltimore and Ohio freight cars and went by rail to Baltimore and other markets.

The millers called the river shipment “boating flour.” It developed a demand for crews who “could read the Shenandoah like a book,” and created a small boat building industry, for this water trip was a strictly one way affair. The current, with some assistance from the crew, could be counted on to take the flat bottoms to Harper’s Ferry, but there was no way of getting them back. They had to be sold there.

E. L. Alger owns the Millwood mill and a number of its old account books. The latter shows that the regular charge for “boating” flour to Harper’s Ferry was 30 cents a barrel; that the mill bought the boats at prices ranging from $16 to $27.03 in 1858. Between July 23 and Dec. 23, 1858, Capt. Joseph Blanhum “boated” 2078 barrels of this mill’s flour to Harper’s Ferry.

December 28, 1948
Turnpike Roads

Tollgates

The old tollgates placed with such liberal frequency along the macadamized roads in all the counties of the Lower Shenandoah Valley have, with but few exceptions, long since disappeared. But they will be remembered by the present older generation as a rather picturesque, although irksome, addition to the scenery.

These earlier roads were mostly built by stock companies and were supported by charges or tolls collected for the passage of horses and vehicles over them. They were called turnpikes because a turnpike is a toll road.

To insure collection of charges made for their use, tollgates and houses for their keepers were built at varying intervals along the roads and generally close to towns and villages. In the Valley, these “gates” were merely long poles, so installed that the keeper from the porch or a room in his house could easily and quickly block the road by pulling the pole across it at breast height and firmly securing it in that position. This he did upon the close approach of horseman or vehicle. When the toll had been paid, the barrier was removed.

While the gates are gone, many of the keepers’ houses still remain.

March 1, 1949

Road from Winchester to Berry’s Ferry

The Winchester-Berry’s Ferry Turnpike Co. was organized April 15, 1850, under a State charter which authorized it to build a road, one-half of which must be fully macadamized, from Winchester to Berry’s Ferry in Clarke, and to issue $25000 of capital stock in $50 shares. The Commonwealth, as was customary, bought 60 per cent of the stock and private investors the remainder.

Construction work began in June, 1851, and by Oct. 24, 1852 the entire road was in operation as was also an additional mile from the point where it joined the Winchester-Front Royal turnpike into the town, which was jointly operated by the two roads.

The first officers of the company were John E. Page, president; Philip Williams, secretary; George W. Sowers, treasurer; David Hollingsworth, David H. McGuire, Jacob Baker, and Philip Williams, directors. Other presidents were Dr. Robert C. Randolph, Nathaniel Burwell (of “Glennv’’), Maj. Beverley Randolph, T. H. Burwell, and George H. Burwell 3d. R. P. Page (of “Saratoga”) was treasurer, secretary, and supervisor from 1876 to 1915, and director from 1876 to the end.

The company’s toll gates were removed Sept. 1, 1923 and three days later the late W. T. Lewis was directed to prepare papers transferring the road to the State Highway Commission.

March 29, 1949
Millwood-Berryville Turnpike Co.

Millwood-Berryville Turnpike Co. was organized under State charter in 1852 with authorization to build a macadamized road 6½ miles long between these two Clarke towns and to issue $15,000 of capital stock of $25 par value. The commonwealth, through the board of public works, agreed to take $9000 of this issue provided the remaining $6000 was bought by private subscribers.

The company proceeded with such energy that before the end of the year the road had been surveyed, rights of way secured, all the private stock sold, contracts negotiated with Sheehan and McCormick to build 3½ miles and with J. Nalvey to build 3 miles, and actual construction was under way. The entire road had been built by or before Oct. 14, 1853, when the final payment was made to Sheehan and McCormick. Total cost of construction was $15,259.82.

Toll gates were established at the southern entrance to Berryville and the northern to Millwood. The first Millwood toll gate keeper was James M. Shearer, and the first keeper of the Berryville gate was L. N. Glass. James H. Clark of Millwood was the company’s first treasurer. The last available financial report of the company is for the year ending Sept. 30, 1905. It shows operating costs of $795.98 and toll collections of $727.18.

April 2, 1949

Original Stockholders

The original private stockholders of the Millwood-Berryville Turnpike Co. and the number of shares each held when the company was organized in 1852 were:

Dr. Wm. Nelson, 11 and 3 seventh shares; Maj. Hugh M. Nelson, 11 and 3 seventh; Nathaniel Burwell (of “Glenvin”), 11 and 3 seventh; Thomas McCormick, 4; John E. Page, 3 and 3 seventh; John Alexander, 5; S. H. Bowen, 1; Wm. C. Alexander, 8; Dr. Robert C. Randolph, 9 and 1 seventh; James H. Clark, 6 and 6 seventh; George L. Kerfoot, 5 and 5 seventh; James Sowers, 4 and 4 seventh; John W. Sowers, 3 and 3 seventh; George H. Burwell, 16; Daniel W. Sowers, 12; Lewis Berlin, 2; Dr. J. F. Kerfoot, 6; Thomas H. Crow, 6; H. F. Thornton, 2; Wm. McCormick, 2; Maj. Beverley Randolph, 2 and 2 seventh; Wm. Burwell, Jr., 5 and 1 seventh; Francis B. Meade, 2 and 2 seventh; Wm. B. Marris, 4; John Morgan, 2; John Jolliffe, 1 and 1 seventh; Lewis F. Glass, 4; Dr. Cyrus McCormick, 2; John A. Thompson, 4; Thomas E. Gold, 2; John J. McFillin, 1; Thornton P. Pendleton, 1; Francis McCormick, 2; Province McCormick, 2; Wm. Taylor, 8; W. T. Wheat, 3; David H. McGuire, 2; Wm. D. McGuire, 1; Charles D. Castleman, 1; A. Moore, 1; Mason Anderson, 2; E. T. Hancock, 1; John Louthan, 4; John O. Snyder, 2; Edward Jackson, 2 Wm. L. Smith, 1; Allen Williams, 1; Jacob Isler, 4; Richard E. Byrd, 4; D. W. Sowers, 27; and Benjamin Morgan, 4. Total, 240 shares.

April 5, 1949
Railroads

The W. & P.

The first recorded railroad meetings held in the State of Virginia took place in Frederick, Jefferson, and Shenandoah Counties in 1829 and 1830. Their purpose was to incorporate a company to build a railroad from the Potomac to Staunton and then to the Ohio River. The General Assembly declined to grant a charter for this proposed 350 mile road.

But on March 14, 1831, the General Assembly did grant a charter for building the Winchester and Potomac railroad to a company bearing that name. The line was to run from Winchester to Harper's Ferry, a distance of 32 miles, and capital stock of $300,000 was authorized. Stock books were opened in November. The State bought $75,000 of the issue and citizens of Richmond took 1196 shares. Col. Claudius Crozet made the survey, and the road, which had the united backing of both Winchester and Richmond newspapers, was quickly and well built. Col. Shaw, the state engineer, after inspecting it, reported it had the best structure and material of any in the state.

The W. & P. asw completed in 1836 and later connected there with the B. & O. For the first fourteen years it had to contend with many difficulties but in the decade before the Civil War it earned handsome profits.

February 26, 1948

The W., O., and W.

Before the Civil War, a charter had been granted for a railroad to run from Washington, through Loudoun Co., to the Ohio River. Construction actually carried the rails as far west as Round Hill. After the war, this project was revived and a new Charter given to the Washington, Ohio, and Western Railroad.

In 1883, a vigorous campaign was carried on in Frederick especially to raise money for construction of the line from Round Hill to Winchester. President Martin of the company addressed a large mass meeting in Winchester on April 3. City and county authorities agreed to submit for the decision of the electorates at the election to be held May 28 for municipal and county officials, the proposal that Frederick and Winchester each buy $75,000 of the railroad's bonds. This was done. Winchester voted 847 to 4 for it, and Frederick approved it, 1179 to 538.

At that time, Clarke was facing the gloomy prospect of losing its entire investment of $100,000 in the stock of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad. But that road was built to the county's great advantage. The grandiose plan for the B., O., and W. never materialized. Even the link from Round Hill to Winchester is now a long forgotten and never realized dream.

January 31, 1950
Frederick County

Frederick County Created

Frederick County was created by act of the General Assembly in 1738; on Oct. 2, 1743, Gov. Gooch authorized its organization; on Nov. 11, 1743, its county government began to function. Until 1734 its area was not a part of any county in the Colony of Virginia. In 1734 it was included within the boundaries of Orange County, when the latter was formed from Spotsylvania.

The organization of Frederick was responsive to the urgent need for a strong western frontier county, settled by hardy and courageous men, to protect eastern Virginia from forays by hostile Indians, and to check the menacing expansion eastward of French settlements beyond the Alleghanies. Its boundaries once included all the lower Shenandoah Valley and all the Fairfax Grant lying west of the Blue Ridge. Much of its area was later surveyed by its pre-eminent citizen of all-time, George Washington.

The courage, hardihood and daring of its citizens from 1743 to 1947 have brought honor to the county in every war in this nation's history.

The present counties of Berkeley, Morgan, Jefferson, Hampshire and Hardy in West Virginia, and Shenandoah, Clarke, Warren and a part of Page in Virginia, were all originally in Frederick. Its area remains unchanged since 1836.

January 5, 1948

Frederick in 1800

From Charles Varle's Topographical Description, printed by W. Heiskell, Winchester, in 1801:

AREA
735 square miles: 474,400 acres

POPULATION
"As extracted from official documents":
White Males 9,350
White Females 8,972

   18,322

Free people of color 457
Slaves 5,734

Total 24,513

MILLS
"I have counted 75 merchant or grist mills in this county; as many saw mills; several oil mills; one paper mill; seven fulling mills, and one tilt hammer."

August 26, 1948
NOTES ON THE LOWER SHENANDOAH VALLEY

County Court Clerks of Frederick, 1743-1865

The following is a list of the Clerks of the Frederick County Court from the organization of the court in the fall of 1743 until the end of the Civil War:

James Wood, Sr., founder of Winchester, November 11, 1743, until his death, November 6, 1759.
Archibald Wager, February 5, 1760, to May 4, 1762.
James Keith, May 4, 1762, until his death in October, 1824.
Thomas A. Tidball, Nov. 1, 1824, until his death, April 5, 1856.
Allen B. Tidball, April 5, 1856, to June 2, 1856 (temporary appointment).
Thomas A. T. Riely, June 2, 1856, until his death in 1858.
R. E. Seevers (temporary) to July, 1858.
James P. Riely, Sr., July, 1858, until his death in August, 1859.
J. Chap Riely, August, 1859, until close of Civil War, although C. W. Gibbens was appointed by Federal military authorities during that period.

James Keith served as clerk of the Frederick County Court for 62 years and 5 months, a record for length of service which is probably unequalled in Virginia's entire history, and is almost certain to remain so for centuries to come. Thomas A. Tidball's service as clerk and deputy clerk exceeded 50 years.

June 4, 1949

Missing Land Books

William J. Van Schreeven, Head Archivist of the Virginia State Library states that in the Archives Division of the library are the following records:

FREDERICK COUNTY land books, 1782-1787-1800. Alterations only 1783-1786.
WINCHESTER Land Books 1787-1796 (separate); 1797-1800 (bound in with Frederick County).

Lee N. Whitacre, Clerk of the Frederick County Court, has recently made a thorough search of the county records now under his custodianship and has found none of the above Land Books in them.

Under the provisions of an early law tax lists or Land Books, of Virginia counties had to be made out in duplicate each year and one set sent to the Auditor of Public Accounts in Richmond. (The Frederick and Winchester Land Books for the above specified years which should be a part of Frederick County Records in the Clerk's Office have been lost or destroyed. It is fortunate that the duplicates sent to Richmond have been preserved).

Photostat copies could undoubtedly be obtained from the Virginia State Library and the cost would be small in comparison with their value. It is to be hoped that the present Frederick County authorities will give this matter their serious consideration.

April 23, 1948
This is a portrait of Alexander Scott Tidball (Jan. 19, 1796 - Jan. 3, 1848) who was the son of Joseph Tidball and Jane Scott. His wife. Joseph Tidball immigrated to this country from Wales and settled in Philadelphia, Pa. Later, with his wife, he moved to Winchester in Frederick Co., Virginia, and there he prospered greatly. At one time he owned most of the land upon which the town of Winchester now stands. No less than fifteen full pages of the Index of Deeds in the Clerk’s Office in Winchester are filled with the real estate transactions of this family and they cover only those which took place prior to 1838.

He and his brother, Thomas Allen Tidball, who served as Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the Court for Frederick County for 52 years, purchased from their father “Hawthorne”, originally part of the “Glen Burnie” plantation, Alexander Scott Tidball later selling his interest to his brother who lived at “Hawthorne” from 1813 until his death in 1856.

Mr. Tidball studied law and was admitted to the bar. He engaged in the practice of his profession and in various other business activities. About 1820 he married Millicent McGuire (born at “Grove Farm,” Frederick County, Va. in 1798), daughter of Edward and Elizabeth Holmes McGuire and aunt of Dr. Hunter McGuire, Medical Director of “Stonewall” Jackson’s Corps in the Army of Northern Virginia.

Alexander Scott Tidball lived on Water Street in Winchester. His home is now owned by Dr. Boyd. The children of Alexander Scott and Millicent McGuire Tidball were: Jane Scott, Elizabeth Holmes, Lucy Page, Mary, Edward McGuire (the first born), Frank and Alfred. Alexander Scott Tidball died in Winchester and is buried there.

His brother Josiah Tidball then living in Fauquier Co., Va., married Lucy G. Page, daughter of Mann Page III of “Mannsfield” and Mary Tayloe, his wife. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Mr. Hill and took place at “Prospect Hill” in Clarke Co., Va., on Thursday, January 31, 1836.
Winchester

Frederick Town

On the early maps of Virginia the place where Winchester stands was named "Frederick Town." In 1752 the General Assembly of Virginia, upon the petition of Col. James Wood, Sr., established the settlement there as a town by legislative enactment and named that town, Winchester.

Why did the Colonial legislature change the name from Frederick Town to Winchester? No record has yet been found to supply an authoritative answer, despite diligent search. But the circumstantial evidence is strong that the new name was given it in honor of Col. Wood, who was born in Winchester, England.

Col. Wood was the founder of Winchester. He laid off the first streets and town lots. His efforts were responsible for much of its growth and it was he who obtained town rights and privileges for its inhabitants. Gabriel Jones, his close friend and associate, was, it seems certain, the Burgess who drew up the bill for establishing the town. It seems both natural and appropriate that he should have paid Col. Wood the compliment of naming it Winchester.

April 24, 1948

Winchester Founded, 1752

James Wood, Sr. divided some of the land upon which he lived into 26 lots, separating them by two streets, each 33 feet in width. He disposed of 22 lots of one-half acre each to the gentlemen justices of the Frederick County court. Because he had not a clear title to the land, on March 9, 1743, Old Style, he signed an indemnity bond to make good the titles. These lots, with a few nearby earlier buildings, stood where Winchester now stands and were marked on early maps, "Frederick Town."

This settlement grew so rapidly that the General Assembly in February, 1752, approved Col. Wood's petition by passing "An Act Establishing the Town of Winchester and Appointing Fairs therein." Thus it was that the name Winchester replaced "Frederick Town" on Frederick County maps.

The Act provided for laying out 54 additional lots of a half-acre each in such manner as their proprietor, Lord Fairfax, "shall think fit." And, since fairs would be of great benefit to the inhabitants of the town, which the General Assembly decreed should be called Winchester, the Act directed that fairs be held twice annually for two days each, and that during these and for the two days preceding and following each, all persons attending them, going to or leaving them, should be exempt from "arrests, attachments, and executions," except for capital and some other offenses.

January 8, 1948
Brandy $1.25 Per Gallon

In March, 1743 (Old Style), the Frederick County court issued the following schedule of prices governing the sale of liquor by inn-keepers of the county to their customers:

Barbadoes rum, per gallon, 6 shillings.
Rye brandy, per gallon, 5 shillings.
Rum punch, per quart, with 3 gills and white sugar, 1 shilling.
Rye brandy punch, per quart, with 3 gills and brown sugar, 9 pence.
Beer, per quart, 4 pence.
Madeira wine, per quart, 2 shillings.
Claret, per quart bottle, 4 shillings.
French brandy, per gallon, 6 shillings.
French brandy punch, per quart, 2 shill. & 6 pence.

For some, at least, these prices will afford an entirely satisfactory explanation of why the old days are so often spoken of as "the good old days."
A shilling is worth roughly 20 cents.

January 17, 1948

Money in Frederick

There was never at any time sufficient actual money in Frederick County in the colonial period for the transaction of ordinary business. The basic reason for this was England's failure to provide coinage for the colony. Here are the more important kinds of "money" then in use in Frederick:

1. Tobacco. Its value was based on current London market in sterling. All goods and services were sold for so many pounds of tobacco.

2. Sterling. Little of this was ever available, but certain charges had to be paid in it or its equivalent.

3. "Current money of Pennsylvania." This was the kind of "money" generally used.

4. "Current money of Virginia." Not so much of this around, but often named as the basis for contracts, business transactions, etc.

5. Miscellaneous coins. A small supply of coined money of various nations. The importation of 25,000 pounds of copper coins for use in the colony was permitted.

Generally, one pound "current money of Virginia" was worth one and a quarter to one and a third pounds "current money of Pennsylvania," and about two-thirds of an English pound sterling.

March 18, 1948
Ducking Stools

In Order Book 2 of the Frederick County court will be found the following entries, both made December 2, 1746: to Marquis Calmes, 5 pounds 5 shillings for erecting a ducking stool "according to the model of that of Fredericks burg"; to William McMachen, 2 pounds 10 shillings for "digging a pit 7 feet deep and 6 feet square, in the clear, and walling the same with stone, for a ducking stool."

Ducking stools, used chiefly to punish women who gave too much license to their tongues, were first established in Virginia in 1662 by an Act of the General Assembly, the preamble to which read: "Whereas many Babbling Women Slander and Scandalize their Neighbors, for which Their Poor Husbands are often involved in Vexatious Suits and cast in Great Damages." Then followed the punitive provisions of the Act in these words:

"In Actions of Slander occasioned by the Wife, after judgment passed for damages, the Women Shall be Punished by Ducking; and if the Slander be so enormous as to be adjudged at greater Damages than 500 pounds of Tobacco, then the Women to suffer a Ducking for each 500 pounds of Tobacco adjudged against the Husband, if he refuses to pay the Tobacco."

March 9, 1948

Washington Comes to Frederick Town

On the afternoon of March 16, 1748, George Washington paid his first visit to Winchester, then called Frederick Town. He rode into the village accompanied by George William Fairfax of "Belvoir" and James Glenn. The three secured rooms in the town's best tavern, presumably.

Washington had spent the previous night on a straw pallet in the home of Isaac Pennington. In his room at the tavern he undressed, made a relentless search for and extermination of the vermin acquired at Pennington's. That important task accomplished, he dressed and strolled about the town. Here is Washington's own account of this visit, as he wrote it in his diary the following day, Thursday, March 17th:

"We... then Travell'd up to Frederick Town where our Baggage came to us we cleaned ourselves (to get rid of y. Game we had catched y. Night before) and took a Review of y. Town and thence return'd to our Lodgings where we had a good Dinner prepar'd for us Wine and Rum Punch in Plenty and a good Feather Bed with clean Sheets which was a very agreeable regale."

Unfortunately, Washington did not name the tavern, or possibly home, which furnished all these luxuries. His lodging place remains unknown.

April 7, 1949
Chair in Frederick

Among the papers of James Wood, Sr., founder of Winchester, is a memorandum in his handwriting, listing the owners of chairs in Frederick Co. in 1755, the year of Braddock’s campaign. They were the "Rt. Honorable Lord Fairfax, John Hite, Marquis Calmes, and James Wood." The first three were members of the Frederick court, and the fourth was clerk of that court for many years. All were leading citizens.

A "chair" was an early term for a two-wheeled carriage, made more or less in the shape of the household article. Ownership of one, states E. W. Hart (The Valley of Virginia in the American Revolution) was deemed a "mark of luxury or cultural superiority." Mr. Hart adds there were fewer than 20 chairs in all the Valley, while there were more than 100 in Piedmont Virginia. The year of this chair census is not given but it was later than 1755.

There was then a personal property tax on vehicles, levied at so much per wheel.

August 24, 1948

Winchester Enlarged

In 1758, Virginia’s General Assembly granted the petition of James Wood, Sr., to include within the boundaries of Winchester, "which daily increases in inhabitants," 106 acres of his land "contiguous thereto," which the petitioner had already laid off into lots and streets.

The following year, Lord Fairfax, "having laid off 173 (178?) lots with proper streets," the General Assembly included these within the town's limits, which action that body found desirable because Winchester "greatly increases in inhabitants."

So at the close of that year, all of Winchester stood upon land formerly included in Col. Wood's "Glen Burnie" estate in the Fairfax Grant.

May 6, 1948
Winchester's Trustees

An inevitable result, although perhaps more obvious now than then, of Winchester's being the focal point of the defense of Virginia in the French and Indian War was the rapid growth of the town itself.

Because of its expanded and expanding area and population, the General Assembly in the latter part of 1758 deemed it "expedient" to name trustees to regulate the building of houses and to establish rules and regulations therefor.

The ten trustees appointed, any five of whom were empowered to act, were: Lord Fairfax, Thomas Bryan Martin, Esq., and James Wood, Lewis Stephens, Gabriel Jones, John Hite, John Dooe, Isaac Parkins (Perkins), Robert Rutherford, and James Boush (Bush), Gentlemen.

May 25, 1948

Quaker Clockmaker

Goldsmith Chandlee was one of six famous Quaker clockmakers, all of the same family, who for nearly 150 years following 1682, made tall clocks with a craftsmanship unequalled in America and unexcelled elsewhere. He came to Stephensburg, now Stephens City, in 1775, but soon moved to Winchester and built a brass foundry at Piccadilly and Cameron Streets.

Before his death some forty-five years later, he had become a citizen of substance and consequence. In his foundry he made sundials, surgical and surveying instruments, and many other articles.

Lord Fairfax ordered one of Goldsmith Chandlee's tall clocks for his nephew, Thomas Bryan Martin. This clock still stands in the office building at "Greenway Court," and there too can be seen a Chandlee sundial. At "Mount Vernon" when George Washington died was a surveyor's compass with this legend engraved upon its face, "G. Chandlee W-L A. Washington." Gen. Washington is believed to have ordered it for his nephew, Lawrence Augustine Washington.

June 4, 1948
"Ambler’s Hill"

This home stands upon an eminence on the south side of Amherst St. opposite the "Morgan House," now owned by Mrs. Jos. A. Massie, Sr. Built by John Hatley Norton in 1785, it occupied originally, with its grounds and outbuildings, 4 of the 8 lots he had bought in the Wood addition to Winchester in February of that year.

In 1797, Norton died and in 1799 his widow married John Ambler. They soon moved to Richmond and the place, by then known as "Ambler's Hill," was sold by court order. It was bought by William Davison, town merchant, and when he died another lawsuit resulted in its sale to Angus W. McDonald in 1893. He, in turn, sold it in 1836 to Alexander S. Tidball. The property was last bought by the late Judge Philip Williams.

It appears that John R. Cooke, a noted lawyer, rented "Ambler's Hill" and occupied it, 1828-1831. There his famous son, the well-known author, John Esten Cooke, was born, Nov. 3, 1830.

The house has a large center section and two smaller wings. The latter was probably added later. Construction was of timber frames filled in with mortar. Under the main section is a large vault, somewhat similar to the one under the oldest part of the Massie home.

"Ambler's Hill" is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Minnigerode.

May 12, 1949

General Morgan's Home in Winchester

George Flowerdewe Norton of John Norton & Co., London merchants, came to Winchester in 1782; married Sarah, daughter of Col. Charles Mynn Thruston, in 1784; and, in 1787, built a home on lot No. 3 of the Wood addition. In 1800 he sold it to Gen. Daniel Morgan for 1000 pounds. In it, the latter died, July 6, 1802, after having devised it for life to his wife, and then to his daughter Nancy (Mrs. Presley Neville).

Nancy sold the property in 1824 to Alexander S. Tidball, who, in 1842, conveyed it to the Rev. Andrew H. H. Boyd, son of Gen. Elisha Boyd and husband of Eleanor, daughter of Philip Williams of Woodstock. After his death, it was sold to J. H. Sherrard in 1867.

Norton built of native limestone the eastern half of the present two-story and attic structure and, underneath it, a stone and brick room with an arched ceiling of brick known as "the dungeon." The old kitchen stood behind the house. Morgan built the western half. Further additions were made by other owners. This home is known for its wide floor boards, panelled fireplaces. The massive lock on the front door may have been placed there in 1787.

Mrs. Joseph A. Massie, Sr., bought this historic house some years ago. It is now her home and the home of her son, Joseph A. Massie, Jr., and his family.

May 10, 1949
Dancing Master

The Winchester Gazette of Oct. 8, 1788, carried an advertise-
ment signed by Simon C. McMahon which is here quoted in part:

"To the Ladies and Gentlemen of this Town and County: THEIR
much obliged and very humble servant informs them that he will
teach at Mrs. McGuire's the following elegant, tasty and approved
parts in the science of Dancing on Fridays and Saturdays:

Minuets. — De la Couer, Devonshire, Prince of Wales, Lady
Beeties, etc.

"Allemandes. — Stringsley's, Theodores, Aldridge's, etc.

"Cotillions. — La Vaudreuil, La Bonne Homme, L'Bayatelle,
La Suisse, etc.

"Country Dances. — Allemande Hopsasa, the Augustine, the
Lovely Spring, the German Spa, the Theodore, Kenny's Dance, La
Belle Katharine, the Innocent Maid and True Felicity.

"And he begs them to believe that he will use all kinds of
industry, all manner of decorum, and every specie of attention
that the first rate Dancing Masters are so much praised for. Those
who may doubt his abilities in the above science may receive
proof from the most incontestible evidences."

December 30, 1948

Miniature Painter

Probably the first miniature painter to visit Winchester of-
fered his professional services to the public in the following ad-
vertisement printed in the Virginia Gazette and Winchester Ad-
vertiser:

L. M. Christophe
Painter
From the Royal Academy
In Paris

Begs leave to inform the ladies and gentlemen of this town
and vicinity that he takes likenesses in miniature at the shortest
notice, for a moderate price, and as his stay here will not exceed
one month from this date, hopes those who wish to employ him
will be early in their application.

Winchester, Sept. 10, 1790.

The portraits committee of the Clarke County Historical Assn.
will appreciate greatly hearing from any of the readers of this
newspaper who may own or know of any miniatures painted by
Christophe.

December 4, 1948
Winchester Post Office

The first Federal post office and post for Winchester was established by law in 1791, providing a weekly mail to and from Alexandria, from May 2, when "the post will start from Winchester, properly equipped with portmanteau for the mail and saddle bags for parcels, &c." The route ran "through Battle-Town, over Key's Ferry, through Leesburg to Alexandria," and incoming mail was "to arrive every Friday."

Daniel Norton, Winchester merchant and son of the famous York merchant, Hatley Norton, was appointed postmaster. These facts, which together supply a more detailed and accurate record of the establishment of the Winchester post office than can be found in the records of the Post Office department itself, are all given in an advertisement signed by Norton and published in The Virginia Gazette and The Winchester Advertiser, of March 22, 1791.

In this advertisement, Postmaster Norton urged patrons to avoid delay in delivery of their letters by mailing them early, thereby setting an example which Postmaster Nelson Page follows to this day. He also besought "the good people of Winchester" to encourage the "useful" but "costly" service offered them "by subscribing to the carriage of newspapers," promising that these would be delivered with greater "dispatch" than ever before.

March 2, 1948

Winchester Society

Depredations by the British and French upon United States shipping caused Congress to pass the Embargo Act in Jefferson's second administration and the Non-Intercourse Act in Madison's first. It also inspired the people of Winchester and Frederick to organize a society for the encouragement of domestic manufactures.

In 1811, Philip Nelson, who lived in what is now Clarke County and was a son of Gov. Nelson, was its president. Its secretary was Lawrence Augustine Washington (son of Col. Samuel Washington), who married Mary Dorcas Wood of Winchester and for some years lived at "Hawthorn," a part of the "Glen Burnie" estate.

The society offered premiums of from $5 to $60 on woolen goods of home production. In 1813 its third annual meeting was held at Friendly Grove factory, adjoining the residence of Joseph C. Baldwin, and Mrs. Edward McGuire was awarded a prize of $10 for "manufacturing" a piece of cotton cloth.

November 11, 1948
Winchester Editors War With Words

In the “good old days” it was quite customary for rival editors to wage bitter and uninhibited political war through their editorial columns and when they went after each other the sky was the limit. Occasionally duels or fist fights resulted. But the following exchange between the editors of Winchester’s “Gazette,” a Federalist paper, and its “Constellation,” a Republican one, brought no blood-letting:

Gazette, Dec. 3, 1814: “If the Cowardly Poltroon who signs himself ‘Constellation Monger’ will but do us the favor to avow himself, we pledge ourselves that he shall receive from us as sound a horse-whipping as such a rascal ever received.”

Constellation, Dec. 6, 1814: “Any other reply to the above scurrilous paragraph than merely gratifying the author in his earnest wish, would be stooping to a level with him . . . J. Revell, Editor of the Constellation.

“N. B. That I have too much respect for the peace and good order of the people of this town to molest any person in its streets for the purpose of wrangling, rioting, or bullying — and that I am determined and fully prepared to resent the attacks of any vulgar disorganizing puppy who may think proper to attack me. THEREFORE BEWARE.”

August 6, 1949

A 999 Year Lease

Long term leases of homes and farms were far more frequent in the Virginia of an earlier day than they are now, but few equalled in length the one recorded on pp. 193 and 194 of Deed Book 4 of the Winchester Corporation Court.

By an indenture dated August 25, 1820, Catherine Macky leased to George Albert “a certain lot situate in Robert Macky’s addition to Winchester” — it being a part of his Outlot No. 50 — “to be held, occupied, and enjoyed by him, his heirs and assigns from the day of the date hereof for and during the full term of 999 years.”

Under the terms of the lease Albert agreed for himself, his heirs, and assigns to pay an annual rental of $20 “for and during the full term aforesaid,” and to pay all taxes and assessments on the property.

However, it was stipulated that at any time a current lessee paid a current lessor 120 pounds in gold or silver, he would be given a deed in fee simple for the lot, but it was agreed that the former pay the “aforesaid reserved rent of $20 without fraud or delay at the period and in the manner aforesaid.”

Both parties bound themselves, their heirs, etc., in the sum of 500 pounds each for the performance of the lease.

Catherine Macky was the widow of Dr. Robert Macky, Lord Fairfax’s friend and physician.

June 2, 1949
**Cholera Scare**

Cholera made its dread appearance in Virginia in 1832. In August, the Winchester authorities appointed a committee consisting of Dr. John R. W. Dunbar, John W. Miller, John Heiskell, and Thomas R. Campbell, with instructions to take all possible precautionary measures.

In October, the city fathers, in a state of great alarm, banned all public shows, circuses, and theatrical performances until April 1, 1832, stating that “at the present crisis, when death in all its terrific forms is sweeping off its thousands and tens of thousands, and whereas the disease which has proved such an appalling scourge is advancing towards us with slow but apparently certain strides,” etc., etc.

The following were also added to the health committee: Dr. Holliday, Dr. H. H. McGuire, Dr. William McGuire, Beatty Carson, Dr. Davison, Dr. R. T. Baldwin, Joseph H. Sherrard, Isaac Russell, John R. Cooke, Charles H. Clarke, Dr. James R. Conrad, and Dr. A. S. Baldwin.

There were no cholera cases in any part of Frederick County.

March 13, 1948

**Market House Ordinance**

The operation of the Winchester market house was governed by an ordinance passed by the town council Jan. 18, 1856.

The ordinance provided that market days “are Wednesdays and Saturdays” and that “buying and selling may not begin earlier than 30 minutes before sunrise, as determined by the ringing of the town bell.” It decreed that “no cannon or fire crackers are to be fired off on the premises.” “Sunday gaming” and “swearing in public” were strictly prohibited. A fine of $20 was to be exacted for “whooping and hallowing.”

The clerk of the market was to attend it during market hours, sweep and clean the house and benches, maintain order, keep the scales and weights in order, weigh all articles when necessary, rent stalls, and clean the public square at least once a week. He must have been a busy man.

The market house extended from Rouss Ave. southeastward “to a point on Market St. opposite the lockup window in the city hall.” It was a brick two story building. Market St. is now Cameron St.

November 16, 1948
The Handley Library

That Winchester has the Handley library is, of course, due to the beneficence of Judge John Handley, who, though never one of its residents, was its greatest benefactor. Construction of the library building, which cost $150,000, was begun in 1910. Maj. Holmes Conrad laid the cornerstone. The library opened Aug. 21, 1913, with a maintenance fund of $100,000. C. Vernon Eddy is and always has been Chief Librarian. He, more than anyone, is responsible for the library being what it is today. That it stands pre-eminent over all others in Virginia cities of comparable size in research value for those interested in Virginia history is a statement which will hardly be disputed. To him also must go credit for personally obtaining the gift of some of its most valuable possessions.

The Handley library has had to meet inflated operating expenses out of fixed income. The stark fact is it cannot long continue to maintain its present position on its present income. Like churches and schools, a good library is an asset to a community. The Handley library must be given more money if it is to continue to function satisfactorily.

November 2, 1948

Handley's Madison Map

Historic "Waverly" had been the home of Washingtons for nearly a century when a sale of the personal property of its last owners of that name was announced in 1923. All Winchester flocked to that sale with the hope and expectation of purchasing Washington heirlooms.

When the auctioneer held up a large and dust covered map of Virginia, Col. Bryan Conrad, who happened to be standing nearby, bid half a dollar without looking at it. There was no other bid. At home he examined the map and found it was one of the very rare 1807 Madison maps of Virginia. A few days later, Col. Conrad presented it to the Handley Library.

C. Vernon Eddy carried it to the Library of Congress, whose map experts pronounced it an authentic 1807 map, and offered the Handley Librarian a large sum for it. At that time there were just two copies of this map known to be in existence. The Library of Congress owned one and the other was owned by the Widener Library of Harvard University.

Back in Winchester, Mr. Eddy informed Col. Conrad of the value of the map and offered to return it. "Am I an Indian giver?" demanded the Colonel indignantly. "It is still your map."

April 26, 1949
Winchester Worthies

Six Barton Brothers, Soldiers, CSA

All six sons of David W. and Fannie L. (Jones) Barton of Winchester fought for the South in the Civil War and left splendid heritages of patriotism and valor. Of the 5 who served with the Stonewall Brigade, 2 were killed in action and 2 were wounded, one dying as a result of battle wounds in 1868. These young soldiers were:

5. Capt. Randolph Barton, Adjutant, Stonewall Brigade. Wounded 7 times, had 5 horses shot under him in battle. Born April 20, 1844; died March 17, 1921.
6. Bolling Barton, C. S. A. He was one of the V. M. I. cadets who charged so gloriously at the battle of New Market, May 15, 1864. Born Nov. 24, 1845; died Feb. 19, 1924. October 22, 1949

R. T. Barton, Author

Winchester has had its fair share of authors who have gained deserved recognition, but it seems doubtful if any of them has ever produced a work of greater enduring value than the late Robert T. Barton's Virginia Colonial Decisions, published in 1909 in two volumes by the Boston Book Co. and now, unfortunately, unprocurable.

In these volumes, the writer edits the reports by Sir John Randolph and by Edward Barradall of causes tried and decided by the General Court of Virginia in the years 1728-1741. Randolph and Barradall were two of the most eminent lawyers in their time in the Colony of Virginia. It will be recalled that the records of the General Court were destroyed in 1865. These reports have a very real value to the historian and to the genealogist as well as to the legal profession.

Mr. Barton prefaces his book by an "Historical Introduction" which, in length, would by itself make a fair-sized book. This introduction is the work of a scholar. It is a sound presentation of Virginia history in a style that has literary merit.

The author is survived by his widow, Mrs. Gertrude (Baker) Barton whose Winchester home is 106 S. Washington St.; by his son, Maj. Robert T. Barton of Richmond, and by his daughter, Mrs. Arthur Field of Charleston, S. C.

February 8, 1949
Only Latin Spoken

That distinguished member of the Winchester bar, Church-
man, and writer, David Holmes Conrad, entered the Winchester
Academy in 1810. In his recollections, he recalled that among its
teachers was a Scotsman, Mr. Heterick, who in his advanced Latin
classes "addressed his pupils and required them to address him
only in the Latin language."

If such a rule were imposed in the Winchester schools today,
it would hardly have a stimulating effect upon classroom conversa-
tion, but then the popularity of Latin as a study in 1948 is not
what it was in 1810, as the above rule proves.

David Holmes Conrad, son of Dr. Daniel and Rebecca
(Holmes) Conrad, married Nancy Addison, daughter of Judge
Dabney Carr. They had two sons: Holmes Addison Conrad, gradu-
ate of the University of Virginia, and Henry Tucker Conrad, a
student at the Virginia Theological Seminary.

When Virginia seceded, both sons enlisted in Co. F, 2nd Va.
Infantry, C.S.A. Both were killed by the same enemy volley in the
charge of the Stonewall Brigade at 1st Manassas, July 21, 1861.

July 29, 1948

Five Conrad Brothers, Soldiers, C. S. A.

Five sons of Robert Young and Elizabeth Whiting (Powell)
Conrad of Winchester served in the armed forces of the Confed-
erate States during the Civil War. They were:

1. Daniel Burr Conrad, a physician, who resigned his commis-
sion as surgeon in the United States Navy to become a surgeon in
the Confederate States Navy.

2. Powell Conrad, a lawyer who served in the engineers de-
partment, C. S. A., died, 1862.

A, 1st Va. cavalry, became 1st sergeant; commissioned 1862 and
served as adjutant, 11th Va. cavalry until 1864 when he was pro-
moted to major and made assistant inspector-general of Rosser's
cavalry division. He made a great reputation as a lawyer after
the war.

4. Frank E. Conrad, a lawyer and civil engineer. Served as a
private in Chew's battery.

5. Charles Frederick Conrad, lawyer and civil engineer. Served
during the war as a private, 11th Va. cavalry.

August 30, 1949
Capt. Robert Y. Conrad

After graduating from VMI and the University of Virginia law school, Robert Young Conrad, scion of a noted family and son of Maj. Holmes Conrad, U. S. solicitor general and one of five brothers who were Confederate soldiers, came home to practice law.

When Co. I, 2d Va. Inf. was organized in Winchester, April 8, 1913, he was commissioned its First Lieutenant, and on Dec. 11, 1914, its Captain. He commanded it on the Mexican border and in the 1st World War, when it became Co. I, 116th Inf, 29th Div.

On Oct. 8, 1918, after Cos. I and L (Capt. Ewart Johnston) had carried the 3d German line on Malbrouck Hill, northeast of Verdun with the bayonet, “the gallant Conrad fell mortally wounded leading a charge on machine gun nests.” He was posthumously awarded the DSC.

Cool, confident, fearless, Capt. Conrad was a born combat soldier. His men had implicit confidence in him. He was their friend and they were his friends. When they returned they named their Legion post for him.

Col. Bryan Conrad, Capt. Conrad’s brother, also served with the AEF, while Brig. Gen. G. Bryan Conrad, his nephew (Class 1918, U. S. M. A.), of both World Wars, served with the Army of Occupation in the first.

In 1914 Capt. Conrad married Mrs. Helen (Wiley) McLoughlin of Baltimore. She and their only child, Miss “Bobby” Conrad — born after his death — now live at 116 S. Washington St., Winchester.

October 11, 1949

John R. Cooke

John Rogers Cooke (1787-1854) was in his day one of the leading lawyers of Virginia. He was a member of the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1829 and, with Chief Justice Marshall, James Madison, John Randolph, Benjamin Watkins Leigh, and two others, wrote a new constitution for Virginia.

In 1828, Cooke moved to Winchester and occupied a house on Ambler’s Hill. Later he made his home at nearby Glengary, the dowry of his wife, Maria Pendleton, a great niece of Judge Edmund Pendleton. After Glengary burned in 1838, he moved to Charles Town, and finally to Richmond.

Perhaps the ablest argument he ever made was before the Convention of 1829 in support of giving weight to both the white population and taxation in an appointment of the House of Delegates — an effort highly praised by Beveridge in his Life of Marshall.

Mr. Cooke is, however, better known today as the father of John Esten Cooke, historian and novelist, and Philip Pendleton Cooke, the poet. Both these sons married in Clarke County and lived and died there. Some of his lineal descendants live today both in Clarke and in Winchester.

January 31, 1948
Governor Holliday

Frederick William Mackey Holliday was born in Winchester, Feb. 22, 1828. His father, Dr. R. J. McK. Holliday, was called the town's "good physician," and his grandfather, William Holliday, had been one of its prominent merchants.

He went to school at the old Winchester Academy. After his graduation from Yale in 1847, he studied law in the offices of Barton and Williams, then got a B. L. degree from the University of Virginia in one year. In the Civil War he rose rapidly from company captain to the command of the 33rd Va. Infantry, Stonewall Brigade. His wounds at the Battle of Cedar Run in 1862 cost him the loss of his right arm and retirement from active service. He was immediately elected to the Confederate Congress and served in it until the end of the war.

In 1877, he was elected governor on a platform pledging payment of the State debt, defeating Gen. Wm. Mahone and his following of "Readjusters," Negroes, and Republican "scalawags." Gov. Holliday negotiated a settlement of the debt. Its terms were embraced in the McCulloch bill, which was enacted in 1879.

Gov. Holliday was married twice, but left no surviving issue. He died in Winchester, May 29, 1889, and was buried in Mt. Hebron cemetery.

November 30, 1948

Issue of Joseph Holmes

Joseph Holmes came to this country from Ireland in his early youth, settled in Frederick, represented that county in the House of Delegates, 1780-82 and 1789-90. In 1767 he married Rebecca, daughter of David Hunter of York County, Pa. Their sons had distinguished careers. Their daughters and granddaughters became the wives and mothers of men long remembered in Valley history.

The sons were Hugh, born Nov. 8, 1768, Assembly delegate, 1801-06, and judge of Virginia's General Court; David, born March 10, 1770, held high political office in Virginia and Mississippi; Andrew H., U. S. Army captain in 1812; brevetted major and killed in action in 1814.

The daughters were Elizabeth, who married Edward McGuire II, Rebecca, who married Dr. Daniel Conrad and was the mother of Robert Y. Conrad; Nancy married Gen. Elisha Boyd and was the mother of the Rev. Dr. A. H. H. Boyd and of Mary M. Boyd who married the Hon. Charles J. Faulkner; and Gertrude, who married Wm. Moss of Fairfax and was the mother of Ann Eliza, who married Dr. Hugh H. McGuire, and became the mother of Dr. Hunter Holmes McGuire, C. S. A. Mrs. Moss was also the mother of Evelina, who married Judge Richard Parker of Winchester.

July 30, 1949
NOTES ON THE LOWER SHENANDOAH VALLEY

David Holmes

David Holmes, second child of Joseph and Rebecca (Hunter) Holmes, was born in York County, Pa., March 10, 1770. He came to Winchester when a small boy, attended Winchester Academy, and at 15 was his father's partner and accountant in the mercantile business. In 1790 he studied law in Williamsburg, was admitted to the bar in 1791, and opened a law office in Winchester.

He soon moved to Harrisonburg, was Commonwealth's Attorney for Rockingham Co., 1793-97, and was six times elected as a Jeffersonian Republican to represent that county's district in Congress, 1797-1809. Under President Madison's appointments, he was governor of the Territory of Mississippi, 1809-17. He was elected governor of Mississippi and held that office from Oct. 7, 1817 to Jan. 5, 1820. First by appointment and then by election, he served as U. S. senator from that state, Aug. 30, 1820 to Sept. 25, 1825, when he resigned.

Re-elected Governor in 1825, ill health caused his resignation in July 1826. David Holmes returned to Winchester in 1827, where he soon suffered a stroke of paralysis. After 5 years of helplessness "cheerfully endured," he died at Jordan Springs, Aug. 20, 1832. He never married.

September 27, 1949

Holmes — Smith Duel

The most tragic duel ever fought by Winchester men was engaged in by Andrew Hunter Holmes, son of Joseph Holmes, and Peyton Smith, son of Gen. John Smith of "Hackwood Park." Because their families were among the most prominent and influential in the Lower Valley, the affair created a great sensation.

From the little evidence now available, it would appear that the trouble started while they were playing cards in the long weatherboard building on Braddock St., then used as recruiting headquarters. It stood where the bus depot now stands. A dispute arose over the game. Holmes is said to have challenged Smith. The duel was fought across the Potomac opposite Shepherdstown. Pistol shots were exchanged and Smith fell, mortally wounded.

He was hurried to the Entler Hotel in Shepherdstown, where he soon died. He had recently graduated from William & Mary with the highest honors.

The two men were close and devoted friends. Holmes was so distressed over the outcome that he soon left Winchester. He was commissioned Captain in the U. S. Army in 1812, brevetted major for his victory at 20 Mile Creek and was killed Aug. 4, 1814, in action during the Mackinaw expedition.

Virginia presented a sword to his nearest male relative in his honor. By direction of his brother, David, it was given to his nephew, the Rev. Dr. Andrew Hunter Holmes Boyd.

March 4, 1950
Gabriel Jones Acedote

Gabriel Jones, the "Valley Lawyer," friend of Lord Fairfax and of Washington as long as both lived, will remain one of the fascinating figures in the early history of the Shenandoah Valley. He was noted for his uncontrollable temper and a gift for profanity which tradition has it was unequalled, and yet he was a religious and deeply pious man.

On one occasion, historian Hugh Blair Grigsby relates, Jones was opposed in the trial of a case by Hugh Holmes who deliberately provoked him to "outbursts of temper" — and swearing — "terrible to the last degree." The judges adjourned court and retired to consider what steps they could take to preserve the court's dignity.

When they returned to the bench and reconvened the session, Grigsby states, the presiding justice gravely and solemnly made this pronunciation: "... that if Mr. Holmes did not quit worrying Mr. Jones and making him curse and swear so, he (Mr. Holmes) should be sent to jail."

Gabriel Jones had many descendants, some of whom married Baldwins, McGuires, and Conrads of Winchester. He owned "Vauclusie" and his great, great-granddaughter, Miss Louisa Crawford, lives in Frederick County and owns a portrait of him.

February 5, 1948

James M. Mason

James M. Mason (Nov. 3, 1798-April 28, 1871) moved to Winchester in 1820 and opened a law office. In May 1836 he was admitted to practice in the courts of the newly formed Clarke Co. In his long public career he was elected to the State legislature, to the Constitutional Convention of 1829, to the House of Representatives and twice to the U. S. Senate.

In the Senate, he wrote the Fugitive Slave Law and for ten years was chairman of its committee on foreign relations.

Late in 1861, the Confederate Government sent him on a diplomatic mission to England and John Slidell on a similar mission to France. Their removal from a British steamer by a U. S. warship almost precipitated a war between England and the United States.

Mason lived at "Selma," a modest home on the outskirts of Winchester. Gen. Sheridan burned this home during the Civil War. After that war, he lived in Canada for several years to escape possible arrest by the Federal government. He returned to Virginia in 1868 and died near Alexandria three years later.

April 10, 1948
Harry Lee McCann

Harry Lee McCann, farmer, orchardist, and raiser of registered cattle, was born at "Bellevue," near Winchester, one of Frederick's very early and historic homes. He has been county treasurer since 1937, and was sheriff, 1933-37.

Mr. McCann is of Irish descent. His immigration forebear was Col. Thomas McCann who settled near Pittsburgh. The first of his name and line to live in Frederick was Capt. James Kemp McCann, who was the county's representative in the House of Delegates, 1895-96. Capt. McCann married Miss Sarah Crone, daughter of Divad Crone. They lived at and owned "Bellevue," now the home of his son, Mr. Charles Richard McCann, father of Harry McCann. He was county treasurer until he resigned after serving two terms. Chairman of the Frederick County Democratic Committee for some years, and, with U. S. Senator Harry F. Byrd and Ray Robinson, constituted the Building Committee for the Winchester Cold Storage plant of which he was also manager.

The central section of "Bellevue" is a two story log structure, with morticed clapboards, double thickness doors, gun racks, and loopholes. Its interior woodwork is expertly carved. It must have been built not later than 1755 and probably by Col. Meredith Helm, whose home it once was.

Mr. Harry Lee McCann married Miss Florence Keen of Loudoun. They live in Winchester.

April 4, 1950

4 Generations of M. D.'s

Winchester McGuire's in four consecutive generations have made or are making medicine and surgery their profession. They, all lineal descendants of the immigrant Edward, progenitor of the family in Frederick County, are:

Dr. Hugh Holmes McGuire (1801-1873) and his sons, Dr. Hunter H. McGuire (1835-1900) and Dr. Wm. P. McGuire (1845-1926). The first built, 1824-26, the McGuire home on N. Braddock St. He was an eye specialist, a founder of the Winchester Medical College, a president of the Amer. Soc. of Surgeons and had charge of the Confederate hospitals at Lexington and Greenwood. The second was medical director of Gen. Jackson's commands; president of the Amer. Medical Ass'n, Amer. Surgical Ass'n, Va. Hospital, and founder and president of the Richmond College of Medicine. He was captured by Sheridan in March, 1865. Dr. Wm. P. McGuire, captured in Oct., 1864, and imprisoned at Pt. Lookout, is remembered today as one of Winchester's ablest and most beloved physicians.

The professional reputation and services of the present Dr. Hunter H. McGuire, president of the Winchester Memorial Hospital and son of Dr. Wm. P. McGuire, need no characterization. Associated with him is his son, Dr. Wm. P. McGuire, also an eye specialist.

August 12, 1948
Hunter H. McGuire, C.S.A.

Dr. Hunter Holmes McGuire was born Oct. 11, 1835, in the house built by his father, Dr. Hugh H. McGuire, 103 N. Braddock St., Winchester, now the home of his nephew and namesake, Dr. Hunter H. McGuire. He was educated in medicine at the Winchester and Jefferson Medical colleges and the University of Pennsylvania.

In April, 1861, he marched to Harper's Ferry as a private soldier and the next month Gen. Jackson made him his medical director, an appointment he held thereafter in all of Jackson's campaigns. This association soon developed a close personal friendship between the two. It was Dr. McGuire who amputated Jackson's shattered arm; it was he who closed that great commander's eyes in death.

After a long and brilliant professional career, which brought him national recognition and unprecedented honors, but in which he found time to fight for fair treatment of the South in school histories, Dr. McGuire died Sept. 19, 1900. A bronze statue of him in heroic size now stands in Capital Square, Richmond.

Of all his honors, the one Dr. McGuire prized most was Jackson's friendship. In his sunset years, he said many times: "The proudest heritage I can hand down to my children is the fact that Stonewall Jackson condescended to hold and treat me as a friend."

August 14, 1949

Lt. Benj. H. McGuire

Lt. Benjamin Harrison McGuire, Co. B, 22nd Va. Inf., C. S. A., fell mortally wounded on the first day of the battle of Gettysburg, July 1, 1863. Shot through thigh and stomach, he died within 30 minutes.

His family vainly sought news of his burial place until late in 1866. Then some one read in a copy of the New York News a list of Confederates buried on the field, whose names were still legible on the wood head markers of their graves. One of these markers bore Lieut. McGuire's name. It was probably Mrs. Philip Williams of Winchester who gave this news to his aunt, Miss Lucy Harrison of Clarke. At the latter's request, Mrs. Williams arranged with Dr. C. W. Neal of Gettysburg to have his body shipped to Winchester. That was done, and the body was re-interred in the Old Chapel cemetery, Dec. 3, 1866.

Lieut. McGuire, a lineal descendant of Gov. Benjamin Harrison and of Edward McGuire of Winchester, was a son of the Rev. Francis and Mary (Harrison) McGuire of Mecklenburg. He was wounded at Chancellorsville. He was 17 when he enlisted and 19 when he was killed — "Regretted and mourned by all who knew him."

December 3, 1949
John Hatley Norton

For years before the Revolution, ships of John Norton and Sons carried cargoes of Virginia tobacco to England and returned loaded with goods to supply the needs and wants of the colonists. Losses during and resulting from that war practically bankrupted this famous firm of London merchants and George Hatley Norton, its resident Virginia manager, who became the senior partner in 1777.

John Hatley Norton moved to Winchester in 1783 and had a store and a granary on a lot at Piccadilly and Loudoun Sts. "adjoining Goldsmith Chandee's residence (Piccadilly and Cameron Sts.) and opposite James Holliday's." In 1785 he bought eight lots in the Wood Addition and on one built his home. This house is now 223 Amherst St. and is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. John H. Minnigerode.

In 1772 Norton married Sarah, eldest daughter of Robert Carter Nicholas. She died in their Winchester home the night of May 20, 1787, after the birth of a son, George Hatley Norton. Her small daughters, Nancy and Courtenay, were brought up by her sister Elizabeth, wife of Gov. Edmund Randolph. On March 27, 1790, Norton married Catherine, daughter of Philip Bush, who had issue and survived him. Beset by financial troubles, he died in Winchester before July 3, 1797, when his will was probated.

May 28, 1949

George F. Norton

By special permission, George Flowerdewe Norton, British subject and junior partner of John Norton and Sons, London merchants, was permitted to land in Virginia in 1782. Instead of going to Richmond to call on Gov. Benjamin Harrison as the law required, he hastened to Winchester.

When the Governor sternly demanded an explanation, Norton apologized and explained that ill health had caused him immediately to seek "the cool and healthy climate of Frederick County."

In Winchester, he formed a partnership with his brother Daniel. Under the firm name of Daniel Norton and Co. they operated for some years the "red store" on Piccadilly St. The partnership was dissolved and the company went out of business in 1790. He attempted to collect for John Norton and Co. a large sum that firm had advanced during the Revolution to the Commonwealth to enable the latter to buy powder, but met with little success. He was appointed Federal postmaster of Winchester in 1792 and again in 1795.

He was living in Frederick in 1810. The date and place of his death are both unknown. Neither of two surviving sons, John and Charles, lived in Winchester, and his only daughter, Courtenay, died unmarried.

June 23, 1949
Governor O’Ferrall

Charles Triplett O’Ferrall was the second native of Frederick County to be elected governor of Virginia. He was born near Bru cetown, Oct. 21, 1840, and attended the common schools of the county. Appointed clerk pro tem of the Morgan Co. Court in 1855, he became its clerk in 1857.

On May 1, 1861, he enlisted in the Confederate army as a private. He rose through all grades, non-commissioned and commissioned, until he was promoted to Colonel and the command of a regiment of cavalry. After the war he graduated in law at Washington College, now Washington and Lee University, in 1869. Establishing his home in Rockingham, he represented that county in the House of Delegates, 1871-73, and was judge of the county court, 1874-80.

He ran against John Paul, Sr., of Harrisonburg for Congress in 1882, and successfully contested the former’s election. He served in Congress from May 5, 1884, to Dec. 28, 1894, resigning just about in time to be inaugurated governor of Virginia, Jan. 1, 1894. His four years in that office were more or less uneventful. The Governor’s last years were spent in practicing law and writing his war reminiscences. He died in Richmond Sept. 22, 1905, and was buried in Hollywood cemetery.

November 29, 1949

Judge Richard Parker

Many of the older residents of Winchester remember their neighbor, Judge Richard Parker. His grandfather was Judge Richard Parker I, who presided at the meeting which adopted the Westmoreland Resolutions; his father was Judge Richard E. Parker of “Retreat,” near Berryville, who was the first resident of Clarke Co. to occupy a seat in the U. S. Senate.

Judge Richard Parker was born in Richmond, Oct. 22, 1810. He practiced law chiefly in Winchester and Berryville until 1849, when he was elected to Congress. During his first term he was elected a Circuit Court judge by the state legislature and subsequently reelected by the people until his removal in 1869 from the bench by order of the military authority, Virginia then being a Military District.

In 1859 he presided at John Brown’s trial and sentenced him to death. His charge to the grand jury and his conduct of that trial added lustre to the history of Virginia’s judiciary.

Judge Parker’s home was the “quaint and comfortable” house built by Judge Hugh Holmes c. 1800 and which — according to tradition — was designed by Thomas Jefferson. At the time of his occupancy it stood on the southern edge of Winchester. Judge Parker died at his home on Nov. 10, 1893.

March 30, 1948
A Great Merchant

Charles Broadway Rouss was born at Woodsboro, Md., Feb. 11, 1836. He entered Winchester academy in 1846. In 1856 he got a job in Jacob Senseney's store at $150 a year. In 1855 he started a store of his own. His capital was $500.

But Rouss had a read genius for merchandising. He boasted he would revolutionize the mercantile business in Winchester, and he did. He knew how to advertise. He blazoned the line, "We keep everything to make a man fashionable, a lady irresistible, and a family comfortable." He had a maxim which he personally practiced, "Save when you are young to spend when you are old."

When the war came and he marched away with Stonewall Jackson's army, he had a net profit of $60,000. When it ended, he owned a quarter million of 4 per cent Confederate bonds, worth exactly the value of the paper they were engraved upon.

Undaunted, he went to New York to seek his fortune. His only assets were his energy, industry, and his talent for merchandising. Fate was alternately friendly and hostile, but in the end he triumphed over every obstacle and accumulated a fortune estimated at $10,000,000. He held an enduring affection for Winchester. His gifts to it exceeded $200,000. He died in New York, March 5, 1899.

November 27, 1948

Lee N. Whitacre

Lee Nimrod Whitacre, Clerk of the Frederick County Court since 1941, has spent the greater part of his life in public service. After completing his education, he taught in the county's public schools for 10 years at a time when the physical equipment was often below while the teacher was above par. He was deputy Commissioner of Revenue for 8 and then Commissioner for 11 years and until he became court clerk.

The Whitacre family is of Welsh descent. Joshua Whitacre moved from Loudoun to Frederick after the Revolution, and before the close of the 18th century owned large tracts of land in the northern part of the county. His lineal descendants were so numerous and so many of them lived in Frederick that they, at various times, outnumbered those of any other family in the county. The village of Whitacre, originally known as "Acorn Hill," was renamed in their honor.

Mr. Lee N. Whitacre's line in Frederick runs thus: Joshua, 1st generation; George, 2nd; Nimrod, member of the General Assembly 1877-78, 3rd; George, 4th; Lee N., 5th, and his children, 6th. In 1909, Mr. Whitacre married Miss Lula Braithwaite of Cross Junction, daughter of S. H. Braithwaite, member of another prominent county family. Their sons are George B., Frank L., and Sam H., a medical student at the University of Virginia. Their daughters are Mrs. Foster Lineweaver and Mrs. Charles E. Licer.

April 8, 1950
Alexander White

The first man to represent Frederick County's congressional district in the House of Representatives was Alexander White, a Federalist in politics, a lawyer with a state-wide professional reputation, a brilliant debater, and a recognized political leader in western Virginia.

Born in Frederick about 1738, he was a son of Robert and Margaret (Hoge) White; the former, a surgeon in the British navy; the latter, a daughter of William Hoge, a Virginia pioneer. He graduated from Edinburg University of Scotland, and later studied law in London at the Inner Temple and Gray's Inn. Returning to Virginia in 1765, he began both the practice of law and his political career in Winchester. He was a burgess from Hampshire in 1772 and a delegate from Frederick, 1782-86 and 1788.

As a member of the Virginia Convention which ratified the Constitution of the United States, White was an able and ardent ratificationist. He was elected a member of the 1st and the 2nd Congress (1789-93). Then the tide of Jeffersonian Republicanism caused him to resume his law practice. He married first, Elizabeth, daughter of Col. James Wood; second, Sarah Hite, widow of John Hite. No issue resulted from either marriage. He died at "Woodville," his country estate near Winchester, Oct. 9, 1804.

August 23, 1949

Gov. James Wood 2d

Col. James Wood 2d (Jan. 28, 1741-July 16, 1813) was governor of Virginia, Dec. 1, 1796-Nov. 30, 1799. He was born in Winchester and was the eldest son of the town's founder, Col. James Wood, Sr., and his wife, Mary Rutherford.

Col. Wood and Gen. Isaac Zane were Frederick County's delegates to the State convention of 1776 which wrote the Commonwealth's first constitution, and thus became, automatically, the county's first representatives in the House of Delegates. The former was again a member of the House in 1784.

On Nov. 15, 1776, James Wood 2d was commissioned a colonel of the Virginia Line. After active service in the field, he was put in charge of Burgoyne's captured army when it was interned in Virginia. In 1782, he was appointed president of the board of arrangements for the Virginia Line. After his term as Governor, he was made a brigadier general of Virginia Militia. He was also a president of the Virginia branch of the Society of the Cincinnati.

In 1775, Col. Wood married Jean Moncure, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Moncure of Stafford County. Some of his letters to her have been preserved. They bear eloquent testimony of his tender devotion to her.

February 12, 1949
Wood's Administration

The administration of Col. James Wood 2d of Winchester, whose term as governor of Virginia ran from Dec. 1, 1796, to Dec. 1, 1799, was comparatively uneventful.

But throughout these years there were repeated rumors of Negro insurrections. These caused the General Assembly in 1797 to order the building of two arsenals and an armory to hold 10,000 muskets. No servile insurrection was attempted until 1800, and then the attempt was frustrated by an act of providence and the loyalty of a young slave named Pharoah.

In 1798, the Assembly adopted a series of resolutions drawn up by James Madison, later President of the United States, which enunciated, among other things, the doctrine that the Union was a compact between the several states. The leading proponents of these resolves were John Taylor of Caroline, William B. Giles, Charles Fenton Mercer, Edmund Ruffin, and Peter Johnston (father of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, C. S. A.) The leading opponents were George Keith Taylor, "Light Horse Harry" Lee, and Archibald Magill, a member of the House of Delegates from Frederick County.

After his term as governor, Col. Wood served on the executive council.

February 15, 1949

Gen. Isaac Zane

"I, Isaac Zane of the Marlboro Iron Works, Esquire, Brigadier General of the Militia of the Commonwealth of Virginia..." These, the opening words of his will, were written in June, 1795, a few months before his death, and were followed by bequests of 10 guineas to Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, with which each was to buy "a memorial to our long and mutual friendship."

Of Pennsylvania Quaker stock, Gen. Zane came to Frederick about 1770 and became one of Virginia's wealthiest men. He acquired 9000 acres and a goodly slice of Winchester, including many lots on S. Washington and Stewart Sts. The output of his iron works aided materially the Revolutionary cause. He was a Burgess from Frederick in the last colonial General Assembly, a delegate to the great Constitutional Convention of 1776, and was five times elected to the House of Delegates. He owned the best library in the Valley and entertained with lavish hospitality.

Another bequest in his will throws a kindly and appealing light upon his character. He left his old friend, Gabriel Jones, $800 and "my horse, 'Ranger,' whose past services merit that care and attention which I am sure my friend will bestow on him." In this, Gen. Zane's faith was assuredly not misplaced.

September 14, 1948
"Westover" Library

That the library of Col. William Byrd II of "Westover" was bought by Gen. Isaac Zane and housed in his Winchester home are facts of real historic interest, for this library of more than 3600 titles was the largest in Colonial Virginia and "as a carefully balanced collection of the best literature and learning of the day had no equal in America."

After the death of Col. Wm. Byrd III, his widow and administratrix, Mrs. Mary (Willing) Byrd, had the books cataloged and advertised for sale in the Virginia Gazette of December 19, 1777. She recorded their sale in Charles City Co. under date of March 1778, "By Amount of Library sold to Isaac Zane, 2,000 pounds."

The subsequent fate of the library is unknown to this writer. Gen. Zane did not mention it in his will. Many books were sold at the sale of his personal property. They went for the proverbial "song." As any intelligent listing of the titles sold was obviously beyond the ability of the sale clerk, it is difficult to tell how many, if any, were "Westover" titles. But as Sarah Zane, one of Gen. Zane’s chief heirs, left a legacy of $1,000 to Charles Magill of Winchester for taking care of her books, that might indicate her ownership of a part at least of Col. Byrd’s library. The catalog of the "Westover" collection can be found in Bassett’s "The Writings of Col. Wm. Byrd," pp. 413-43.

April 1, 1950

Sarah Zane

Sarah Zane, "the arrival of whose coach always caused much rejoicing among the poor and afflicted," bequeathed $1000 to the citizens of Winchester for a fire engine. A volunteer fire company was organized and named after her. The hand engine bought in Baltimore with her gift can be seen today in the engine house of the Sarah Zane Fire Co. on Loudoun St.

A Philadelphia Quakeress, described by Norris as a compactly built woman of fair size, with a "benevolent, kindly, and pleasant face," Miss Zane was a sister of Gen. Isaac Zane, one of his heirs, and his executrix. She had visited Winchester often before and lived in the town for some time after his death.

In 1798, she, with her sister, Hannah, and her brother, John, made a deed for the five acres which Gen. Zane had given to the Winchester Academy, but had not deeded to it. This land lay west of Stuart and north of Clifford St. She gave the Friends of Center Meeting the entire square of the 600 block on the west side of S. Washington St. The Meeting House built on it was destroyed in 1863.

Sarah Zane died in Philadelphia in the spring of 1821 and her will was probated there that same year.

September 16, 1948
NOTES ON THE LOWER SHENANDOAH VALLEY

Stephens City — Stephensburg

The General Assembly granted a petition of Lewis Stephens by enacting in September 1758 a law which "erected and established" as a town a 900-acre tract he owned, and named it "Stephensburg." This was the second town the Assembly had "erected" in Frederick County, the first being, of course, Winchester.

The Act's preamble stated that Stephens had surveyed and laid off 40 acres in half acre lots, numbering them from 1 to 80; that he had attached 5 acres each to lots numbered 26 to 35 and 46 to 55 inclusive, and 10 acres to each of the other 60 lots; that all the lots with the land attached thereto "are purchased by different persons who are now settling and building thereon, and humbly desire that the same may be by act of the assembly erected into a town"...

According to ancient tradition, Col. James Wood defeated Lord Fairfax's effort to make Stephensburg the county seat through the persuasive powers of numerous mint juleps with which he entertained a justice who favored the Fairfax plan, but who, under their benign influence, cast the deciding vote against.

Later, Stephensburg was renamed Newtown and, finally, Stephens City. Today it is larger, more attractive, and more prosperous than it has ever been before in the 191 years of its existence.

June 30, 1949

"Sign of the Ship"

William Glascock announced to the people of Frederick County, in an advertisement published in the Winchester Centinel of July 30, 1788, that he had just opened a first class inn in Stephensburg, the town now known as Stephens City. He called his tavern the "Sign of the Ship." It is to be regretted that he did not explain why he had so named it.

At the "Sign of the Ship," the proprietor promised, the customers would be provided with the choicest foods the best markets could supply, and could select what it might please them to drink from a "large variety of good liquors." He advertised the following prices:

Lodging 6 pence per night.
Stabling 1 shilling per night.
Spirits 4 pence per gill.
Continental rum 3 pence per gill.
Wines from 1 shilling 3 pence to 3 shillings per pint.
Toddy 1 shilling per pint.
Porter 2 shillings per bottle.
Punch 1 shilling 6 pence per quart.
Cattle kept in pasture 1 pence per night.

July 5, 1949
Pugh Town

Job Pugh laid off some of his Frederick County land as town lots in 1797, named the town Pugh Town, appointed, "with the consent and approbation" of lot owners, Jesse Pugh and George Ruble as its trustees, and then wrote a charter for himself.

The charter required lot purchasers to build a 16 foot square home with a stone or brick chimney on each lot within two years or forfeit the lot; it required an annual payment in perpetuity of a $1 ground rent per lot to Job or his heirs, and failure to make that payment, in any years was also penalized by forfeiture. But, "for encouragement to purchasers, Job Pugh and his heirs do convenant with them and the town trustees forever that no regulations or any part of them whether in streets, lanes, or waters in the lots or streets shall ever be altered in their present statements and positions in the plat and charter above stated."

Both plat and charter are recorded in S. C. Deed Book 3, in the county clerk's office. The plat, dated Jan. 12, 1797, shows 14 lots on either side of Adams St., with E. — W. intersecting streets named South, Stephens, Lewis Washington's, and Job. Turkey's Lane parallels Adams St., forming the town's eastern boundary. Pugh Town is now known as Gainesboro.

January 21, 1950
Clarke County

The "E" In Clarke

It has long been a favorite pastime, in the Lower Shenandoah Valley particularly, to make merry at the expense of Clarke countians, who, as is well known, are notable for their scholarship and erudition, over the "e" they put in Clarke. All this, Clarke's citizens take in good part, seldom deigning a serious reply.

This writer does not know why Clarke's representatives chose to use the "e." But he does know there was excellent authority for its use in 1836 when the county was established, and the records of the General Assembly do not show that a single member of the state legislature challenged the "Clarke" spelling.

In fact, the name of the hero of Kaskaskia and Vincennes, conqueror of the Northwest Territory, appears invariably in the earlier official records of Virginia as John Rogers Clarke. It is so found in all the Acts of the General Assembly passed in 1779, 1780, and 1783, in which Gen. Clarke's name appears. It was reasonable to accept the spelling used for one of this state's famous generals by the Virginia government which dealt with him and knew him well. However, it is a tenable theory that Gen. Clarke, himself, used that spelling in his earlier years.

September 21, 1948

Again Clarke "E"

Some ten years ago this newspaper in an editorial called the attention of the Virginia Conservation Commission to the fact that the inscriptions on historical markers spelled Clarke County's name without the "e" in Clarke.

The historians of the Commission replied that the "e" should be omitted. In this, they were in error. The decisive and incontestable proof is, of course, the spelling of the name as found in the enrolled bill creating Clarke County. Throughout this Act of the Assembly the name is spelled Clarke. The commission's historians of that day evidently did not take the trouble to examine the bill and so continued an easily proved mistaken spelling.

In eight of Clarke's historical markers put up by the Commission, the name of the county appears in the inscriptions. In the four paid for by the county, the "e" spelling is used at its insistence; in the four paid for by the State, the "e" is omitted!

February 5, 1949
Newtown Resolutions

"At a large respectable meeting of the citizens of Newtown, composed of all political parties," states the Winchester Virginian of March 19, 1834, "held on Monday evening, the 17th . . . . a committee of five persons was appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting . . . . who having retired for a short time, presented the following, which were with great unanimity adopted:

"Resolved, As the opinion of this meeting, that the division of this county, as desired by the citizens of the eastern section of the county, is impolitic and unwise, replete with injurious consequences to other sections of the county, and unwarranted by any imaginary grievances they suppose themselves to labor under. Resolved, As citizens, discarding sectional interests, but with a single view to the general welfare and prosperity of the county, we will support, at theapproaching election for members of the legislature, those persons who will most successfully advocate the internal improvement of Virginia and concentrate most influence in defeating any application for a division of Frederick County.

"Resolved, That discarding all party questions and considerations, we will support the election of our neighbor and fellow citizen, Richard W. Barton, Esq."

December 8, 1949

Election of Delegates, March 31, 1834

An election as held on March 31, 1834, "to choose three fit persons to represent the county of Frederick in the next house of delegates."

The voting took place "at several places appointed by law" for that purpose: The courthouse in Winchester, Berryville, Middletown, Stephensburg (Stephens City), George Ashby's (east of the Shenandoah River), Pughtown (Gainesboro), and Moses Russell's. In Winchester it was "under the direction of" Sheriff Thomas Buck; at each of the other polling places it was "under the superintendence of" five named men, or any two of them.

This election aroused most exceptional interest. It was thought that the next General Assembly might be called upon to decide whether or not two new counties (Clarke and Warren) should be carved from Frederick. To this the citizenry living within the boundaries of the present Frederick County were bitterly opposed.

Seeking re-election were Frederick's three members of the House of Delegates, Richard W. Barton, Col. John B. D. Smith, and Maj. James Gibson. Jacob Heironimus, William Castleman, and Dr. James Hay were the candidates who opposed them. The first three were re-elected.

December 10, 1949
Compliment to Clarke

Stating among other reasons that their business, social and church connections were very largely with Clarke County, citizens of Jefferson County whose lands adjoined or were close to the former county's northern boundary, on Feb. 6, 1858, petitioned the General Assembly to annex the southern part of their county to Clarke.

They proposed that the dividing line between the two counties run approximately from the headspring of Bullskin to Summit Point, to Rippon, thence southeast to Long Marsh and with it to the Shenandoah at about Rock's Ferry, thence to the top of the Blue Ridge.


The petition was referred to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances. On Feb. 27, Del. A. G. Davis from Monongalia County introduced House Bill 454, "A bill to annex a part of Jefferson to the County of Clarke." The bill was read a second time on Mar. 11, 1858, but no further action on it is noted in the House Journal.

It was undoubtedly killed by a more weighty counter-petition from the rest of Jefferson dated Feb. 8, 1858. The original petitions are preserved in the Virginia State Library, Richmond.

February 23, 1950

Clarke Delegates 1836 to 1924

From 1852 to 1865 and from 1869 to 1878, both inclusive, Clarke had the privilege of electing one member of the House of Delegates. In all the other years from 1836 through 1923, Clarke and Warren elected one delegate to represent both in the House, and thereafter, Clarke, Frederick, and the City of Winchester have had one representative in that body.

The delegates who represented Clarke in the General Assembly from 1836 to 1924 are herewith listed in the chronological order of their first election:


October 21, 1948
Clarke's Senators 1895-1923

With the exception of 29 years, Clarke and Frederick Counties have always been in the same State senate district. Changes in the composition of this district and the dates of their occurrence will be found, under Local History, in the Evening Star of June 18, and a listing of the senators elected by it appeared in this newspaper the following day.

In 1895, Clarke, Page, and Warren became a State Senate District, and remained one through 1923. Senators elected from this district and the years each served follow:


Clarke is now in the 26th Senate District, which also includes Frederick, Shenandoah and the City of Winchester, and is at present represented by Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr.

October 23, 1948

Clarke Towns, 1800

From Charles Varles' Topographical Description of Frederick, Berkeley, and Jefferson Counties. These villages were then, of course, in Frederick.

Battletown: On a very fertile and well improved limestone soil, contains upwards of 25 dwellings, 3 large stores, 1 apothecary shop, 2 taverns, and a number of mechanics, 4 physicians live here; an academy is kept to "teach all the liberal branches in education and mathematics in a well appropriated stone building."

Millwood: Contains 50 to 60 souls. Here is a large merchant mill, a fine extensive manufactury of leather, 1 tavern, a large store, a "taylor," a boot and shoe maker, a wagon maker.

White Post: Contains 1 store, a tavern, a saddler, a shoe maker, a blacksmith, and a wheelwright.

Distances of these towns from Winchester are given, respectively, as 11 5/8, 12, and 12 miles.

August 28, 1948
Clarke Post Offices

According to the records of the Post Office department, the first three post offices established in the present Clarke County were those for Battletown, Millwood, and White Post. The dates of their establishment and the names of the first postmasters appointed, according to the same records, follow:

Millwood: 1800: Bacon Burwell, postmaster.

The name of the Battletown post office was changed to Berryville, Oct. 8, 1831, when George L. Lane was postmaster.

It will be remembered that Clarke remained a part of Frederick County until it became a separate county in 1836.

March 4, 1948
Berryville

Washington Survey

In the Gerard B. Lambert collection of historic papers is the report of a survey of a tract of 445 acres made by George Washington "This 23rd day of October, 1750," for Capt. Isaac Pennington. This survey, perfectly preserved, is entirely in Washington's easily read handwriting and is headed by a neat plat drawn by him. Upon this land now stands a part of Berryville.

Capt. Pennington of the New Jersey militia came to Frederick County in 1731 and patented between 4000 and 5000 acres, all of which are within Clarke County. He was followed by his brother, Abraham, who recorded the first deed ever recorded in Frederick Co. Deed Book 1, p. 1, Frederick County Records.

The 445 acre Pennington tract adjoined land then owned by John Vance, Samuel Isaac, and Isaac Foster. These tracts Washington also surveyed in Oct. 1750. The surveys he recorded in one of his field note books entitled "A Journal of my Journey over the Mountains began Friday the 11th of March 1747-8."

The Vance survey included most if not all of "Clermont," now the home of Admiral John R. and Mrs. Edith (McCormick) Beardsall.

October 14, 1948

The Nook

(The following account of what is believed to be the oldest home in Berryville and its builder is a summary of that given in Miss Rose McDonald's work, Clarke County, a Daughter of Frederick. The Nook is her home.)

Major Charles Smith came to Frederick from Prince William County. He was with Washington at Great Meadows and Fort Duquesne. He was severely wounded and lost his left hand in the former engagement. He took part in Braddock's disastrous campaign. Prior to 1763, he married Rebecca, daughter of Col. John Hite. From Col. Hite he bought the land the former had purchased from Isaac Pennington in 1754.

Major Smith named his estate, which comprised some 800 acres, "Battletown," and built upon it the clapboard house standing on the north side of Main St. in Berryville, now known as "The Nook." Charles Smith II sold his house in 1809 to Dr. John Thomson, a son of the Rev. James Thomson, who officiated at the funeral of Lord Fairfax.

John, the younger son of Maj. Smith, sold some of that part of "Battletown" which he had inherited "to Benjamin Berry, who divided a portion of his purchase into lots and named the newborn town Berryville."

February 7, 1948
Millwood and Its Neighborhood

Grant of 50-212 Acres

On Sept. 22, 1730, Lord Fairfax signed a grant of 50,212 acres on "Shenandoah river" to Landon and George Carter, sons of Robert ("King") Carter, and to these eight of the latter's grandsons: Robert, son of John Carter, and Robert, son of Robert Carter II; Carter and Robert Burwell, Carter and Robert Page, Benjamin Harrison and Robert Carter Nicholas.

Carter Page and Robert Carter (son of John), having died, this great tract of almost 80 square miles of land was divided in 1740 by order of the High Court of Chancery into eight parts of equal value and one part assigned by lot to each surviving beneficiary.

Today, 218 years after Fairfax signed the grant, male descendants of only one of the eight grantees own any of the land in the part thus awarded his forebear, John Townsend Burwell and George H. Burwell 3rd retain ownership of parts of the tract drawn by lot for their great-great-grandfather, Carter Burwell. Page lineal descendants of the grantee Robert Page live and own much land in Clarke, but none within the part drawn for him in the 1740 division.

About seven-eighths of the 50-212-acre grant lies in Clarke, and the remainder in Frederick and Warren. (The 1740 survey showed the actual acreage to be 50,723).

May 18, 1948

Tidewater Invasion

What is sometimes called "The Tidewater Invasion" followed the Revolution. It settled a great area of what was Frederick but is Clarke with descendants of colonial tidewater families and exerted a dominant influence upon the population, the social and economic life of that county.

The first tidewater families to own land in the present Clarke Co. were Burwells, Pages, Carters, Harrisons, and Nicholases, although the two last had sold all their land before the Revolution. The first "invaders" were Pages, Meades, Burwells, Byrds, and Nelsons. Randolphins, Whitings, and Hays followed, also, later, Carters, Lees, Harrisons, and others.


Burwells owned the most land and slaves, built the most homes, and had the most children. In all respects, the Pages came next.

May 20, 1948
The Harrison Tract

At the age of 14, Benjamin Harrison (1726-1791), who was to become a signer of the Declaration of Independence, a governor of Virginia and the father of a President of the United States, was the owner of 6500 acres of Frederick, now Clarke County land, by virtue of being a grandson of Robert ("King") Carter.

Probably within 20 years, this land was sold to Col. George Mercer, a Frederick County burgess, 1761-64. In 1774, George Washington and Col. John Tayloe of "Mt. Airy" sold it by order of the General Court because of Col. Mercer's financial involvements.

They had the tract divided into 22 lots by Francis Peyton, whose survey dated Oct. 20, 1774, gave the acreage as 6762.35 instead of 6500 acres as shown by the 1740 Brooke survey. The Peyton plat is recorded in Deed Book 26, Frederick County Court, with this notation: "This is the plat and report laid before the bidders and referred to in the deeds of the purchasers. G. Washington."

The lots were auctioned off between Nov. 24-30, 1774. George Washington himself bid in two lots or 570 acres. James Mercer, a brother of Col. Mercer, bought six lots or 1966 acres, which he sold to Edward Snickers, Feb. 1, 1786. Benjamin Harrison of "Longwood," Clarke County, is a great-great-grandson of Gov. Harrison.

September 15, 1949

Quitrents Bill

The original of the following quitrents bill is owned by Gerard B. Lambert, who recently sold "Carter Hall." Carter Burwell was a brother of Col. Nathaniel Burwell, who built "Carter Hall."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carter Burwell, Esqr.</th>
<th>Dr. Sterling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To The Right Hon. Lord Fairfax</td>
<td>1777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Septr 29</td>
<td>To Quitrents on 6392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of Land for the</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>year 1777</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before as by Acct</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sent last year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sir Please to pay the above to Colo Angus McDonald whose receipt shall be your discharge.

FAIRFAX

The figures represent, in order, pounds, shillings, and pence.

May 11, 1948
The Millwood Mill

It seems certain that Gen. Daniel Morgan built this mill in 1782 and employed artisans from Cornwallis' captured regiments interned at Winchester to build it. Frederick court records prove that he held it for some years in partnership with Col. Nathaniel Buwell, who always owned it until his death in 1814.

When commissioners divided Col. Burwell's residuary estate in 1828, they valued the mill with its 6-acre lot at $10,000 (they appraised Carter Hall with 147 acres at $6500), and assigned it to Dr. Philip G. and Miss Lucy B. Randolph. In 1829, the former exchanged his half interest with Miss Susan G. Randolph for her Ferry Farm. In 1837, Rev. E. C. Hutchinson and Lucy B. Randolph, his wife, sold her half interest to John Louthan for $3500; in 1848, Dr. R. P. Page and Susan G. Randolph, his wife, sold her half interest to Louthan for $5000.

Louthan sold the mill and lot less 1 acre, in 1855 to Alfred Parkins of Frederick Co. for $9500. He held it until 1872, when it was sold at auction in Winchester by court order, and bought by A. H. Garvin and T. M. Eddy for $8025. Mr. Ernest L. Alger rented the Millwood Mill in 1913, bought it in 1915, and still operates it as a grist mill. He has preserved some of its old account books dating back to pre-Civil War days.

December 27, 1949

Byrds, Meades, Pages Settle in Clarke

The first Byrds, Meades, and Pages to establish homes in Frederick, now Clarke County, were: Capt. Thomas Taylor Byrd (Jan. 7, 1752-Aug. 19, 1821) of "The Cottage"; Lt. Col. Richard Kidder Meade (July 14, 1746-Feb. 9, 1805) of "Lucky Hit"; John Page (June 29, 1760-Sept. 17, 1838) of "Page Brook"; Matthew Page (March 4, 1762-Oct. 5, 1826) of "Annfield"; and Robert Page (1762-1841) of "Janeville."

The year in which each came to the Valley to live, hitherto unknown, has been determined by this writer through examination of pertinent Land Books of Frederick County. These prove that Col. Meade was tithable on March 9, 1784. The Pages and Capt. Byrd were first tithables in 1786. Overseers on the lands of the former are carried as tithables in 1784.

Capt. Byrd and Col. Meade are the forebears of all those of their respective names of Frederick and Clarke and, with Mr. John Page, have lineal descendants of their names living in Clarke today. Mr. Matthew Page had no sons but has lineal descendants not of his name who continue to live in that county. "The Cottage" and "Janeville" were destroyed by fire long ago. "Lucky Hit" is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Mackay-Smith; "Annfield," of Mr. and Mrs. William Bell Watkins, Sr., while "Page Brook" is owned by Mr. Sebert J. Smith, of Winchester.

March 18, 1950
Tuley's Tanyard Lease

On "the joint application of Brig. Gen. Daniel Morgan and Joseph Tuley, Tanner," John Cordell laid off 2 acres of Col. Nathaniel Burwell's land in Millwood on June 22, 1786. This lot was increased May 13, 1793 to 4 acres on a re-survey by George Bell. Col. Burwell gave Tuley this written agreement Sept. 1, 1789:

'I do bind myself, my heirs and assigns, to make Mr. Tuley a proper lease for 2 acres of land lying on Spout Run as laid off by Mr. John Cordell with a plentiful supply of water from the mill race for a tanyard; reserving to myself, my heirs and assigns the absolute Right of turning all the water of Spout Run into the mill race whenever I or they think proper; the Terms to be 3 pounds pr. annum from the end of 1788, the term of the lease to be 98 years from the 1st day of Jan. 1788."

Col. Burwell made the "proper lease" Nov. 26, 1793, it being exactly the same as the above agreement except for the substitution of the 4 for the 2 acre lot. The late Richard E. Griffith once described Mr. Tuley "as a young man with a tremendous capacity for making money." His son, Col. Jos. Tuley, had that ability plus the education his father lacked. He built "The Tuleyries," one of Clarke's fine homes. After his death, Mrs. Tuley lived in Winchester and became much beloved by its people.

November 26, 1949

Two Advertisements

The following advertisements were published in The Virginia Gazette & Winchester Advertiser:

"All persons are hereby warned from laying down any of my fences, or riding through my plantation, as has been the case for many years.

James M'Cully, for
Colonel Hugh Nelson.
April 6, 1789
Millwood, Frederick Co."

"I have for sale a quantity of salt which I will barter for wheat, per bushel, or sell the same at three shillings per bushel, at my mill in this county.

Nathaniel Burwell
Sept. 29, 1789."

Col. Hugh Nelson, a brother of Gov. Thomas Nelson of Virginia, was given large tracts of land in the present Clarke County by his father, President William Nelson of the Colonial Council. His best known plantation was "Chapel Green" which he sold early in 1790 to Col. Nathaniel Burwell.

In the last decade of the 18th century, Col. Nathaniel Burwell owned more land lying within Clarke's boundaries than was ever owned within that area by any other man, with the exception of Lord Fairfax.

June 18, 1949
Millwood Postmasters

A federal post office was established in Millwood late in 1800. It was closed throughout the Civil War, but Post Office Department records do not give the closing date. A complete list of its U. S. postmasters and postmistresses, with the date upon which each began his or her service follows:

Bacon Burwell, Dec. 1800; John Eylett Daingerfield, April 4, 1812; George Green, Jan. 4, 1821; Adonijah W. Bowie, Oct. 18, 1824; Daniel B. Conrad, Dec. 28, 1825; Dr. Robert H. Little, March 30, 1837; Mrs. Mary B. Little, June 8, 1854; Andrew E. Gibson, Sept. 30, 1857; Thomas E. Sprint, June 27, 1859; James R. Neville, Jan. 29, 1866; Miss Louisa Sprint, Nov. 15, 1866; Joel N. Laws, May 19, 1875; Charles L. Estep, May 22, 1882.


Under Mr. Lloyd's capable and efficient management, the volume of business has so increased as to raise the Millwood post office from the 4th to the 3rd class.

December 6, 1949

"Westover" Portraits

The "Westover" portraits collection was the greatest collection of paintings in colonial Virginia during the lifetime of Col. William Byrd 2d, who made it. It was materially enlarged by his son, Col. William Byrd 3d, and bequeathed by him to his widow, who was Miss Mary Willing of Philadelphia. By her will, probated April 20, 1814, she devised most of the pictures to her husband's children by both his marriages; some she gave to grandchildren and a few to husbands of his daughters.

Mrs. Byrd devised portraits to the following, who then or subsequently lived in what is now Clarke County: Capt. Thomas Taylor Byrd, Mr. and Mrs. John Page of "Page Brook," and Misses Aby Byrd and Rosalie Nelson; the first and third were children of Col. Byrd, and the fourth and fifth, his grandchildren.

Eventually, a truly amazing number of the "Westover" portraits hung in Clarke homes. By far the greater number of them were brought to the county by Henry Harrison of "Huntingdon" and Dr. Benjamin Harrison of "Longwood." Only one of the portraits once owned by Col. William Byrd 2d remains in Clarke — the picture of Mary Churchill Duchess of Montagu, attributed to Charles Bridges. It hangs in the dining room at "Annfield," the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Bell Watkins, Sr.

November 22, 1949
Jerry O'Connor

In the old days, when the nineteenth century was in its infancy, Jerry O'Connor was noted and a privileged character in the Millwood neighborhood in what is now Clarke County.

He was a tenant of Col. Nathaniel Burwell of Carter Hall and operated a sawmill, owned by Col. Burwell, near the old Tilthammer mill. Jerry always attended militia musters as an onlooker, and generally got gloriously drunk before they were over.

On one such occasion, Philip Burwell of Chapel Hill locked him up for safe keeping in a room in the Carter Hall schoolhouse. The next morning, when Burwell unlocked the door to release him, he did not find Jerry, but found instead this couplet, scrawled on a piece of paper and pinned to his pillow:

"Whilst Philip Burwell was in bed
"Jerry O'Connor heisted the window and fled."

January 24, 1948

Superior Sheep

Thomas F. Nelson of "Weehaw," Jefferson Co., in a letter published in May, 1849, issue of The Plow, the Loom, and the Anvil, gave and attested the weights of fleeces from the last (1831) shearing of the flock of Richard Kidder Meade 2nd of "Lucky Hit."

The two heaviest, sheared from 16-month bucks, weighed 16½ and 16 lb. The average weight of fleeces from 29 rams, wethers, and yearling ewes was 10 3-8 lb., and from 35 ewes, 6 11-16 lb. The editor commented, "Have these weights been equalled by any other flock in the United States?" This was a noted flock of pure Bakewell crossed on Merino and, probably, Saxon sheep.

This letter prompted another to the same publication from Dr. Robert C. Randolph of "New Market," which gave these statistics of the "Spout Run" flock of Thomas Hugh Nelson Burwell, recorded in or about 1837: 1 ram weighed 174 and its fleece, 5 lb; 1st ewe, 196 and 5; 2nd, 170 (no fleece wt. given); 3rd, 190 and 7; 4th and 5th, each, 164 and 5. These sheep, Dr. Randolph stated, were a cross of Bakewell, Southdown, and Barbary.

"Lucky Hit" is now owned by Alexander Mackay-Smith and "Spout Run" by Edward A. Lindsey. Both are in Clarke County.

August 3, 1948
Millwood Merchant

Soon after or before the establishment of Clarke County in 1836, James Hopkins Clark, son of Daniel and Agnes Clark of Winchester, moved to Millwood and quickly became the county's most successful merchant.

His store was in the same brick building now occupied and put to the same use by the J. H. Locke Co. Its stock was sufficiently varied to supply most of the needs of the surrounding neighborhood, from silk dresses to farm wagons, from prayer books to bottles of imported wines.

Mr. Clark did a tremendous business and a lucrative one. Most of it, however, was on credit, as was entirely customary in those days, and the war brought complete disaster. In 1868, he made a voluntary assignment of all his property to trustees for the benefit of his creditors.

An alumnus of Amherst College, Mr. Clark was well educated. Mr. William H. Whiting, Jr., formerly of "Clay Hill," states: "He was apparently one of the old-fashioned gentlemen who could read Homer and Virgil by the hour without the aid of grammar or lexicon." He died at the home of Capt. William N. Nelson in Millwood, April 12, 1876.

November 18, 1948

Clarke in Feb., 1862

In February, 1862, the distinguished Rev. Dr. Randolph H. McKim, then a private in the 1st Maryland Infantry, CSA, visited his relatives in the Millwood neighborhood. Half a century later he published an account of that visit in his book, a Soldier's Recollections.

He was the guest of his aunt, Mrs. William F. Randolph, in Millwood, but spent much of his time "visiting many of the delightful country homes, "The Moorings," "Saratoga," "Carter Hall," "New Market"—singing with the girls, sleigh riding, attending a wedding (at New Market), followed by an entertainment which lasted from 5 p.m. until 1 a.m.; dining out and in "other festivities" and never hearing anyone here address anyone else by a more formal title than "cousin."

"Such was the happy gaiety and the prodigious hospitality in old Clarke the first winter of our war," Dr. McKim wrote in conclusion. It had not yet felt the iron heel of the invader. "The winters that followed till 1865 would tell a different tale. It is still a beautiful country and some of the fine old homesteads still survive, though few of them are owned by the same old families."

February 28, 1948
Great Houses of the Millwood Neighborhood

"Annfield"

"Annfield," one of Clarke's beautiful and historic homes, was built by Matthew Page (March 4, 1762—Oct. 5, 1825) upon a tract of 2258 acres which he had inherited from his father, Robert Page of "Broadneck," Hanover County, and which was a part of the latter's portion of the Fairfax 1730 grant of 50,212 acres to certain sons and grandsons of Robert ("King") Carter.

No precise authentic date has yet been found for the building of this home, although 1790 is the date now widely used. Tradition has it that it took all of seven years to build and that during this time Matthew Page lived in a small log or clapboard house within twenty paces of the "Annfield" front porch. Large, irregular, carefully dressed blocks of native limestone quarried on the place were used in its construction.

At "Annfield" George Washington's famous Italian "State" coach spent its last days. There Mrs. Robert E. Lee was born, Oct. 1, 1808. (Mrs. Page's mother was a sister of Mrs. Lee's grandfather.) There Col. Thomas H. Carter, Chief of Artillery, 2nd Corps, Army of Northern Virginia, lived during a part of his childhood.

"Annfield" is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Bell Watkins, Sr.

March 3, 1949

"Annfield" Woodwork

One of the notable features of "Annfield," the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Bell Watkins, Sr., near Berryville in Clarke County, is its woodwork. It is lavishly used throughout the house and is skillfully and expertly carved in different designs for each room and hall.

There are two different traditions as to the wood carving. One is that it was done by skilled Hessian artisans who were captured when Burgoyne surrendered his army and were interned near Winchester, 1780-81. The other is that this work was done by slaves owned by Matthew Page, who built "Annfield."

The first seems the most probable by far. It is an established fact that Burgoyne's Hessians included numbers of exceptionally skillful artisans. It is further fact that because of their skills in various crafts, their services were so much in demand that the escape of many was aided by the citizenry and the release of others was purchased. Most of these remained in the Valley the rest of their lives, where their services continued to be in great demand.

The second tradition seems improbable because of lack of evidence to support the belief that Virginia slaves of that time had the skill so evidently needed for such expert carving.

March 7, 1949
"The Briars"

This home is about three miles north of Boyce, Clarke County, on that part of the "Page Brook" estate which John Page gave to his second son, Dr. Robert P. Page, about the time of the latter's marriage to the charming sixteen year old Mary Willing Francis of Philadelphia. It was built about 1819 or 1820.

In 1839, 12 years after the death of his first wife, Dr. Page married Susan Grymes, daughter of Col. A. C. and Lucy (Burwell) Randolph. To her and her children, Nathaniel Burwell 2d devised historic "Saratoga." Her daughter, Mary Francis Page, married, Sept. 18, 1867, John Esten Cooke, the South's most widely read author in his time. They lived at "Saratoga" for several years after which they made "The Briars," which she had inherited, their home.

The house is an old-fashioned stone building, either stuccoed or plastered. It is two stories high with a half-story attic. Its rooms are large, high-pitched, and of graceful proportions. Originally it stood in a grove of fine oak trees, and had a long front porch with a roof supported by white pillars.

"The Briars" is now owned by Harry K. Benham of Winchester, but is the life home of his aunt, Mrs. Edith (Benham) Helm, who was social secretary for President Roosevelt and is now social secretary for President Truman.

June 21, 1949

First Burwell Home

Among Millwood's oldest houses is the present Cox home, built between 1786-92 for Col. Nathaniel Burwell, then of "Carter's Grove." In it, he and his family spent several summers before making it their home during the building of "Carter Hall," 1792-1800.

John Walker Baylor, only son of Mrs. Burwell by her marriage to Col. George W. Baylor, and his family occupied the house, 1806-1811. According to a probably true tradition, Mrs. Mann Page 3d of "Mannsfield" lived in it for some years before her death in 1835. In 1828 it had passed to Mrs. Matthew Page of "Longwood" as part of a larger tract which she sold almost immediately to George H. Burwell.

Soon after 1835 it became the home of Dr. Robert H. Little. In 1842, Mr. F. B. Whiting of "Clay Hill" bought it from Mr. Burwell in trust for Mrs. Little. After her death in 1859, Maj. Beverley Randolph of "The Moorings" bought and held it in trust for his mother, Mrs. Jane Cary (Harrison) Randolph. From him, Mr. William H. Cox, a merchant (J. H. Locke & Co. have their store in the building in which he had his), rented it, Mrs. Randolph reserving some rooms for her own use. She died at "The Moorings" in 1883. Mr. Cox bought the property in 1884.

It is now owned by his daughters, Miss Theodora Cox and Deaconess Grace Cox.

November 17, 1949
"Carter Hall"

The Burwells, one of the earliest of Virginia's noted colonial families, liked homes of dignity and beauty, and built them. Such a home is Carter Hall, built by Col. Nathaniel Burwell and recently sold to Frank E. Christopher of Morgantown, West Va. This historic Burwell house was begun in 1792 and completed in 1800.

It stands upon one of the "eight parts of equal value" into which a grant of 50,212 acres on the Shenandoah made by Lord Fairfax in 1730 to certain sons and grandsons of Robert ("King") Carter, had been divided in 1740, and the part inherited by Col. Burwell had fallen by lot to his father, Carter Burwell. Past owners of Carter Hall in chronological order have been: Col. Burwell, George H. Burwell I, George H. Burwell II, Thomas H. Burwell, Eben Richards, John Townsend Burwell, and Gerard B. Lambert.

Gov. Edmund Randolph died at Carter Hall. He was Governor of Virginia, the first attorney general and the second secretary of state of the United States. In 1862, "Stonewall" Jackson established his headquarters in its grove of magnificent oak trees.

Two great grandsons of Col. urwell — John Townsend and George H. Burwell — live in the Millwood neighborhood and so do many other of his lineal descendants, while several now live in Winchester.

January 10, 1948

"Chapel Green"

The following summarized advertisement appeared in the Winchester Centinel of Jan. 6, 1790, and throws light upon agriculture in Frederick at that period:

"I will sell 'Chapel Green,' my plantation in Frederick, containing 7 or 800 acres. The natural fertility of the soil and advantages of the tract, added to its improvements by fields of corn and small grain, upwards of 140 bu. wheat already sown, besides ground in proper condition for a large crop of tobacco or hemp the next year, put it beyond doubt there is no plantation capable of rendering more net profit from a proportionate labor. Terms will be made known by Robin Page, attorney near Winchester, Philip Nelson, living near the premises, or the subscriber, Hugh Nelson, living in York."

Hugh Nelson was a brother of Gov. Nelson. Philip Nelson, later of "Long Branch," was the latter's son. Robin Page was a nephew of John Page of "Page Brook." Col. Nathaniel Burwell bought "Chapel Green" and in 1804 deeded it to his son, Philip Burwell. This tract, now in Clarke, included the Old Chapel and its cemetery and earlier Cunningham Chapel and its graveyard.

June 22, 1948
“Chapel Hill”

Within a few months, or weeks, after Dr. Charles Carter Byrd, son of Capt. Thomas Taylor Byrd, built this home upon his share of his father’s 1000-acre tract, he sold it to Philip Burwell, son of Col. Nathaniel Burwell, and moved to Maryland. Previous owners of the land were Robert Carter Nicholas, Col. Fielding Lewis and Fielding, Jr., Washington’s nephew and a sharer in his residuary estate.

Chapel Hill was the home of Philip Burwell until his death in 1849 and then of his widow until the outbreak of the War Between the States. Later, when his heirs failed to agree, it was sold in 1870 by court order. Thereafter and until it was bought by its present owner, Gen. William J. Donovan, it passed through many hands and suffered much thereby. It is in Clarke County, just northwest of the Old Chapel.

The main house was built in 1826; the smaller, in 1825; both are of native limestone built “in the manner called rubble masonry.” Under the present ownership, buildings and grounds have been vastly improved.

“Chapel Hill” is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Donovan. Donovan is the son of Gen. Donovan.

June 24, 1948

“Clay Hill”

The first Whiting home in the present Clarke County was built by Francis Beverley Whiting, son of Harry and Elizabeth (Braxton) Whiting, soon after his marriage in 1816 to Mary, daughter of Nathaniel and Lucy (Page) Burwell of “Carter Hall,” upon her half of the River Farm. Curiously, he named it “Clay Hill” after the home of an earlier sweetheart.

Col. Burwell devised the River Farm jointly to his daughters, Mary and Elizabeth. The latter married in 1818 Dr. James Hay. By mutual agreement, Mary got the western and Elizabeth the eastern part, now known as “Shan Hill.” By Wm. Castleman’s survey, each half had 312½ acres, including 52 acres of woodland. In 1882, the estate was divided between two of Mr. Whiting’s sons, the house and 262½ acres going to William H. Whiting. His son, Wm. H. Whiting, Jr., a distinguished educator, was its last Whiting owner. His death ended the male line of the “Clay Hill” Whitings.

“Clay Hill,” some 3 miles northeast of Millwood, is a two-story house built of native limestone, with a basement kitchen. It has the thick walls and high-ceiled rooms so characteristic of the better houses of its period. It is now the home of Capt. and Mrs. Ewart Josnston. They have made many improvements in the interior of the house and have added greatly to the beauty of its grounds.

September 24, 1949
Clarke House, Millwood, Clarke County

In 1842, George H. Burwell I of "Carter Hall," then owner of most of the land upon which the village of Millwood now stands, had Dow survey and lay off into town lots a part of this land. These lots he offered for sale.

By a deed dated Aug. 18, 1842, James H. Clark, the only merchant the county ever had who read Homer and Virgil by the hour for pleasure, bought three of them and on Lot. No. 2 of the Dow survey built his home, the large frame house in the heart of Millwood.

It was in this house that Col. John S. Mosby, C. S. A., met Gen. George H. Chapman, U. S. A., on April 18 and again on April 20, 1865, in abortive negotiations for the surrender of the former's command. The Civil War brought financial disaster to the merchant and his home was sold in 1868 to Frank Stine. Later and for some years it was operated by John W. Sprint as Millwood's only hotel. Still later it was the home of Dr. Philip Burwell of "Spout Run," and for a brief time, of the Blue Ridge Country Club.

A grandson of James H. Clark, John D. Clark, is a member of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. The Clark house is now the home of Mrs. Henry S. Jenkins and of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. R. Clarke Lloyd.

September 17, 1949

The Ferry Farm

Dr. Philip Grymes Randolph received a one-half undivided interest in the Millwood Mill and its 6 A. when his grandfather's, Col. Nathaniel Burwell's, residuary estate was divided in 1828. The former's sister, Miss Susan Grymes Randolph, got the Ferry Farm of 210 acres, the land bordering on the Shenandoah at Berry's Ferry. By deeds of exchange, they swapped their respective shares in 1829.

Dr. Randolph sold the farm in 1833 to Nathaniel Burwell of "Saratoga," who, after exchanging it in 1841 for Mrs. David H. McGuire's share of "Glenowen," bought it from her with an adjoining 53 acres of "The Vineyard," which Mr. McGuire had purchased and then devised the whole in trust to Nathaniel Burwell of "Glenvin" for Mrs. McGuire (his niece) and her children. The trustee sold the farm to Otway McCormick, who in 1855 conveyed it to John Alexander.

J. W. and W. W. Bowles were the next owners. They bought it in 1878. W. W. Bowles became its sole owner in 1886. After his death, the farm passed to his children. They sold the dwelling house, an old stone building now known as the River House, to George C. Meade in 1926, and later the rest of the land except 98 A. to McGhee Tyson Gilpin. The 98 acres are now owned by W. Lodge Bowles; his son, Wilson L. Bowles; and his sister, Mrs. Bertha (Bowles) Nichols of Summit, N. J.

January 12, 1950
Division of "Glenowen"

When William Nelson Burwell died in 1822, intestate and survived by his widow and 4 children — Lucy, Elizabeth, Anne, and Nathaniel — he owned "Glenowen," a farm of 725½ acres given him by his father, Col. Nathaniel Burwell, and originally named the New Mill farm. It adjoined "Carter Hall" on the west and "The Vineyard" on the east. To it in 1828 were added 363 acres of the latter, being the share of Col. Burwell's residuary estate assigned to the heirs of Wm. N. Burwell.

"Glenowen" was divided in 1840 by commissioners appointed by Clarke's Chancery Court in response to a suit brought by the decedent's daughter Lucy, soon after her marriage in 1835 to John Jolliffe of Winchester. They laid off the widow's dower land of the original tract so that it adjoined "Carter Hall" and included the "Glenowen" house, and gave her $800 in lieu of her dower rights in Vineyard land. The remaining 900 acres were divided into 4 lots, from west to east.

Lot No. 1, 202 acres, was assigned to Mrs. Jolliffe; No. 2, 211 acres, to Nathaniel Burwell, who built "Glenvin" on it; No. 3, 239 acres, including 118 of "The Vineyard," to Elizabeth (Mrs. David H. McGuire), who traded it in 1841 to Nathaniel Burwell of "Saratoga" for his Ferry farm; No. 4, 245 acres all Vineyard land, to Anne (Mrs. Philip Pendleton Cooke). Fractions of acres have been omitted.

December 1, 1949

"Lakeville"

The "Lakeville" farm, 3 miles east of Millwood, Clarke County, and south of Berry's Ferry, occupied the N.E. corner of Robert Burwell's portion of the 1730 Fairfax grant of 50,212 acres "on Shenandoah." It was included in a tract of 1548 acres sold after his death in 1777 by his executor, Gov. Thomas Nelson, to N. L. Savage of Gloucester and traded by him in 1780 to Maj. Thomas Massie, a gallant Revolutionary officer and a vestryman of Frederick Parish, 1785-93, who later moved to Nelson County.

On June 19, 1819, Maj. Massie sold 628 acres of the 1548 acre tract to Baalis Davis, Samuel and David Bryarly. By a partition deed of Nov. 13, 1820, Davis received as his share "Lakeville's" 231 acres and thereafter lived on this land. It seems probable that he built c. 1820 the L shaped log and clapboard house known today as "Lakeville" and since the place remained unnamed in every deed until after Dr. Philip Grymes Randolph bought it on Aug. 13, 1832, it appears certain that he bestowed upon it its present name.

Louis C. Bradford, a distinguished New York editor, bought Lakeville and some adjoining land in 1883. His brother, the late William Albert Bradford, the next owner, sold it to the late Maj. Kenneth N. Gilpin and Mrs. Gilpin. The present owner is McGhee Tyson Gilpin, their eldest son.

December 17, 1949
“Long Branch”

“Long Branch” in Clarke, considered by competent opinion a truly fine example of Virginia colonial type architecture, was built about 1806 by Capt. Robert Carter Burwell upon his inherited part of that portion of the Fairfax 1730 grant of 50,212 acres “on Shenandoa” allotted in 1740 to his grandfather, Robert Burwell.

Capt. Burwell devised “Long Branch” to his sister, Sarah, and her husband, Philip Nelson. They had lived there with him until he died, unmarried, in 1813. In 1842, they sold it to the latter’s nephew, Maj. Hugh Nelson, C. S. A., who died in 1862. Its next owner was his only son, Hugh M. Nelson 2d, who died in 1915. His widow, Mrs. Sally Page Nelson, is the much beloved present owner. She came to “Long Branch” as a very young and charming bride more than 60 years ago.

The interior of the house is famous for the beautiful spiral stairs which, unsupported, rise to the roof. Maj. Nelson had them designed by the noted architect, Latrobe. The spacious north porch is supported by high Doric columns; the south by stately Ionic columns. “Long Branch,” with its fine Gilbert Stuart portraits and its many historic heirlooms, has always been the home of lineal descendants of Gov. Thomas Nelson of Virginia, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

August 4, 1949

“Longwood”

Dr. Matthew Page, only son of Gwynn Page of “Rosewell,” Gloucester Co., was born in 1800. He moved to what is now Clarke Co. and married on June 5, 1824, Mary Cary Randolph, daughter of Col. Archy Cary and Lucy (Burwell) Randolph. He built a handsome, attractive limestone house and named it “Longwood.”

“Longwood” has the thick walls and high ceilings so customary in the better homes of that period. Its old entrance was on the old road from Millwood to Berryville, which is east of the house. Its present entrance is nearly opposite Clay Hill lane on the Berryville-Millwood turnpike.

Dr. Page died in 1837 and Mrs. Page, in 1855. Their daughter, Miss Mattie Cary Page, married Dr. Benjamin Harrison of “Berkeley,” Charles City Co., in 1858. They spent the remainder of their lives at “Longwood,” and the place has remained in Harrison hands ever since.

The present owner is the seventh Benjamin Harrison in lineal descent from the first Benjamin Harrison of “Berkeley,” who was born in 1673 and died in 1710. He married (last May) Miss Jane Cary Randolph, and is the 2nd of his name and line to marry a Randolph. They now live at “Longwood.”

January 15, 1949
"Lucky Hit"

Col. Richard Kidder Meade came to Frederick after the Revolution but before the peace treaty and, later, built "Lucky Hit" upon his tract of 1031 acres lying in and east of White Post, then improved only by "two unfinished log rooms, around which the wolves nightly howled."

"Lucky Hit" is a 40 x 50 brick house and all its interior walls are of brick. The bricks vary in size, and in color they range from dark purple to light salmon. Every room has a large fireplace, as does one of the seven basement rooms. The doors are unusually wide but only 6 ft. 3 in. high. The entrance hall is 12 x 12, with two rooms on either side. The plan of the second story is almost identical with that of the first. The kitchen is in a separate building.

This place passed from Meade hands in 1871. It has since suffered much from many owners and some tenants, who have ruthlessly slaughtered its grove of fine old oaks. "Lucky Hit" was recently bought by Alexander Mackay-Smith, first president of the Clarke Co. Historical Assn. He is engaged in its authentic restoration and in making many improvements.

September 25, 1948

"The Meadow"

The Meadow, a large house of native limestone situated about half a mile north of Boyce in Clarke Co., was built by Judge John E. Page upon Page Brook land given him by his father, Mr. John Page. This land was a part of the 7,963 acre tract allotted to Judge Page's grandfather, Mr. Robert Page of Broadneck, Hanover Co., as his share of the 1730 Fairfax Grant of 50,212 acres, upon its division in 1740.

There appears to be no documentary evidence to prove when this home was built, unless it be the codicil to Mr. John Page's will, dated Jan. 15, 1831, which directs that Judge Page's share of his real estate "be laid off to include his new house," and another codicil dated Feb. 27, 1830, which describes the land "upon which the house is to stand."

On March 29, 1859, Judge Page sold The Meadow and 424 acres to his nephew, Mr. Henry Harrison, son of the last Benjamin Harrison to own Berkeley on the James River, and his 2nd wife, Mrs. Mary W. (Page) Harrison, who changed its name to Huntingdon. After his death it was owned by his widow. She died there in 1897. Her heirs, by a deed dated Nov. 1, 1900, sold Huntingdon and its remaining 180 acres to Mr. Clay Carr. Since then it has been, and continues to be, his home.

March 9, 1950
“Mountain View”

William Meade, who later became the third Bishop of Virginia, married in 1810, when he was twenty and she seventeen years of age, Mary Nelson, daughter of Philip and Sarah (Burwell) Nelson, of “Long Branch.” In that year he built “Mountain View” on his part of the “Lucky Hit” tract, near White Post, which his father, Col. Richard Kidder Meade, had owned.

This red brick house has been described by Lancaster as a “simple, comfortable country residence.” Its bricks were burned on the land in a limekiln which its owner had helped to build. In this home, Bishop Meade spent most of his life; in it his three sons were born and his first wife died.

Fine forest oaks stood close on the north and west, but a lawn of some twenty acres in front was Bishop Meade’s chief delight. In it, he planted, fostered, and cherished rare trees, shrubs, and ornamental evergreens gathered from many lands. Few things gave him more pleasure than to give the history of each plant and tree to an interested visitor. No trace of this lawn is left.

“Mountain View” was inherited by Bishop Meade’s oldest son, Philip Nelson Meade, who soon sold it, and for Confederate money. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Larrick.

January 13, 1949

“Page Brook”

Soon after John Page’s marriage to Maria Horsemanden Byrd of “Westover” in 1764, he moved to what is now Clarke, drove off the squatters he found upon his 2258-acre tract inherited from his father, Robert Page, of “Broadneck,” and built upon it of native limestone his future home, “Page Brook.”

The walls of this house are 27 inches thick and are covered with buff plaster. Its main hall is 37 by 13, the library 31 by 24, and the sitting room 37 by 21. There are six bedrooms on the second floor and the original stairs and banisters remain unchanged. An old stone spring house stands nearby.

Mrs. Page survived her husband five years and died in 1843. “Page Brook” then went to her youngest son, Dr. Matthew Page, who had moved to North Carolina and remained there. He devised the house and its approximately 300 acres to his only son, Herbert H. Page, who in 1887 conveyed it in trust for his wife’s benefit. She sold it in 1900 to Charles Mulliken of St. Louis. In 1914 he sold it to Capt. Philip M. Walker.

After his death, it was bought eventually in 1942 by Sebert J. Smith of Winchester, “Page Brook’s” present and non-resident owner.

September 2, 1948
"Prospect Hill"

Soon before or after his marriage in 1808 to Miss Maria M. Page, daughter of Mann Page III of "Mannsfield," Dr. Lewis Burwell, 6th son of Col. Nathaniel and Susanna (Grymes) Burwell, built "Prospect Hill" upon the 921 acre tract in Clarke deeded to him by his father, April 4, 1809. This large and costly home was destroyed by fire in 1838. Its foundations are still traceable.

The tract included inside the present "Prospect Hill": "Scaleby," home of Mrs. Kenneth N. Gilpin, Sr.; part of "Kentmere," home of Mr. and Mrs. K. N. Gilpin, Jr.; "Ryon," home of Mrs. Wm. H. Wilmer; a part of "Longwood," home of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Harrison; and several small properties.

Dr. Burwell died intestate in 1826. His real estate was divided among his heirs and sold. Francis B. Meade, husband of his daughter, Miss Marry Mann Burwell, and youngest son of Bishop Meade, became the largest single purchaser. They lived in a second "Prospect Hill" near the site of the 1st. It burned in 1919, during the ownership of the late F. Key Meade. The third, built on its site, is now the home of Mrs. Wm. P. and Miss Addis M. Meade.

Miss Lucy Gwyn Burwell, another of Dr. Burwell's daughters, married Addison B. Carter. They lived in Winchester and were the parents of the late Shirley and Ann Page Carter of that city.

March 25, 1950

"Rosney's" Land

Rosney, 1 mile south of Millwood in Clarke County, was originally named the Rattle Snake tract and was probably operated as a farm before 1770. It was part of Robert Burwell's share of the 1730 Fairfax Grant of 50,212 A. and was inherited by his grandson, Robert Carter Burwell.

He devised it to his sisters, Misses Frances and Ariana Burwell; and they, to their nephews, Thos. F. and Wm. Nelson. The former got the home and 385 A.; the latter, 190 A which he sold to his brother, who, in 1860, sold the tract to Jos. F. and James W. Ryan.

Thos. F. Nelson sold Rosney to his father, Philip W. Nelson, in 1842, who left it jointly to his 2 sons. Subsequent owners were Frank Stine, Com. of Georgie L. Stine; Thomas H. Burwell (in trust); Mrs. Sybilla (Burwell) Jacobs; Maj. Kenneth N. Gilpin (1914). Maj. Gilpin sold the house and 19 A. to Courtney B. Jones who resold, except 7 A. now owned by his widow, to the late Mrs. Spencer L. Carter. He also sold 59 A. to Mr. Carter. In 1940 the Carters sold their parts, and Rosney became the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. Lee.

Rosney land unsold by Maj. Gilpin is owned by his estate, and upon it lives RObt. Deever and his family. The name of this home was changed to Rosny before 1830. In later years, that name has been spelled "Rosney."

February 4, 1950
“Saratoga”

Gen. Daniel Morgan built this historic home, named it for the battle which made him famous, and used captured Hessians of Burgoyne’s army to build it. The date is established by his letter to Gen. Greene dated “Saratoga, 11th April, 1781,” and his letter to Gen. Washington dated “Saratoga, Nov. 25, 1781.”

After some years of occupancy by Morgan and then by Mrs. James Heard, the daughter to whom he gave it, it was sold in 1809 to Nathaniel Burwell, son of Col. Nathaniel and Susanna (Grymes) Burwell. He died in 1849, devising “Saratoga” to his wife for her life; then to his niece, Mrs. R. P. Page of “The Briars,” and her issue for “their joint lives,” and then to her issue. She died in 1858.

Capt. Wm. P. Carter and John Esten Cooke married daughters of Mrs. Page in 1867 and, for a time, lived at “Saratoga,” where the latter had a study on the third floor. By a property division, R. Powell Page became the next owner, and he lived at “Saratoga” until his death in 1930. It is now the home of his daughters, Misses Agnes R. and Mary F. Page. It has been owned by Pages for just 100 years.

Gen. Lee camped for several days in 1863 near a spring at the foot of the “Saratoga” hill, north of and less than 200 yards from the house.

September 23, 1948

“Springsbury”

John Holker, French consul general and agent of the Royal Marine, bought 978 acres in what was Frederick and is Clarke, and on this land built “Springsbury” of bricks which, tradition says, were burnt on the place. The tract was purchased in 1792. The year the house was built is unknown — about 1800 might be a good guess.

This land was in the portion of the 1730 Fairfax grant allotted in 1740 to Robert Carter Nicholas, and within the 3078 acres of the Nicholas tract subsequently bought by Col. Fielding Lewis of “Kenmore,” who married Washington’s sister.

“Springsbury” has known too many owners to list them here. In 1935 it was bought by Col. and Mrs. George P. Greenhalgh, of Ohio. In 13 years they have so greatly improved the house, grounds, outbuildings, and roads that the “Springsbury” of today would scarcely be recognizable as the “Springsbury” of an earlier day.

There has been controversy as to the correct spelling, whether it is “Springsberry” or that of its present owners, “Springsbury.” Early records furnish almost equal authority for both, with whatever edge there is favoring the latter.

Nearby “Shan Hill” is now the home of George P. Greenhalgh, Jr. and his family. Its land was also a part of the 1730 Fairfax grant.

July 3, 1948
"Summerville" Land

The early history of the "Summerville" tract in Clarke is written in the old deed books of Frederick County. The land is in that part of the 1730 Fairfax Grant of 50,212 acres drawn by lot in 1740 for Robert Page of "Broadneck," Hanover Co., which part was divided among his three surviving sons in 1779.

From his share, Matthey Page of "Annfield" sold adjoining tracts of 122 and 300 acres, the first to John Bell in 1785; the second to George Braxton in 1786. Bell sold his land to John Hamilton in 1791, and he, in 1797, bought some 31 acres from Capt. John Wilson. Braxton sold his 300 acres to Benjamin Harrison (1743-1807) of "Brandon" in 1795, to whom Hamilton sold his two tracts in 1805.

These three parcels comprised the original "Summerville" estate and under that name it was sold by Harrison's executors to Philip Nelson of "Long Branch" in 1812. He sold it to Dr. Philip Smith in 1824. Dr. Smith lived there until his death and thereafter it was the home of his son, Warren C. Smith, until 1883. "Summerville" was never the home of Philip Nelson, nor is it probable that Benjamin Harrison ever lived there. It is now the home of Mrs. Richard E. Dole and of her son, Richard E. Dole, Jr.

March 31, 1949

"The Tuleyries"

Some two miles southeast of Boyce is "The Tuleyries," one of Clarke's beautiful and charming homes. It was built, c. 1833, by Col. Joseph Tuley, Jr., on land inherited from and named by his father, "Tanner's Retreat." Having amassed a large fortune, he died in 1860, leaving a widow and three sisters as his heirs.

Mrs. Tuley soon moved to Winchester, renting the former home of David W. Barton, 126 N. Cameron St. Of her, the late Richard E. Griffith wrote: "Because of her great beauty of person and character, she has become one of the finest traditions of Winchester."

"The Tuleyries" was bought by Col. and Mrs. Upton L. Boyce in 1866 and was for years the scene of prodigal hospitality. Boyce was named in his honor. Graham F. Blandy bought it in 1903 and after his death in 1926, it passed to his widow, who was Miss Georgette E. Borland of New York.

She died in 1939, leaving it to her second husband, Col. E. Llewellyn Bull. He died several months later, having devised it to her two sisters. It is now owned by and is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Orme Wilson, the latter having bought the half interest of her sister.

June 26, 1948
"The Vineyard"

"The Vineyard," when it was built a little over a century ago on a high hill overlooking the Shenandoah, was a square brick house of two stories and eight rooms, painted white. Facing south, it commanded a fine view of the Blue Ridge. An attractive feature was the south porch, with a gable roof reaching the eaves and supported by six large round white wooden pillars.

It was the home of Phillip Pendleton Cooke, a gifted poet, and his wife, Anne Corbin Tayloe Burwell, from the day it was completed until the latter's death in 1899. In 1859, Mrs. Cooke added two rooms, a hall, and a porch to the west end, which thereafter became the front of the house. She inherited its extensive acres from her father, Wm. Nelson Burwell of "Glenowen," and her uncle, Nathaniel Burwell of "Saratoga," who adopted her when she was two years old.

Along "The Vineyard" woods, Mosby's men under Lt. Russell met and defeated a company of the 14th Pennsylvania cavalry after a sharp fight on Dec. 15, 1864.

After Mrs. Cooke's death, "The Vineyard" became the home of her grandson, the late Louis Burwell Meade, who sold it some years ago. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. J. Townsend Burwell, who bought it several weeks ago from the Kenneth Gilpin estate.

October 30, 1948
Millwood Worthies

Louis C. Bradford

Louis Collier Bradford, son of Dr. Wm. A. and Louisa C. (Smith) Bradford, was born at "Summerville" in Clarke, Jan. 10, 1858. Leaving home before he was fifteen, he spent an adventurous youth until seriously injured by stampeding cattle while employed as a cowboy on the famous King ranch in Texas.

In 1882, Mr. Bradford joined the staff of the N. Y. Tribune. When he retired in 1908, he was recognized as one of New York's outstanding editors and had been night managing editor of the Tribune for many years. It was a Park Row tradition that no last minute crisis in going to press had ever been able to disturb his customary poise, and he was noted for a fine, dry humor. Few editors of his time were as greatly beloved by both the editorial and mechanical staffs. It is a source of pride to this writer that he knew him well and enjoyed his friendship.


March 12, 1949

A Burwell Obituary

A death notice of Col. Nathaniel Burwell of Frederick, now Clarke, County, published in the April 2, 1814, issue of the Republican Constellation of Winchester is typical of Virginia obituaries of that period, which customarily omitted biography. It follows:

"Departed this life at Carter Hall on the 29th ultimo Col. Nathaniel Burwell in the 64th year of his age, after a long and lingering indisposition of four years, which he bore with Christian fortitude and even in the arms of Death smiled at the fell monster. Feeble indeed I fear will be my effort to present in appropriate colours the character of this truly virtuous and good man.

"To say the least of him, he was a tender and affectionate husband; a fond and indulgent parent; a kind master, and a true philanthropist. Were I to stop here, I would fall far short of describing the virtues and intrinsic merit of that inestimable man, whose soul long ere this has been wafted from this sublunary world and is now enjoying amongst his kindred spirits in the mansions of eternal bliss the fruits and rewards of a well spent life. In a word, he was a true Christian. Oh what an example of Christian resignation, and a consciousness of his having fought the good fight, did he set to those he left behind him, even in the arms of Death."

August 13, 1949
L't. F. Otway Byrd, U.S.A.


War Department records show he was commissioned 2nd L't., 2nd Artillery, 6 July 1812; transferred to Corps of Artillery, 12 May, 1814; brevetted 1st L't. for distinguished service, 20 Feb., 1815; promoted to 1st L't., 30 Aug., 1816, and resigned, 23 March. 1818.

Navy Department records attest that L't. Byrd commanded a detachment of artillery on board Decatur's flagship, the "Guerriere," throughout the Commodore's 1815 Mediterranean cruise. The artillerymen, 46 strong, went on board at Staten Island, 10 May; took part in the capture of 2 ships — the 44 gun Algerine Frigate "Mashuda," 17 June, and a 22 gun brig, 19 June — and 450 prisoners, and were detached to Ellis Island, 25 Nov., 1815.

In recognition of his exceptional gallantry in all actions and of his distinguished service on land and afloat, Virginia presented a sword to L't. Byrd in 1848.

June 25, 1949

The Mary Byrd Wyman Foundation

Mary Armistead Byrd was a daughter of Francis Otway and Elizabeth (Pleasants) Byrd of Oakley in Clarke County. She was born there May 3, 1818, and there she married, June 28, 1837, Samuel Gerish Wyman, a wealthy merchant of Baltimore. She died at her home in that city Oct. 20, 1881.

Seldom have any two persons devoted their lives so wholeheartedly to philanthropy as did Mr. and Mrs. Wyman, but the problem that touched Mrs. Wyman most deeply was that of providing suitable education for girls of her native state whose families had been impoverished by the Civil War. When the Society for the Education of Southern Girls was organized, she became its most active member. When it ceased to function, she and her husband continued its work quietly and unobtrusively.

As a memorial to his wife, Mr. Wyman devised a large sum of money and provided that the income from it be used in perpetuity for carrying on the work so close to Mrs. Wyman's heart. He named the administrative agency The Mary Byrd Wyman Foundation. Wyman scholarships will give scores of Virginia girls in the future, as they have in the past, educational advantages otherwise unobtainable.

January 25, 1949
Capt. Thomas T. Byrd

Between 1785 and 1795 Capt. Thomas Taylor Byrd bought 1000 acres of land in Frederick, now Clarke, County. Upon this land, and about a mile and a half north of the Old Chapel, he built "The Cottage," the first home of any "Westover" Byrd west of the Blue Ridge. To it he brought in 1786 his bride, Mary A. Armistead of Gloucester County. In it their children were born, and in it they lived the rest of their lives. It burned before 1835.

Capt. and Mrs. Byrd are the forebears of all the present Clarke and Frederick Byrds, the line running through their son, Richard Evelyn Byrd I of Winchester, and his first wife, Anne Harrison of "Brandon."

Thomas Taylor Byrd was a son of Col. William Byrd III of "Westover" and his first wife, Elizabeth, only daughter of "Secretary" John Carter of "Shirley." He remained loyal to the Crown in the Revolution and was a captain in the British army.

Capt. Byrd was a vestryman of Frederick Parish for more than 25 years. He died August 19, 1821, and was buried in the Old Chapel cemetery. His funeral was impressive. House servants chanted mournful dirges as they carried his casket on their shoulders from "The Cottage" to his grave.

February 19, 1948

Col. Thomas H. Carter of "Pampatike"

Col. Thomas H. Carter was a son of Thomas Nelson and Juliet (Gaines) Carter of "Pampatike," King William County. His mother died when he was very young. In 1835 his father married Miss Annie Willing Page of "Page Brook" and later bought "Annefield" in Clarke. Thus it was that Tom Carter spent his childhood in that county.

In the War Between the States, Col. Carter rose from command of the King William battery to that of the artillery of the 2nd Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. In Gen. Early's Valley campaign in 1864, there was not a resident of Clarke or Frederick who did not become accustomed to the roar of his guns. "Tom Carter," wrote Wise, in "The Long Arm of Lee," "combined more of the modesty, simplicity, and valor of his great kinsman (Gen. Lee) than any other man in Virginia."

After the war he returned to "Pampatike," and it was to his home Gen. Lee turned "Traveller's" head when he rode wearily out of Richmond in the bitter days following Appomattox. Two sons survived him: one, the late Thomas Nelson Carter, married Miss Agnes Atkinson Mayo of "Powhatan" in Clarke; the other, Spencer L. Carter, owned "Rosney" in that county for some years. Col. Carter died at the home of his son-in-law, Capt. R. E. Lee, Jr., June 2, 1908.

November 20, 1948
Col. Thomas H. Carter


In Clarke he went to school at "Clay Hill," and later was graduated from V. M. I., and the Universities of Virginia and Pennsylvania — the last two in medicine.

In the War Between the States he rose rapidly from the command of the King William battery to a corps chief of artillery. Gen. John B. Gordon said no artillery commander in this war was his superior in ability or fighting qualities.

His surviving sons were the late Thomas Nelson Carter who married Miss Agnes A. Mayo of "Powhatan" in Clarke, which is her present home, and Spencer L. Carter, of Richmond, who for some years owned "Rosney" and spent the summers there with the late Mrs. Carter. One daughter, Miss Juliet Roy Carter, married Capt. R. E. Lee, Jr., the other, Miss Anne Willing Carter, married the late H. Rozier Dulaney. She lives at "Oakley" in Fauquier County.

Col. Carter died at "Romancake," then Capt. Lee's home in King William county.

March 17, 1949

Capt. Wm. Page Carter

Capt. Carter, son of Thomas Nelson and Anne W. (Page) Carter, was born at "Annfield", Sept. 6, 1836 and "grew to manhood amid the refined and pious gentlefolk of the Millwood neighborhood when the ante-bellum civilization was at its best and where the religion preached by Bishop Meade still moulded men's characters."

In the Civil War he showed great ability as commander of the King William battery. Captured at the Bloody Angle, he was one of 600 Confederate officers imprisoned on Morris Island and deliberately and constantly exposed to the fire of Confederate batteries in a futile endeavor to make them take the oath of allegiance.

On Feb. 29, 1867, he married Miss Lucy Randolph Page, daughter of Dr. R. Powel Page. After a few years spent at "Saratoga", they built "The Glen" on his wife's portion of that adjoining estate. There he wrote verse of real merit, which never received deserved recognition because his published output was small. He did publish, for private circulation, a slender volume, "Echoes from the Glen." In it are the touching poem "Sometime" and the better known, "I Am Dreaming."


August 19, 1948
Hon. John Holker

John Holker was born in England in 1743. His father, Jean, captured at Culloden and sentenced to death, escaped to France the night before the day set for his execution. About 1778, Beaumarchais sent John Holker to America to appraise the chances for a successful issue to the Revolution, and his report led to the French treaty, and his own appointment as consul general to the colonies.

Holker had in 1858 a credit on the books of the U. S. Treasury of $470,000 for supplies furnished the Continental Army, not one dollar of which had been paid. After the Revolution, he became a partner in four of the largest mercantile firms in America. One of his associates absconded with $50,000 of his money.

The above is more interesting since it is a summary of a biographical sketch given by the subject's son-in-law, Maj. Hugh M. Nelson of "Long Branch," just a century ago. In 1792, John Holker bought 978 acres on the Shenandoah in the present Clarke Co. and built "Springsbury" upon the tract. He died there in June, 1820, and was buried in the Catholic cemetery in Winchester. His remains were re-interred in the Old Chapel cemetery in 1904.

July 6, 1948

A Master Craftsman

Charles H. Keeler was a master craftsman in leather. He took as much pride and got as much satisfaction and pleasure from making a set of fine harness, or a saddle, as an artist would from painting a fine portrait. He lived to the ripe age of 81 and worked steadily at his trade until physical infirmities of age prevented in the last several years of his life.

Attracted by his reputation as a maker of superior harness and saddles, customers from other counties came to his workshop in Millwood with orders, only to have many of them declined. He was a craftsman of a school now, unfortunately for the country, almost entirely extinct. He preferred maintaining the quality of his output to increasing its quantity and his own profits by undertaking more work than he could handle without lowering his high standard of workmanship.

So to own a Keeler harness or a Keeler saddle became something akin to a mark of distinction in Clarke and its adjoining counties, and, in the era of Clay Hill Academy, no boy who went to that school felt himself properly equipped unless he had a Keeler belt and — if he were a day scholar — a Keeler leather book bag. Mr. Keeler died in 1913 and was buried in the Old Chapel cemetery.

October 4, 1949
Gen. Lee’s Letter on Bishop Meade

Bishop Meade died in Richmond the night of March 13, 1862. The next day, Gen. Lee, in a letter to Mrs. Lee, wrote:

“We have experienced a great affliction, both in our public and private relations. Our good and noble Bishop Meade died last night. He was very anxious to see you, sent you his love and kindest remembrances, and had I known in time yesterday, I should have sent expressly for you to come up.

“Between 6 and 7 yesterday he sent for me, said he wished to bid me good-bye, and to give me his blessing, which he did in the most affecting manner. He invoked the blessing of God upon me and the country, called me Robert and reverted to the time I used to say the catechism to him. He spoke with difficulty and pain, but was perfectly calm and clear. His hand was then cold and pulseless, yet he shook mine warmly. 'I ne'er shall look upon his like again.'”

Accounts of Gen. Lee’s last visit to Bishop Meade will be found in Freeman’s Lee (Vol. II, p. 251), and in the Rev. Churchill Gibson’s “Sketches of Our First Four Bishops.” Bishop Meade was Mrs. Lee’s Godfather.

October 9, 1948

Gen. Morgan’s Will

Gen. Daniel Morgan signed his will March 17, 1801, added a codicil March 18, 1802, and it was probated in the Superior Court, Winchester, Sept. 30, 1802.

To his daughter Betsey (Mrs. James Heard), he left Kentucky lands estimated at 10,000 acres; 5,000 acres in Tennessee “bought of Maj. Armistead for $5,000; and 1,073 acres in the present Clarke County, including “Saratoga,” its slaves, stock, and furniture. He took every legal precaution to prevent her property from getting under Heard’s control.

To his “beloved wife, Abigail” he devised for her natural life 278 acres now lying in Clarke and all the rest and residue of his estate, real and personal. After her death, it was all to go to his daughter, Nancy Nevill. To his son-in-law, Gen. John Nevill, he devised all “my military lands in the Northwestern Territory.” The codicil changed the will to the extent that his lands in Kentucky and the Northwestern Territory were devised equally to his four Heard grandchildren.

And Gen. Morgan had started his career as a wagon driver and tavern roisterer!

August 17, 1948
Maj. Hugh M. Nelson

Hugh Mortimer Nelson, Major, C. S. A., was born at "Mont Air," Hanover Co., Va., Oct. 20, 1811. He moved to Clarke, bought "Long Branch," and in 1836 married Anna Maria Adelaide Holker, daughter of John and Nancy (Stackpole) Holker, of "Springsbury."

He was captain of a Clarke cavalry company from 1845 to 1856. His cavalry captain's blue dress uniform has been preserved at "Long Branch" for more than a century. It was worn by Mrs. Roland G. Mitchell, Jr., at the recent Ancestors ball at "Rosemont." Maj. Nelson was a vestryman of Frederick parish from 1847 until his death. As Clarke's representative in the State convention of 1861, he opposed Virginia's secession until Lincoln called on her troops to coerce seceded states.

When war came he took command of the crack Clarke cavalry, was soon promoted, and joined Maj. Gen. Ewell's staff in the spring of 1862. After passing unscathed through many battles, he died of typhoid fever in Albemarle County Aug. 6, 1862. In 1866 his body was brought back to Clarke and buried in the Old Chapel cemetery.

"Long Branch" is now the home of Mrs. S. Page Nelson, who married Maj. Nelson's only son, the late Hugh M. Nelson 2d.

May 14, 1949

Mrs. Nelson's Wedding

Mrs. Sallie Page Nelson came to "Long Branch" soon after her marriage on April 22, 1885, to Mr. Hugh M. Nelson 2d, and has lived there ever since. The following account of her wedding appeared in the Warrenton Index several days after it took place:

Nelson — Nelson

"On Wednesday evening of the 22nd, a large and pleasant assembly gathered at St. James church to witness the marriage of Miss Page Nelson, eldest daughter of the Rev. G. W. Nelson, to Mr. Hugh Nelson of Clarke. The church was becomingly decorated by the young lady friends of the bride and was a credit both to their taste and energy. At 5 o'clock the bridal party arrived, and the ceremony was performed by the bride's father, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Grammer of The Plains. After the marriage there was a very pleasant reception at the Rectory.

"Assisting in the ceremony were Miss Page of West Va. with Mr. Willie Nelson of Clarke; Miss Hilleary of Warrenton with Dr. Nelson of Danville; Miss Evans of West Va. with Mr. Harry Nelson; Miss Charlotte Nelson with Mr. A. H. Shipperk of Texas, and Messrs. Forbes, Keith, Horner, and Payne as ushers. The presents were costly and numerous, and represented the good wishes of friends far and near. The young couple left on an extended northern tour.

December 22, 1949
This is a portrait of Mrs. John Tayloe II (Aug. 8, 1731 - Jan. 22, 1787) and her daughter, Mary Tayloe (October 28, 1759 - Jan. 26, 1835), as a small child. Mrs. Tayloe was the daughter of the Hon. George Plater (1695 - May 17, 1755) and Rebecca Addison, (Jan. 3, 1703 - between 1742 and 1749), widow of James Bowles and daughter of Col. Thomas Addison, his first wife. She was the sister of George Plater II (Nov. 8, 1735 - Feb. 10, 1792) sixth governor of Maryland. Born at "Sotterley", the home of her father in St. Mary's County, Md., she married on July 11, 1747, Col. John Tayloe II (1721 - 1779) who built "Mt. Airy" in Richmond Co., Va., and lived there. They became the parents of twelve children, eleven daughters and one son. Eight daughters and the son survived Col. Tayloe and all the surviving daughters married.

Mary Tayloe, the child of this portrait, married when she was sixteen and on April 18, 1776, Mann Page III (1749 - March 3, 1803), son of Mann Page II (1718 - 1778) of "Rosewell" and his second wife, Anne Corbin Tayloe, youngest child of Col. John Tayloe and Elizabeth Gwyn, widow of Stephen Lyde, his wife. She was therefore a niece of her husband's mother.

Mann and Mary Tayloe Page made their home at "Mannsfeld" in Spotsylvania County, Virginia. Mr. Page took an active part in public affairs and the politics of the day and held many public offices. To "Mannsfeld" came many of the most noted personages of the time, where they were entertained with lavish hospitality.

After Mr. Page's death at "Mannsfeld" — and burial there — one of their daughters, Maria M. Page (1785 - March 10, 1867) married Dr. Lewis Burwell (Sept. 26, 1783 - Feb. 24, 1826) of "Prospect Hill" in Clarke Co., Va., who was the sixth son of Col. Nathaniel Burwell (1750 - 1814) of "Carter Hall", same county, and his first wife, Susanna Grymes Burwell. This marriage took place in Fredericksburg, Sept. 28, 1808. After this daughter's marriage Mrs. Page moved to Clarke. When she first came to Clarke is not known. She spent her last years in that county and died at her home in the village of Millwood. She is buried in the Old Chapel grave-yard and the only inscription upon the simple stone erected to her memory is:

"Mary Page died 1835."

The Rev. E. C. Hutchinson wrote an obituary notice which may be found in the New Vestry Book of Frederick Parish. In it he said of Mrs. Page: "She left behind her but few equals in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

Dr. J. Hall Pleasants believes this portrait was painted by John Wollaston, and not by John Wollaston the Younger.
Mrs. Mann Page of "Mannsfeld"

Was Mary Tayloe, daughter of Col. John Tayloe II, who built "Mt. Airy" in Richmond Co., and Rebecca Plater, his wife. She was born there Oct. 28, 1759, and married Mann Page III, when she was sixteen. They lived at the newly built "Mannsfeld," just outside Fredericksburg, and there they entertained most of the great Virginians of the Revolutionary period.

Mr. Page as a young man was a member of the House of Burgesses, and from that time on devoted his life to public affairs. He was Commissioner of Army Manufactory in the Revolution, a member of the Congress of the Confederation, and, later, of the Virginia legislature. He died in 1803.

They had two daughters: One of them, Maria Mann, married Dr. Lewis Burwell of "Prospect Hill" in Clarke, who was a son of Col. Nathaniel Burwell; the other, Lucy, married Josiah Tidball of Winchester.

It was said of her that "she possessed a remarkable combination of the greatest excellencies of character," a "sincere and dignified cordiality of manner," and had "but few equals in conversation." She spent her last years in Millwood, where she died Jan. 26, 1835. She was buried in the Old Chapel graveyard.

November 25, 1948

"Mary Page"

That is the name engraved upon the plain white marble tombstone erected 114 years ago in the Old Chapel Cemetery in Clarke to mark the grave of one of the great ladies of the Virginia of her day, Mrs. Mary (Tayloe) Page, who married Mann Page III, of the "Rosewell" line, when she was 16. They made his then newly built home, "Mannsfeld," near Fredericksburg, "a mansion where the most brilliant and accomplished gathered and sojourned."

Mrs. Page, daughter of Col. John and Rebecca (Plater) Tayloe, of "Mt. Airy," Richmond Co., spent the closing years of her life in Millwood among her many relatives and friends there. She died Jan. 26, 1835, in her 76th year. It is said of her that: "Alike when prosperity smiled and adversity frowned, she exhibited the (same) bland, benign, sincere, and dignified cordiality of manner "and left behind her but few equals in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

She was survived by two daughters. One married Dr. Lewis Burwell of Clarke, and after his death, moved to Winchester; the other married Josiah Tidball of that city. One of her great-great-granddaughters, Mrs. Louise (Anderson) Patten now lives in Winchester. Her home is a reproduction, on a smaller scale, of the earlier "Mannsfeld."

March 28, 1950
Edmund Randolph

Edmund Randolph (Aug. 10, 1753-Sept. 12, 1813) died at "Carter Hall" in Clarke Co. while visiting his kinsman, Col. Nathaniel Burwell, and was buried at the Old Chapel. His father, Attorney General John Randolph of the Colony, disinherited him because of his disloyalty to the Crown. For the same reason his uncle, Peyton Randolph, President of the 1st Continental Congress, made him his heir.

Edmund Randolph was an aide-de-camp to Washington in the Revolution. He succeeded Patrick Henry as Governor of Virginia, was the first Attorney General and the second Secretary of the United States, being successor to Thomas Jefferson in the latter office. He was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia Masons, and successfully defended Burr against the charge of treason. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Carter Nicholas, who was a half-brother of Col. Burwell's father. His aunt, Mary Randolph, became the mother of Col. Burwell's first wife, Susanna Grymes. The Colonel's first father-in-law was his father's brother-in-law, and Edmund Randolph's uncle. The relationship between host and guest is now clear.

November 9, 1948

Unique Recommendation

Isham Randolph was born at "New Market," Clarke County, March 25, 1848, and before his death in 1920 was recognized as one of the nation's greatest civil engineers. About 1875 he was working with an engineering party surveying a route for a proposed extension of the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad over Snicker's Gap to Winchester. Jobs were mighty hard to get in those days so, as the survey neared completion, he asked the engineer in charge for a recommendation. He got one which so impressed him that he preserved it among his papers and included it in his memoirs which were unfinished at the time of his death. Here it is, verbatim:

"To whoever presented:

"This will be handed to you by Mr. Isham Randolph, who has asked me for a letter of recommendation. You know that such can be had for the asking. This is cheerfully given. He has been with me for the past six months as a leveler and I will say for him that he is the worst leveler I ever had. This may be accounted for by the fact that I never had but one other leveler. He has made many and grievous mistakes, but he says he will never make another. Take him and try him,

"Your truly, J. D. Bruce, Locating Engineer."

July 21, 1949
Boyce

In 1879 trains of the new Shenandoah Valley railroad stopped in a dense woods at the intersection of its tracks with the Berry's Ferry-Winchester turnpike, and called this stop "Boyceville." Around it, quickly sprang up the town of Boyce.

Col. Upton Lawrence Boyce, a St. Louis lawyer, married a niece of Col. Joseph Tuley, who had built "The Tuleyries," one of Clarke's fine homes. They made this place their home in 1868. Col. Tuley raised the capital necessary to complete construction of the railroad and the town was appropriately named Boyce in his honor, for without the railroad, there would have been no town.

In 1910, Boyce was incorporated. George W. Harrison was elected its first mayor. All of its present area of 232 acres belonged in 1879 to the five farms of "Roseville," "Abbyville," "Huntingdon," "Pleasant Hill" (now "Scaleby") and "Saratoga." These farms are now owned respectively by Mr. and Mrs. Julian A. Everly, Miss Elizabeth Bradford, Mr. Clay Carr, Sr., the estate of Maj. Kenneth N. Gilpin, and the Misses Agnes R. and Mary F. Page. The Shenandoah Valley railroad had long since become a branch of the Norfolk and Western.

The present mayor of Boyce is Dr. J. M. Casey.

January 6, 1949
Northern Clarke County

"Fairfield"

"Fairfield" is one of the very few homes in Clarke to which the term "colonial" can be properly applied. The many authenticated visits to it by Gen. Washington and members of his household make it a place of great historic interest.

About 1765, Warner Washington, Sr., married Hannah Fairfax and acquired from her brother, George William Fairfax, who at times was a Burgess from Frederick, 1600 acres lying in or near Buck Marsh. On this tract he built "Fairfield," and since Gen. and Mrs. Washington arrived there for a three day visit on August 1, 1769, it seems safe to assume the house was completed in or before that year.

The original stone house has been enlarged from time to time and constantly improved. The present imposing "Fairfield" includes parts of Warner Washington's "Fairfield" and its features have been preserved as far as they could be.

John Richardson bought "Fairfield" before 1833 and since then it has remained in the ownership of the Richardson family. It is now the home of Mrs. John Richardson, and the Ralph Richardsons also live on the property.

May 27, 1948

"Audley"

"Audley", a rambling, quaint, and fascinating brick house, is one and one half miles east of Berryville. It is a double structure with southwest and northeast fronts, the rectangular parts being, respectively, 24 by 60, and 24 by 108 feet, each a story and a half high, centrally connected by a wide hall.

It was once owned by Maj. Lawrence Lewis, who married Washington's adopted daughter, Nelly Custis. She lived there after his death and died there. Maj. Lewis devised it to his only son, Lorenzo, whose home it had been since his marriage.

The seven children of Warner Washington, Jr., by his second marriage, were all born in "Audley"; the first in May, 1796. Frederick Co. records do not show how he came into possession of it. It is almost certain the land was once part of his father's "Fairfield" estate. Which one of the two built the house, and when, are both unknown. Maj. Lewis bought it from Warner Washington, Jr., in 1825.

In the settlement of Lorenzo Lewis's estate, "Audley," with some 400 acres, went to his son, H. L. Daingerfield Lewis. After his death, it was bought by the late Archibald Cummins, who sold it to its present owner, B. B. Jones. It is now occupied by his brother, E. L. Jones, and his two sisters.

May 29, 1948
“Clifton”

“Clifton,” situated near Gaylord in Clarke Co. was built by David Hume Allen (1781-1854), and is now owned by his great grandson, Dr. Lewis M. Allen of Winchester. It is one of the few old homes in the county which have always remained in the possession of lineal descendants of the builder.

Kercheval, writing in or c. 1832, states that Mr. Allen “has lately erected a brick building on a beautiful eminence, from which there is a most enchanting view of the Blue Ridge. It is 66 by 50 feet, with a splendid portico, supported by a beautiful colonade, 25 feet high, of solid pine pillars. In front of the house is an extended lawn partly covered with a sheet of transparent water.”

The doorway to the portico has been described by Dr. John W. Wayland as “one of the finest in the country.” The lake no longer exists.

There was an earlier “Clifton” in which many of the children of Warner Washington II and his first wife, Mary Whiting, were born. This house and the present “Clifton” land were acquired by Griffin Baylor, who devised both to his son-in-law, David Hume Allen. Dr. Allen has inherited his great grandfather’s love for fine horses and he has made the “Clifton” breed famous.

January 8, 1949

“Llewellyn”

Maj. Lawrence Lewis sold a tract of 1555 acres in the present Clarke Co. to his cousin, Warner Washington, Jr., for $101,075. The deed is dated October 15, 1818 and is recorded in Winchester (Deed Book 41, p. 73). The tract embraced 1000 acres of Robert Carter Nicholas’s part of the Fairfax Grant of 1730 and 555 acres of Benjamin Harrison’s part of that same grant, which had become a part of Gen. Washington’s residuary estate.

Upon this land the second Warner Washington built “Llewellyn” and lived in it until his death in 1829. It is a handsome and commodious stone house with other stone buildings — which still remain — close to it. It stands three miles south of Berryville and traces of the old road from Berry’s Ferry to Berryville are visible to the south and east of the house. Beyond the west porch was an extensive flower garden.

In 1833 John Kerfoot bought “Llewellyn” and 415 acres. Ever since then it has been owned by his descendants. Its present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred M. Kerfoot, have made extensive improvements in house, grounds, and outbuildings.

June 3, 1948
Gen. Stuart’s Tribute to Lt. D. H. Allen

When news of the death of Lt. David Hume Allen of the Clarke Cavalry, from wounds received at first Manassas, reached his regiment at Camp Onward, a meeting of its officers was held on Aug. 21, at which the famous Confederate cavalry commander, Gen. J. E. B. Stuart — then a colonel — paid tribute to his memory.

An account of this meeting, over which Capt. Hugh M. Nelson presided, was lately found in the papers of the late Dr. Lewis M. Allen, a nephew of Lt. Allen. Written in longhand and unsigned, this account gives the Clarke Cavalry’s regiment as the first Virginia. Unless this be an error, it contradicts the hitherto generally held belief that Clarke’s crack cavalry company became Company D, Sixth Virginia Cavalry when it was first mustered into the Confederate service and remained with the Sixth until the end of the war.

In his address, Stuart recalled that once when he found himself accidentally in command of the Clarke Cavalry he had no arms until Lt. Allen insisted upon giving him his, “a piece of generosity rarely met with in the face of the enemy.” Continuing, he said in part: “During long, arduous and harassing service, I was often struck with his promptness and energy, and his readiness to volunteer whenever danger threatened. He died gloriously in defending the sacred rights of his country and in repelling the invasion of a base and unscrupulous foe.”

March 21, 1950

Nelly Custis

Nelly Custis was the granddaughter of Mrs. Washington, and the adopted daughter of Gen. Washington. She was a daughter of John Parke and Eleanor (Calvert) Custis. Soon after her father’s death, Nov. 5, 1781, she became a member of the “Mt. Vernon” family. She married Lawrence Lewis, Washington’s nephew, on the general’s birthday in 1799, and they built their home, “Woodlawn”, on Mt. Vernon land, given to them by him.

While they lived at “Woodlawn” until his death, Maj. Lewis had large land holdings in Frederick, and in 1818 acquired “Audley,” near Berryville, from Warner Washington II and it became the home of their only surviving son, Lorenzo, after his marriage. When Maj. Lewis died in 1839, his widow moved to “Audley” and lived there the rest of her life. Both had visited the place in earlier years and, perhaps, had spent some summers there.

Nelly Custis, whose looks, charm, “brilliant wit and boundless generosity” are legendary, was buried at “Mt. Vernon.” Among her many living lineal descendants may be mentioned Lorenzo Lewis and Miss Emily McCormick of Berryville. Edward G. Butler of the “Play Garden,” and Mrs. Harry Stimpson, who was Miss Margaret Lewis Byrd, daughter of Thomas B. Byrd, of “The Cliff,” in Clarke County.

February 21, 1948
This is a portrait of George H. Norris (July 8, 1776 - Feb. 20, 1844) who was the eldest son of William and Judith Horton Norris of Christ Church Parish, Lancaster County, Va. and the great great grandson of Thomas Norris and Martha Miles, widow of David Miles, his wife. Thomas Norris married c. 1675 and is mentioned in the records of Lancaster County in 1678. He died before 1693. George H. Norris was born in Lancaster Co. In early life he moved to Clarke County and there lived at the original "Rose Mont", now the home of United States Senator Harry F. Byrd. Passage of time has changed the spelling of the name from "Rose Mont" to "Rose-mont".

On Saturday, Nov. 10, 1804, Mr. Norris married Jane B. Womely, daughter of James Warner Womely (younger son of the 4th Ralph Womely of "Rosegill") and Ariana Randolph, his wife. The wedding took place at "Cool Spring" and was performed by the Rev. Alexander Balmaine. Tradition in the Norris family has it that the Womelys objected to the marriage because the groom was "in trade" and only consented when he agreed to get out of "trade". Ariana Randolph was a sister of the distinguished Edmund Randolph, who died at "Carter Hall" and is buried at the Old Chapel in Clarke Co., and a daughter of Sir John Randolph, the Tory. James Warner Womely, also a Tory, lived with his wife at "The Rocks" in Jefferson Co. (West Va.), sold it to Battaille Muse in 1789 and then moved to "Cool Spring". After the death of his wife in 1794, he returned to England taking with him his son, Ralph Randolph Womely — who later became an admiral in the British Navy — but leaving in Virginia his three young daughters, after placing them under the guardianship of their uncle, Edmund Randolph.

George H. Norris was an Honorable Justice of Frederick County for 20 years before Clarke County was created in 1836. On March 28, 1836, at the first Court ever held in Clarke County he was made presiding justice of the new county and shortly thereafter became its first High Sheriff. He is listed as a vestryman of old Frederick Parish in 1815. How long before that year he was a member of the vestry of that parish is not known.

He died at "Rose Mont" and the following is the inscription upon the tomb stone marking his grave: "He habitually manifested towards man, Justice and mercy. Towards God, repentance. To Christ, Faith. To God, To Christ, To man, Love."

This portrait was painted by Ford, an itinerant artist, who "wandered in" at "Rosemont" and remained to paint the portraits of Mr. Norris and his daughter, Mrs. Thornton. None of this family remains in Clarke or have lived in that county for many years. Miss Fanny Norris, owner of the portrait is a great granddaughter of George H. Norris.
Clarke's First Sheriff, George H. Norris

George H. Norris (July 8, 1776-Feb. 20, 1844) was born in Lancaster Co. where his immigrant forebear had settled in or before 1678, moved to Frederick in his youth, and was living at "Rose Mont" — now "Rosemont" — near Berryville, when he bought that place in 1811. A justice of the Frederick County court from 1817, he was senior justice in Clarke County's first court and was appointed that county's first high sheriff. He is listed as a vestryman of Frederick Parish in 1815-16.

On Nov. 10, 1804, Norris married Miss Jane Bowles WORMELEY, daughter of James Warner WORMELEY of "Cool Spring," the Rev. Alexander Balmain officiating. According to a Norris family tradition, the WORMELEYS, one of the few noted Virginia colonial families who remained loyal to England during the Revolution, opposed the marriage because the groom was in "trade" and only consented to it when he agreed to "get out of trade."

Norris died at "Rose Mont" and the following is the epitaph engraved upon his tombstone: "He habitually manifested towards man, justice and mercy. Towards God, repentance. To Christ, faith. To God, to Christ, to man, Love."

None of his descendants has lived in Clarke for many years.

November 5, 1949

4 Warner Washingtons

Four Warner Washingtons were citizens of Frederick at various times in a now distant past; one lived in Winchester and three in what is now Clarke County. The first to settle in the Valley built "Fairfield" where, as early as 1769, he was visited by George Washington, his first cousin. This Warner was a large landowner, a justice of the Frederick court, a vestryman of Frederick Parish, and a brother-in-law of George William Fairfax of "Belvoir."

His son, Warner Jr., owned in turn three historic homes, "Clifton," "Audley," and "Llewellyn." The last he built after financial difficulties had forced him to sell the others. His son, Warner Washington III, is mentioned in the will of his grandfather, signed in 1789, but otherwise his name does not appear in the records of Frederick and not at all in those of Clarke County.

Dr. John W. Wayland (The Washingtons and Their Homes) identifies the Winchester Warner as a great-nephew of the Warner of "Fairfield," and says that he and his wife "rented a building on S. Braddock St., west side, between Wolfe and Cork, and kept a tavern therein." He adds that they moved to Georgia soon after 1818, and that the "site of their old tavern is now occupied by a Methodist church."

January 22, 1949
Bishop R. H. Wilmer

Richard Hooker Wilmer (1816-1900) was the only Bishop ever consecrated by the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Confederate States. Elected Bishop of Alabama in 1861, he was consecrated in St. Paul's Church, Richmond, March 6, 1862, with Bishop Meade, the Presiding Bishop, acting as consecrator.

From 1845 to 1849, Bishop Wilmer, noted for his wit and humor, had been a most popular rector of Grace Church in Berryville and Wickliffe Church. After the Civil War, Gen. George H. Thomas, military commander of the district of which Alabama was then a part, engaged in a bitter controversy with him which attracted national attention and ended only when the Federal Government forced that officer to revoke his order closing all Episcopal Churches in Alabama and suspending their rectors from exercising their official duties.

The late Dr. Wm. H. Wilmer, his son, built "Ryton" in Clarke and spent many summers there. It is now owned by his widow. Richard H. Wilmer of Washington, his grandson, also owns a Clarke home and his eldest son, Richard H. Wilmer III, Bishop Wilmer's great-grandson, is carrying on the ancient tradition of this family by entering the ministry.

September 4, 1948
Berkeley and Jefferson Counties

Charles Town Races, April, 1786

Six months before the General Assembly of Virginia passed an act establishing "a town by the name of Charlestown" the citizens of that place had not only themselves so named their village but had also established a race course nearby.

These statements are proved by the following advertisement appearing in an April, 1786, issue of the Virginia Journal and Alexandria Gazette and reproduced in Norris's History of the Lower Shenandoah Valley.

"To Be Run For Over The Course Near This Place On Tuesday The 9th Day Of May Next, Agreeable To Rules Of The Fredericksburg Jockey Club, for A PURSE OF 40 POUNDS Free for any mare, horse, or gelding the best two in three 3-mile heats. Horses to be entered with Capt. William Cherry, the day before the race, subscribers paying 30 shillings entrance money, or double at the post; and non-subscribers 40 shillings, or double at the post. On Wednesday the 10th of May, will be run for over the same course, agreeable to the same rules, the Entrance money of the day preceding, the best two in three 3-mile heats. Managers will be appointed ... to determine all disputes that may arise.

"Charles-Town, Berkeley Co., Va. April 8, 1786."

May 26, 1949

Shepherdstown's Ambition

There are probably few today who know that Shepherdstown, that ancient and placid village on the Potomac, was once seriously proposed as the capital of the United States. That is, however, a fact. Furthermore, the proposal had the solid support of every county in the Lower Shenandoah Valley.

It was a Winchester newspaper which launched a campaign to make Shepherdstown the Federal capital. In its issue of March 4, 1789, the Virginia Gazette and the Winchester Advertiser argued that this village was the center of the new nation and was "the ideal and logical place" for the seat of its government.

Berkeley Counties agreed with unanimity and enthusiasm. Subscription lists were circulated and in this way a considerable sum of money, for those days, was raised and pledged for Federal buildings, provided Shepherdstown was made the capital. Files of the Winchester newspaper show that the campaign was still going strong at the close of the following year, 1790.

Berkeley was at one time a part of Frederick County and, of course, Virginia had not then been robbed of West Virginia.

February 19, 1949
Devil Do Your Worst

The following advertisement, printed in The Virginia Gazette and The Winchester Advertiser in August 1790, is fairly typical of many similar ones found in the issues of that newspaper, although more chaste and restrained in expression than perhaps the majority:

Whereas my wife, Elizabeth Orndorff, hath eloped from my bed and board, without any just cause, I have often heard that a bad woman would bring a man to destruction and her children to desolation, and likewise often bring a man to the gallows. I therefore warn all persons from trusting said Elizabeth Orndorff on my account, as I am determined not to pay any debts of her contracting, after this date. Now devil do your worst!

C. Orndorff

Shepherd's Town, Aug. 17

March 6, 1948

Theft of Two Counties

"Gov." Pierpont and his "Restored Government" of Virginia on May 14, 1862, approved the rape of 48 of that state's counties and their creation as the State of West Virginia, and provided further that Frederick, Berkeley, and Jefferson should be added to the new state whenever their electorates should approve its constitution.

By other acts, Berkeley and Jefferson were authorized to vote on their inclusion in West Va. Elections were held May 28, 1863, under supervision of Federal bayonets. The reported results were for inclusion, Berkeley by 665-7 and Jefferson 238-2. Of the 1859 votes cast in Jefferson in the general election of 1860, not one was for Lincoln, who, in the same election, got but one vote in Berkeley.

Pierpont certified the returns of the 1863 elections in the two counties to Gov. Boreman of West Va. The West Va. legislature formally accepted them as counties of that state by Acts passed Aug. 5 and Nov. 2, 1863, respectively.

Every member of the "Restored Gov't." and the legislature of West Va. knew that the people of Jefferson were overwhelmingly opposed to inclusion in West Va., as was a large majority of those in Berkeley. To give the May 28, 1863 elections the force of "a full and free expression of the people's will" was to perpetuate an unconscionable fraud.

February 21, 1950
U. S. Court Confirms Annexation

The return of Confederate soldiers to their homes in Jefferson and Berkeley Counties at the close of hostilities gave a large majority in each county which held the cession of both to West Virginia was null and void because the elections of 1863, upon which it was based, were fraudulent.

The electorates prepared to vote in the Virginia elections of 1865. The governor of West Virginia announced he would arrest any who did, and asked for Federal troops to make good this edict. Appeal was made to Virginia, whose General Assembly, on Dec. 5, 1865, by unanimous vote of both houses, repealed the acts of Pierpont's so-called Virginia Assembly ceding Jefferson and Berkeley to West Virginia Congress, at West Virginia's behest, however, affirmed their cession on Mar. 6, 1866. Virginia then took the issue to the U. S. Supreme Court in a suit entitled Virginia vs. West Virginia, and reported in 11 Wallace, P. 39, and 78 U. S., P. 39.

The Court's final decision was in favor of West Virginia by a 6 to 3 vote. The Shepherdstown Register of March 11, 1871, said: "The decision of last Monday was in a great measure due to the able argument made by the Hon. Charles James Faulkner." However, the existing political situation and complexion of the Court seem to indicate that the decision would have been what it was, no matter who had argued the case.

March 2, 1950

Three Major Generals

There once lived on adjacent lands in what is now Jefferson Co., West Va., three Major Generals of the Continental Army. All of them rendered distinguished service, at times, and all of them got into amazing difficulties. They were:

1. Charles Lee. Com. Maj. Gen., June 17, 1775; 2nd in rank to Washington; voted thanks of Congress for repulse of land and sea attack on South Carolina; suspended from all command for 1 year by court martial for behavior at Monmouth; dismissed from the service by Congress Jan. 10, 1780 for abusive letter.

2. Horatio Gates. Com. Maj. Gen., May 16, 1776; commanded army to which Burgoyne surrendered; received thanks of, and gold medal from, Congress; became involved in the Conway Cabal; disastrously defeated at Camden, S. C.; removed from command of Southern Army and Court of Inquiry ordered retired from active service pending findings of court, which, apparently, was never held.

3. Adam Stephen, an experienced and courageous officer and a good division commander; Com. Maj. Gen., Sept. 4, 1776; cashiered Nov. 20, 1777, for drunkenness at battle of Germantown.

These three officers served in Braddock's Campaign and all of them are said to have been wounded on the day of his disastrous defeat.

April 3, 1948
A Pointed Toast

Maj. General Adam Stephen, who had been cashiered from the Continental Army for drunkenness, Maj. Gen. Charles Lee, who had been court martialed for ordering a retreat at Monmouth, and later dismissed, and Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates, who had retired from active duty pending inquiry into his conduct of the Battle of Camden, frequently foregathered at "Traveler's Rest," home of Gen. Gates, for dinner and discussion of their own misadventures.

At these meetings, according to tradition, Gen. Lee always arose and with great solemnity offered this toast:

"To you, Gen. Stephen, who were drunk when you ought to have been sober, to you, Gen. Gates, who advanced when you should have retreated, and to you, Gen. Lee, who retreated when you should have advanced."

May 22, 1948

A Cherished Legend

One of the cherished legends of Berkeley County is the tale of a duel that was not fought between General William Darke and General James Stephenson. The cause of the altercation between these two old soldiers has long since been forgotten. It was probably trivial, for both were irascible.

At any rate, the story runs like this: General Darke, considering himself deeply insulted by his old friend, General Stephenson, sent the latter a challenge to meet him on the field of honor. This challenge was promptly accepted, and, as Stephenson was the challenged, he had the right to select the weapon with which the issue was to be settled, and chose swords.

At the selected time and place, both principals appeared with their seconds. General Stephenson, a frail man of small stature, came to the field armed with a slender French rapier; the gigantic General Darke arrived equipped with a cavalry sabre of herculean length, width, and weight. As the combatants took their positions, the contrast between the two men and their weapons appealed to their seconds as so ridiculous that they burst out laughing. The principals saw the point and joined in the laughter. Instead of a duel a quick and enduring reconciliation followed.

February 25, 1950
Magnus Tate’s Ear

Magnus Tate appears in the order books of the Frederick County Court first as a fighter, a brawler. On one of his early appearances he told the justices that he had been attacked without provocation by the defendant, who had bitten off one of his ears. Two witnesses verified his story, and then Tate produced and exhibited to the justices the severed portion of his ear.

The court ordered the “biter” held for trial and the ear held as evidence. The court clerk, in entering the record of the proceedings, wrote on the margin of the page as a “reference side note” these words, “Magnus Tate's ear placed on record,” and thus the case is indexed.

Magnus Tate was born — probably in Frederick — in 1760. The pattern of his life is in many respects similar to the pattern of Gen. Morgan’s life. He soon settled down, studied law, practiced before the Winchester court and in Berkeley Co. He moved to Martinsburg and represented Berkeley in the House of Delegates, was a Justice of that county’s court, its sheriff and its representative in Congress, 1815-17. He died March 20, 1823, at his home near Martinsburg, highly honored and respected.

October 15, 1949

“Florence Vane”
(Mary Evelina Dandridge)

This lovely lyric, most popular and most quoted of Philip Pendleton Cooke’s poems, is well known to the older generation and since it is still found in many American anthologies, the younger may also have some familiarity with it. Few know or have known who inspired it.

Florence Vane was in reality Mary Evelina Dandridge, daughter of Adam Stephen and Sarah (Pendleton) Dandridge of “The Bower,” in Jefferson Co. She has been described as tall, blythe, debonair, lovable, endowed “by nature with the pitying eye which, aided by beauty, is the bow and spear of a maiden.” For her, wrote the poet’s younger brother, John Esten Cooke, “he would and did gallop twenty miles to throw a bouquet into her window.”

The attachment between the two seems to have been mutual, at first. But it was what would be called today a “boy and girl” romance. He went off to college and upon his return found himself supplanted, and his own passion died a natural death. Soon both were happily married: she to Robert M. T. Hunter, then at the start of a distinguished career; and he to Anne Corgin Tayloe Burwell, of “The Vineyard,” in Clarke.

July 31, 1948
Matthew Page Andrews


Born at "Fruit Hill" July 15, 1879, he died suddenly in Baltimore, June 20, 1947.

After graduation from Washington and Lee University, Page Andrews, as his friends called him, taught in the Shenandoah Valley Academy. His skill in baseball and tennis widened his circle of friends in Winchester and also in Clarke County. He is said to have played professional baseball to finance his historical research.

The flaming ambition of his life was to write THE definitive history of Virginia and many critics believe he made a fine start toward its accomplishment when, in 1943, he published The Soul of a Nation, The Founding of Virginia, and The Projection of New England. His untimely death prevented, perhaps, realization of that dream. He was the author of many historical works, including Virginia, the Old Dominion.

The last public appearance of Mr. Andrews in Clarke County where many of his relatives live, was several years before his death, when he delivered the chief address at a meeting of the Clarke County Historical Assn. He never married.

February 28, 1950

Historical Markers

The late William E. Carson, of Riverton, well known to residents of the Lower Shenandoah Valley, is entitled to full credit for Virginia's splendid system of historical markers which now covers the state, and adds so much pleasure and instruction to all those who travel over Virginia's main highways.

Mr. Carson originated the idea of these markers when he was the first chairman of the Virginia Conservation Commission and he was responsible for putting it into execution. All subsequent chairmen of this department of the state government, including the present one, have aided in the growth and development of his idea.

Virginia was the first state to adopt such a system. But it soon proved so great a success that other states in increasing number continue to follow this commonwealth's lead.

Until Jan. 1 of this year, the necessary historical research was in charge of Dr. J. H. Eckenrode, director of the division of history and archaeology of the conservation commission. His chief assistant was Col. Bryan Conrad, U. S. A., retired, of Winchester, whose resignation also became effective Jan. 1. They wrote or supervised the writing of the inscriptions for practically every marker in the system.

March 5, 1949
Historical Works

In this, the last of the current Local History series, it seems appropriate to present the following list of books which should interest those readers of these articles who have not yet read them:

History of The Lower Shenandoah Valley by J. E. Norris, 1890; A History of the Valley of Virginia, Samuel Kercheval, 1st ed. 1833, 4th ed. 1925; Winchester, Virginia, And Its Beginnings, Mrs. Katherine (Glass) Greene, 1926; The Story of Winchester In Virginia, Frederick Morton, 1925; Shenandoah Valley Pioneers and Their descendants, Thos. K. Cartmell, 1909.

History of Clarke County, Virginia, Thos. D. Gold, 1914; Clarke County, A Daughter of Frederick, Rose M. E. McDonald, 1943.


April 10, 1950