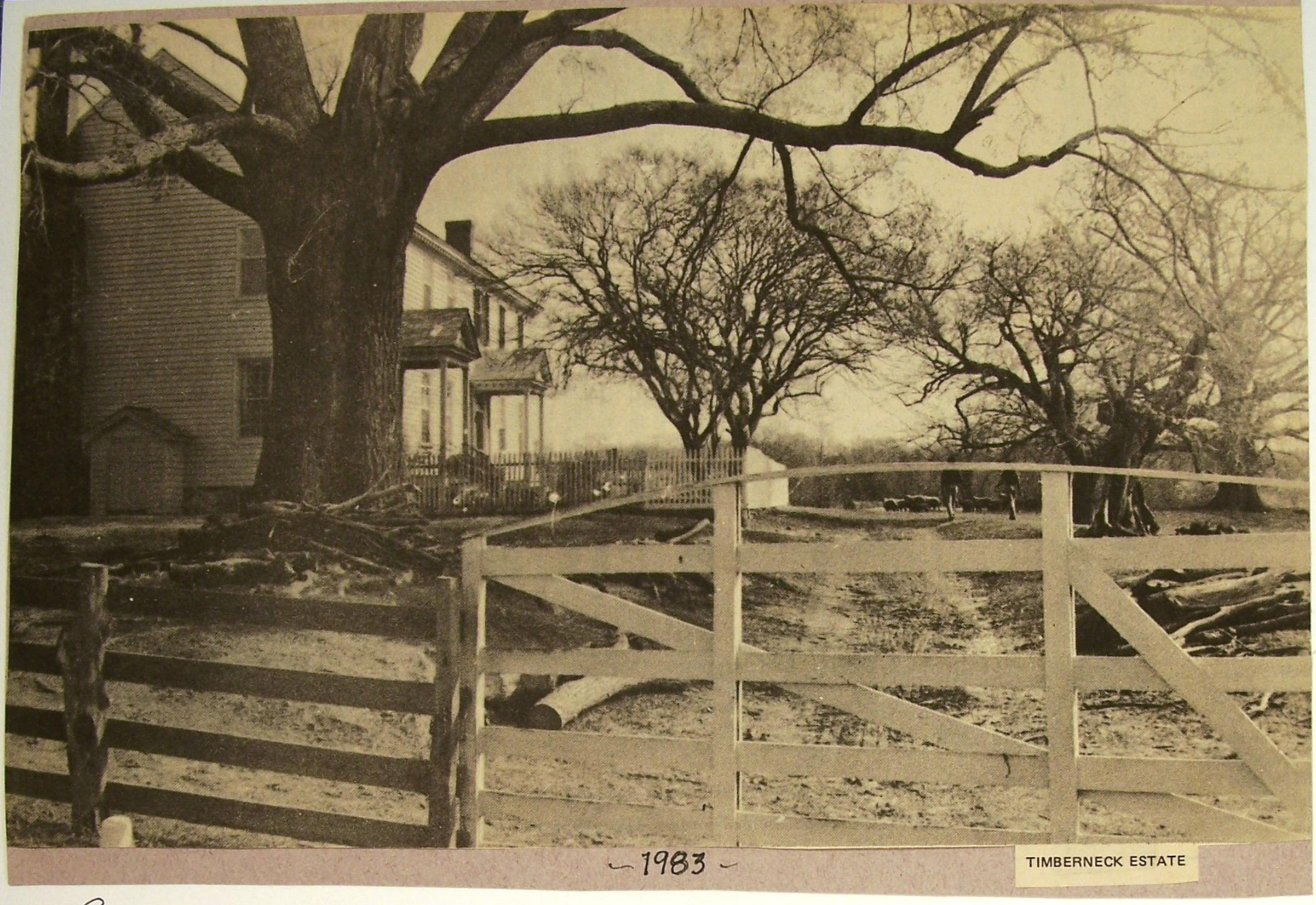

- Timberneck continued -

A GRAY NOVEMBER AFTERNOON - The leaves have fallen, the waters of Timberneck Creek are crystal clear and a mist slowing drifts in from York River near Wicomico. On the distant shore, chimneys of the old dwelling of Timberneck Farm blend in with green cedars along the quiet creek.

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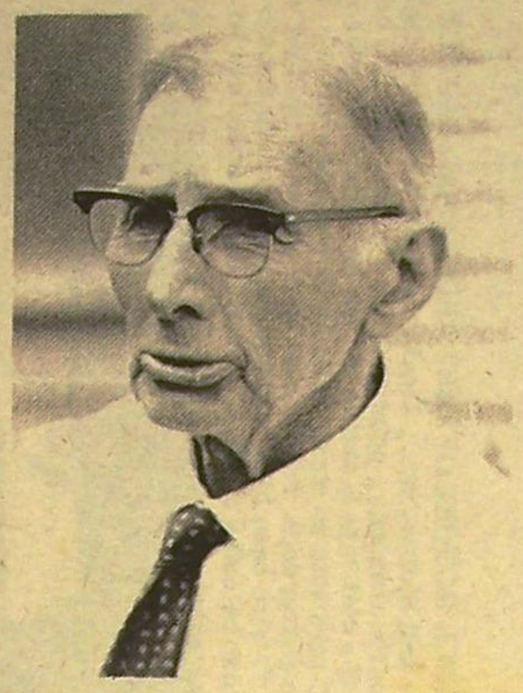
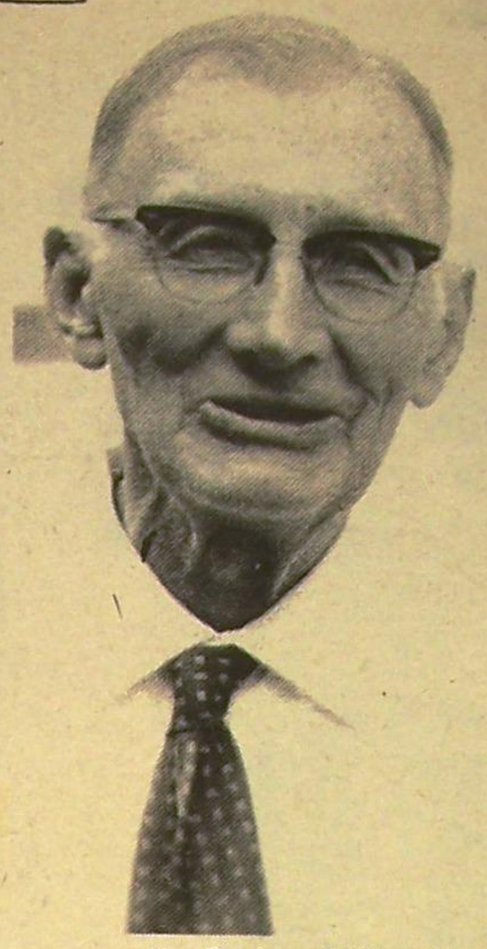
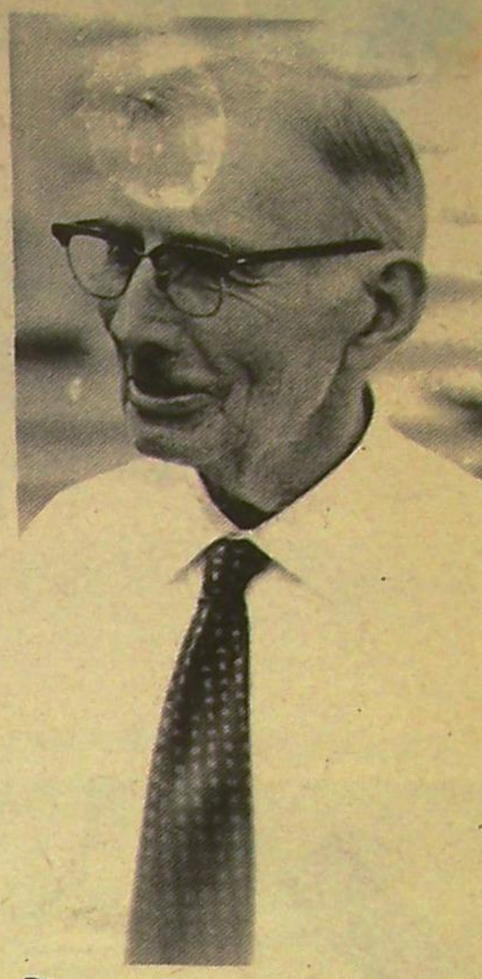
Mr. John Walker Carter Catlett of Timberneck Farm







Mr. Catlett Still Likes To Discuss Farmers' Need

The Sunday afternoon for a visit to Timberneck Farm on York River near Wicomico was very warm, but upon arrival there, the southeast breezes coming over river and creek made the dip in high temperatures a welcomed relief.

John Walker Carter Catlett greeted his guests. He is probably one of the few surviving legislators who attended a special session of the Virginia General Assembly back in 1919. Mr. Catlett had been elected to succeed Major James New Stubbs of Church Hill, Woods Cross Roads, as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. The extra session was called by Governor Westmoreland Davis to make provision for securing Federal-Aid Road Funds.

"I served that time as a successor to Cousin Jimmy, as we called Major James Stubbs", Mr. Catlett said. "I have always been interested in politics and still am, but I felt that one term, though short, was enough for me in the General Assembly". John N. Tabb, father of the late Dr. Harry A. Tabb, was elected to the House of Delegates in 1920 following Mr. Catlett. Z.T. Gray was elected in 1922, 1923 and 1924; Gilbert L. Dibbs was Gloucester's representative to the Va. House of Delegates in 1926 and 1927; followed by John Tabb Duval in 1928, Mrs. C.C. White in 1930, 1932 and 1933; then Mr. DuVal again in 1934, 1936, 1936/1937, followed by James Bland Martin in 1938. Today, John Warren Cooke of Mathews continues to represent Gloucester as State Delegate following Mr. Martin.

A son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Catlett of Timberneck, Mr. Catlett was born at the family home on January 11 in 1888. "I have spent most of my life at Timberneck", Mr. Catlett commented. "I graduated from McGuire's School in Richmond after an attendance there for three years. I lived with my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Nelson, in Henrico County while studying in Richmond. I then went to VPI for four years and graduated in 1909; I was one of the few young men from Gloucester County in college in those days. Harry Tabb had earlier graduated from Medical College of Virginia in Richmond."

"Except for being county agent in Stafford County, Virginia, for about three years, I have been working on Timberneck for most of my life. I was county agent in Gloucester around 1911 for about a year, but found out I had to return to Timberneck to look after it. We raised over fifty acres of watermelons in those days and had around ten men to help with the harvesting. Boats were loaded in Timberneck or Cedarbush Creeks and they would take the melons to Norfolk to be loaded on the Old Dominion Lines for shipment to New York City. We would use canoes and bugeyes for transportation between Gloucester and Norfolk. Trips would be made on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays."

Timberneck occupied most of Mr. Catlett's working hours as a young man, but he still found time to court and marry the former Miss Virginia Garnet Edwards of Fairfield in Sadler's Neck. "We were married at Abingdon Church in 1923", Mr. Catlett said. "Our daughter, Mary Armistead, is married and lives in New York State, while one of my sons, Charles, is serving in the Armed Forces in Europe., Two other sons, John, Junior, and William E. are still home with my wife and me."

While a young man, Mr. Catlett was president of the Gloucester-Mathews Farmers Cooperative. Even today, he has not lessened his concern for better conditions for the farmer. "The farmer has always had to take what price was offered to him for his products. He never could say what price he wanted. The Farm Bureau today is a big help in that direction. Farmers must be organized to accomplish anything."

Mr. Catlett noted how means of farming have changed so much in his lifetime. "We always had teams of horses and mules to prepare the land. Today, my sons have tractors and various types of mechanized equipment which eliminates hired hands. That's why we don't raise watermelons commercially any longer here. We can't get the help."

Mr. Catlett told of his family ties with the Nelson family in Henrico County. "My mother was Miss Lucy Nelson, and it was her sister, Letitia Nelson, who married my uncle, L. Carter Catlett of Gloucester Court House. He was superintendent of Tidewater Telephone Company for a number of years. His son died in an airplane accident while serving in the Army Air Corps in the early 1920's."

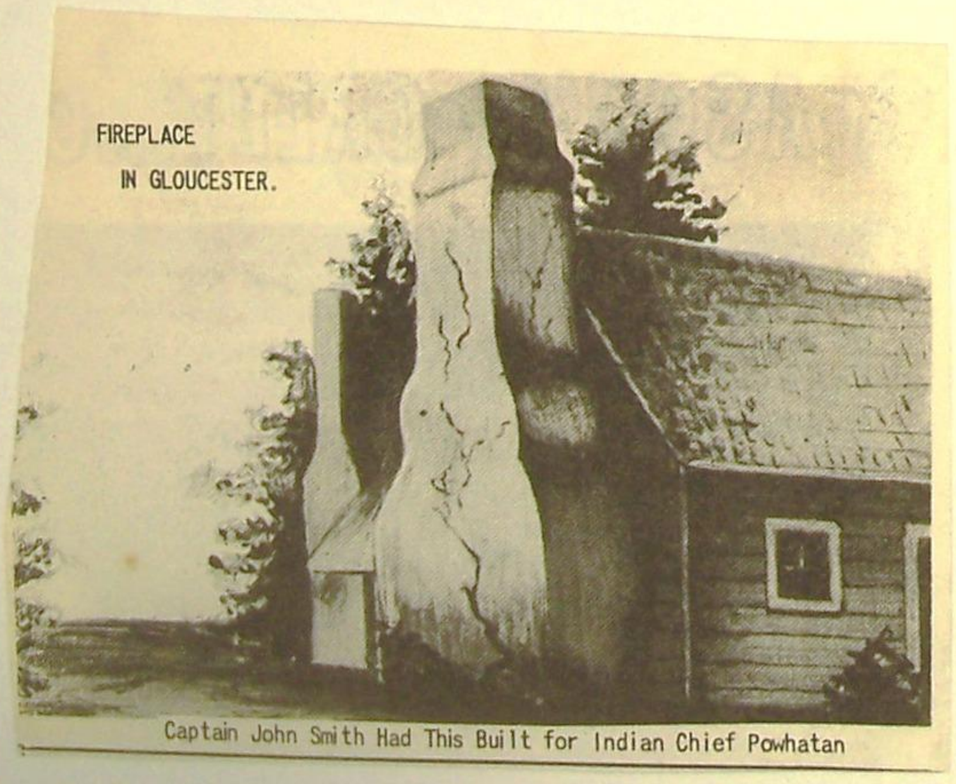
Mr. Catlett spoke with deep devotion for his ancestral home, Timberneck. "My grandfather, for whom I was named, my grandmother, and my parents, as well as other ancestors, are all buried here. I have been here practically all of my life, but because of changing times, I believe I will write in my will that I will be buried at Abingdon Church. Property is becoming more and more difficult to retain than in olden days."

Wherever he may be, Mr. John Walker Carter Catlett will always be a dear part of Timberneck.

— Photos 1968 —

Known locally as "Powhatan's Chimney" this old marl chimney may or may not be from a dwelling Capt. John Smith had erected in the winter of 1608-09 for Chief Powhatan. The chimney as it stands today was reconstructed in the 1930's, partially from the rubble of a chimney blown down in 1888, and from new marl brought in to complete the job about 1938.

For a complete discussion of this structure and the location of Chief Powhatan's village of Werowocomoco see article attached from APVA publication Discovery.



Captain John Smith Had This Built for Indian Chief Powhatan

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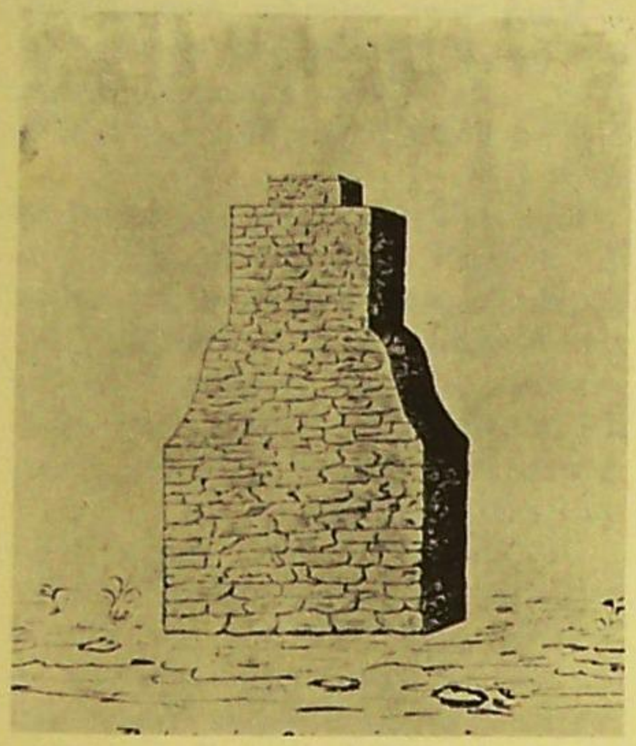


Discovery

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF VIRGINIA ANTIQUITIES
Volume IV, Number 3 Fall, 1972

POWHATAN'S CHIMNEY—
Gloucester County

"The Powhatan Chimney has been blown down, all of our Virginia landmarks are passing away; nothing is being done to save them, before long all will be gone." With this *cri de coeur* Miss Mary Jeffrey Galt called into existence the APVA and the idea of historic preservation.

So wrote historian-scholar Colonel Ludwell Lee Montague in his research report on "Powhatan's Chimney" for Joseph Bryan Branch in November, 1971. Colonel Montague was assigned to study the historical evidence bearing on the location of the house built for Powhatan in January 1609; on what sort of house it was; and on the tradition that the massive old marl chimney standing on the east bank of Timberneck Creek in 1846 was the chimney of Powhatan's house. This study of the "Powhatan Chimney" was part of a program of research and documentation for all APVA properties in Gloucester County.

Colonel Montague's findings were significant. In addition to the motivation for the organization of the APVA in the 1880's and the now general movement for historic preservation, other conclusions of the report show that:

1. The "Dutch-men" (Germans) sent to build Powhatan's house had only two weeks in which to accomplish that task, and the house was unfinished at the end of that time.

2. Almost certainly Powhatan's House was an ordinary wattle-and-daub house like those now to be seen in the reconstruction of James Fort at the Jamestown Festival Park.

3. Powhatan's house was at Werowocomoco, and Werowocomoco was at Purtan Bay. It is proved by the map and text in John Smith's *Generall Historie*, and is confirmed by Robert Tindall's map of 1608.

4. The legend of "Powhatan's Chimney" had its origin in William Stith's misreading of one passage in John Smith's text. Stith's mistaken interpretation of what Smith had actually said, published in his *History of Virginia*, 1747, led to a mistaken belief that Werowocomoco had been in the Shelly-Timberneck area. But the "tradition" regarding "Powhatan's Chimney" was not heard of until 1846, when it was publicized by historian Charles Campbell. It is absolutely contradicted by John Smith's map and text.

5. The present chimney is a reconstruction erected 1934-38.

The historical evidence for these conclusions of the Montague report is presented here in slightly abbreviated form and without footnotes:

Powhatan's House

In late December 1608 Captain John Smith sent two Englishmen and three "Dutch-men" (whom he also called Germans) from James Fort to Werowocomoco to build a house for Powhatan, at Powhatan's request.

Powhatan was then living in an "arbor-house" made of bent saplings covered with grass mats. It had a fire burning in the center of it, and a hole in the roof through which the smoke eventually escaped; in winter the interior was always dark and smoky.

Powhatan had never been to James Fort, but he had heard reports of the fine houses that the English had there. Those wattle-and-daub houses with thatched roofs were primitive, from the English point of view, but they looked good to the Indians, who must have been especially impressed by one feature, their wattle-and-daub chimneys that drew off the smoke from the fire without smoking up the house.

At Powhatan's invitation, Smith himself came to Werowocomoco, on 12 January 1609, with 45 men in a pinnace and two barges. Powhatan had offered to fill his ship with corn in exchange for the house and certain specified goods, but Smith found very little corn at Werowocomoco and many armed Indians there. Smith refused to trade swords and firearms for corn, and he also refused to disarm his bodyguard, as Powhatan demanded. He conceived that Powhatan had lured him to Werowocomoco in order to entrap and capture him. This tense confrontation ended when Powhatan fled to the woods in fear that Smith intended to kidnap him. Smith then left Werowocomoco and proceeded to the Pamunkey Country to trade with Openchancanough for corn.

When Smith left Werowocomoco on 14 January 1609, the construction of Powhatan's house had not been finished. He left the three Germans there to finish it. They thereupon defected to Powhatan, who sent two of them

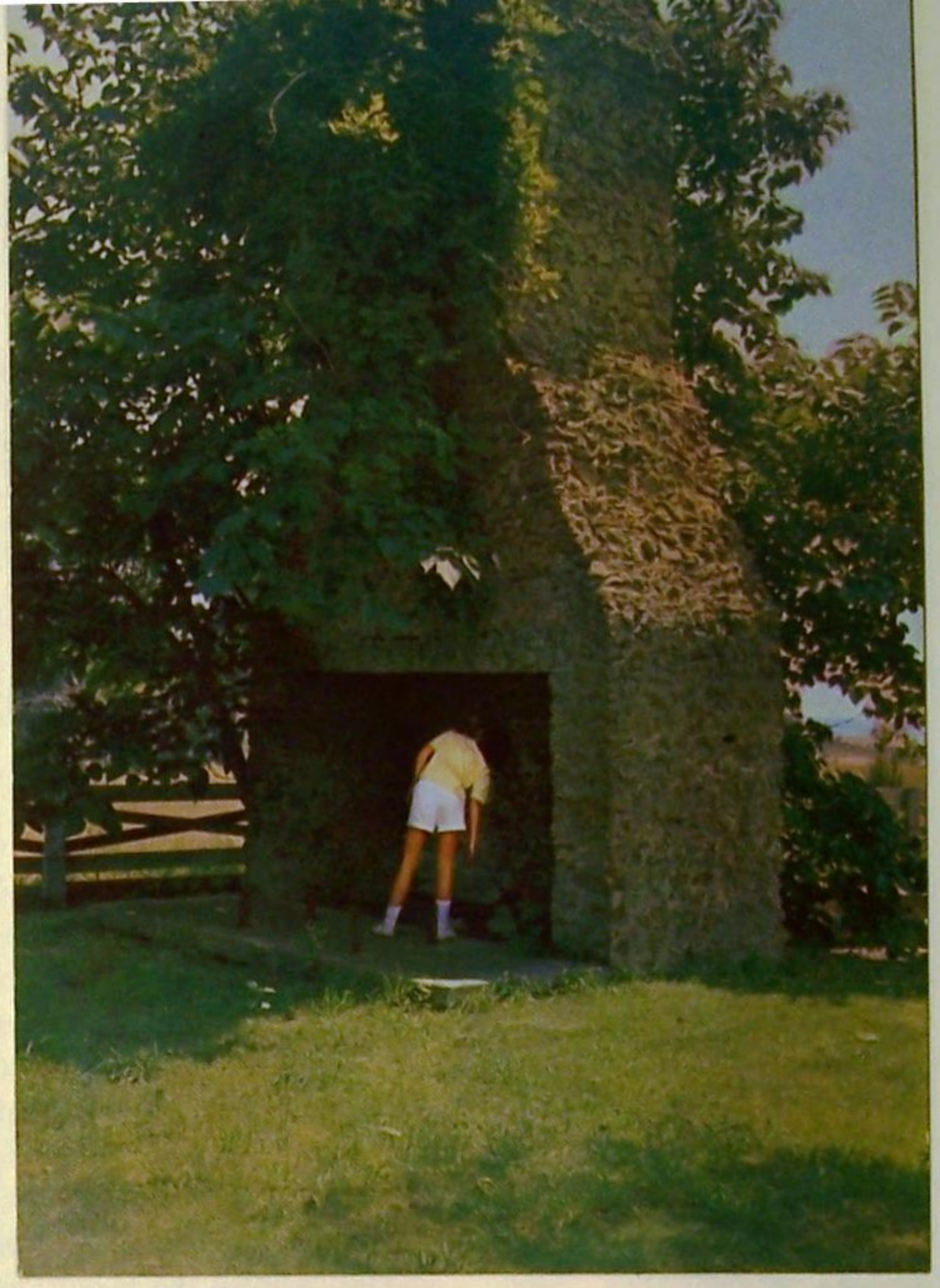
(Con't. page 6)

to James Fort with an order, ostensibly from Smith, to send a quantity of swords and firearms to Werowocomoco. That was done.

Meanwhile, in the Pamunkey Country, Opechancanough had surrounded Smith's landing party with a greatly superior force of armed Indians. Smith escaped the trap by seizing Opechancanough himself and holding him hostage. The Pamunkeys were required to deliver the desired quantity of corn in order to obtain their King's release.

At this point a messenger from James Fort informed Smith of the trick whereby Powhatan had obtained the delivery of swords and firearms to Werowocomoco, and that the Indians at Werowocomoco were preparing for war. Smith resolved to trap and capture Powhatan, and to that end landed some unarmed Englishmen and trade goods near Werowocomoco. Powhatan approached, with a large force, but when armed Englishmen sprang from ambush the Indians fled. In fear of Smith, Powhatan and the Germans fled as far as Orapaks, on the upper Chickahominy.

The Germans had only about two weeks in which to build Powhatan's house, which stood unfinished at the end of that time. Thereafter the Germans were otherwise employed in Powhatan's service. Thus it is open to question whether the house was ever



finished. It is improbable that within two weeks the Germans could have discovered the advantageous properties of the marl in the York River (they had never before used such building material), and could have got out a sufficient quantity of marl blocks to build a massive chimney, have moved that heavy material to the site, and have built there a chimney like that now called Powhatan's.

It is significant that neither John Smith nor anyone else who ever saw Powhatan's house left any description of it. This suggests that it was entirely ordinary, just like the wattle-and-daub houses at James Fort. If it had had a stone chimney far superior to any at James Fort, that surely would have been remarked upon.

The ultimate fate of Powhatan's house is known. After John Smith's departure from Virginia, in September 1609, Powhatan returned from Orapaks to Werowocomoco. His house may have been finished then, but not by the Germans, whom he had put to death. In April 1613, at Patawomeck (Potomac), Captain Samuel Argall kidnapped Pocahontas. Sir Thomas Dale took her to Werowocomoco, where he offered to exchange her for the weapons the Indians had stolen and the several English deserters living under Powhatan's protection. Powhatan, however, fled again to Orapaks, in fear that he was about to be kidnapped as Pocahontas had been. Dale thereupon proceeded to burn and obliterate Werowocomoco—including, of course, Powhatan's house.

Werowocomoco

Powhatan's house was at Werowocomoco. Where was that? On Purtan Bay.

John Smith's map shows that Werowocomoco was 4 leagues (12 miles) below West Point, 3½ leagues (10½ miles) above Chiskiack (which was on Indian Field Creek), 5 leagues (15 miles) above Tindall's Point (Gloucester Point), and on a bay that is plainly Purtan Bay.

Modern maps show Purtan Bay to be 11 miles below West Point, 11 miles above Indian Field Creek, and 15 miles above Gloucester Point. Thus they confirm the essential accuracy of Smith's map, remarkable in the circumstances of his brief sojourn in Virginia, and his location of Werowocomoco at Purtan Bay.

John Smith was better at making maps than he was at a writing English. In more than one passage in his writings, his ellipses and his careless syntax have created problems of interpretation. The legend of "Powhatan's Chimney" is derived from the misinterpretation of one such passage. In describing the Pamaunkee (York) River Smith wrote:

> Where this river is divided the Country is called *Pamaunkee*, and nourisheth neare 300 able men. About 25 myles lower on the North side is *Werowocomoco*, where their great King inhabited when I was delivered him prisoner; yet there are not past 40 able men. Ten or twelve myles lower, on the South side of the river, is *Chiskiack*, which hath some 40 or 50 men.

This passage is commonly misconstrued to mean that Werowocomoco was 25 miles below West Point. Smith did not say that. He said that Werowocomoco was 25 miles below the Pamaunkee Country, which was all of the land between the Youghtanund (Pamunkey) and Mattapanient (Mattaponi) Rivers. In context with John Smith's own map, which shows Werowocomoco as being only 12 miles below the point that we call West Point, it is evident that Smith's point of reference within the extensive Pamaunkee Country was not its tip at West Point, but the seat of its King, Opechancanough, which was some 12 miles up the meanders of the Youghtanund (Pamunkey) River from West Point. This interpretation is confirmed by Smith's own statement in the same passage that Werowocomoco was 10 or 12 miles above Chiskiack. A point 25 miles below West Point would have been 3 miles below Chiskiack instead of 10 or 12 miles above it.

In addition to John Smith's *Generall Historie*, the major source cited here, there is other, independent evidence on the point, known only to scholars. It is the "Draught of Virginia by Robarte Tindall, Anno 1608." The "Draught" (a map) is in the British Museum, but a facsimile reproduction of it was published by Alexander Brown in 1890.

Robert Tindall (not John Smith) was the first explorer of York River. His delineation of the shorelines of that river is amazingly precise. He names only three locations on the river: Tindall's Point (Gloucester Point), Cheskoyek (Smith's Chiskiack), and Poetan (Smith's Werowocomoco). That Poetan was Tindall's way of spelling the name that Smith spelled Powhatan is shown by the fact that Tindall gave that name to the village near the site of Richmond that Smith named Powhatan.

Tindall's amazingly accurate map shows Poetan (Werowocomoco) as having been 11 miles below West Point, 11 miles above Cheskoyek, and 15 miles above Tindall's Point. Those are precisely the distances shown on modern maps between these points and Purtan Bay! John Smith's Werowocomoco has disappeared from modern maps, but Robert Tindall's Poetan is still there, in the form of Purtan Bay. The intermediate form was Portan Bay, as in Thomas Jefferson's map of 1787.

Since the publication of Alexander Brown's *Genesis* in 1890 no true scholar has been in any doubt about the location of Werowocomoco.

The Legend of "Powhatan's Chimney"

If Powhatan's house was at Werowocomoco, as it was, and if Werowocomoco was at Purtan Bay, as it was, how did an old stone chimney beside Timberneck Creek, 11 miles from the site of Werowocomoco, come to be thought the chimney of Powhatan's house?

It appears that the first person who said that Werowocomoco was 25 miles below West Point was William Stith, in his *History of Virginia* published at Williamsburg in 1747, exactly 134 years after Sir Thomas Dale obliterated Werowocomoco.

Stith was evidently familiar with Smith's *Generall Historie*. His account of that period is a paraphrase of it. But one must suppose that Stith was a man of words unskilled in reading maps. He simply ignored John Smith's map and misread the passage

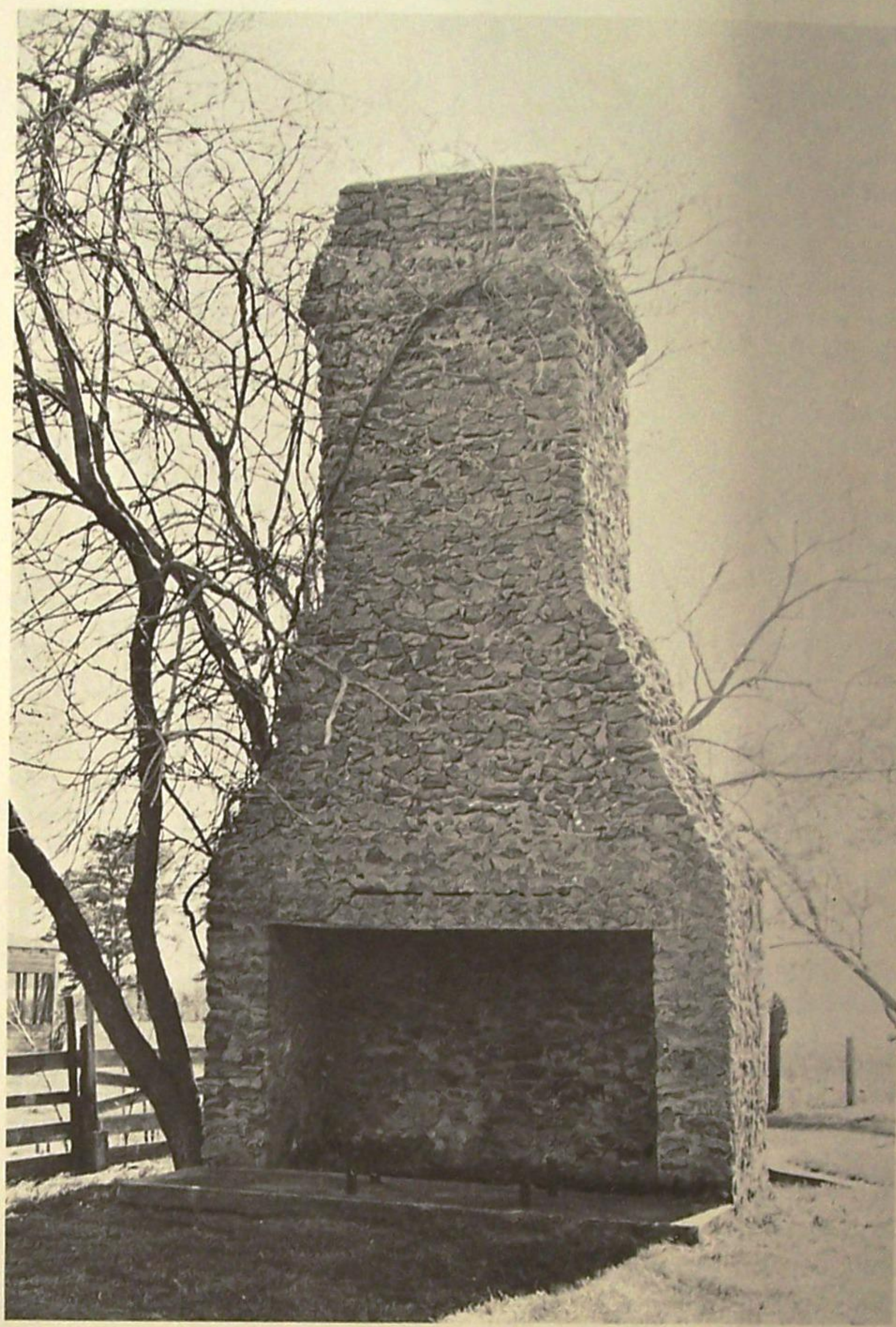
quoted above. In particular, he ignored Smith's statement that Werowocomoco was 10 or 12 miles above Chiskiack, presumably because he can have had no definite idea of where Chiskiack had been and thought that unimportant. In any case, Stith measured 25 miles from West Point as best he could and said that Werowocomoco was on the Gloucester shore "nearly opposite the mouth of Queen's Creek." Actually, the mouth of Queen's Creek is only 18½ miles below West Point. It is only 4 miles above the site of Chiskiack.

William Stith's misreading of John Smith's text was the first step in the creation of the legend of "Powhatan's Chimney."

"Rosewell" stood on the Gloucester shore opposite the mouth of Queen's Creek. John Page of "Rosewell" was familiar with Stith's *History*, but apparently not with Smith's. He was pleased to believe that he lived at the seat of the "lordly" Powhatan. He concluded that the exact location of Werowocomoco was at "Shelly" (then a part of the "Rosewell" estate), because of the immense quantity of shells on that shore. (Those shells are, of course, a geological formation, not evidence of Powhatan's appetite for oysters.) Page named the place "Werowocomoco," but that name proved awkward in everyday use and he renamed it "Shelly."

John Page's opinion regarding the location of Werowocomoco was inherited by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Mann Page of "Shelly," who was inspired thereby to name one of her sons for Powhatan. Her enthusiastic conviction served to convince a generation of Virginia historians, notably Charles Campbell, Henry Howe, and William Meade.

The first to publish on the subject was Charles Campbell, in the *Southern Literary Messenger*, in the early 1840s. Campbell's purpose was to contradict the commonly held idea that Werowocomoco was somewhere on James River. He first quoted the passage from Smith quoted above, except that he, like Stith, omitted the reference to Chiskiack—then he quoted from Stith to show what Smith's text meant. The rest of his article was indirect quotation of what Mrs. Page had to say on the subject.



Campbell spent some space rejecting the idea that Werowocomoco could have been anywhere down river from "Shelly." That he did so suggests that Mrs. Page was concerned to refute that idea, which implies that somebody was already claiming that Werowocomoco was not at Shelly, but on Timberneck Creek.

In 1845 historian Henry Howe simply quoted at length from Campbell's article in the *Southern Literary Messenger*.

It was Campbell who discovered "Powhatan's Chimney." Someone, apparently John Walker Carter Catlett of "Timberneck," brought the chimney, to his attention after reading his article in the *Messenger*. Campbell visited "Shelly," "Timberneck," and the chimney, in order to determine the question, and then wrote again to the *Messenger*. He confessed embarrassment at reversing himself so soon after writing so positively about "Shelly," but he was now convinced that "Powhatan's Chimney" on Timberneck Creek marked the site of Werowocomoco.

In justification of his new conviction Campbell pointed out that it was "Timberneck Bay," as he called it, not "Shelly," that was 25 miles below West Point. (The mouth of Timber-

neck Creek is actually 22 miles below West Point.) He spent the rest of his article in a far-fetched effort to show that "Timberneck Bay" conformed to John Smith's description of the bay on which Werowocomoco stood.

Smith had said that three creeks flowed into that bay. (Three small creeks do flow into Purtan Bay.) Campbell emphasized that point with italics and then proceeded to discuss three creeks: Carter's Creek, Cedarbush Creek, and Timberneck Creek. But Carter's Creek and Cedarbush Creek do not flow into "Timberneck Bay." Only one creek does, Timberneck Creek.

On his first approach to Werowocomoco by water, Smith landed by mistake in an extensive marsh. (There is such a marsh on the north side of Purtan Bay.) Smith described the bridges that the Indians had made over the many channels in that marsh and over the "great creek" at Werowocomoco. They were made of poles lashed together with strips of bark. The Catlett Islands provided a marsh for Campbell. He imagined Smith crossing Timberneck Creek from them on such a bridge. At that point the creek is nearly 100 yards wide and 4 feet deep at low tide. That the Indians would have bridged it there with poles lashed together with strips of bark is simply incredible.

On another occasion Smith's barge went aground a bowshot from the shore in front of Werowocomoco. Smith's barge would not have gone aground a bowshot from the shore in front of "Powhatan's Chimney."

In discussing the three creeks Campbell referred to Smith's map as though he had it before him, yet he failed to notice that Smith's map showed Werowocomoco to be 15 miles from Gloucester Point. "Powhatan's Chimney" is less than 4 miles from Gloucester Point.

Campbell's enthusiasm on finding a very old chimney said to have been the chimney of Powhatan's house evidently overcame his critical judgment. It was "Powhatan's Chimney" that convinced him that Werowocomoco had stood on the east bank of "Timberneck Bay"—that and the distance from West Point, which conformed to William Stith's criterion of 25 miles. The rest of his argument was self-deceptive rationalization.

But why did John Walker Carter Catlett believe that the old chimney on the east bank of "Timberneck Bay" was the chimney of Powhatan's house. He said that that was the local tradition. That tradition was unknown outside of the locality before 1846. It is evident that Catlett was responding to the claim that "Shelly" was the site of Werowocomoco. He took it for granted that Werowocomoco had been somewhere in the vicinity of Timberneck, observed that the old chimney was more nearly 25 miles from West Point than Shelly was, and was convinced by that consideration. In short, he, too, relied on William Stith and was misled by him. It does not appear that he had any direct acquaintance with John Smith's map or text.

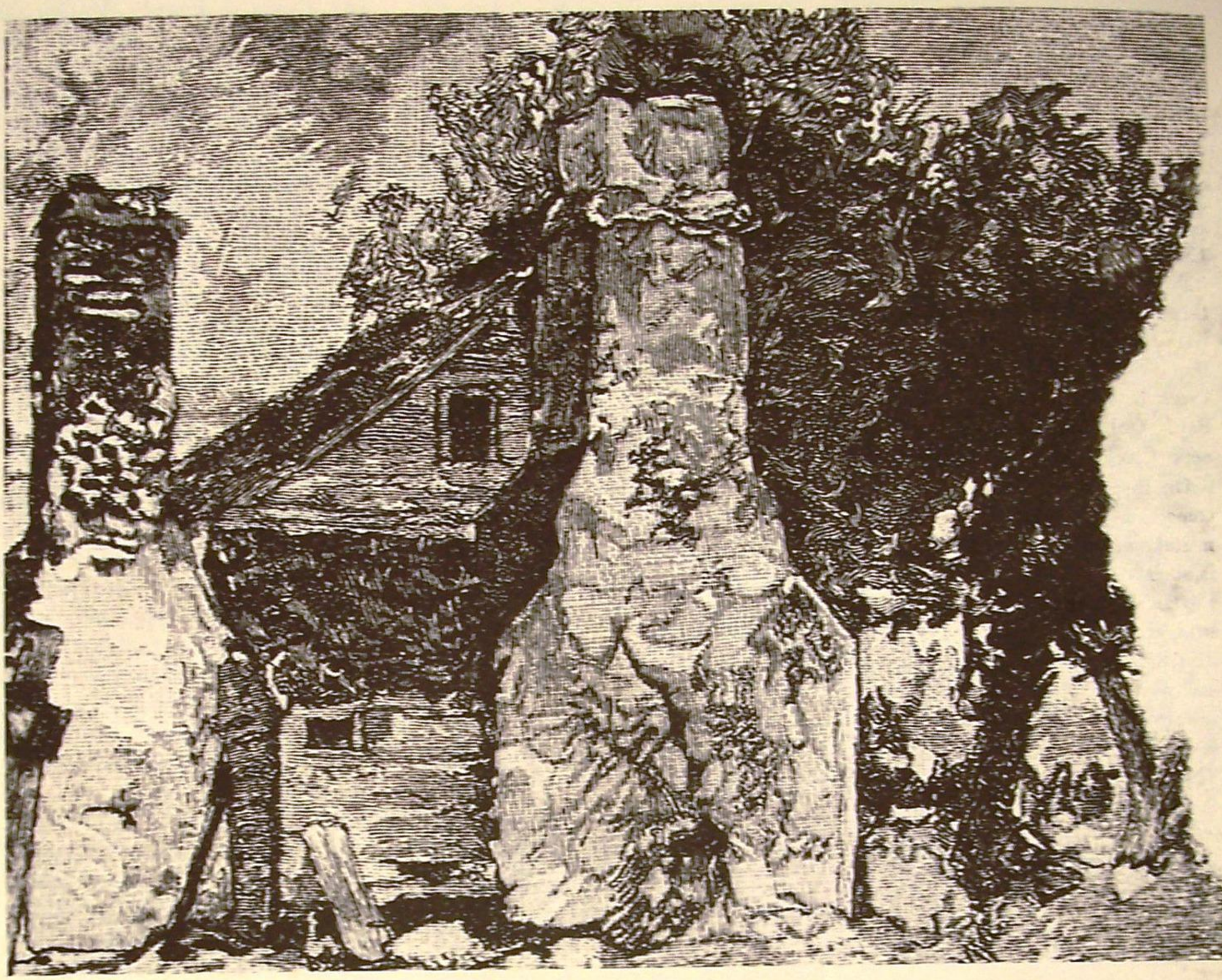
Bishop William Meade in his book, *Old Churches, Ministers, and Families of Virginia*, 1857, is now better known and more often cited than Campbell's writings. Meade was skeptical of the authenticity of "Powhatan's Chimney" until he saw it and observed that it was made of marl. That convinced him. Obviously, there would have been no bricks available at Werowocomoco. Being convinced, he proceeded to quote Howe's quotation of Campbell and Campbell himself. Meade, the good parson, tried to reconcile Howe (or early Campbell) with Campbell's later view, and perhaps to gratify Mrs. Page, by suggesting that Werowocomoco was at Shelly, but that Powhatan had his house built at a distance from it, as a sort of rural retreat.

William Meade had no conception of what a Jamestown house of 1608 was like. (Neither had anyone else at that time.) He imagined Powhatan's house to have been a log cabin. But he was later outdone by Philip Alexander Bruce, who evidently had never seen "Powhatan's Chimney." Bruce imagined Powhatan's house to have been a frame structure of several rooms with a brick chimney. In his mind's eye he saw old Powhatan moving from room to room, delightedly toying with the locks and keys.

Bishop Meade was apparently the first person to carry off a piece of "Powhatan's Chimney." Forty years later in 1888 the once massive structure had been so weakened that it collapsed before a high wind.

The Chimney remained a heap of rubble for almost fifty years. It was then rebuilt, 1934-1938, by the Joseph Bryan Branch, according to plans drawn by architect Bruce Warden on the basis of an old drawing and the dimensions reported by Meade. The material found lying on the ground

Captain John Smith's map of Virginia (10th state, 1624) courtesy of Virginia Historical Society.



Powhatan's Chimney. Artist—A. Hayman, Jr., Scribner's Monthly. *October 1881.*

at the site in 1934 was sufficient to rebuild only about half of the chimney. New material was brought in to complete it in 1938.

Those responsible for the reconstruction of "Powhatan's Chimney" did so because they believed what they had been taught to believe—that Werowocomoco and "Powhatan's Chimney" were at Timberneck. No one showed them the error of it. The responsibility for the false identification of "Powhatan's Chimney" rests with William Stith, for his published misreading of John Smith's text, and with those, particularly Charles Campbell, who copied Stith without taking the trouble to see for themselves what John Smith's map and text really said about the location of Werowocomoco.

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[*Discovery is indebted to Mrs. Catesby G. Jones, Directress of our Joseph Bryan Branch, who edited and condensed this article from the late Col. Montague's longer, fully annotated manuscript study of Powhatan's Chimney.*]

Glo-Quips
12/15/71

POWHATAN'S CHIMNEY NEAR WICOMICO IN GLOUCESTER COUNTY
Built in 1608 by order of Captain John Smith

Photo by Clayton Phelps

continued →

Powhatan's Chimney

WRITTEN BY MRS. PAUL DUDLEY OF ORDINARY, VA.

12/1/81

My knowledge of Powhatan's Chimney did not come from Virginia history. My home was within one-fourth of a mile from the pile of rocks we took for granted. Some would say Powhatan's reservation was farther up the York River, but my mother who was born in 1856 said she had sat on the hearth of the original chimney. The property was owned then by Mr. and Mrs. John Henry Seawell, Sr., and Mrs. Mary Seawell would give her a bowl of bread and milk.

When I was old enough to go by the pile of rocks, the land was then owned by Mr. John Henry Seawell, Jr., Mrs. Eva Carmine's uncle. When I was a teenager, Mr. Seawell sold the property to Mr. Albert Purcell. He had some changes made in the place and some new buildings put up and as my father was a carpenter he used to work for Mr. Purcell who had moved from up near Bellamy and came to the place to live. My bachelor cousin went to be his cook and handyman.

Mr. Purcell built a little dock and he would let the neighbors put their boats there. He had a launch and would take folks to Williamsburg and Yorktown. Another question that was so much discussion was the big bed of rock on the shore from the chimney, the one that Pocahontas saved John Smith's life on. All my life I had seen those rocks when we would go wading around the shore and took them for granted. There were dug-out places which looked like wash basins and some (doubting Thomas) would come along and say they were caused by dripping water. It was quite confusing when you saw something

every day and then didn't really know if it was Powhatan's Colony or not. During World War I across the river near where Cheatham Annex now is was an ammunition plant named Penniman. People came from everywhere to work there. They would bring their families and it wasn't long until Penniman was a little town. The train came in there to bring supplies for making ammunition. You could sell vegetables, fish, chickens, or most anything to the housewives over there. Folks who owned large boats would go over and take the people to Yorktown and Williamsburg on excursions.

Getting back to the bed of rock -- there was a witty young man in our neighborhood who owned a boat and as people got tired of going to Yorktown every Sunday, business began to drop off. So one Sunday he told them he was going to take them to the place where Pocahontas saved John Smith's life and the hair was still on the rock. When the folks got over York River to Timberneck Creek the tide was low, the bed of rocks were bare. He turned to the folks in the boat and said, "Well, I'll be blessed if the tide didn't wash the hair off while I was gone."

Paul and I were married in 1911 and we moved up Timberneck Creek near Providence Baptist Church. The post office was Bridges. I would pass the pile of rock under the big elm tree once or twice a week as we would come down the creek to go to the folks at home. My mother died in 1918 and since then I have never seen the pile of rock anymore. I was so glad when I saw it had been restored. I have been to see it and think they did a wonderful job as so many of the rocks had been removed or covered with dirt. The property is now owned by Mr. Thomas Lanier. He lives in Newport News but has a caretaker who lives there. It can be seen most any time but is open to the public during Garden Week. I hope this little article will be of interest to the readers of Glo-Quips as I try each day to say or do something that will help someone.

[1983]

POWHATAN CHIMNEY SUBDIVISION NEAR WICOMICO - The old Indian chimney, originally built in the early 1600's is being crowded in by new home being built in the Powhatan Chimney subdivision which will contain 94 lots when completed. Gloucester County was offered the property when it contained only one dwelling and the famous chimney at a very reasonable price. The board of supervisors at that time were not interested in preservation of history and the land passed to developers who are currently planning a very fashionable subdivision.

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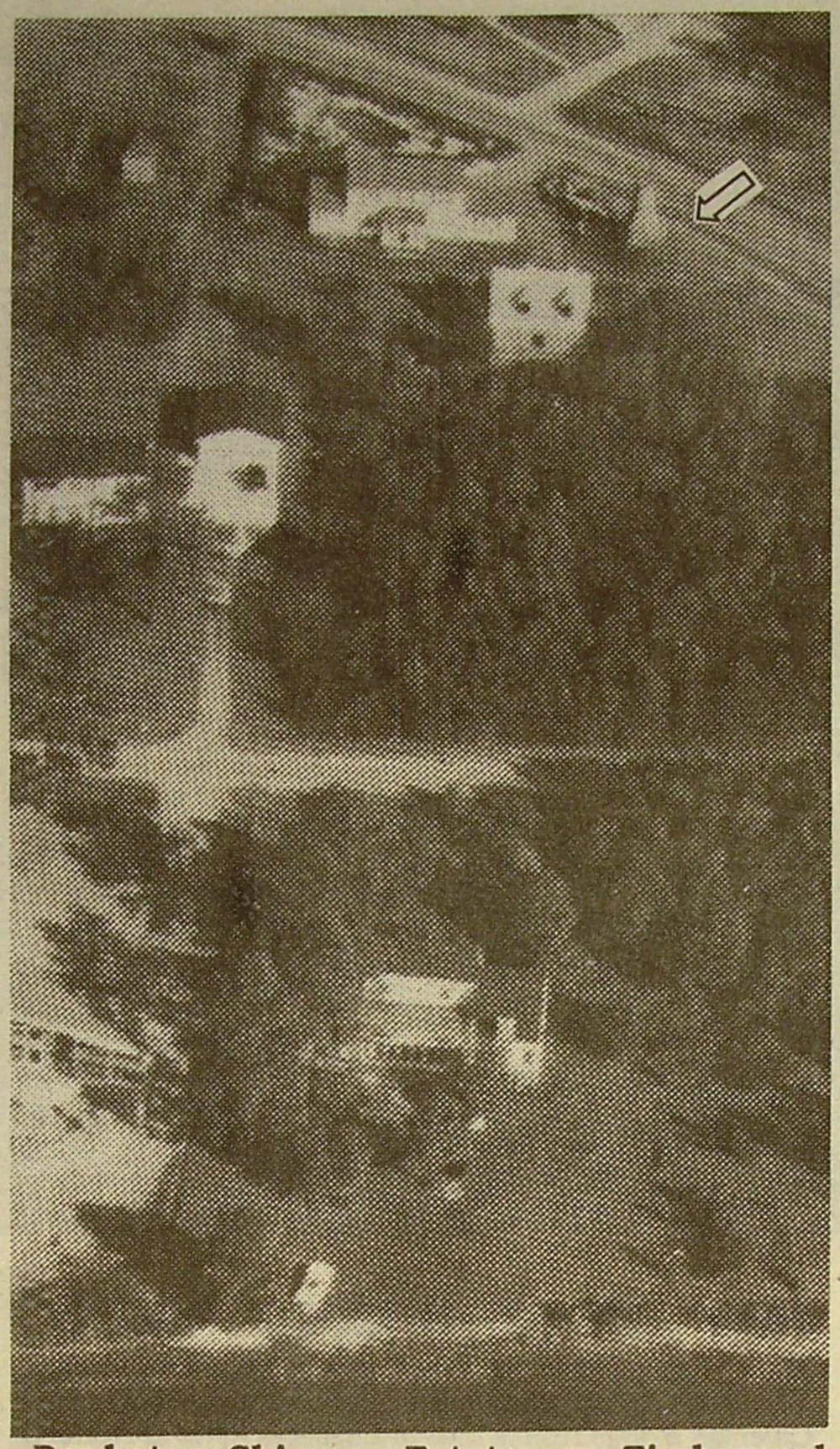

Powhatan Chimney Estates on Timberneck Creek. The Chimney is indicated by an arrow.

Timber Neck Creek

By Mrs. Paul Dudley

This article was originally printed in the July 30, 1969, issue of Glo-Quips.

Timberneck Creek is a tributary from the York River. It has many coves and streams -- some of which have names and some have not. I will take one side of the creek at a time. The left side begins at what was one time known as Croswell's Island. It was then bound by Mr. Fred Legates and was called LeGates Island. Today it is owned by Mr. William W. Ferguson of Newport News. Mr. Aaron Riley rents it, and has a cabin on one side. It has grown up so with bushes; Mr. Riley said he put 5 goats on the island last year and now has 23.

The Catletts own most of the land up to the head of the creek which used to be owned by Mr Carter Williams, now Mr. Hargrave, Mr. Jim Williams' home is owned by one of his grandsons, Carter Borden, who has a home that could be at the head of the creek with a little dredging. When I was young you could go up to Sawmill Bridge, Seawells. I was born on the island but moved up near Wicomico, where I could be at the creek in five minutes. The land where Powhatan's chimney now stands was then owned by Mrs. Alfred Purcell, as Mr. H. V. White wrote the editor of Glo-Quips. I, too, have washed my hands in the Indian basins in the large bed of rock. Powhatan's Chimney was then a pile of rock in a hole. The restored one is not in the original spot, but I think whoever rebuilt it did a wonderful job. Mr. Lanier now owns the property.

The adjoining property is that of Mr. Fred Biggs. Following along the creek - the old home of Mr. and Mrs. Maryus Shackelford, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown (Mrs. Brown is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Shackelford); property once owned by Mr. John Fosque, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Holland; the home of Colonel Dixon (once a part of the Fosque land). Across the cove is the property of Mrs. Mary Williams, the house has since burned. There used to be two oyster houses operated by Francis Wyndham Hogg and Mr. Will Travis. It was called Dogtown owned by Mr. Carl B. Penny of the Newport News Shipyard; the next is the home belonging to the children of Mrs. Paul Dudley; a large cove which extends from the creek to the hard surface road that leads to Providence Baptist Church.

The next house on the creek is the home of Mrs. Ruth Seawell who passed away last year. The land has been owned by the Seawells for almost two centuries. It has a beautiful view all the way down the creek. It now belongs to John Seawell, Jr. Dr. Stanley Gray owns a land on the cove and Mr. J. Tiller has built a home on the property once owned by Mrs. Lessie Gay. The next land as you go up the creek was owned by the Webbs. Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Rowe have a house on this property. There is also a lot on the creek owned by Mrs. Lila Webb and Mrs. Nannie Webb Brightwell. The last place on the right hand side is what was known as Mr. Willie Haywood's, now owned by Mr. Fred Stratton.

Sometimes the tide makes very low near the head of the creek. The folks living up the creek had wooden lighters about eight feet long and a pair of small oars. They could row on the mud as well as they could on the water. It was told that two men, Mr. Ike Webb and Mr. Gregory, were coming up the creek when there was only a stream in the channel of the creek. When Mr. Webb asked, "Did you see the school of fish break on the other side of the creek?" Mr. Gregory said, "I didn't see them, but did you see me scratch a match on the mud and light my pipe?"

Many changes have taken place on Timberneck Creek since I was a girl. There was an abundance of oysters in the York River. There were three large canoes on the creek at that time. Mr. Bill White owned the "Golden Rule". He bought oysters down the creek, and up the creek. There were two buyers at Dogtown landing. Mr. Jim Ambrose owned the "Carrie Bell". They would barrell the oysters, take them to Gloucester Point steamboat dock and ship them to Baltimore. When I was married in 1911, my father-in-law, Mr. Bill Dudley, owned a 41-foot long canoe named "Christine". Before the days of truckers from July until September, the creek would be alive with boats loaded with cantaloups and watermelons. The creek was lots deeper than it is now - large boats could go up the creek as far as Mr. Haywood's landing. Some of my friends will ask me if I worry about the land in front of my house washing away. It is exactly the opposite because the creek is filling in all the time. In the old days what they now call select oysters, sold for $1.00 a bushel. There are no oyster houses, no oyster buyers on the creek now. The old creek is a quiet place up here; a motor boat will come up once in a while and

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The Catletts own most of the land up to the head of the creek which used to be owned by Mr Carter Williams, now Mr. Hargrave, Mr. Jim Williams' home is owned by one of his grandsons, Carter Borden, who has a home that could be at the head of the creek with a little dredging. When I was young you could go up to Sawmill Bridge, that is the bridge before you get to Mrs. Ella Borden's old home place. The members of First Baptist Church at Ordinary and Antioch Church at Coke would have baptizing on Sunday afternoons. A crowd of people would go up the creek in a boat. Mrs. Sadie Richards owned a home at the head of the creek but she also sold to Mr. Hargrave.

On the right side of Timberneck, the creek leaves the York River at Graven Point on the Carmines Island. The first cove is Sallie Whites Cove which separates the island from the land once owned by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Williams (now owned by their children). Wiley Hogge has a nice home on the cove, the land he bought from one of the Williams' sons. Mrs. Helen Williams has a home on the bend of the cove and creek. There is a large stream that runs between the Williams' property and land once owned by the Seawells. I was born on the island but moved up near Wicomico, where I could be at the creek in five minutes. The land where Powhatan's chimney now stands was then owned by Mrs. Alfred Purcell, as Mr. H. V. White wrote the editor of Glo-Quips. I, too, have washed my hands in the Indian basins in the large bed of rock. Powhatan's Chimney was then a pile of rock in a hole. The restored one is not in the original spot, but I think whoever rebuilt it did a wonderful job. Mr. Lanier now owns the property.

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The next cove is Walkers' Cove. Mr. Thomas E. Hogge owned the land near this cove. The old home place of Lewis Hogge, son of Mr. Jimmie Hogge, is located on the cove, belonging now to Mrs. Jean Pugh, who is having a new home built. The next place used to belong to Mr. Eli Fields, Mr. Harry Fields' boyhood home. Now it is owned by Mr. Yoder.

Then comes another cove. The home and property was owned by Mr. Charlie Wallace, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Morse of Richmond. Mr. and Mrs. Ben Borden, Jr., have built on the adjoining land, part of the old Dudley home place, now of the creek. When Mr. Webb asked, "Did you see the school of fish break on the other side of the creek?" Mr. Gregory said, "I didn't see them, but did you see me scratch a match on the mud and light my pipe?"

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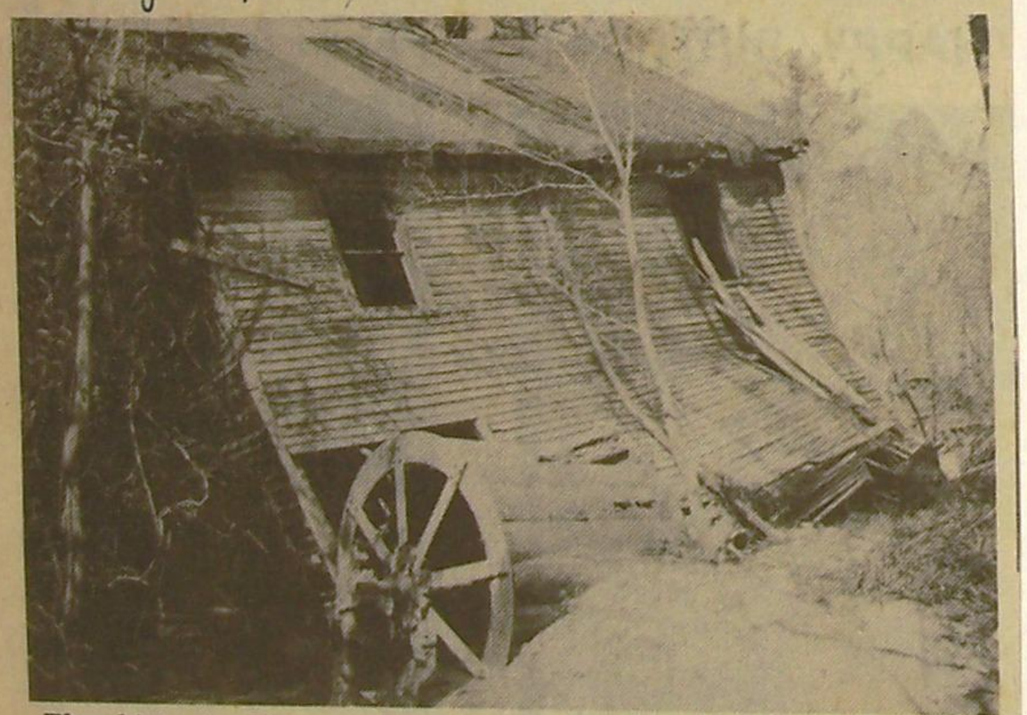
Haynes Mill
Originally known as Thruston's Mill it was probably built by the Thruston family of nearby "Millwood". At time of the photos it was owned by John Wyndham Haynes

- Photos 1960's

Ga-Gazette - 4/18/90



The historic Haynes Grist Mill on Route 614 near White Marsh could have a new life if Jeri Linn Jenkins has her way. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Jenkins of Clay Bank and has signed a contract to buy the mill for full restoration and operation.

Any person having brick, timbers, weatherboard or any materials or equipment to help restore the old mill can contact Mr. Jenkins at 693-0918.

Photo 1962 by Inor Noël-Hume

Concord – near Jones Creek and the York River

Col. William Jones married Charity, daughter of John Buckner who gave the couple Concord.

Near the end of the 18th Century "Concord" was home to Matthew Anderson and his wife Mary Dabney. The Andersons traded Concord with Col. Thomas Buckner for "Exchange" on the North River in 1791.

Nearby, and closer to the river, was a very old house known as "New Bottle", the Portens family home. Edward Portens had immigrated from New Bottle, Scotland. This house seems to have disappeared before 1700.

All that remains of Concord – Sketch by Elizabeth Harwood

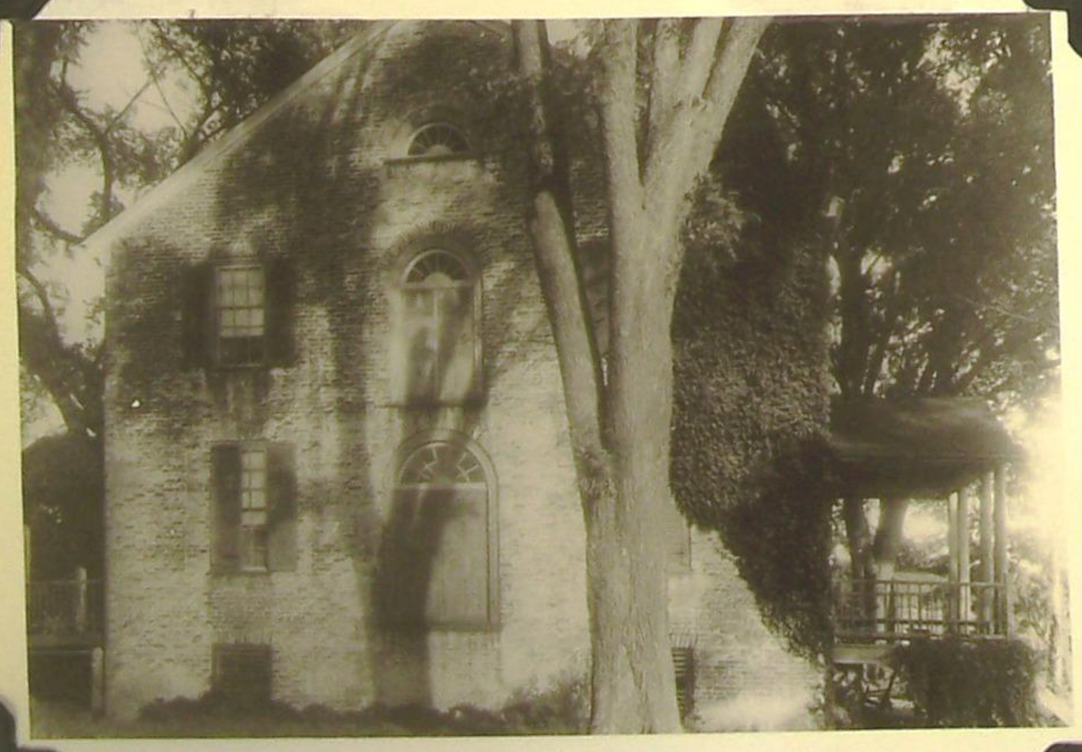
Photos before 1936 by Frances Benjamin Johnston

Purton – on Purton Creek and the York River

Old Smith family home – the present brick house dating to c. 1790-1800.

Nearby are the sites of a mid-17th century house of the Barnard family and of the first church of Petsworth Parish. Anne Barnard in 1663 married John Smith and thus the property came into the Smith name.

It may also have been the much disputed site of Werowocomico.



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"PURTAN"
THE SITE OF WEROWOCOMICO

By Arthur Gray

Twelve miles below West Point, on the Gloucester side of the York River, there is a bay that has been called successively, during three hundred years or more, "Poëtan", "Porton", "Purton" and "Purtan".

On the highland overlooking the bay where the home shown in the accompanying illustration now stands, was located Powhatan's village to which Capt. John Smith was carried prisoner, and in which he almost lost his life. He tells us that the Indians were about to beat out his brains, but that he was rescued by the interposition of Pocahontas, the daughter of the chief.

The village was called "Werowocomico", meaning "the residence of the chief". Powhatan was Emperor of the Federation of Indian tribes that covered most of what is now Virginia. His official residence seems to have been at the Falls of the James, but his favorite abiding place was this village on Purtan Bay. It is represented on an early map as a circle of houses probably surrounding the dwelling of the Emperor in the centre.

It is probable that these houses in the permanent villages were of a better class than the temporary wigwams that we usually associate with the Indians.

There has been much discussion in recent years, as to the location of the site of Werowocomico. At least four places along the Gloucester side of the York River have been identified as the spot where Powhatan had his residence. These are "Timberneck", "Rosewell", "Shelly" and "Purtan". It may be well to discuss here the evidence for the different locations.

I. *Timberneck*—Capt. John Smith said[1] that Werowocomico was twenty-five miles below the fork of the Pamunky and Mattapony Rivers. This would put it at Timberneck.

[1] Smith's "History of Virginia", Vol. I, p. 117.

The old chimney at Timberneck has been thought by some to be Powhatan's chimney that was built by some Dutchmen for the Indian chief. The historian Charles Campbell[2] in 1840 put Werowocomico at Timberneck for the above mentioned reasons.

II. *Rosewell*—On account of the "Two great stones" (on which John Smith said he was laid out to be sacrificed) that may be seen there now, some have thought Rosewell (the home of the Pages) was the site of Werowocomico—and that Smith came near losing his life on these very stones. McDonald, the Virginia historian,[3] holds this view.

III. *Shelly*—This place was originally named "Shelly" because of a large bank of shells that may be seen there. These are supposed to have been left by the Indians and this is the principal reason for thinking that this place is the site of Werowocomico. Howe[4] located the village at Shelly.

Bishop Meade[5] had a somewhat original point of view. He thought that Powhatan's actual residence was at Shelly, but that the old chimney at Timberneck, which is only a mile or so distant, is the one that was built for Powhatan. The Bishop supposed that the Chief wanted this chimney to be *near* but not *at* his village.

IV. *Purtan*—In the same sentence, in which Capt. John Smith[6] places Werowocomico twenty-five miles below the fork of the Rivers, he says that it was ten or twelve miles above Kiskiack. That would put it at Purtan Bay. (Kiskiack was three or four miles above Yorktown). Smith's mileage is all wrong in one case or the other. He makes out as good a case for Purtan as for Timberneck.

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[2] Campbell's "History of Virginia", pp. 48 and 68.

[3] "Life in Old Virginia", by James J. McDonald, p. 72.

[4] Howe's "Virginia Historical Collections", pp. 114 ff.

[5] Bishop Meade's "Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia", Vol. I, pp. 336 and 350.

[6] Smith's "History of Virginia", Vol. I, p. 117.

Alexander Brown[7] shows that Tindall's chart of 1608 located Werowocomico on "Poetan" Bay. Under various spellings, "Porton", Purton", "Purtan", all of which are evidently corruptions of "Powhatan", this bay has continued to the present time. It is now known as "Purtan Bay".

Strachey,[8] the early Virginia historian, contemporary with Smith, agrees with him in placing Werowocomico ten or twelve miles above Kiskiack.

John Smith's map[9] placed Werowocomico *above* Capahosic, as Purtan Bay is. The other places considered are *below* it. Capahosic has been at the same place, called by the same name, in every generation since 1607.

John Smith[10] wrote, in speaking of a visit to Werowocomico, that they "landed amongst a many of creekes, over which they were to pass such poore bridges, onely made of a few cratches thrust in the ose, and three or four poles laid on them, and at the end of them the like tyed together onely with barke of trees that it made them much suspect those bridges were but traps".

This fits Purtan Bay, only, of the four places considered. There are a number of creeks there now, running through a broad marsh, some of them bearing such names as "Indian Creek", "Purtan Creek", "Gable Creek", with a "Purtan Island" in between them. (See Geological Survey Quadrangle, entitled "Williamsburg".)

Purtan Bay probably had an excellent landing in 1607, next to the solid ground. But it seems that the bay was so tightly frozen up that winter that the party could not reach the regular landing place. Smith, speaking of his landing, says: "This happened in the winter in that extreme frost, 1607".

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[7] Brown's "First Republic in America", p. 57.

[8] William Strachey's "History of Travels in Virginia Brittannica", p. 36.

[9] Smith's "History of Virginia", Vol. I, p. 148.

[10] Smith's "History of Virginia", Vol. I, p. 166.

The next winter, 1608, Smith says[11] the river at Werowocomico was "frozen neare halfe a myle from the shore" and when they got to land "he taught them to march neare middle deep, a flight shot through this muddy frozen oase".

Smith estimates that from Jamestown to Werowocomico, around by water, was "near a hundred myles". It is 87 miles the way a ship would sail from Jamestown to Purtan Bay. Timberneck is 75 miles from Jamestown by water, and the other suggested sites near the same distance. Purtan Bay more nearly fills this requirement than the other places.

Zuniga's map of 1608,[12] shows Werowocomico as a circle of houses *above* Capahosic on an indentation corresponding to Purtan Bay. An Indian village called "Cantaunteck" is shown opposite Kiskiack, where Timberneck creek is now. Werowocomico on this map is about *one-third* of the way down from the fork of the river (at West Point, or "Cinquoteck", as it was then) to the Chesapeake Bay, just as Purtan Bay is now. Cantaunteck is shown *two-thirds* of the way down to the Chesapeake, as Timberneck is now.

Brown's conclusion is that "it is evident that Werowocomico was on the present Purtan".

Hermann's[13] map of Virginia and Maryland has a scale of miles.

"Portopotank" and "Porton Bay" are given as eight and twelve miles below the fork, respectively, just as "Poropotank" and "Purtan Bay" are today. While Werowocomico is not mentioned, "Porton" was one of the early spellings of "Powhatan".

Velasco's[14] map of 1610, shows Werowocomico *above* Capahosic.

It is not additional evidence, but at the home shown in the accompanying illustration, now the residence of Mr. Irving Campbell, there are a number of most interesting relics. These

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[11] Smith's "History of Virginia", Vol. I, p. 207.
[12] Brown's "Genesis of the United States", Vol. I, p. 184.
[13] F. 221 I, p. 5, in the State Library.
[14] Brown's "Genesis of the United States", Vol. I, p. 456.

relics, at least, indicate the site of an Indian village. It is probable that there would be more of these relics there but for the fact that a number of different families, during several centuries, have lived in this home, and undoubtedly many such Indian remains have been found and taken away.

It seems that the evidence[15] for Purtan Bay as the site of Werowocomico amounts to positive proof.

The house shown with this article is an interesting type of Colonial architecture. There is nothing to show the exact date of its erection, but it is certain that it antedates the Revolution. The stairways, the arches, the mouldings and other features show that in its building especial attention was paid to the best architecture of the period. The house is constructed of brick, and has stood the ravages of time well, but some of the owners in the past have not taken the best care of the place.

Some distance to the rear of this home there are traces of an older building, which was evidently the seat of "the Smiths of Purtan". These remains are now spoken of as "Old Purtan". An account of the Smith family that settled here claims a part of this story.

We go back to John Bernard who was governor of the Bermudas in the early part of the seventeenth century.

His son Richard Bernard (born 1608, died 1650) lived at Petsworth, Buckinghamshire.

Richard's daughter, Anne, owned Purtan. In 1653 she married John Smith (son of the emigrant Thomas). This John Smith, at the time he was married, was speaker of the House

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[15] Dr. Lyon G. Tyler, formerly President of William and Mary College and Editor of the William and Mary College Quarterly, now Editor of Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine, believes Purtan to be the site of Werowocomico. His conclusions may be found in the William and Mary College Quarterly, Vol. 10, No. 1.

Mr. R. A. Lancaster, Jr., Secretary of the Virginia Historical Society and Editor of this Magazine, for the reasons given here, arrives at the same conclusion.

The iron marker, NW-8, placed by the Division of History of the State Commission on Conservation and Development, contains the following, "On York River, probably at Purtan Bay, some miles west of Rosewell, was Werowocomico, chief town of the Indian ruler Powhatan in 1607."

of Burgesses. He became known as "John Smith of Purton". A servant of his, named Berkenhead, exposed the "servant's rebellion" in 1663. The indentured servants of Gloucester County had planned an insurrection, and a massacre of the masters was prevented by Berkenhead's act. The novelist, Mary Johnston, tells this story in her book, "Prisoners of Hope".

Col. John Smith, Jr., son of the above, was born at Purtan in 1662. In 1680, at the age of eighteen, he married Mary Warner, daughter of Col. Augustine Warner, Jr., and his wife Mildred Reade Warner. A sister of Mrs. Mary Warner Smith, Mildred Warner, married Lawrence Washington, and became the grandmother of George Washington. This Col. John Smith Jr. was a burgess from Gloucester, and from 1693-1698 he was a trustee of the College of William and Mary. He died in 1698.

Augustine Smith was the son of the above Col. John and Mary Warner. He was born in 1689, moved to Middlesex and became known as Augustine Smith of "Shooter's Hill". He was one of the "Knights of the Golden Horseshoe", who accompanied Governor Spotswood on his famous exploring expedition across the Blue Ridge Mountains in 1716. In 1711 he had married Sarah Carver, daughter of John Carver of Gloucester.

Mary Smith, a granddaughter of Augustine, of "Shooter's Hill", married in 1765 the Rev. Thomas Smith, for twenty-five years rector of Cople Parish in Westmoreland County. This was another interesting line of Smiths, from King and Queen County.

Purtan is in Petsworth Parish. Little is known of this parish back of 1677, the date when the existing Vestry Book (recently printed by Dr. Churchill Chamberlayne) begins. Gloucester County was probably established in 1651. There is reason to believe that Petsworth Parish was formed about 1656. It is definitely in the records[16] by 1666.

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[16] Virginia Land Office, Patent Book No. 5, p. 573.

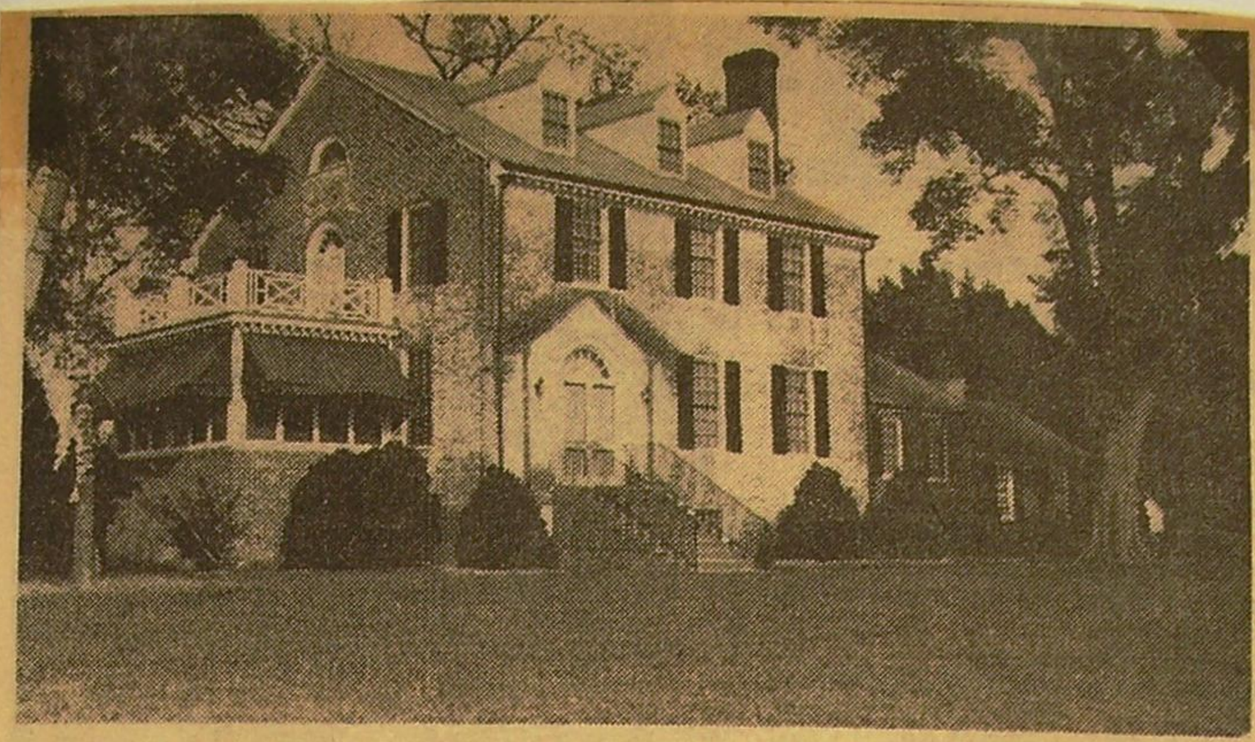
Anne Bernard was probably living at Purtan before 1653. It is recorded that Anne's father was born at *Petsworth* in Buckinghamshire in the old country. What is more probable than that her family, among the first people of prominence who settled in Gloucester, gave the name of their old home to the new Parish when it was formed? The name was at first written "Petsoe" Parish. That was probably the result of the earlier attempts to spell the word as the name of the old home was pronounced. This is a suggestion that is added to several that have been advanced, to explain the old parish name.

Petsworth is one of the extinct parishes. Ware and Abingdon, the other two parishes in Gloucester County, were fortunate enough to survive the disasters that the Revolution brought to the Church of England. But there was probably never any continuous parish activity in Petsworth after 1776.

Purtan has a beautiful situation. It looks out over the bay and thence across a wide expanse of the York River. A semi-circle of sandy beach is bordered by a lovely fringe of marshes, evergreens, lawns and cultivated fields. A number of separate creeks empty into the bay. Sailboats still ply these waters. It is a pleasure that one seldom finds to watch one of these sails enter the bay from the wider waters beyond, then zig-zag about in search of the mouth of a creek and finally disappear, all but the tip of the sail, which glides along above the shrubs and greens.

No wonder that John Smith wrote of this part of Tidewater Virginia, "Heaven and earth never agreed better to frame a place for man's habitation". No wonder that the Bernards and the Smiths came to Purtan when they wanted to settle in the new land. A historian has written "All of Tidewater is one vast sanitarium for tired nerves".

For nearly three hundred years, a succession of families has lived at this choice location. When one visits Purtan today it is easy to understand why first Powhatan and then these lines of good English people should have chosen this spot for their abiding place.

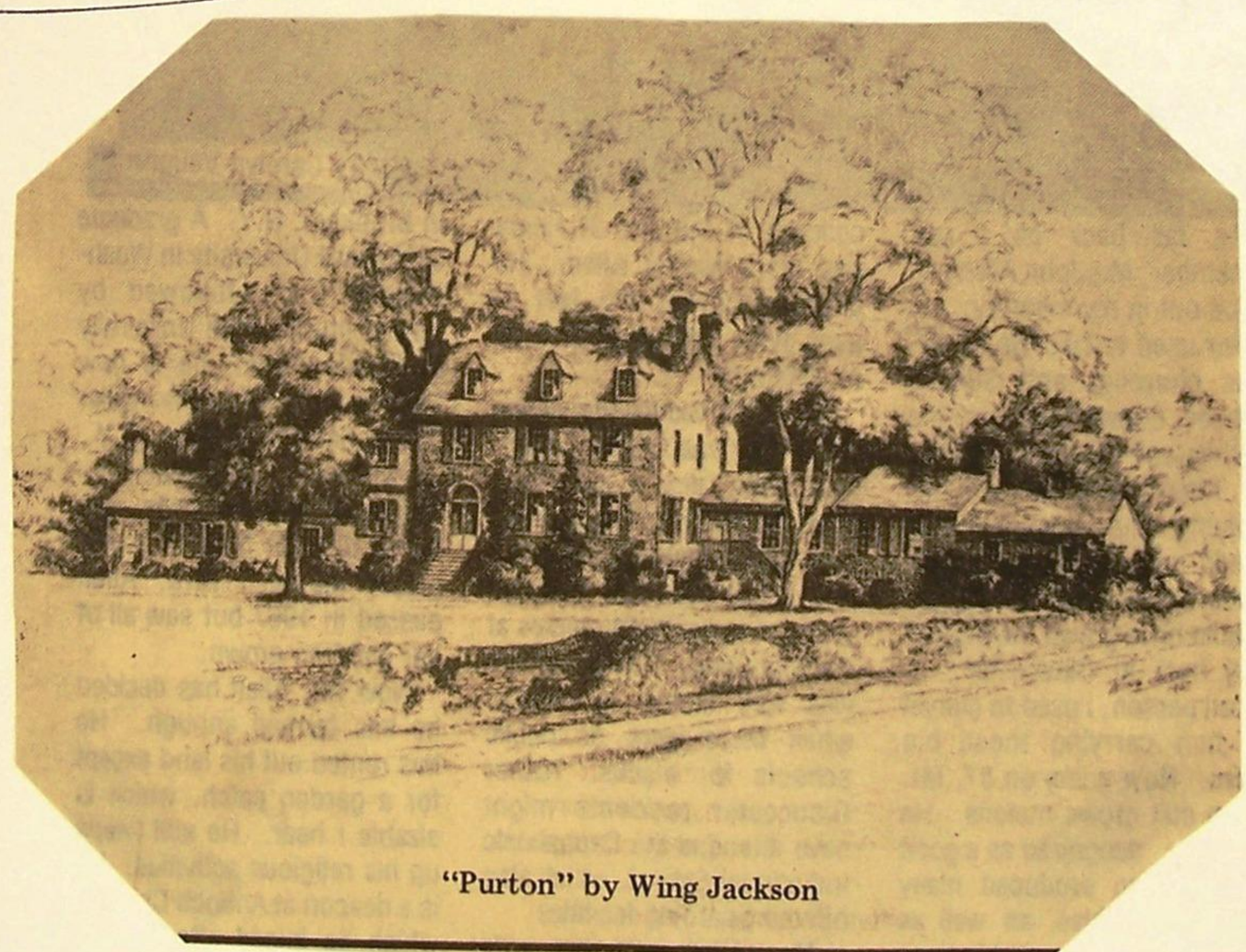


2-23-66 Richm. T.D.

Gloucester County Estate Sold

Purton, a 651-acre colonial estate on the York river near Gloucester, has been sold for $163,000. The estate, owned by Mr. and Mrs. William R. Olmstead, was purchased by G. David Stifel of Louisiana, Mo. The sale was handled by G. B. Lorraine, a Richmond real estate broker, and Mrs. Arline Lanciano and Woodford R. Chapman, Gloucester brokers. Sun porch on left has been replaced by a wing since photograph was taken.

Purton continued



"Purton" by Wing Jackson

Many additions since the 1930's

Photo early 1930's – date stone shown on end wall was stolen about 1933.

Marlfield

The land was a patent to John Buckner who was on the first recorded vestry of Petsworth Parish in 1694. His grandson, Capt. Samuel Buckner, built a house on the land in 1732. (There was a date stone with "B" on it and 1732")

About 1782 the place was purchased by William Jones and he is credited with naming the place Marlfield. The Jones family added the rear wing and retained Marlfield until sold about 1904 to the Gray family who still own the site.

Buckner and Jones family cemetery here.

Photo c. 1937

Photos c. 1937

These two photos show the rear wing added by the Jones family after 1782.

Marlfield

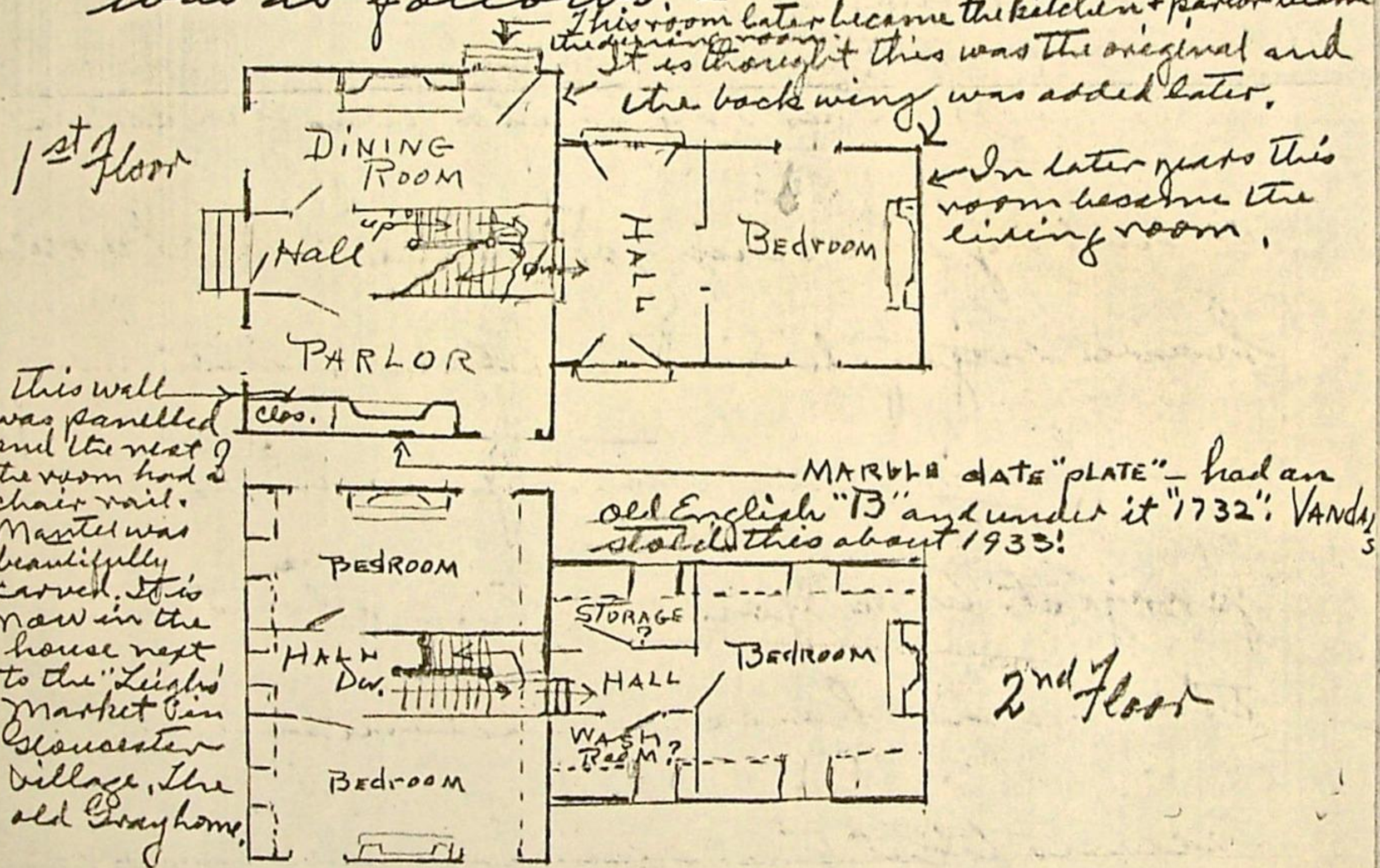
(Mrs. Stanley Gray
to Quincy Marshall Ryland)

Box 446
Gloucester, Va.
23061
November 12, 1968

Dear Quincy,

I'm so sorry that I was in such a hurry the day you were here. I would have enjoyed sitting down with you and hearing all about your interesting project. Are you writing about more than one house in Gloucester? It seems that the cornice of Marlfield is just plain boxing and the bricks the ordinary bond. The larger photo was taken about 1940 and the smaller one was taken in 1946. The bricks over the door and left window were laid

in "fan" shape (my own term of speech) but the ~~right~~ left one was left plain which always seemed odd to me. The floor plan was as follows:—



I hope you can make "heads and tails" out of this. Mansfield was a darling old place and it nearly broke my heart when vandals kept stealing and destroying it.

I would appreciate very much having another copy of the large photo also the negative. Please let me read your paper when you have it complete. Come to see us again when you are in Gloucester

Sincerely, Nellie D. Gray

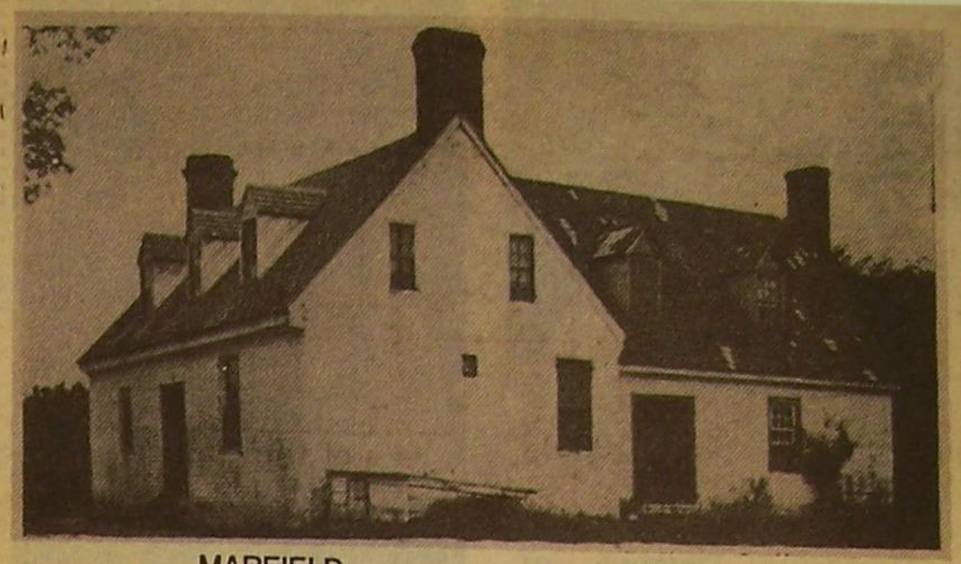
- Photo about 1946 -

OLD POST CARD - "Marlfield", a Buckner home near Ark, Va., now gone from scene.

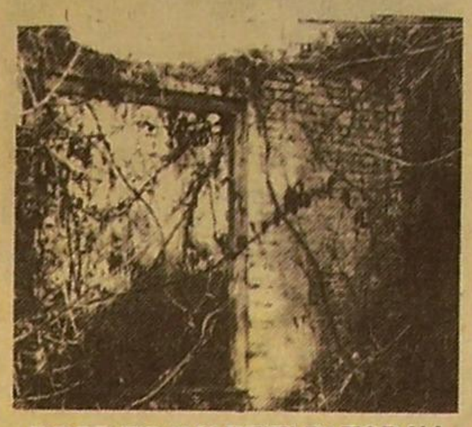
470—Marlfield Colonial home, built 1735, Gloucester Co., Va.

— Glo-Quips 12/4/72 —

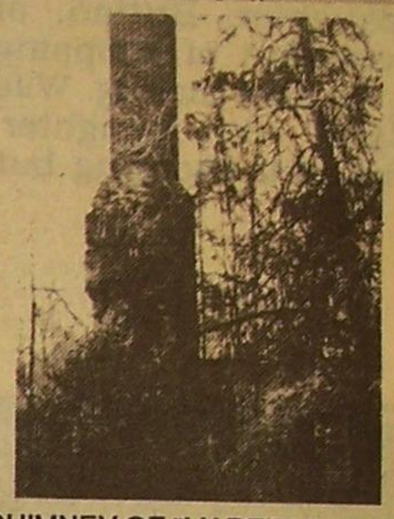
Nellie Davison Gray, 91, of Gloucester died March 19, 1995. She was well-known as an artist and art instructor and was an originator of the annual spring and art exhibit held on the courthouse green. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Stanley T. Gray, Sr. who was owner and operator of the former Gray's Pharmacy, located on Main Street. Survivors include a son, N. Turner Gray, M.D. of Virginia Beach; two grandchildren, Lynn Gray Terveer and N. Turner Gray, Jr. of Virginia Beach; two great-grandchildren, Keely and Tucker Terveer; two sisters-in-law, Elizabeth Gray Treakle of Gloucester and Virginia Clarke Gray Backus of Alexandria; one brother-in-law, James E. Wood, Sr., of Tavares, Fla.; Burial was in Bellamy United Methodist Church Cemetery.



MARFIELD



DOOR TO "MARFIELD" TODAY



CHIMNEY OF "MARFIELD" TODAY

Glo-Quips 3/21/90

Dear Editor;

"Marfield's New Neighbor"

Historic Marfield Plantation, once the center of colonial activities in northern Gloucester, has once again come to the forefront of our attention. This time, not as a historic site, but as the proposed site of the county's new landfill.

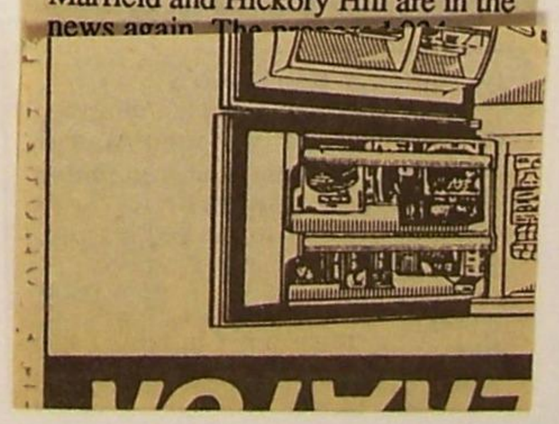
Even though it is not a Virginia historic Landmark, the plantation possesses a rich history and has been the home of many important residents over its 200 year existence.

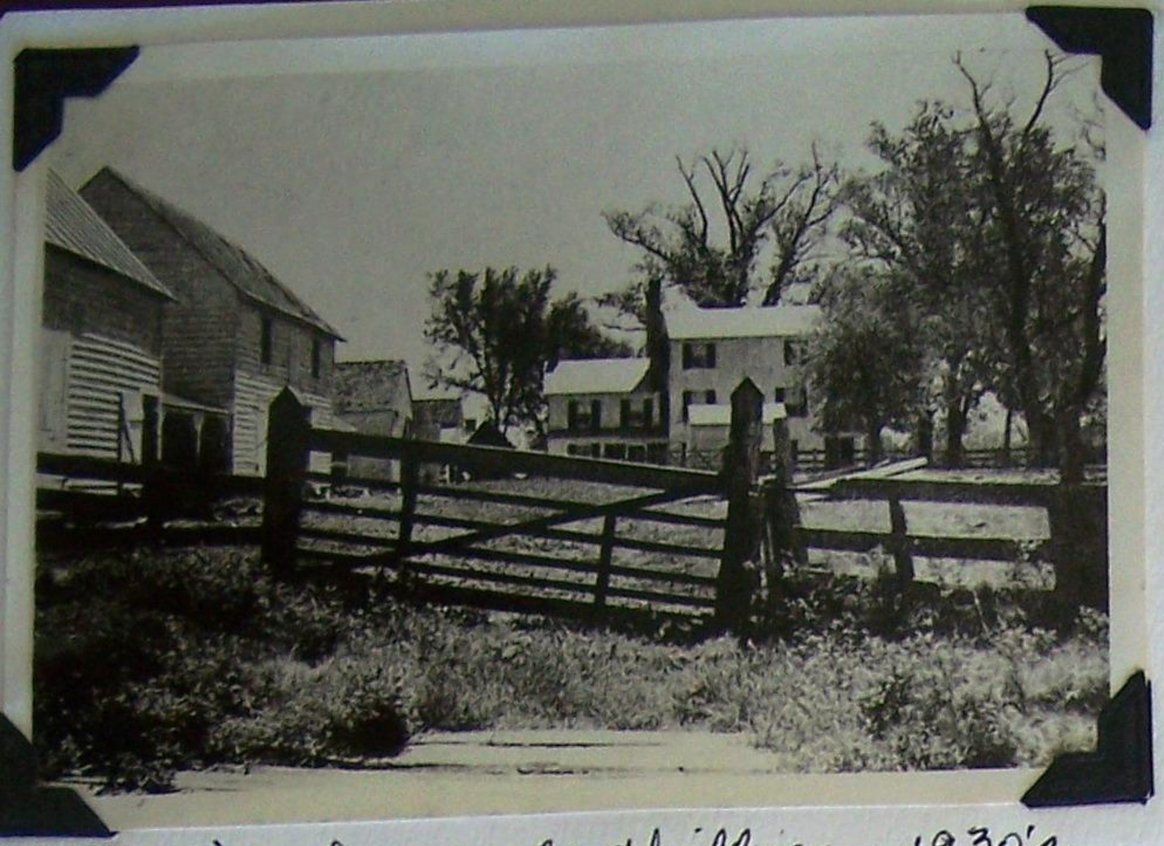
John Buckner patented the land and was present on the first recorded vestry of the Petsworth parish in 1694. Buckner was also responsible for bringing the first printing press and printer to Virginia. This press was originally to be used for printing laws, but Lord Culpeper forbade it. In 1732, John's grandson, Capt. Samual Buckner built a house on the plantation.

In 1782, the land was purchased by William Jones, a farmer, who gave Marfield its name, because of the earth found on the land. Jones also added the rear section of the home to give if a T-shape. While Jones was the owner, Marfield became chiefly a tobacco plantation.

William's descendant, Maryus Jones sold Marfield in 1906 to Z.T. and R.P. Gray. After several generations and eventually as a rental property, the house was slowly destroyed by vandals. The adjoining graveyard contains the grave sites of people who were alive before the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Now the Historic names of Marfield and Hickory Hill are in the news again. The proposed 1993





view of house and outbuildings c 1930's

Photo 1970

Belroi -

A house here was enlarged by the Jones family c. 1850 who had a well known girl's School. The name is a combination of William Roy Jones and his wife Isabelle Tallaferro Jones, [redacted]

In the later part of the 19th century this was a Stubbs family home. George Marvin Stubbs had a general store and post office across the road. Nearby was a small frame Methodist chapel.

There were two large exterior chimneys on the main body of the house - by the 1960's one had been removed - also the front porch was changed.

Glo-Quips, April 7, 1971

Framed by the sweeping arm of a Walter Reed Birthplace walnut, "Belleroy" prepares for Spring with budding trees and blossoming shrubs. Now an apartment building, the property is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Horsley of Bellamy.

HORSE AND BUGGEY WAS THE WAY - The late George Marvin Stubbs of "Belle Roy" in Gloucester County depended on this mode of travel when he was a young man about three-quarters of a century ago. The horses of standard breds were, from left to right, Dexter and Queen. Mr. Stubbs was a merchant and postmaster at Belroi Post Office which was opposite the birthplace of Dr. Walter Reed.

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Christmas at "Belle Roy"

Glo-Quipa 12/14/83

Mrs. Mott's mother, Martha Florence DeShazio Stubbs in front of "Belle Roy"
Note: the third story porch which was removed when Mrs. Mott was a child.
Her father was afraid that the children would fall through the rotten timbers

Mrs. Elizabeth Mott of Gloucester recalls that food preparation for Christmas at the Stubbs house, "Belle Roy" began quite early in the season, "My mother started at Thanksgiving and then would store the food in the pantry." Everything to be eaten that day was either raised on the farm or made by hand.

The Stubbs resided in the three level home which is now called, "Belroi" and owned by Norman Horsley. Mrs. Mott's father, Mr. Marvin Stubbs, ran a store and postoffice across the road. "If Christmas didn't come on a Sunday, customers would still stop by that day to buy some groceries just like any other day." This usually meant Christmas Day meal would begin at 4:00, after her father would close up the store.

With her mother and father seated at each end of a long table filled with guests, the ham was placed at one end and the turkey at the other. Besides the ham and turkey (which was raised on the farm) there would be mashed potatoes, candy potatoes, peas, butter beans, celery, pickles, rolls and cranberry. For dessert, everyone was given a taste of each, there were mince meat, pumpkin and coconut pies, plum pudding, fruit and coconut cake (a tradition, because it looked like snow) and last but not least, Ambrosia, a spiked orange, grapefruit, coconut, and raisin salad. "The children were only allowed a sip of that."

Since they ate so much lunch an evening meal would consist of only a slice of fruit cake and a cup of egg nog. The egg nog was always made the day before and kept on the back porch through the night to become well seasoned. It was made from thick skim cream, "so thick the beaters couldn't move in it" which made it a task for the men. The egg whites were put in one bowl and the cream in another and the men would come in the kitchen and do all the beatting.

Mrs. Mott and her sister, Harriet, spent Christmas eve, hanging their long white stockings and helping their father bring in the fresh cut Christmas tree. The tree was placed in a nail barrel with sand and wrapped with a sheet, "which gave the effect of snow" and left undecorated for Santa. Then the children were sent up to their beds early to await the arrival of Christmas.

In the morning when it was still dark the girls would awaken and light their lanterns, "for there was no electricity" to see what Santa had brought them. The tree would be all decorated and ablazed with small candles attached to the tree branches, "we now wonder why there was never a fire." The

Belroi continued →

Mrs. Mott's father, George Marvin Stubbs, left with Mr. Crowder, a Methodist minister. The horse's name is Queen and was Mr. Stubbs favorite carriage horse.

-Continued from previous page

tree, being placed in the unheated hall, "so it wouldn't dry out so fast" prevented the girls from staying in the hall for long, "we would take which toys we wanted to play with into the living room."

Their stockings were filled with oranges, apples, nuts, hard candy and roman candles. The roman candles were for a tradition, now long forgotten. The cracking of firecrackers, like 4th of July, welcomed in the day, "you could hear them going off all morning, at least till 12:00." There were several different kinds used, the firecracker chain, candy crackers (exploded when they hit a wall) and the firecrackers which gave a colorful display, "you would make sure you weren't under a tree, so they wouldn't get caught in a branch." All the celebrating was done under parental guidance, "our father would never let us alone with them. One year my roman candle shot off into my sister Harriet's back and singed her coat. My father raked me over the coals for that."

Mrs. Mott stills spends Christmas with her sister, Harriet Knight, who lives in Cobbs Creek, Mathews County. She now shares with us a delicious recipe for "Forgotten Cookies", a tasty treat that she gives to friends and relatives during the holdiays.

FORGOTTEN COOKIES

2 egg whites
⅔ cup sugar
pinch of salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup chopped pecans
1 cup chocolate bits
1 cup coconut (optional)

Beat egg whites until foamy (eggs at room temperture) gradually add sugar, continue beating until stiff. Add salt and vanilla and mix well. Add pecans and bits.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Drop cookies by teaspoonful on to ungreased foil-covered cookie sheet. Place cookies in oven and immediately turn oven off. Leave cookies in closed oven overnight. "Don't peek" Yield about 2 dozen cookies.

Beth Richardson

Bebrai continued

CROWING FROM THE ROOFTOP - Norman Horsley, Gloucester building contractor, went up on the rooftop at Belroi House, which he owns, a beautiful Saturday morning to see the countryside and do a "little crowing". He might have fixed a hole or two in the roof while he was up there.

In this small house at Belroi was born 13 Sept. 1851 Walter Reed, 6th son of Rev. Lemuel Reed, a Methodist minister, whose family was temporarily quartered here when there had been a fire at the Parsonage.

The building was restored in 1927 and belongs now to the APVA.

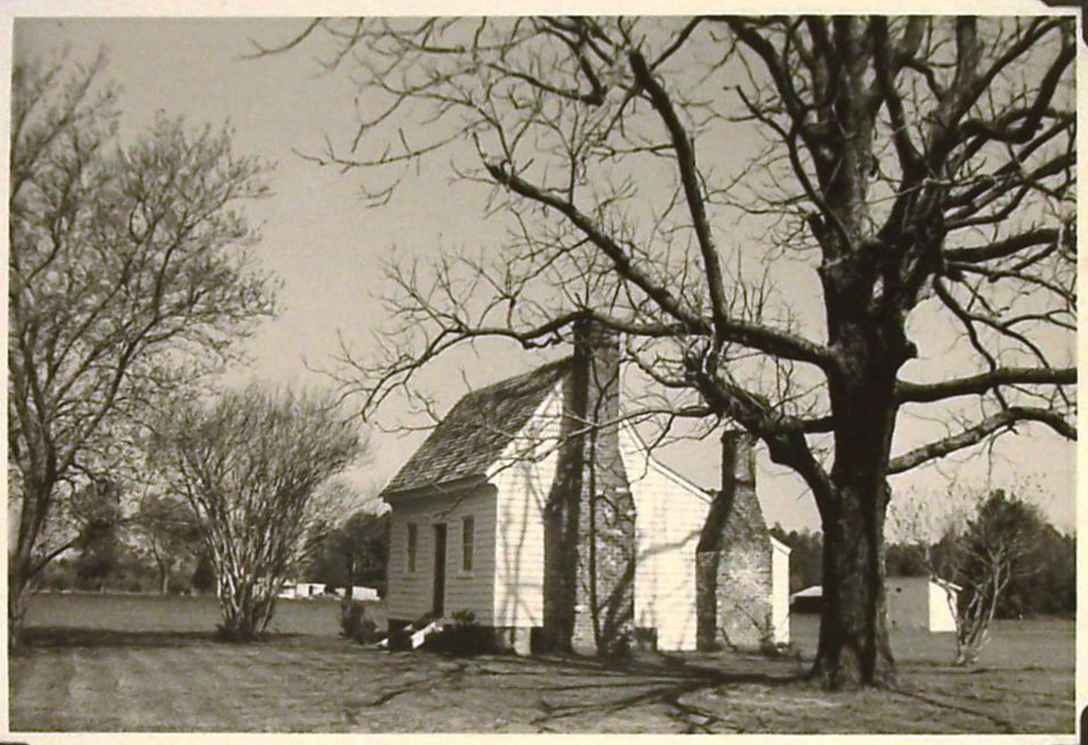
Dr. Walter Reed's army medical career is well known, he was a surgeon and a Major and the conqueror of Yellow Fever.

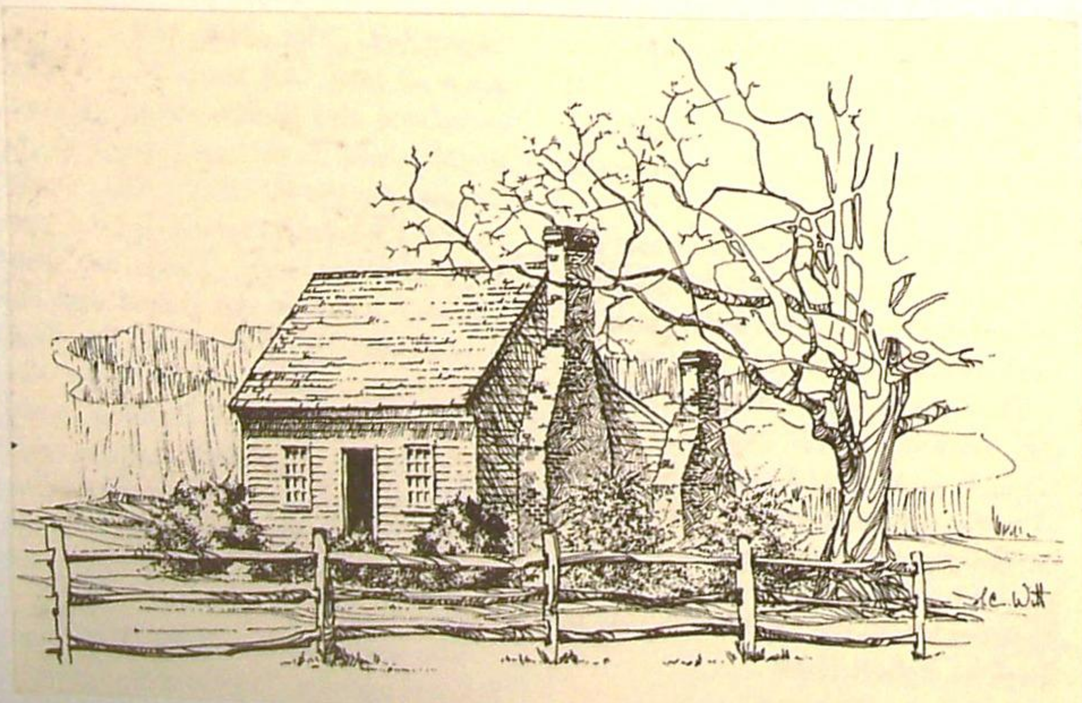
UN-RESTORED BIRTHPLACE OF DR. REED

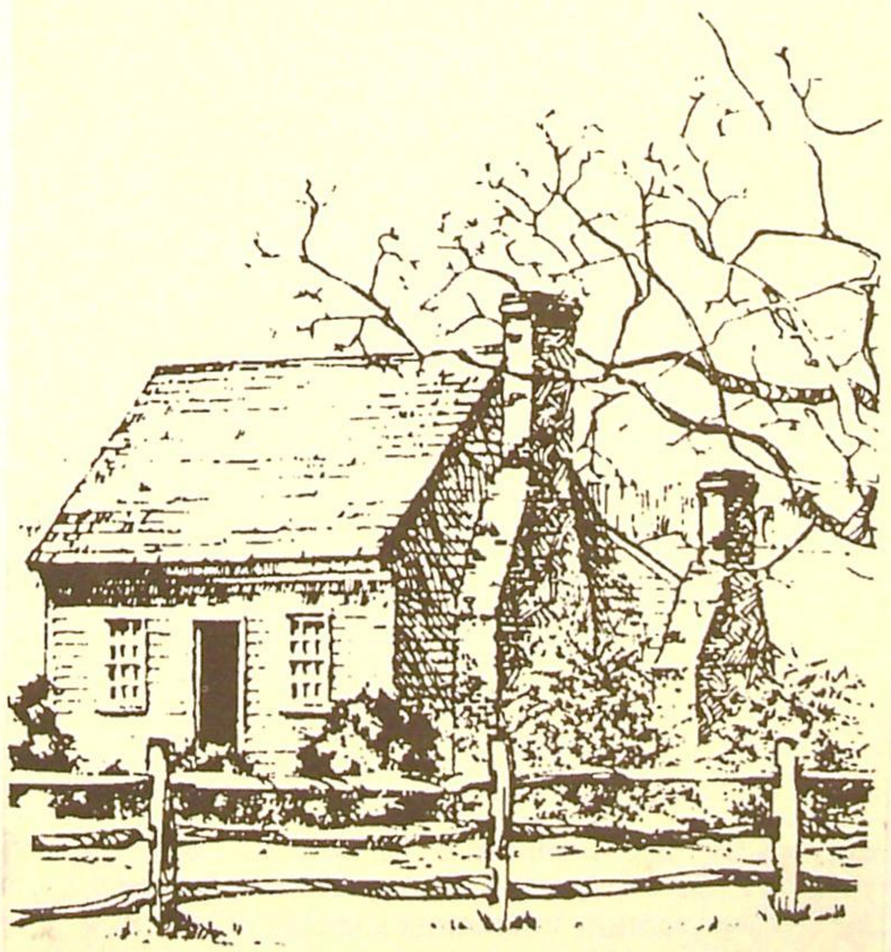
continued →

The picturesque cottage is often photographed and sketched

Walter Reed birthplace continued





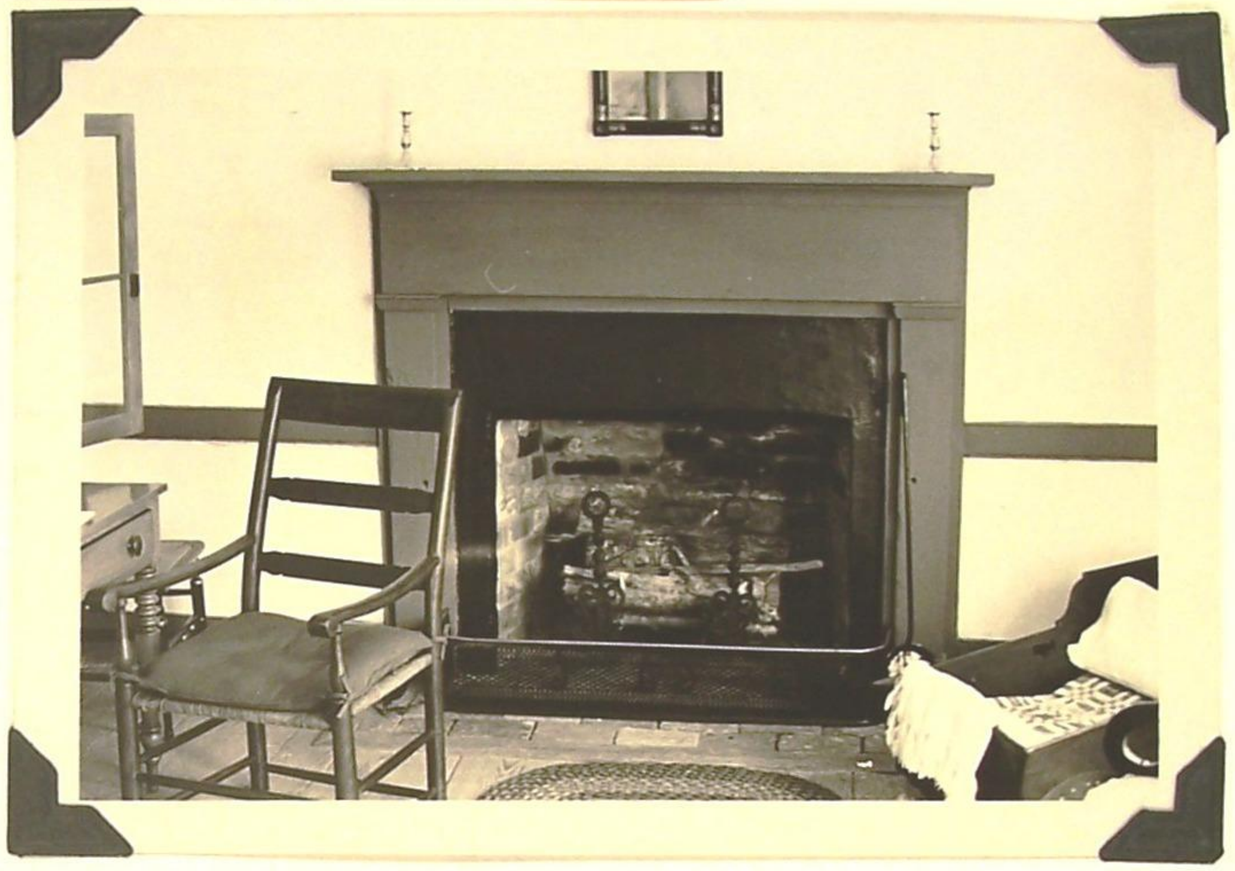


Walter Reed Birthplace.

Lady Saved Reed Home

In January 1927, Mr. George D. Stubbs of Belroi conveyed to the Walter Reed Medical Society of Virginia one acre of land in Ware District, according to real estate transfers recorded at that time. During the year, the following article appeared in a newspaper: "A Gloucester woman, Mrs. Daisy Rowe Hevessy, of Gloucester Point, has in the past three years written much in newspapers and magazines on the historical features of Tidewate Virginia and has always found a personal pleasure in designating the birthplace of Dr. Walter Reed at Belroi instead of Harrisonburg, as it is erroneously given in the American Encyclopedia and other reference books.

Mrs. Hevessy was recently in receipt of a letter of appreciation from Mrs. Emilie L. Reed, widow of the famed physician, who expressed her great interest in the preservation of the Reed birthplace at Belroi. Mrs. Reed wrote: Though you are a stranger to me, I cannot let your fine tribute to mylate husband, Walter Reed, go unnoticed. I wish to send you my deepest thanks and to let you know how highly I appreciate your estimate of him and his work. I was told by an eminent English scientist twenty years ago that my children's children would find his name growing more and more famous as time rolled by. And I am truly gratified for the recognition to come before I pass on. I am so interested in the restoration of the birthplace and to know it will become a national shrine. I shall so desire to visit it after it is restored and hope I may have the pleasure of seeing you. Believe me, sincerely yours, Emilie L. Reed (Mrs. Walter Reed).



Interior of the Walter Reed birthplace ~ photo 1970 by Milton Waff

— Main room —

continued →

Interiors
Walter Reed birthplace
continued

Photos 1970
by Milton Waff

—Bed in main room—

—Views of the lean-to room—

Photo 1955

Allmond family vault in Bellamy Cemetery
The Allmond family were Charter members of Bellamy Church.

Bellamy Methodist Church

Organized in the late 18th Century the first Church was erected c.1810 and named for Rev. Joseph Bellamy who was instrumental in founding the Congregation and gave the land for the Church and Cemetery.

The 1810 frame structure burned in 1831 and the present brick Church was completed in 1833.

Among old Gloucester county names in the cemetery are Allmond, Bland, Gray, Newcomb, Roane, Stubbs, Wiatt and others.

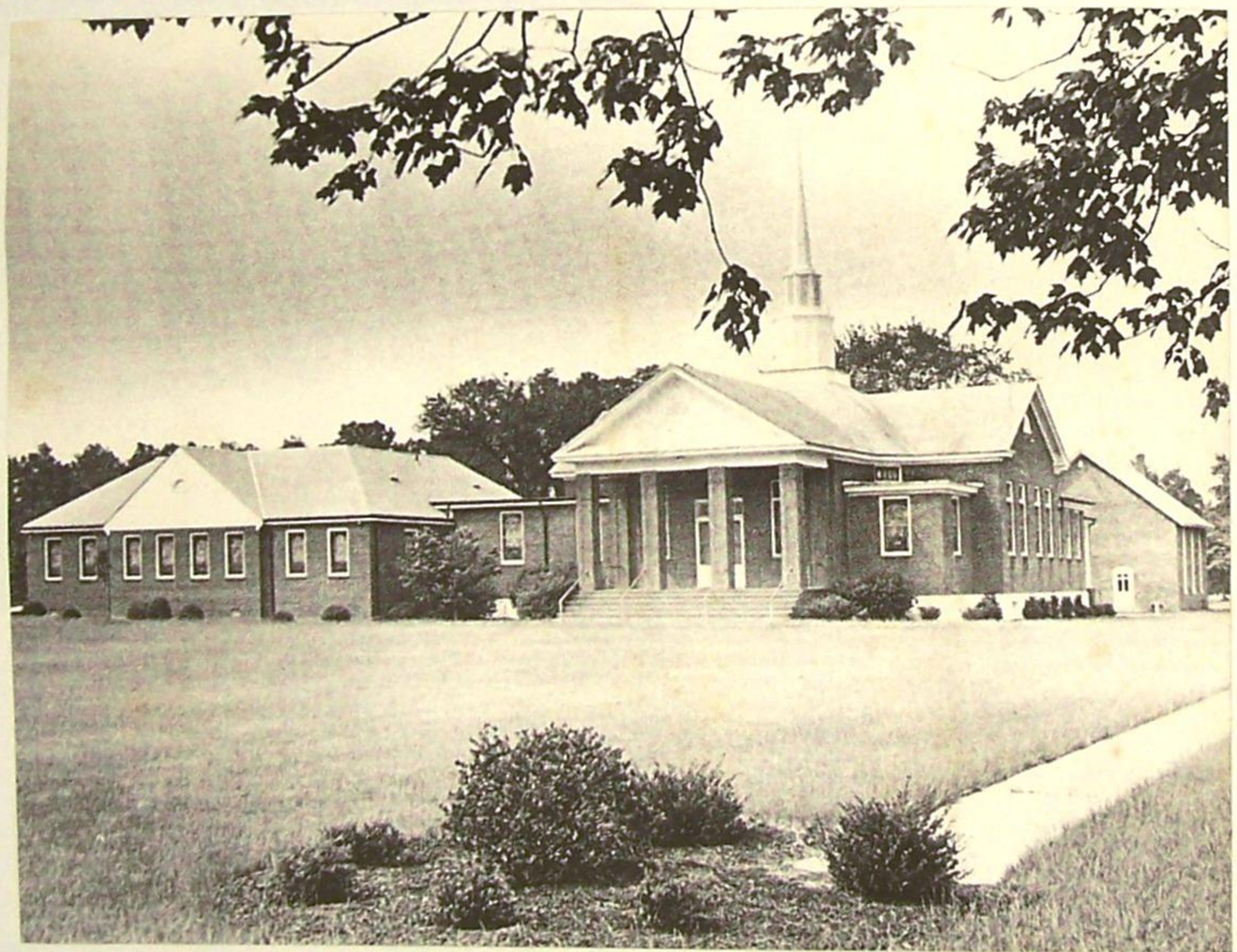
OLD POST CARD ON BELLAMY METHODIST CHURCH

Bellamy Church when it had a frame vestibule and steeple

continued →

BELLAMY METHODIST CHURCH IN EARLY 1900'S This is a photograph of the "old" church at Bellamy which was built by Reverends William Eastwood and Joseph Bellamy. Mr. Fred Eastwood of Ark speaks of time when this church was in use (see story in this issue of Glo-Quips). The steeple no longer exists while the brick structure is used for Sunday School classrooms.

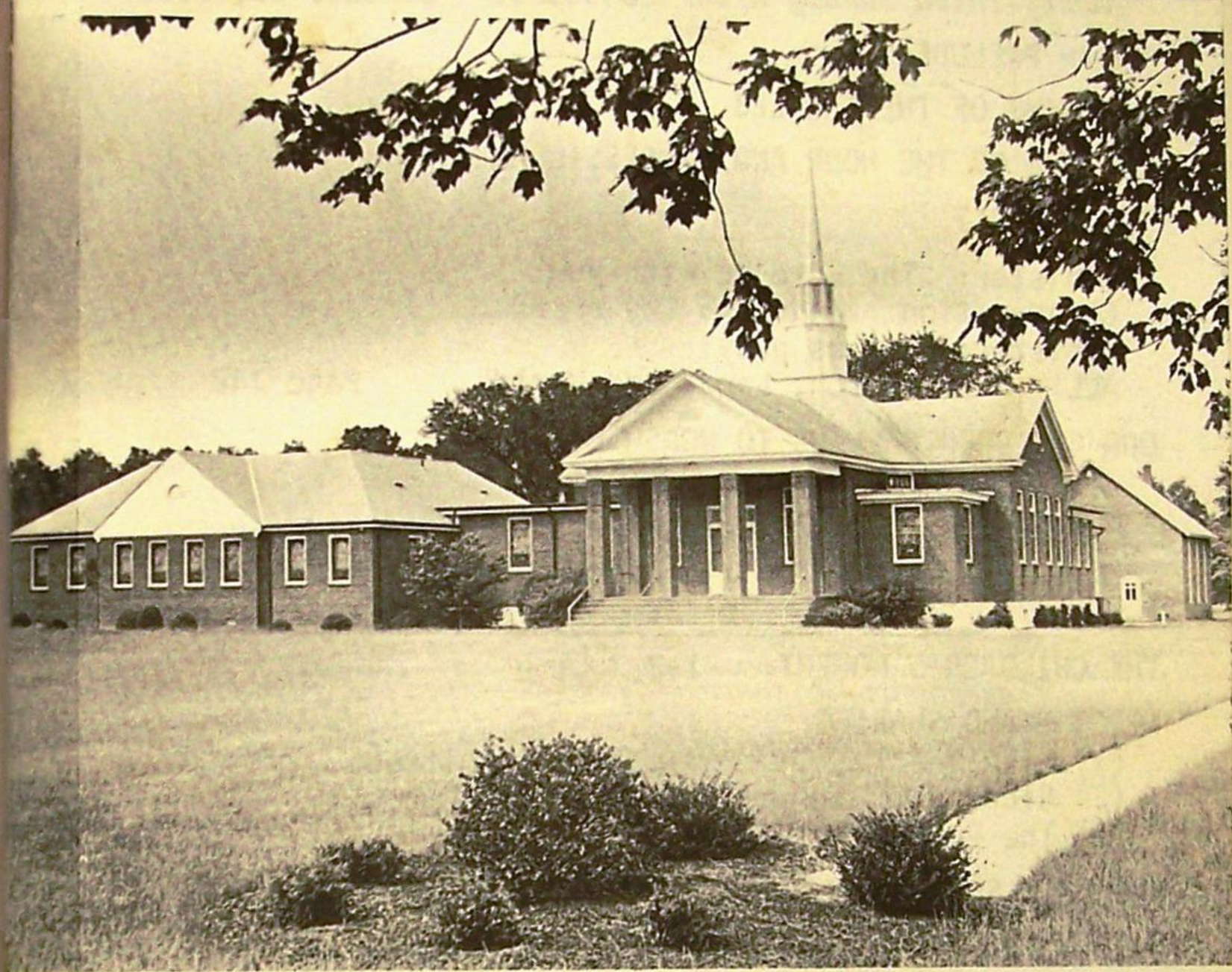
Bellamy Methodist Church continued —



The present church building was completed in 1930 with later additions. The 1833 church building can be seen in right rear.

Bellamy United Methodist Church

GLOUCESTER, VIRGINIA 23061 CONGREGATION ESTABLISHED BEFORE 1781



EARL D. MARTIN, PASTOR
Telephones: 693-4013 – 693-3250
Gloucester, Virginia

Robert M. Blackburn,
Resident Bishop

W. Dabney Walters,
District Superintendent

THE CHRISTIAN'S DAILY PRAYER

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying to self that we are born into Thy eternal kingdom. Amen

– Francis of Assisi

CHURCH

1983

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cost. It is presumed much of the material was donated. However, an interesting side light is given in the record which states that a certain Isaac Brownley contracted to do all of the carpentry work for the sum of $248.00.

Around the turn of the century, just before the age of the automobile, it seemed necessary to establish three chapels in outlying districts of the area served by Bellamy Church. These were established at Signpine, Cappahosic and Clay Bank and served a good purpose for many years. These churches were closed by 1936, and it is believed all or most of the members came back to the present church.

Three members of Bellamy congregation have become ministers of the gospel. These are The Rev. W. L. Jones, The Rev. J. T. Mills and The Rev. James Clements.

In the latter part of the 1920's a new and larger church building was needed. Under the leadership of The Rev. O. M. Clarke and the building committee: J. H. Martin, Chairman, H. H. Howard, Jack Teagle, W. H. Trevilian and W. D. Weaver, a new edifice was constructed. The first service in the new building was held in July 1930.

For a decade, the old church was neglected. After being altered on the inside, the building was used as a museum for many years. Later, arrangements were made to form classrooms in the building. These classrooms are still in use.

The Sunday School records indicate that it has been in existence since 1828 and continues to this date. It is significant that Bellamy Church has had a Methodist Sunday School for one hundred and fifty six years of the two hundred year life of that organization in America.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BELLAMY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

By Richard C. Harper October 30, 1983

Methodism was brought to Gloucester County by Bishop Francis Asbury in 1781. Bellamy United Methodist Church has been officially recognized by The Methodist Publishing House as being one of the oldest churches of that denomination in the United States.

A Methodist society which later became Bellamy Methodist Church was formed in this community around 1790. Early records show that Bellamy Church was founded in 1795 by The Rev. Joseph Bellamy in his home which stood in a field adjoining the lot upon which the first church building later was erected. Bishop Asbury states in his JOURNAL that he was in the home of "Brother Bellamy" in November 1797 after an absence of seven years and that a society there of forty members had increased to one hundred.

Joseph Bellamy and his wife, Nancy, donated the land upon which the first Bellamy Church stood. The first building, which was constructed in 1810, was a frame structure measuring 18x20 feet. Misfortune struck in 1831 when, according to a quarterly conference report, the building was burned to the ground by a "vile incendiary."

The Rev. William Eastwood, a local preacher, stood by the burning embers and led the challenge to build a new brick church by pledging the first dollar for that purpose. The project was complete and ready for use in 1833. This building still stands behind the present sanctuary as a monument to the religious zeal and spiritual concern of our predecessors. Bronze tablets in the memory of The Rev. Joseph Bellamy and The Rev. William Eastwood are on the walls of "Old Bellamy."

"Old Bellamy" as it is usually called, was remodeled a number of times in the nineteenth century; for about one hundred years it had a frame-built vestibule and steeple. However, today its exterior appearance is about the same as when it was first built one hundred and fifty years ago. There is no record of what the total building cost. It is presumed much of the material was donated. However, an interesting side light is given in the record which states that a certain Isaac Brownley contracted to do all of the carpentry work for the sum of $248.00.

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For over fifty years the women of Bellamy have been active, especially in Missionary work. Early records indicate that most of the financial support came from."egg money" donated by women of the society. In 1918 Mrs. Nora Vaden was the first president of the society. The United Methodist Women, currently under the leadership of Mrs. Jimmy (Wyolene) Pointer is a thriving organization, having sponsored over the years the Lola Bland and Fannie Robinson Circles. In September of this year a new circle, yet to be named, was formed with Mrs. Glen (Barbara) Coulson serving as circle leader.

In an abridged history, such as this, it is not reasonable to note the specifics of many gifts made as memorials to friends and loved ones, such as: the pulpit furniture, several pianos, bells for the bell choir (recently given in memory of long-time leaders, Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Allmond III), stained glass windows, the communion set, the large mural over the inside entrance to the sanctuary (placed there in honor of WWII veterans), the sanctuary lighting system, the church steeple, the carillon, the pulpit Bible, the baptismal font,chairs for the choir, hymn books and many other items were given by individuals in memory of loved ones who served and loved this church. Details of the donors exist in the complete record.

A new educational wing was built in 1970-71 at a cost of $75,000. It should be mentioned that with the unstinting support of the entire congregation, three men, S. M. Robins, Expansion Committee chairman, W. N. Horsley, Sr., Building Committee chairman, J. Lewis Teagle, contractor, formed the leadership in bringing this project into fruition.

In 1975 the church property was enlarged through purchase of adjoining land measuring 200x380 feet at a price of $8,000.

In 1976 the United Methodist Youth Fellowship conducted a fund-raising campaign which provided the means to construct at the end of the new wing a ramp for the use of handicapped persons; also, in 1976 a new parsonage was purchased for a price of $37,555 on Route 616 about one mile from Gloucester Court House. This replaced the former parsonage sold to The Rev. C. Katon Gray who, retiring in 1974, had served Bellamy Church for six years and was especially instrumental in leading the church in a smooth adaptation to the merger in 1968 of the United Brethren and the Methodist Church. Mr. and Mrs. Gray continue to live in our community.

This brief history is not designed to notice in detail the many deeds of love and dedication performed by ministers and laity through the years. To record these, even that which is somewhere in the written record, would fill a large volume; however, it is evident that Bellamy Church has maintained through the years a zeal and constancy in Christian worship and service evidenced by and through its steady level of membership and attendance, and fellowship of love in this community.

The membership and congregation has been very gradually on the increase at Bellamy over the past thirty years. It is pleasing and exciting to record that in the past three years, during the ministry of Dr. Earl D. Martin and Mrs. Martin, the church is experiencing a greater growth,both in membership and attendance, than has been the case in a generation.

A chartered United Methodist Men's Club, formed in 1980, has consistently had an average attendance of 40 men. The men preparing their own meals, meet monthly and are staunch supporters of the church program. Their particular project is the Virginia

United Agency for the Retarded (VUMAR). Walter Edward Allmond, whose ancestors were among the original charter members of Bellamy, is now serving as president of the United Methodist Men's Club.

One of the most vigorous groups to emerge in the church in recent years is the XYZ (eXtra Years of Zest) Club. It's membership consists chiefly of older adults (men and women). The club which began in March 1981 enjoyed two years of energetic leadership under its first president, Wilmer Bohannon, and is now being ably served by its new president, Hurtell Robins. The XYZers meet monthly for lunch and rich fellowship.

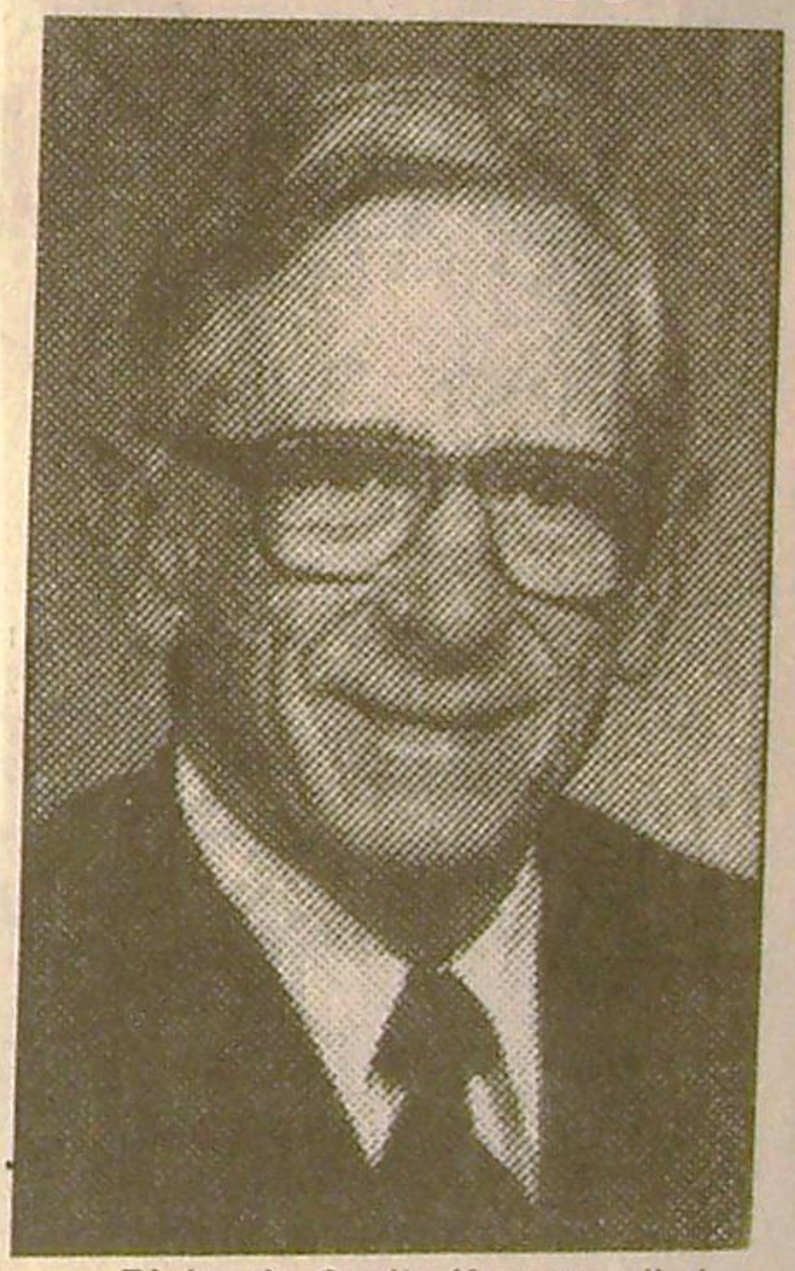
Space does not permit the telling of the whole story. The record, both written and unwritten, contains countless deeds of sacrifice and labors of love.

Bellamy Church has a heritage that is valued and embraced for the present and the future in that same spirit of confidence, courage and faith that sustained those who have gone before us and who by the grace of God wrought so well.

PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED BELLAMY CHURCH SINCE 1869:

J. C. Martin	1869-1873
Oscar Littleton	1873-1876
G. E. Booker	1876-1880
H. C. Cheatham	1880-1881
J. C. Martin	1881-1886
T. H. Campbell	1886-1887
C. C. Wertenbaker	1887-1890
W.O. Waggner	1890-1891
W. H. Greggory	1891-1893
J. D. Hank	1893-1894
J. E. Potts	1894-1898
D.G.C. Butts	1898-1902
J. E. DeShazo	1902-1906
W. R. Crowder	1906-1908
W. W. Sawyer	1908-1912
M. S. Elliott	1912-1913
B. E. Hudson	1913-1916
R. T. Clark	1916-1917
L. D. Stables	1917-1920
J. W. Fizer	1920-1924
O. L. Haga	1924-1927
O. M. Clark	1927-1933
D. G. Trent	1933-1936
F. O. Briggs	1936-1941
R. L. Moore	1941-1944
R. E. Cardwell	1944-1947
Clarence England	1947-1951
V. B. Anthony, III	1951-1955
B. T. Clarke	1955-1961
L. K. Knowles	1961-1964
M. G. Wooten	1964-1968
C. K. Gray	1968-1974
Randy Rilee	1974-1980
Earl D. Martin	1980-

Obituaries



Richard Cecil Harper, died Tuesday, June 28, 1994. He was a retired state tax audit supervisor and commissioner of the revenue of Gloucester from 1948 to 1954 and was staff accountant for several Gloucester firms. A veteran of World War II, he was awarded for meritorious achievement in administrative duties as chief warrant officer and serving in the 29th Infantry Division. Survivors include his wife, Christine Dutton Harper; a son, Richard Bland Harper of Hallieford; and a sister, Ella Harper Hall of Newport News. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, June 30, 2 p.m. at Bellamy United Methodist Church. Interment in the Harper plot at the church.

Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal
Gloucester Gleanings
PAGE 2A Thursday, February 6, 1997 693-3101

MALCOLM CLEMENTS has closed his general store at Bellamy after serving that community as a merchant and post master for 33 years. Clements, above, said retirement will give him more time for his family, including 11-year-old grandson Wayne Dameron, shown with him outside the store.

Bellamy P.O. To Close

by Kim Robins

When Malcolm Clements retired last month and closed his business, M. F. Clements and Son general store at Bellamy, residents of the area bemoaned the loss and suspected their neighborhood post office would be next. Their suspicions were on the mark, as the small area inside the store still serving postal patrons will close on Feb. 27.

"I would do anything I could to keep it (the post office) open," said Dennis Dameron, Clements's son-in-law who plans, with his wife Annette, to operate a couple of small businesses from the store site. He said the United States Postal Service would require him, as the new building owner, to make expensive renovations to meet new requirements. "I'd be willing to do those things except I felt that, after a year or two, they would come along and close the post office anyway," Dameron said. "I'm sure they're blaming it on me."

Dameron was right. Adolph Chiappa, manager of post office operations for the Tidewater area, said the Bellamy post office is closing because the new owner of the building wanted the space for his business venture.

Chiappa said the fewer than 70 postal patrons now at Bellamy can join the rural route delivery system or rent boxes at the Gloucester Post Office. He said new postal services, such as ordering stamps by fax or telephone and having them delivered to boxes, are helping to fill the service void left by the closing of small, neighborhood post offices.

But it's not just the services Bel-

(continued on page 2A)

continued →

Era Ends For Bellamy P.O., Store

(continued from page 1A)

lamy post office patrons will miss, it's also their postmaster. "I've always done everything to help everyone and everybody. I think it pays off down to life's end," said Clements, who frequently made out money orders or other forms for his patrons who were not literate enough to do it.

He was also benevolent in his 33 years as Bellamy's merchant. "I could retire solely on what I lost on accounts over thirty-some years, but I helped a lot of people. My main motto was to try and please the public," Clements said.

He bought the store, which is at least over 50 years old, from Adner Horsley who traded as W. L. Horsley and Son. He said Horsley initially operated a store closer to Bellamy Methodist Church, and the area post office was located at Belroi, until the two were joined at the present Bellamy P.O. location. Clements said both were at the present location when he caught the school bus there for his first day at school in the fall of 1939.

Clements bought the store about 25 years later and has added on to the building several times. "I had worked for other businesses, Southern States, the shipyard, and I just wanted to see if I could make a living for myself. I've always loved people," Clements said.

Although he doesn't miss the 12-to-15-hour days he put in at the store, Clements said that, after a month of retirement, it's that interaction with the public that he misses more than anything. He also doesn't want to see the post office close, but after 33 years of working for that system, he can understand the reluctance of his son-in-law to keep it going.

Clements said his retirement is giving him more time to help out his wife, Mary, and to spend time with other family, especially his grandchildren. "I'm busy catching up on things I didn't have time for before I retired," he said. "I just try to live day to day, and if I die tomorrow I hope I have a better place than where I've been."

Staff photos by Kim Robins

LUCI TRUEBLOOD has taken over the post office duties at Bellamy since Malcolm Clements retired at the end of 1996. Above, Trueblood surprises postal patron Elsie Moore, at left, with gifts on her birthday. Trueblood will also soon be leaving, as the post office at Bellamy will close on Feb. 27.

The Bellamy neighborhood was adjusting to Clements's absence and warming up to Luci Trueblood, the present postal officer in charge, when they received notice this week that the post office was closing. "I just hate to see her leave–everybody does," said neighborhood resident Elsie Moore. When Moore came to get her mail Friday afternoon, she was greeted with a happy birthday hug from Trueblood along with a card and a mini cake.

"It's hard to come into a post office that has been served by the same postmaster for so long. People become so attached to that person," said Trueblood, who had a similar task at the Severn Post Office, "but the people here have been so open and receptive. I've really felt at home, just like the people at Severn made me feel."

No matter what other services the USPS may offer, they will never equal those provided by the rural post master. "Malcolm wasn't just a post master, he was a public consultant–for just about anything and everything," said Dameron. Trueblood agrees, saying she has been asked for advice, shared in concerns, or simply lent a caring ear in helping patrons with more than purchasing stamps. "Postmasters aren't just postmasters; they're part of the community and have a true concern and caring for their patrons." Trueblood said she has been assured another area postal job awaits her when Bellamy closes.

Bellamy Post Mark

124

H. Eliz. Clements
General Delivery
Bellamy, Va. 23017

BELLAMY, VA
DEC
22
-PM
1994
23017

Mr. F. O. Briggs
"Hickory Cottage"
7579 Magnolia Road
Gordonsville, Va. 22942

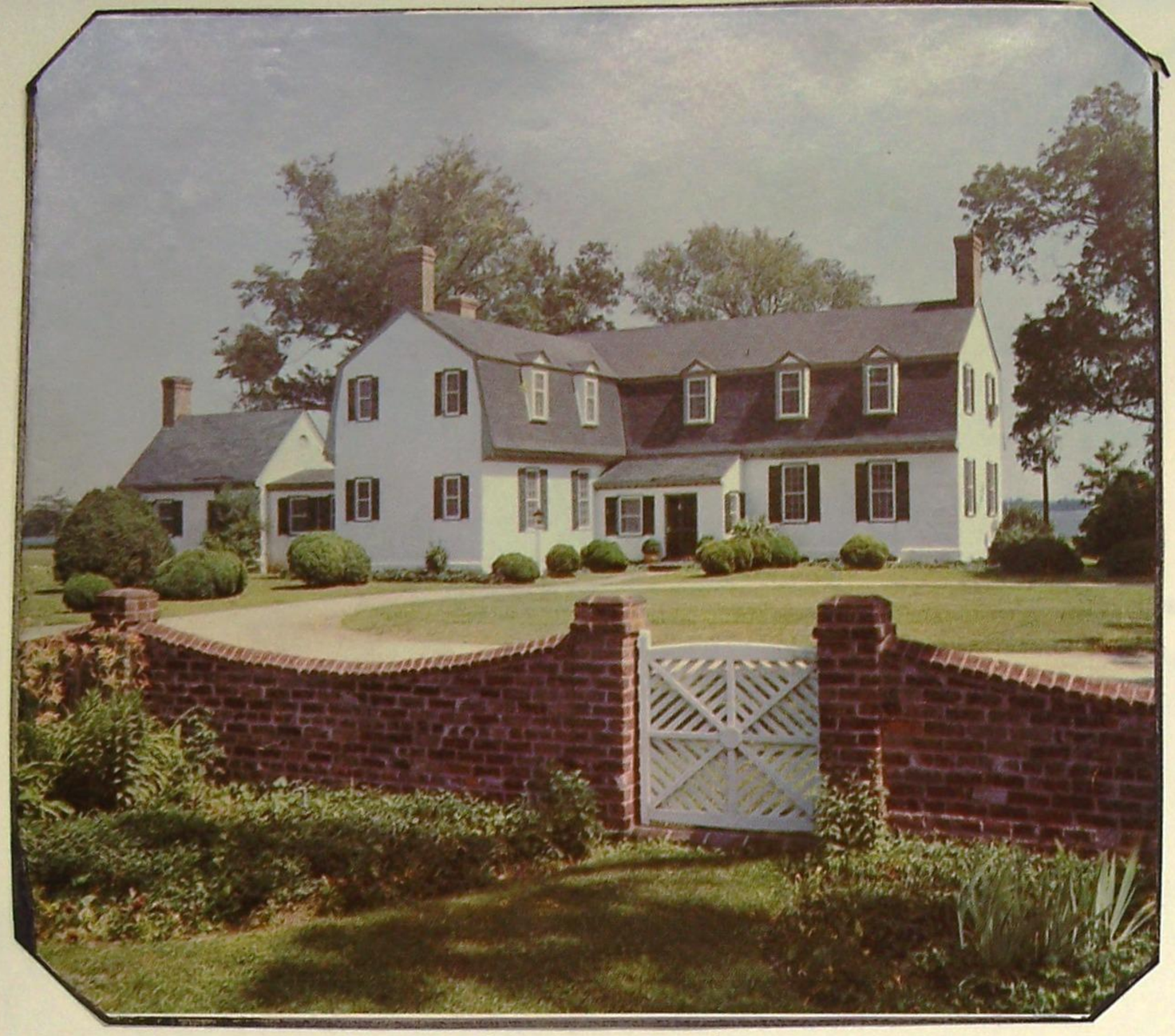
Photos c. 1934

Rose Hill - on branches of Cranney Creek near Bellamy
Eighteenth Century brick dwelling of the Clements family
Burned 1939

interior

Both photos by Frances Benjamin Johnston

Mrs. Mary Walker Clements German, 95, of Bellamy died July 9, 1986. Survivors include two daughters; three sons; two stepdaughters; a stepson; 11 grandchildren; 26 great grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren. Burial was in Bellamy United Methodist Church cemetery.



- View from the west -

Toddsbury - on a bend of the North River

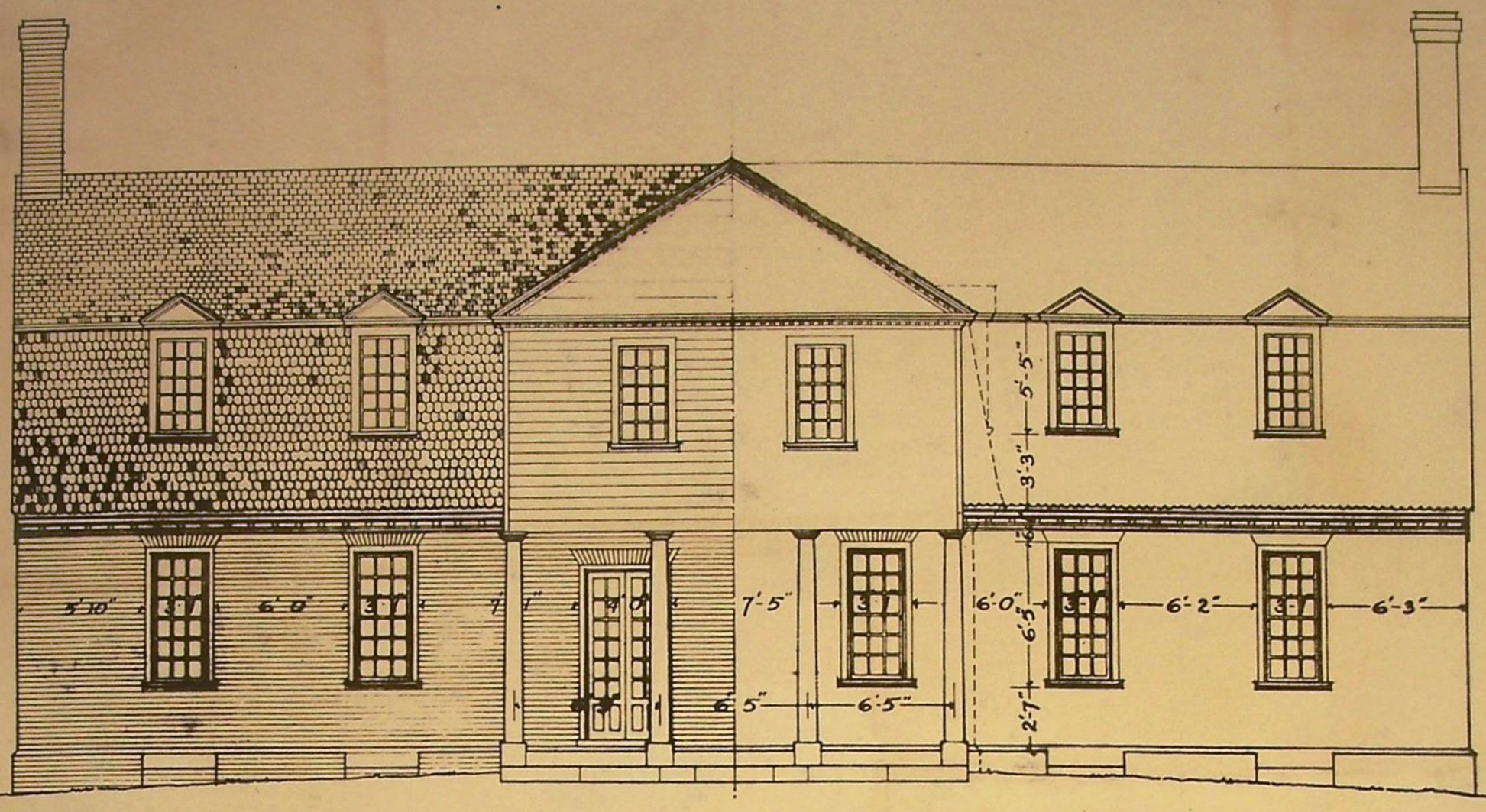
Begun c.1658 by Thomas Todd on land he patented in 1652. Additions were regularly made to the original 42'x20' structure until by 1784 it appeared much as it does today. The kitchen was added in 1946.

Toddsbury continued in the possession of the Todds and their descendents, the Tabbs, until 1856.

Later owned by the Taliaferro family and purchased in 1880 by the Mott family.

There was a large family cemetery here containing the graves of the Todds, Tabbs and Taliaferros. These were moved to Ware Church in 1924.

River facade 1962



FRONT ELEVATION, "TODDSBURY" ON THE NORTH RIVER,
GLOUCESTER COUNTY, VIRGINIA

MEASURED AND DRAWN BY ADDISON F. WORTHINGTON

SCALE: ONE-EIGHTH INCH EQUALS ONE FOOT

Some early views of Toddsbury

view from northeast

Note: there were shutters on the dormer windows
(view from southwest)

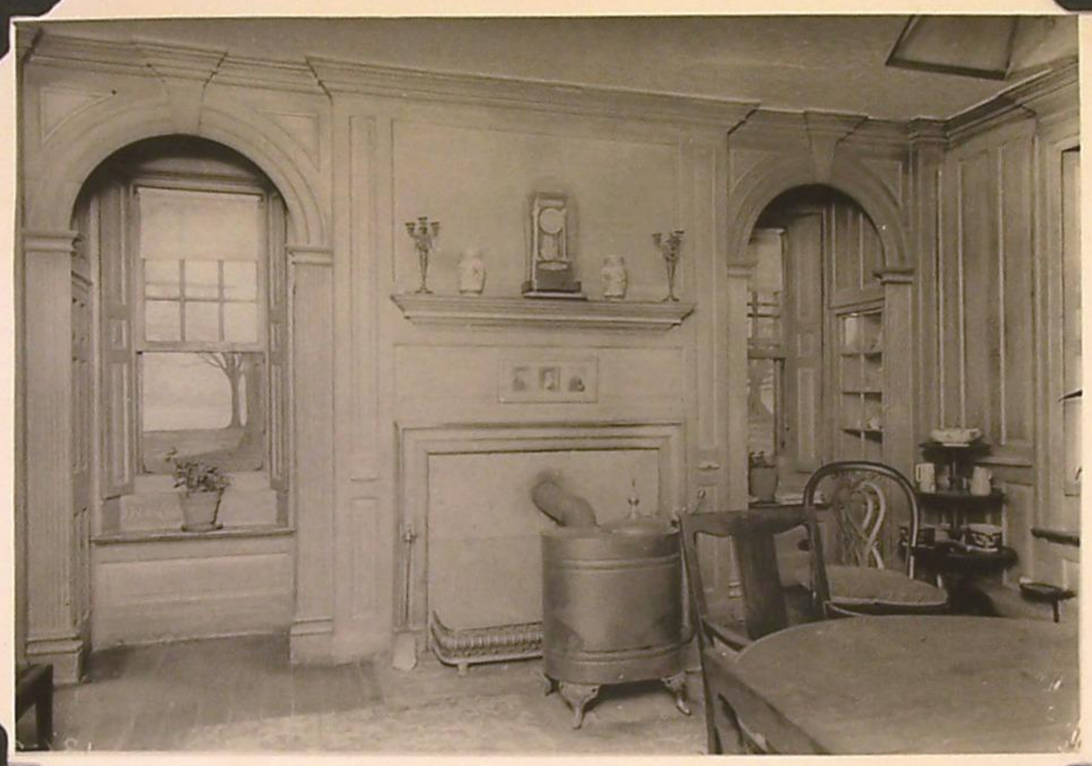
continued →

view from north before second floor windows were installed on north end of original portion

— view from southwest —

Toddsbury continued — Early views

— Hall looking into dining room —



Dining room before central heating

Interiors before restoration

— corner of the dining room —

— Secondary stair - closed stringer —

Toddsbury interiors before restoration

— Drawing room —

— Second floor rooms —

continued →

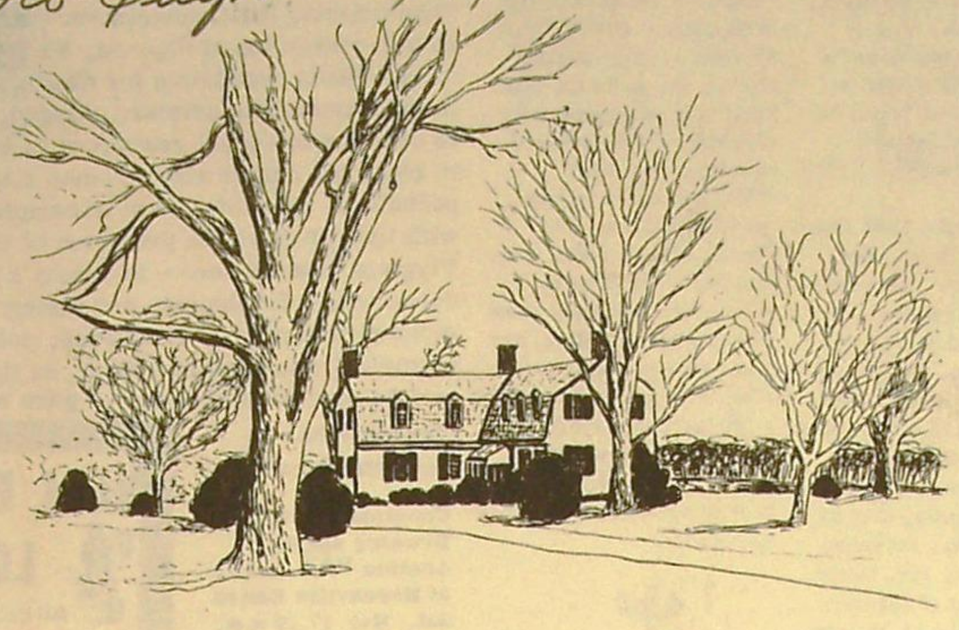
— Entrance and gates — photos 1966 —

Toddsbury continued —
The House has now been restored and the grounds enhanced by Owner Mrs. Charles Beatty Moore

— view from sentiment — 1960's

Across the park-like lawn — april 1962

Glo-Quips - 5/7/69



TODDSBURY — BETTY DEHARDIT

The following article was written by William ap W Jones in the early thirties.

The very early colonial homes here are not large or elaborate. They are all built in what is now commonly known as Colonial Dutch architecture, that is a story-and-a-half with dormer windows. Toddsbury on the North River in Gloucester County is said to be the finest example of this type of house in perfect preservation.

Toddsbury was built in 1658, or there abouts, a litetime before George Washington was born. Today it is in perfect preservation. The timbers and other wood work are like new, ready to last another century.

The huge lawn, filled with broadnut, elm and willow-oak trees, contains about 10 acres of ground, running down to the river's edge. At the back of the house there is on three sides a brick-walled garden which inclosed an acre of land. The walls are five feet high, built of English brick, with a rounded top. The fourth wall is said to have been only half as high with a picket to the height of the remaining walls.

Grant of 3,000 Acres

The house is in the center of what was originally a grant of 3,000 acres which was patented sometime in the 1640's by Capt. Thomas Todd. He died en route to England and the house was finished by his son, Phillip Todd. The house was built by the early craftmen in the simple, restful style of the day.

Toddsbury was the home of the Todds until 1794 when Lucy Todd married Edward Tabb. She inherited the place and it was from her and her husband that all of the Tabbs of Gloucester descended.

Most of the new-exciting colonial homes were built by their ancestors and Toddsbury furnished the sites for four of them. Waverly, Exchange, Newstead and Elmington were all carved out of the original Toddsbury acres.

Church Erected

It was one of the Tabbs of Toddsbury, Phillip, who married Mary Mason Wythe, of Williamsburg. She built a church on the plantation and gathered a congregation from the neighbors. There is a legend in the Tabb family, according to one of the local descendants, about her untiring efforts in her religious work.

Her husband, it is said, frequently gave parties. While the guests were in one room playing cards and drinking, she gathered their wives in another room and conducted a prayer meeting for the aparent sins of their husbands.

Toddsbury was sold by Thomas Tabb to John Taliferro and he sold it to M. K. Smith. During this time the place changed hands rapidly.

In 1880 William J. Mott purchased the place with the lands that are now included with it. His son, W. S. Mott, owns it now.

Novelist Inspired

It was here on a visit that Joseph Hergeshimer, the novelist, had his inspiration for Balisand. He placed the scenes for the early Virginia parties in the paneled rooms, and made the beautiful, simple stairway the instrument of his heroine's death.

Balisand was Toddsbury, the ancesteral home of Richard Bale.

The house is about a mile from the highway. Most of the original lands were flat lowlands of rich black soil but the "Highlands of Toddsbury" as they are called in old deeds, are hills across the highway to the north that rise 50 feet above the major portion of its lands. This part of the old place is thought to have been valued in early days mostly for its timber. Today it is in other hands, a part of it remaining with Mary Mason Wythe's church, Mount Zion.

Toddsbure outbuildings

Garden house within the walled garden

Domestic outbuildings - the dairy in center is an original building.

Ice house - original building

- Photos 1966 -

continued →

Photo 1970's

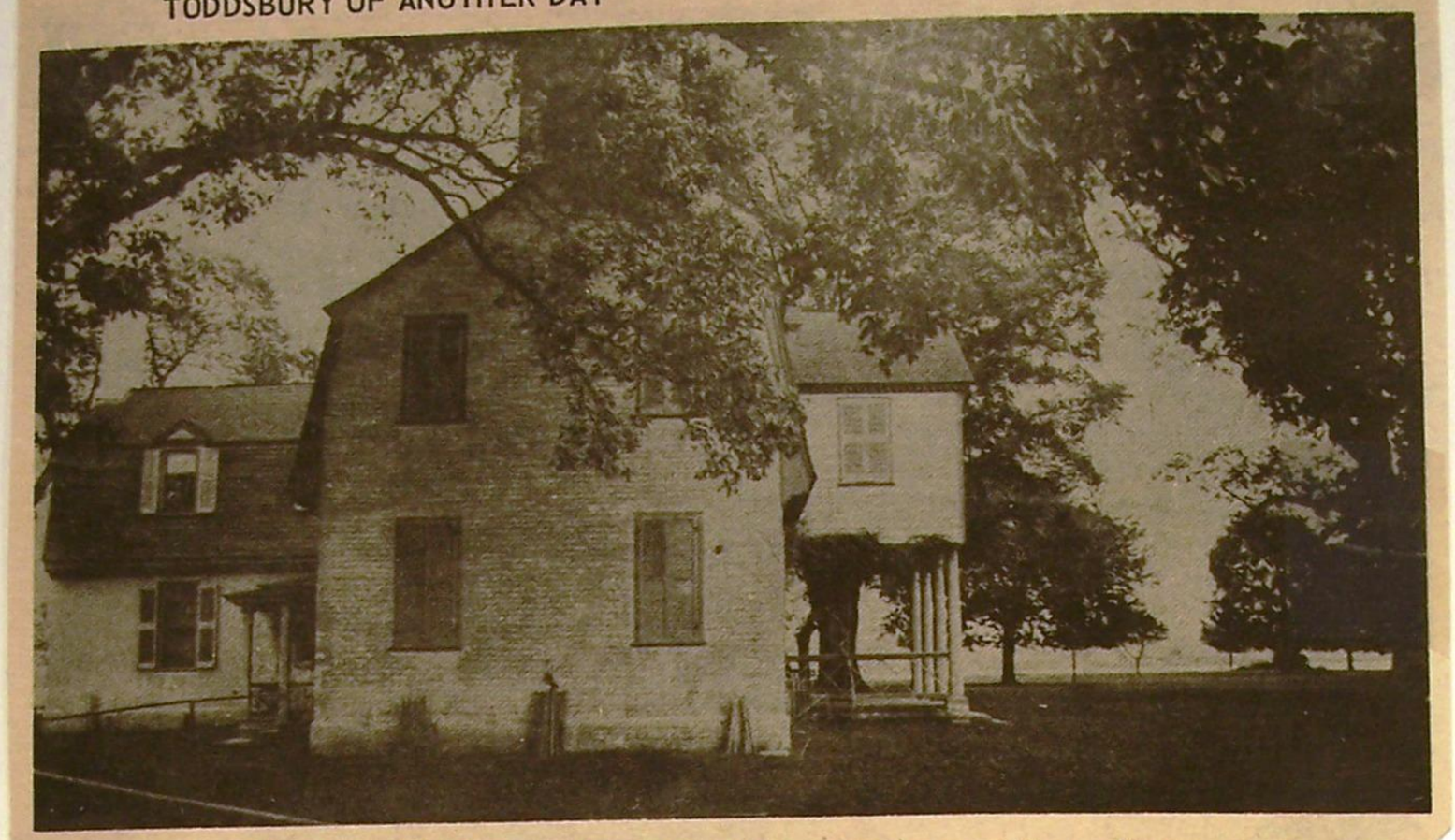
Drawing room - 1962

Toddsbury interiors

Dining room - 1970's

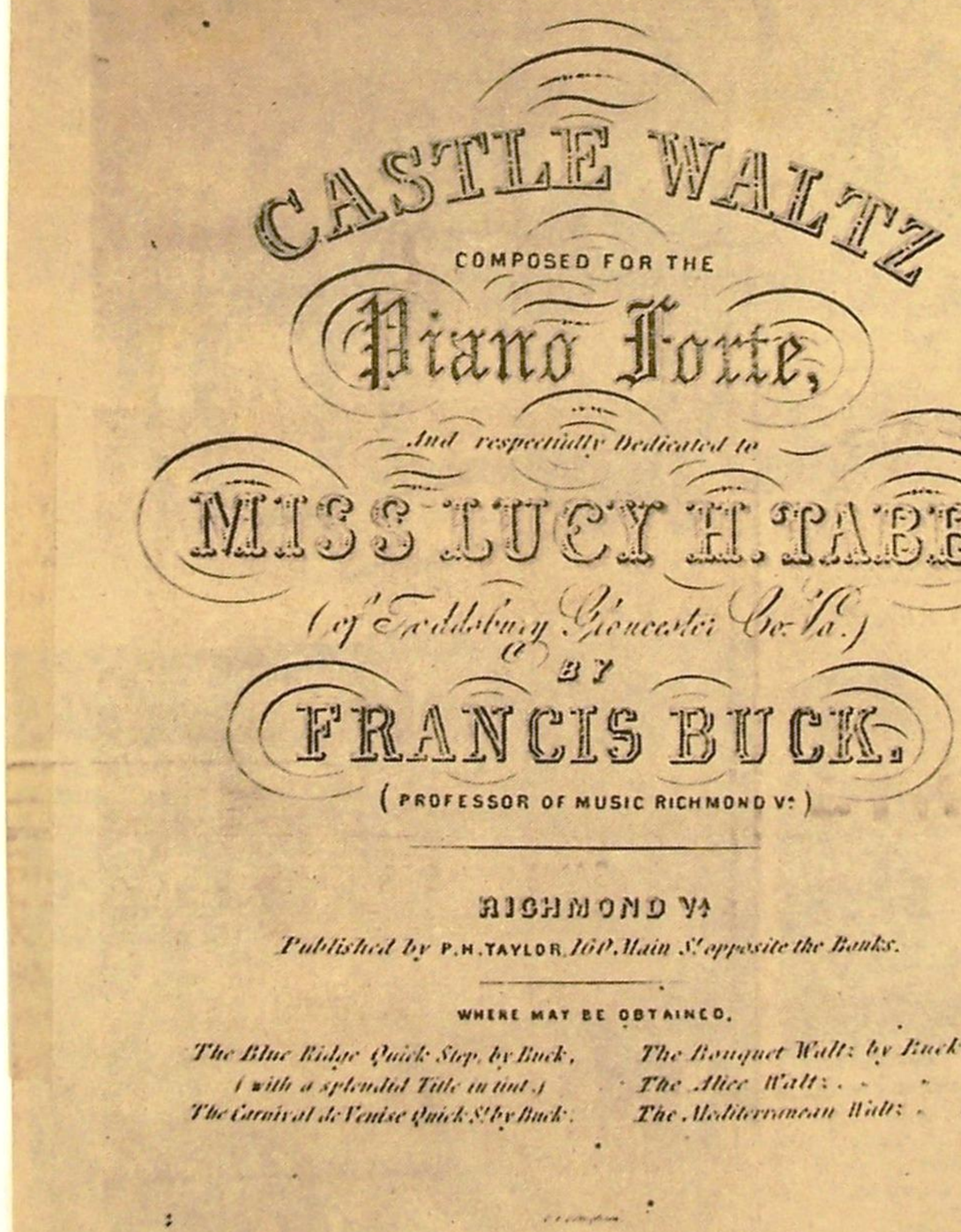
Drawing room ~ 1970's

TODDSBURY OF ANOTHER DAY



"The Gem of Tidewater" has changed very little through its very long life in Gloucester. This faded photograph comes from another century.

Matilda Gay Montague Moore, 97, of Gloucester died Wednesday, September 7, 1988. Mrs. Moore was founder of the Alexandria Association and the Historic Alexandria Foundation and a life member of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. She was also a member of the Virginia Historical Society, the National Society of Colonial Dames in America in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Garden Club of Virginia, the Chevy Chase Club and the Sulgrave Club. Survivors include two nephews, Robert Latane Montague III and Francis Breckinridge Montague of Alexandria and two nieces, Janet Nunnally Burhans of Fredericksburg and Elizabeth Nunnally Lindley of Gloucester. Burial was in Christ Church cemetery, Middlesex County.



CASTLE WALTZ

COMPOSED FOR THE

Piano Forte,

And respectfully Dedicated to

MISS LUCY H. TABB

(of Toddsbury Gloucester Co. Va.)

BY

FRANCIS BUCK.

(PROFESSOR OF MUSIC RICHMOND Va.)

RICHMOND Va.

Published by P.H. TAYLOR, 160 Main St. opposite the Banks.

WHERE MAY BE OBTAINED,

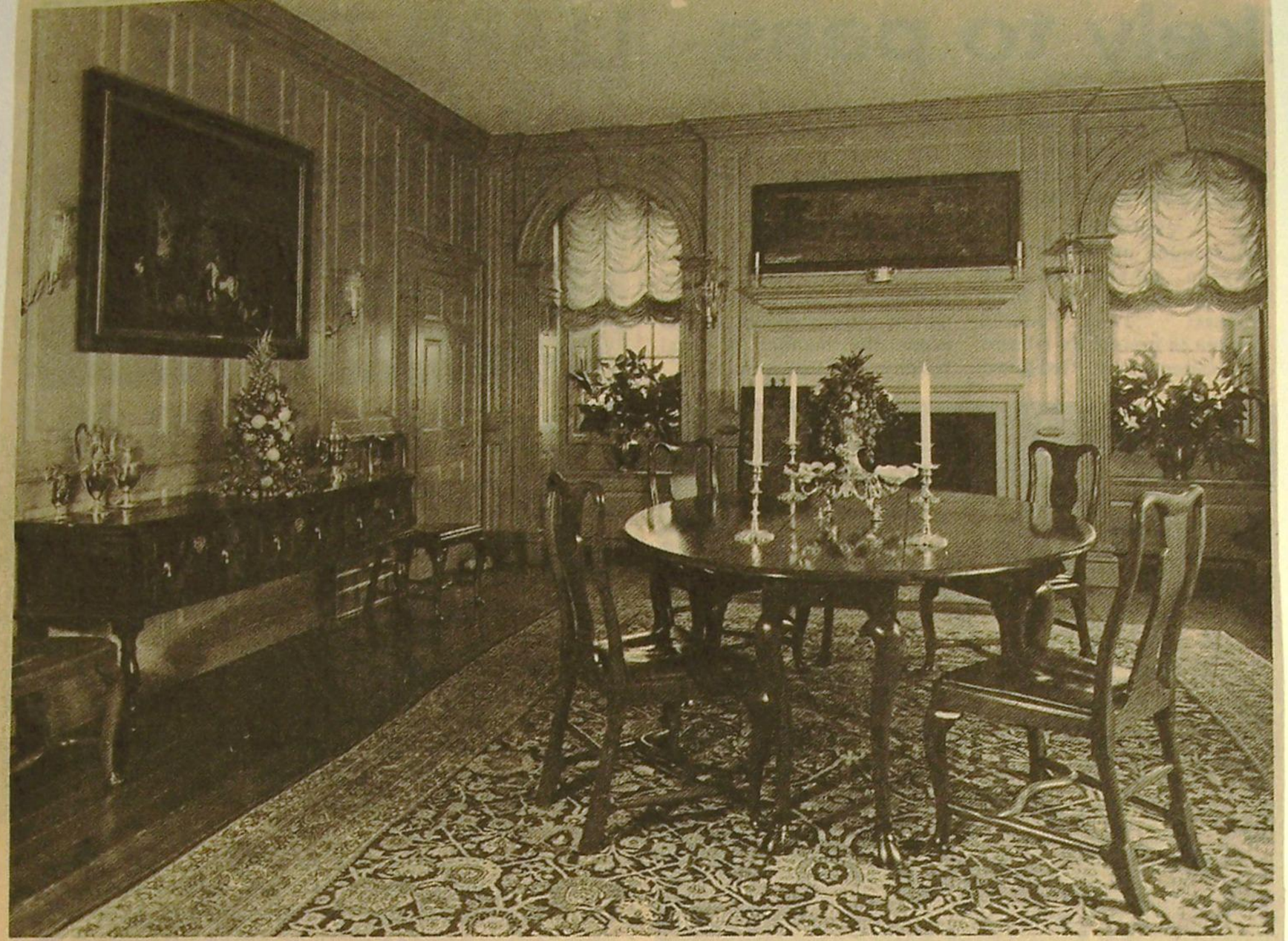
The Blue Ridge Quick Step, by Buck, (with a splendid Title in tint.)
The Carnival de Venise Quick St. by Buck.
The Bouquet Waltz by Buck.
The Alice Waltz.
The Mediterranean Waltz.

Old Popular Tune Had Gloucester Connections

If you were to attend a dance at Rosewell, White Marsh, Warner Hall, and particularly Toddsbury or any manor house in Gloucester County during the year of 1847, it is in all probability that you would have heard strains of "Castle Waltz" being played by the musicians. It was written by Francis Buck, a native of Germany and early resident of Gloucester County, and dedicated to Miss Lucy H. Tabb of Toddsbury. Mr. Buck was a grandfather of the late Captain Walter Buck of Gloucester Pt.

--Music courtesy of Rodger Buck of Gloucester Point

continued →



Thomas L. Williams

1980

Setting for Virginia Company meeting

The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities will hold the fourth annual meeting of the Virginia Company April 19 at Toddsbury, the home of Mrs. Charles B. Moore, in Gloucester. A number of the members of Williamsburg's Colonial Capitol branch, APVA, are expected to attend. Toddsbury was built by Thomas Todd, who died in 1676. The Virginia Company is a group of supporters of the preservation in the heritage left Virginia by the original Virginia Company and the subsequent settlers. It is a part of the APVA and donations by its members help carry on special projects. The speaker at the meeting will be James Morton Smith, director of the Winterthur Museum in Delaware. A dinner will follow. Further information on the Virginia Company and the meeting is available from The Virginia Company. APVA, 2705 Park Ave., Richmond, Va. 23220.

"TODDSBURY"

When Jamestown was settled in 1607, the stronghold of the Powhatan Confederacy was in that area of Virginia which became Gloucester County in 1651. Attempts by Englishmen to settle on the York, the Severn, the Ware, and the North Rivers were not successful until after the Indian Massacre of 1644 when the Indians were driven westward. In 1652, sea captain Thomas Todd of Denton, England, came to the new county of Gloucester and patented lands along the North River. He selected an appropriate house site on a curve of the North River and there built his home, which he named "Toddsbury." His decendants of Todds and Tabbs lived at "Toddsbury" for two hundred years, contributing in far-reaching ways to the growth and development of Gloucester County and the state of Virginia.

The sturdy brick home which Captain Todd built was a simple structure measuring forty-two by twenty feet. Later additions in 1690, 1720, and 1782 completed the house which stands today. "Toddsbury," well preserved and mellowed from three centuries of continuous occupancy, is distinctive for its architecture, its fine interiors and rare paneling, its picturesque setting, and its quiet beauty.

Of the original land grant made to Captain Todd, some sixty acres remain in the property today. The garden and grounds occupy fifteen of these acres providing an appropriate setting for the venerable house. Little remains of the outbuildings that once were on the grounds. Of the known fifteen original buildings, only the dairy and icehouse survive—companions to the modern garage, barns, office-library and guest house—which suggest the earlier plantation design. Two tenant houses on the entrance drive have recently been renovated as residences.

The ancient oaks and maples that have stolidly resisted time and storm lend an English park atmosphere to the grounds where careful attention has been given to new plantings. The restored above-the-ground icehouse is located outside the grounds proper and just beyond the tree-lined entrance. To the right of the entrance gate is the site of the "Toddsbury" ancient burial ground. This family cemetery of the Todds and Tabbs is no longer evident because the tombs were moved to nearby Ware Church in 1924.

No records exist to indicate what the gardens of "Toddsbury" were like when Thomas Todd walked its path, but the present owner has created an intimate and inviting walled garden where seasonal flowers, colorful crepe myrtles, and ornamental shrubs form a suitable setting for a dwarf box garden and diminutive gazebo. Outside the garden wall an expansive growth of boxwoods mark the wall boundaries.

"Toddsbury" exemplifies the ideal compatible relationship between a private ownership and a state preservation group. Since 1976, the APVA has been co-holder of an historic easement on "Toddsbury" which is designed to protect the future preservation of this Tidewater landmark.

"Toddsbury" is the home of Mrs. Charles Beatty Moore.

Mrs. Catesby G. Jones, Jr.
Chairman,
1980 Virginia Company

Dining Room at "Toddsbury," built by Thomas Todd in the late seventeenth-century. Photo courtesy of Thomas L. Williams.

APVA NEWSLETTER

Volume I
Number 2

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF VIRGINIA ANTIQUITIES

Toddsbury June 1983

TODDSBURY

As our regular feature, we are spotlighting the historic home of another APVA member. Although we spend a great deal of time traveling around the State, it is impossible to be familiar with all of the possibilities for this column. Your suggestions about properties where APVA members either live or work are welcome. Many members have homes or offices which they have painstakingly restored and refurbished. Others live in homes which have been in the family for generations. All are examples of concern and appreciation for the preservation of our past.

In this issue we are fortunate to present Toddsbury, home of Mrs. Charles Beatty Moore. Tracing its origins to the mid-seventeenth century, Toddsbury is beautifully situated just outside Gloucester on a quiet inlet from the Mobjack Bay.

Thomas Todd was from a family of mariners and shipbuilders. Through the sponsorship of colonists to the New World, he amassed great land holdings along the mid-Atlantic coast. In 1658 he began building Toddsbury which, at that time, was only one room with a stair hall and a second-story under a gambrel roof. The Todd family Bible records the birth of a son, Thomas, at Toddsbury in 1660.

In 1690 rooms on the other side of the hall were built. Still a relatively small river plantation, Toddsbury was again enlarged in 1783 with the addition of a small stair hall and two rooms, which house a library on the first floor and another bed chamber on the second. The house remained in the Todd and Tabb families until the Civil War when it was owned by the Taliaferros.

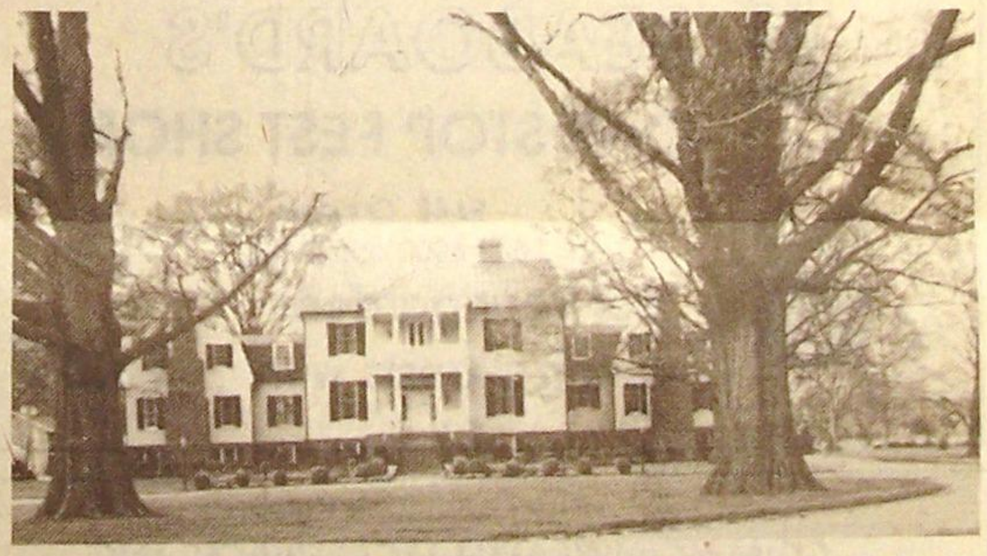
Except for the addition of an unobtrusive kitchen to the older house, it has remained fairly unchanged since the eighteenth century. Mrs. Moore acquired the property in 1954 as a seasonal home. Crediting the charm of the house and surroundings, she admits to having spent almost no time in her Alexandria home since 1956. She has removed layers of paint to determine original colors, has combined superb examples of seventeenth-, eighteenth- and nineteenth century English and American furniture and has renovated garden areas to produce a comfortable and elegant setting. The house has had both National and Virginia Landmark status for several years. Mrs. Moore granted a protective historic easement on Toddsbury to the APVA and the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

A delightful and well-traveled lady, Mrs. Moore is very understanding of those who enjoy architecture and decorative arts. At an early age, Mrs. Moore enjoyed seeing older homes.

134A

"Newstead" On North River

NEWSTEAD—From Long Bridge Ordinary, right on routes 3 and 14 for 3.6 miles, right on Toddsbury Lane (Route 622), follow green arrows 1.6 miles to entrance. Built, circa 1856, by John Henry Tabb of Toddsbury, this stunning Georgian mansion dominates a small peninsula on the North River. Surrounded by giant oaks and sweeping lawns leading to the water's edge, this three-story house was completely renovated over a five year period, 1982–1988, when the present owners painstakingly restored it, adding a library wing on the left balancing the 1930's kitchen wing on the right. The high English basement is of brick, the upper floors are of wood and there are 14 working fireplaces. Wide brick steps rise from boxwood bordered brick paths to the columned two-story porch. The original central portion of the house has 11-foot ceilings, its original heart pine flooring and much of the original woodwork. The gracious entry hall is decorated with draperies and wall coverings in muted teal, beige and gray—colors carried into the other formal rooms with warm rose-red accents. Fine Oriental rugs enhance the floors. Of special interest are the 18th century "Marshall Family Tall Clock" at the foot of the stairway, an Austrian mirror above an 18th century English mahogany sideboard and a 1760's Georgian chair. In the parlor are two interesting portraits by Southern artists, dated 1820 and 1832, botanical prints of the 1690s, Hubard's portrait of Mrs. Christopher Tompkins, a grand piano and a 1760's mahogany block-front secretary. Noteworthy in the dining room are an impressive 18th century Virginia inlaid mahogany corner cupboard, a 1690's portrait of an unknown English gentleman attributed to Edward Wessing and other fine pieces including an elegant mahogany buffet table, Irish cherry sideboard, Queen Anne style chairs and massive gilt frame mirror. In the adjacent sitting room, Mrs. Wilcox's intimate study and the large library, paneled with heart pine and interesting arched window paneling, are handsome antiques and interesting furnishings. The large country kitchen has a harvest table and cupboard made by local craftsmen in the 1920s. A charming brick-floored guest cottage, furnished with antiques appropriate to the period, will be open for the tour. Mr. and Mrs. Martin H. Wilcox, owners.



Beautiful Gardens at "Newstead" >

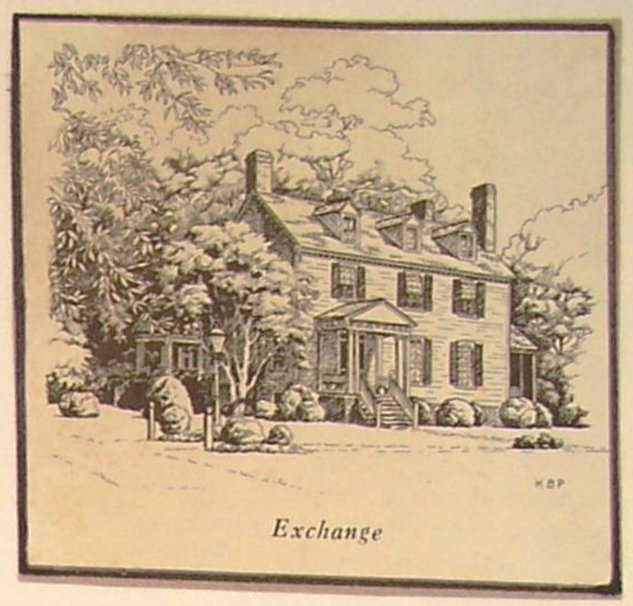
1343

"Newstead", North River Home of Mr. and Mrs. Martin H. Wilcox

Newstead – on the North River

Built by John Henry Tabb on his part of the Toddsbury land and completed in 1856. John Tabb was the son of Thomas Todd Tabb and a grandson of Rev. Armistead Smith. Many additions have been made over the years.

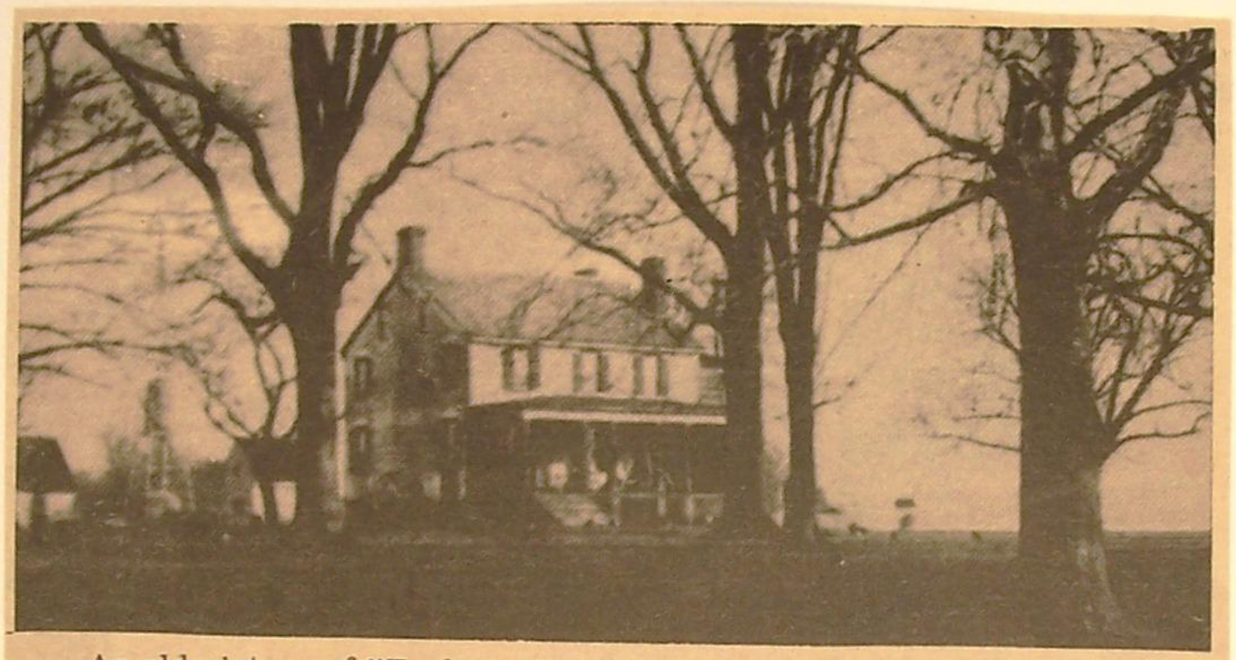
Photo - 1950's



Exchange - on the North River

The house is believed to have been built by William Buckner in the 18th century. The name is derived from the fact that in 1791 Col. Thomas Buckner exchanged the place for "Concord" on the York River with an in-law, Matthew Anderson.

Through Anderson Exchange came into the Dabney family who retained it until the 1930's.



An old picture of "Exchange" a Dabney home on the North River.

View through ancient Willow Oaks

Photos 1950's

continued →

OLD ICEHOUSE AT EXCHANGE - This old photograph shows the ice house at "Exchange", a North River estate in Gloucester.

Exchange continued

The old Ice House at "Exchange" beinging filled with ice.

— Exchange — Photos April 1971 —

The new kitchen wing on the rear was added in 1968

Photo 1990's by Gordon Beall

continued →

– Photos 1971 –

Guest Cottage – house can just be Glimpsed beyond —

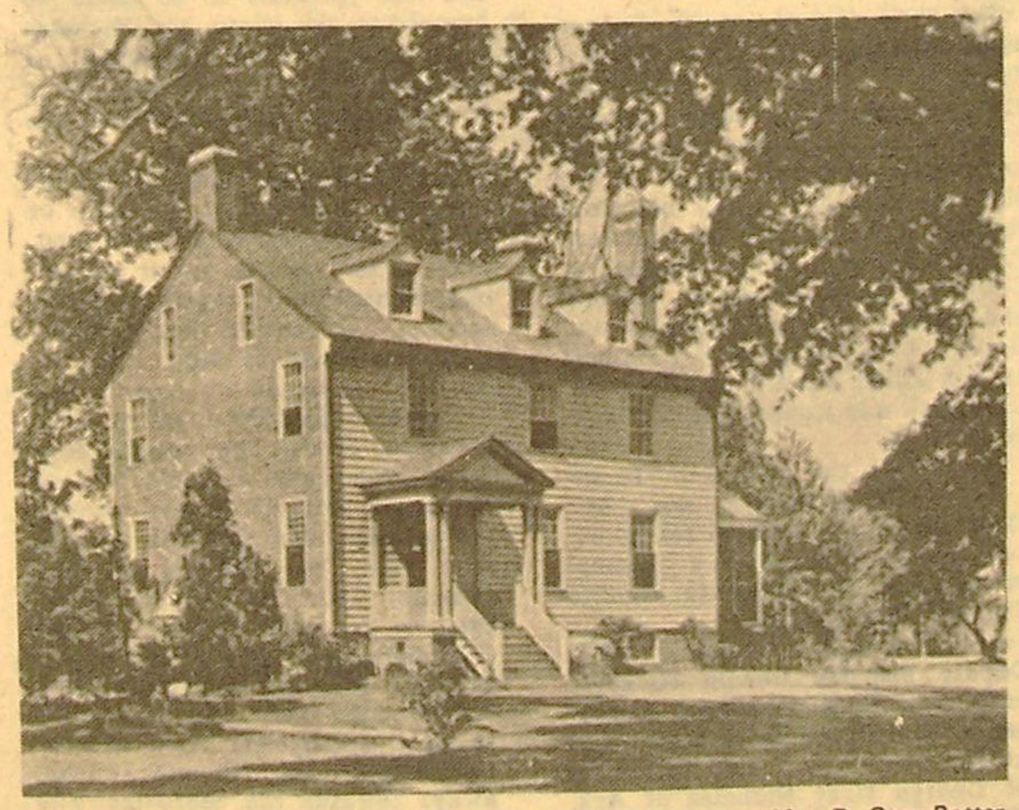
Exchange continued —

The Dock at Exchange –

Hall and stair ~ 1971

"EXCHANGE" IS SOLD FOR ONE HALF MILLION DOLLARS

GLO-QUIPS May 1, 1985



"Exchange", a Colonial home built during the middle 1700's on North River in Gloucester County has been sold for one half million dollars to a Boston banker.

The sale was handled through the real estate firm of Mason Realty of Saluda from a listing of the estate by Frank Hardy, Inc., of Charlottesville, Va.

The estate and nearly nine acres was bought by Mr. and Mrs. D. Gary Potter of Boston, where he is vice president of First Winthrop Corporation, an investment bank. Mr. and Mrs. William Sheldon McKelvy sold the property and have moved to Williamsburg, Va.

The Potters plan restoration of the interior and will move to the main house from guest cottage when the renovation is complete.

Photo by Gordon Beall

The drawing room at Exchange ~ 1990's.

The window frame, crown molding and chair rail are old if not original. The heart pine mantel and paneled chimney breast are additions made by the present owners the Gordon Stewart family.