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Magazine of the

Jefferson County Historical Society

Bi-Centennial Issue
Part I

Volume XLI
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JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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"No man is fit to be entrusted with the control of the present who is ignorant of the past, and no people who are indifferent to their past need hope to make their future great."

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JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Organized May 21, 1927

Post Office Box 485

Charles Town, West Virginia 25414

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Publications and Prices—One copy of the Magazine is mailed to each person holding a paid membership. Until the publication of next year's Magazine, members may purchase additional copies for $3.00 each; order these from William H. Wilson, Box 716, Charles Town. Original volumes, or facsimile reproductions, for all years, are available to all persons at $4.00 per Magazine; quantity discounts are allowed. Mr. Wilson also has available copies of *Prominent Men of Shepherdstown* for $5.15 each, mailed, and *The Washington Homes of Jefferson County* for $2.00 each, mailed.

Pre-Revolutionary Structures And Sites In Jefferson County

Part I

Introduction

The places described here have been inspected by the members of the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission during 1974 and 1975. The Commission has given priority to selecting pre-Revolutionary structures and sites as a contribution to the Bi-centennial Celebration. Judgements that construction antedated the year 1775 were based on recorded histories of many places. For others the decision involved title searches for original property ownership and then for an expert architectural opinion that surviving wood work and other details conclusively pointed to the structure's antiquity. All structures, but two, were built of stone.

As publication time for this report approached it was evident that all places encountered could not be throughly appraised and also that some remain undiscovered. This year's presentation, therefore, is limited to the places described below. A second series will appear in next year's Magazine. An occasional questionable structure such as the stone house at Rock Hall is included because of its historic associations and because it may well have been built before 1775. Where interiors have been replaced with later material because of fire or because of extensive renovation the clues on which period judgements are made have been lost.

The Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission was appointed by the County Court in March 1974 in accordance with the Oates-Leonard Bill as described in the 1974 Magazine (Vol. XL, page 55). The owners of landmarks *which are being preserved* are awarded certificates and bronze plaques inscribed, "A Jefferson County

Historic Landmark." It is hoped that valid preservation will be encouraged by such awards. Obviously post-Revolutionary landmarks far outnumber the earlier structures. For homes such as Piedmont, Happy Retreat, and Beverly the later portions are the dominating features. The designation of landmarks has hardly begun and can be done much faster when dealing with later structures, many of which are already documented.

The editors are particularly indebted to Miss Emily Stanley for her research into the records in the Jefferson County Courthouse and to Mr. Don C. Wood for his research into the records in the Berkeley County Courthouse.

Ruins Of The English Church (Now Called St. George's)

These ruins stand on the right of State Route 51 one mile to the west of Charles Town. Present evidence indicates that the land for this church was donated by Robert Worthington, Jr., son of the builder of Quarry Bank (Piedmont). That it acquired the name, "St. George's", long after its use as a church is well recognized. Elderly citizens state that the name appeared first on a post card depicting the ruins. The printer, probably puzzled by the lack of a specific name, invented one. Contemporary references are made to "Norborne Parish Church" and "Berkeley Church". Norborne Parish was split off from Frederick Parish in January 1771. The name was derived from Virginia's popular governor, Norborne Berkeley. Berkeley County, formed in 1772, included present Jefferson County until 1801. The 1809 map of this area by Varle uses the name "English



The ruins as they appeared some years ago.



Present state of ruins, undergoing stabilization.

Episcopal Church". The 1852 Howell Brown map identifies the ruins as the "Old English Church".

The vagueness concerning the building of the church has been brought into some focus through a search of the Frederick Parish vestry records by Dr. William Barnhart. The Act dividing Frederick Parish was passed June 28, 1770, and provided that the vestry for Norborne Parish should be chosen by March of 1771. The Parish actually came into existence on January 1, 1771. There is no mention in the Frederick Parish records of money spent on a new church, and no evidence that the building was begun or even authorized before 1771. It seems that the Norborne vestry built the church—collecting funds and supervising. Robert Worthington was a member; Samuel Washington was senior warden and William Hancher (that is, Henshaw) junior warden. That it took no less than three years to build it is evidenced by time consumed in building the chapel in Shepherdstown during the years 1767-69—as the payments recorded in the Frederick vestrybook to Col. Van Swearingen show.

Thus Susan Gregg Gibson's statement, in Volume I, page 43, that James Nourse "really bore the burden of erection" may be true. Nourse, a well-to-do London merchant, bought Piedmont from Charles Dick in 1770. Miss Gibson quotes conversations with his grandson stating he possessed "many records, bills, receipts as to the building of the church". The woodwork was very handsome, the pulpit imported from England. Reports that the roof was made of copper, that it was made of lead, that the floor was tiled are heresay.

There was a graveyard, probably in the north-east corner of the grounds. Mrs. Nourse's diary reports the burial there of General Gate's first wife on June 3, 1781. No vestiges of grave stones remained when the area was cleared in 1974-5. The present ruin reveals the ravages of time and vandalism occurring since abandonment one and a half centuries ago. Futile searches for cornerstone treasure hastened the decline. In a drawing, dated 1859, the structure is roofless.

Charles Town, founded in 1787, had grown in thirty years to the point of needing an Episcopal church in town. In 1817 the pews and removable woodwork were taken from here and installed in the new church. By 1850 this church was found to be too small and was replaced by a larger structure which was gutted by fire the following year. It was promptly rebuilt. The only remnant of this Church which exists in present Zion Church, Charles Town, is a handsome table which stands in the sancturary.

The first minister, the Rev. Daniel Sturgis, licensed by the Bishop of London in 1771, according to Bishop Meade, would have been appointed by the vestry. Subsequent ministers to the year 1813 were the Reverends Veasey, Wilson, Bernard Page, Heath, Emanuel Wilmer, and John Price. Mrs. Nourse's diary for the years 1781-83 mentions that in those years "sermon Sunday" occurred once a month, bringing many dinner guests to Piedmont.

Ownership of the property passed in 1858 from John, Henry R., and W.D. Briscoe to Braxton Davenport. In 1974 the Davenport heirs presented it to the Bee Line Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. With their funds, generously supplemented by the Shenandoah-Potomac Garden Council, and a work force supplied, as a Bicentennial year contribution, by the Harpers Ferry Historic National Park Service, stabilization of the remaining walls and clearing of the grounds has been carried out.

Two further comments should be made: There is a reference in Thomas Worthington's diary made during a visit here in 1811 that the church "is going to ruin", indicating that the Charles Town congregation was perhaps holding services somewhere in town at that time. This was quoted in an article by Ella May Turner in Volume XIV, page 26.

Dr. Barnhart is engaged in making a comprehensive study of all Anglican churches in this area which, it is hoped, will be published in the 1976 Magazine. Additional information which may modify the present findings should be available at the time of the dedication ceremonies in July.

Reference: *The Diary of Mrs. James Nourse*, Volume XXIV, page 20.

Stone Kitchen At Piedmont

The driveway leading to Piedmont enters State Route 51 one mile west of Charles Town. The original house here was built by the Quaker immigrant, Robert Worthington. The memoirs of his grandson, Thomas, who eventually became governor of Ohio, are quoted as stating that he moved his family of eight children from the vicinity of Philadelphia in 1730 to a location on Evitts Run. In 1731 he purchased three thousand acres here from Joist Hite for fifteen

pounds. It is also reported that the Quakers seem to have thought they were still in Pennsylvania. Finding he was in the newly formed Orange County, Virginia, he applied for and obtained a patent from Governor Gooch in 1734, agreeing to pay a quitrent of five pounds. Here he built "the first stone house west of the Blue Ridge" naming it Quarry Bank after his ancestral home in Cheshire, England. He died in 1735.

A fault in his will invalidated his disposals to his several children and ownership of the house, now called Piedmont, passed to his grandon, Robert (Bobby), whose father, Samuel, was the eldest of the family. In 1754 Robert sold it to Charles Dick who resold it in 1770 to James Nourse.

A successful woolen merchant in London, Nourse immigrated in 1769 because he thought his children would have a better future in America. Evidently he became immersed immediately in the completion of the nearby English Church. Donating generously, he imported a handsome pulpit from England. (Vol. I p. 43-45). He was an active supporter of the Revolution in which three of his sons fought. Portions of his wife's diary for the last two years of his



residence here were published in Vol. XXIV p. 43-45. In 1783 he moved to Annapolis. His will written in Annapolis in September 1784 leaves the Piedmont house to his wife.

In 1786 Piedmont was bought from the Nourse heirs by Dr. John Briscoe. It was this family who replaced the main portion of the house with the present brick mansion. The stone kitchen has continued to be used as a kitchen to the present day. The interior has been modified through the centuries to accommodate the conveniences of the times. The present owner, Miss Louise Briscoe, has embellished its white-washed walls with a collection of old copper and brass utensils.

Reference: *Thomas Worthington, Father of Ohio Statehood* by Alfred Byron Sears

Harewood

The driveway enters State Route 51, on the left, three miles west of Charles Town. The first of the family to move to present Jefferson County was George Washington's oldest full brother, Samuel. His arrival in September 1770 indicates that the house was in the process of construction during the late 1760's, since four or five years were required to complete such a structure. From the outside the appearance is somewhat impaired by the conversion of the low pitched back door into a formal entrance while the original front with its tall transomed door has been adapted for informal use. The interior woodwork, still intact, is distinguished by extensive paneling and a fine staircase. Thomas Waterman in his *Mansions of Virginia* judged the paneled parlor to be "one of the best of its period in the country" and its mantel "one of the outstanding marble mantelpieces in Virginia". He adds "Harewood itself embodies the virtues of the room. Its simplicity and excellent scale endow it with great distinction". Waterman concluded that the builder was John Arris, who built Kenmore in Fredericksburg and Fairfield in Clarke County.

Samuel Washington's untimely death at the age of forty-seven and only eleven years after establishing himself at Harewood, left a widow with five young children and landholdings extended to include thirty-eight hundred acres which were not developed to the point of paying off indebtedness. The likely explanation for the



The wing on the left is not original.

failure of this enterprising and public spirited man to prosper in his Shenandoah venture is the onset of poor health which resulted in an early demise. As early as 1777 he resigned as County Lieutenant, or head of the Berkeley County militia, because of his "low state of health". During the previous seven years he had served as a justice of the peace, vestryman of Norborne Parish, and Sheriff. He died in 1781 and was buried at Harewood. His grave is unmarked. His monument might be said to be his house and landholdings which provided generations of descendants with birthrights of substantial tracts. Today three farms, including Harewood itself, remain in possession of direct descendants.

Samuel's brother George, prior to his emergence as a national figure in 1775, records visiting here five times. Two other events associated with historic personages occurred. In September 1794 James and Dolley Madison were married here. Dolley's sister, Lucy Payne, had married Samuel's son, George Steptoe, and had settled at Harewood. The Paynes were Quakers; marrying "out of meeting" resulted in expulsion from this sect. The wedding, as described in a letter by Dolley, was attended by the immediate families only, free of

all reported frills. Even the minister from Winchester was a cousin of the groom. Then, in 1797, Louis Phillippe, later king of France, stopped here on his tour of the eastern states. No doubt George Washington, after the War and Samuel's death, made unrecorded visits here when visting his adjoining Bullskin properties. Since none of Lafayette's itineraries include this area the report of his visiting Harewood probably arose from his gift of the marble mantel to George Washington who placed it here.

George Steptoe and Lucy's son, Samuel Walter, a physician, hung his shingle on the stone office building. He too lived only eleven years after settling here with his wife Louisa Clemson, who survivved him by fifty years carrying the burden of Harewood's stresses during the Civil War. Their daughter, Christian, married her third cousin, Richard Blackburn Washington, of Blakeley, a descendant of George Washington's brother John. Forced to sell Blakeley after the War, this couple with their seven children moved to Harewood. The present resident Dr. John A. Washington, is a grandson of this couple.

The date of Harewood's construction has been confused by the statement in a brochure published in 1901 that it was built in 1756, four years after Samuel Washington acquired property here through the will of his half-brother, Lawrence. Thomas Waterman, writing in 1945, accepted this date but expressed puzzlement that Ariss could work here at the same time he was employed in the tidewater area. He also recorded Ariss's move to this area in the 1760's (See Volume XXIII, p. 13)

Manor House Outbuildings

Much of this material is taken from the volume, *Thomas Worthington—Father of Ohio Statehood* by Alfred Byron Sears. Sears quotes from Worthington's *Account of his Ancestors and Early Life*, a twelve page manuscript. Thomas Worthington was the son of Robert Worthington, Jr. and was brought up in Jefferson County.

Robert Worthington, Jr. (1730-1779), the youngest son of the builder of Quarry Bank (Piedmont) was five years old when his father died. His mother soon after married a local farmer, Samuel Brittain.

Harshly treated by his stepfather, he ran away to Philadelphia. There he worked until he was eighteeen when he returned to claim land left to him in his father's will. Having had little education, he learned surveying with the help of a tutor and was at times a chain carrier for George Washington, two years his junior. He also served in Braddock's campaign. A tireless worker, he added to his land-holdings and in 1759 married Margaret Matthews of Frederick. For marrying out-of-meeting he was dismissed from the Quaker sect to which his family belonged. This couple built a stone house "half way between Piedmont and the Altona estate", then owned by Charles Washington. They called this home the Manor House. They owned another home in Martinsburg called the Mansion House. Robert Worthington Junior's prominence is evidenced by his service as a justice of the peace, collector of tithables, first coroner of the new Berkeley County, and captain of the first nineteen companies of the Frederick County militia. Said to be deeply religious, he evidently donated the land for the English Church. With William Darke, he offered his services in the Revolutionary War but there is no record of his activities other than recruiting shortly before his death.



The stone kitchen at the Manor House showing the outside oven and a glimpse of the servants' quarters at the left.

Unfortunately the Manor House burned. A later weatherboard house was built nearby which now is unused. The stone kitchen with its huge fireplace inside and an outside oven still stands. The stone servant's house, long abandoned, has survived. The site is on an eminence in sight of and to the north of the present Altona mansion. The property is now farmed by Mr. James O. Hunter who shares its ownership with Jane W. and Christine Hunter. Entrance to this isolated site must be arranged with the owners.

Property ownership has been traced to a deed in which George North and wife transferred to Samuel Wright part of a larger tract conveyed to North by Thomas Worthington, adjoining John Briscoe. Joseph Crane, and Abraham Davenport. (D.B. 6, p. 436, 1811). Subsequent transfers: Samuel Wright to John Wright (D.B. 20, p. 59, 1834); Division of Samuel Wright Real Estate—to Dr. Henry C. Beckham and wife (D.B. 5 p. 400); Anna A. Beckham to daugher Bettie A. Rouss (W.B. "C", p. 460, 1910); Bettie B. Rouss to cousins, Warren H. Hunter and Samuel W. Hunter (W.B. "E", p. 199); S.W. Hunter to Warren H. Hunter, his ½ interest (D.B. 139, p. 265, 1928); Warren H. Hunter to 3 children, Jane, Christine, and James (W.B. "H" p. 413, 1947). Other adjoining acquisitions by Samuel Wright are: From George North, et ux. 53 acres (D.B. 18, p. 94, 1812), 15 acres (D.B. 8, p. 69, 1813); from Jacob Heatwohl, 30 acres (D.B. 8, p. 79, 1815), 15 acres (D.B. 10, p. 138, 1817).

Stone Kitchen At Happy Retreat

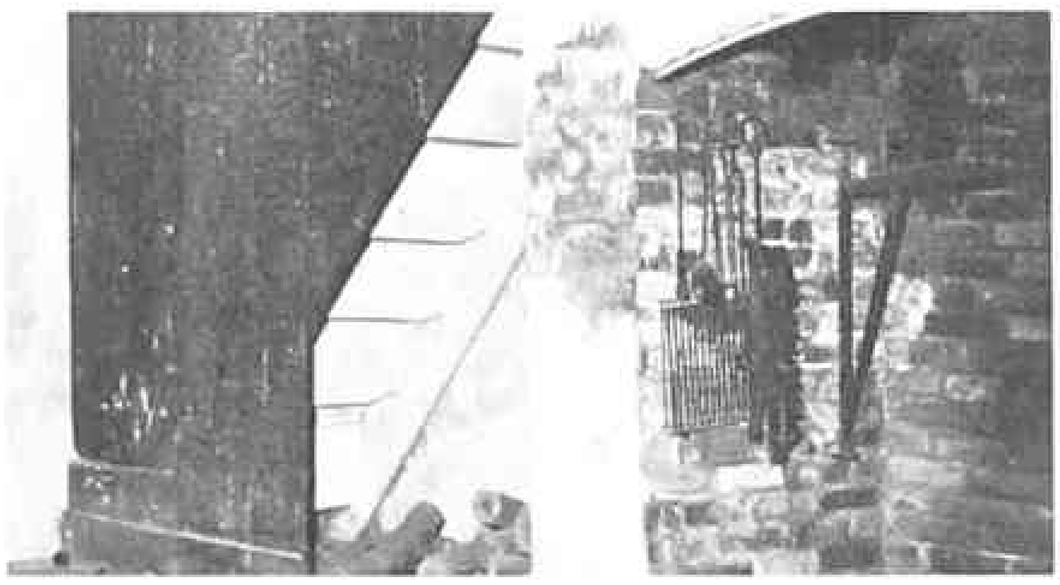
The stone half of this outbuilding at Happy Retreat was judged by the Historic Landmarks Commission to have been built more than a decade before Charles Washington built the original part of the mansion house in 1780. The interior contains a large fireplace with a brick oven and stairs leading to the loft.

The land, which now includes Charles Town and Altona, was left to Charles Washington in 1752 by the terms of the will of his half-brother, Lawrence. It is surmised that this kitchen was part of an overseer's quarters.

Happy Retreat now is owned by Mr. William Gavin and stands on the southern edge of Charles Town at the end of Blakeley Place. The



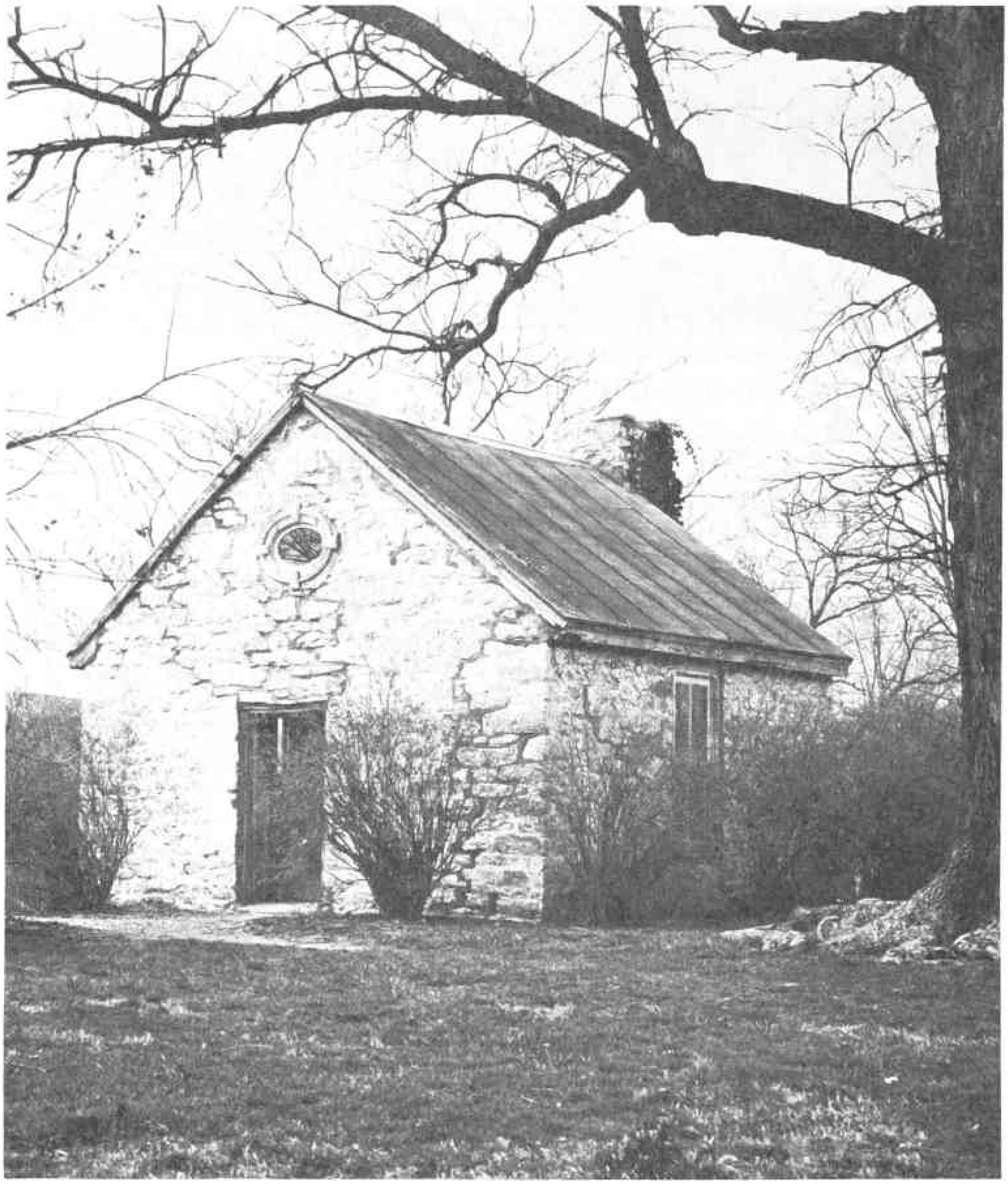




home is an important County Landmark. The most recent description appears in *The Washington Homes of Jefferson County*, published by this Society in 1975.

Stone Buildings At Beverly

The two stone buildings on either side of, and slightly to the rear of, the mansion house at Beverly have been judged by the Historic Landmarks Commission to have been built before the Revolution. Beverly, or Kalorama, as it was originally known, is located to the right of Route 340 three miles south of Charles Town. It is owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Porter Burns, Sr. It was part of a large acreage



This building has not been modified.



View of the matching building which has been modified and the relationship with the main house.

owned by Richard Stephenson and was the farm where he lived. Here his five sons and one daughter were born. Two of his sons, John and Hugh, became colonels in the Revolutionary Army, Hugh being the commander of the company making the famous Bee Line March from Morgan Spring.

As at Piedmont, the brick mansion house is a landmark in its own right. It will be described in this Magazine's Historic Homes series in a future volume. A satisfactory photograph is difficult to obtain because of surrounding foliage.

This farm was devised by Richard Stephenson, by his will dated March 21, 1765 and probated June 5, 1765, to his youngest son, Marquis Stephenson. Successive owners were Dr. John Bull, Beverly Whiting, Matthew Frame, and John Burns, whose descendants have owned and occupied Beverly for a century.

Bellevue

Bellevue, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Shepherd V, is located on Shepherd Grade just outside the corporate limits of Shepherdstown, founded by Mr. Shepherd's forebear. The original dwelling on the place, known as the "Hip Roof House," was built in 1760 by Capt. Thomas Swearingen, Sr., on property acquired from Lord Fairfax in 1750. In 1755 the Virginia Assembly granted him the right to operate a ferry across the Potomac above Pack Horse Ford. After this he seems to have been known as "Thomas of the Ferry" to distinguish him from other members of the family. The ferry was operated by his heirs until 1849. He defeated George Washington in a contest to represent Old Frederick County in the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1757. He was a member of the second vestry of Old Frederick Parish from 1752 until his death in 1760, and, with his brother and sons, was a patron of the English Church in "Mecklenburg." He was married to Mary Morgan, daughter of Richard. Four of his sons served in the Revolutionary Army—Major Thomas, Jr. (to be one of the organizers of Berkeley County in 1772), Col. Joseph, Benomi, and "Indian" Van. Jr.





The Hip Hoof House burned about 1772; the next year Col. Joseph Swearingen (as he would become), built Bellevue, a hundred yards from the old house, as a present for his bride Hannah Rutherford and named the house for its beautiful view of the river. This one-and-a-half story house was built of stone quarried on the place. Three fireplaces in the basement indicate that portion as part of the original living area. Joseph later added the second story of brick, probably after 1790 when brick was first locally available. When Jefferson County was organized in 1801, he was appointed justice of the peace by Gov. James Monroe. His son, the Hon. Thomas van Swearingen (the Dutch "van" was readopted in the 19th century), was twice elected to the House of Representatives and died at Bellevue in 1822 during his second term.

Except for a period of about twenty years in the last century, the property has remained in the family of the present owner, who is also descended from the van Swearingens. Bellevue became a Shepherd home in the last century when Mr. Shepherd's grandfather, Henry Shepherd III, bought the property for his wife, Mary Grove Reinhart. In 1907 the two-story colonaded verandah was added and there was extensive interior remodeling, including the addition of fine paneling in the dining room. Joseph Swearingen's law office with its fireplace and windows overlooking the Potomac is now Mr. Shepherd's study. Largely unchanged through the centuries is the view of the river, as beautiful today as it was in 1773.

The Stone House At Fruit Hill

One mile north of Shepherdstown on Shepherd Grade a side road on the left leads to the Fruit Hill lane. The lane runs nine-tenths of a mile through woodland to two houses one of which is a pre-Revolutionary fieldstone house and the other a brick mansion. The mansion is at the top of a hill, the older house is nearby and southwest at the foot of the hill.

The stone house is believed to be one of the oldest in this section. In "Historic Shepherdstown," Danske Dandridge wrote in 1910, "One of the oldest stone houses in the county is on Fruit Hill Farm now belonging to the Andrews family, about two miles northwest of Shepherdstown. This old house was built by a Cookus and sold several times before it fell into the hands of its present owners."

In 1766, Henry Cookus bought 370 acres including the present Fruit Hill tract from Thomas Swearingen, Jr., the executor of his father's estate. The stone house might have been there at the time of the sale but it is probable that Cookus built it. The next owners were George and Michael Burket (or Burkitt.) Examination of the construction shows that the first addition to the house, also stone,



was made not long after the original house was built. This addition was a large room with loft on the west side. A later addition was a two storey brick wing at the south with a double gallery on the east and containing four rooms.

The original stone house faced east and is two stories with one room on each floor and a cellar with fireplace. A spring rising just north of the house ran in an open trough the full length of the cellar. Access to water was important in the location of homes in the days of Indian attacks. There is sandstone trim with keystones over the windows on the east side. A corner fireplace in the first floor room is unusual in this section. Some of the original wide oak flooring remains. A corner stairway leads to the room above. The stone addition opens into the brick wing, a door having been made there when the south wing was built, but there was no communication on the second floor until recently.

The ruins of a stone barn and smoke house may be seen nearby, but none of the original outbuildings are still standing.

In a series of sales in 1822, 1823 and 1824, Alexander Robinson and his wife, Angelica, of Baltimore, bought the Fruit Hill tract from the Burket family. In 1830 they conveyed it to their son, Archibald, who is credited with building the brick mansion shortly after he became owner of the farm.

His first wife having died in 1822, Archibald Robinson and his second wife lived at Fruit Hill. Their eldest daughter, Anna, married Matthew Page Andrews whose father was Dr. Charles W. Andrews, for 43 years the Episcopal rector in Shepherdstown. Another daughter, Fanny, married Col. Llewllyn Hoxton of Alexandria, Va., and it is through these two daughters and their children that Fruit Hill has remained in possession of the descendants of Alexander and Angelica Robinson for more than 150 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrews lived at Fruit Hill. In 1912 their daughter, Sally Page Andrews, became the owner. With her brother, the second Matthew Page Andrews, a well known historian, "Miss Sally Page" used the brick mansion as a summer home. She outlived her brother by a few years.

In 1953, Archibald Robinson Hoxton, Jr., great-great grandson of the first Robinson owners, inherited Fruit Hill from his cousin, Miss Andrews, and he is the present owner. Mr. and Mrs. Hoxton and their family spend the summers and make frequent visits throughout the year at Fruit Hill, living in the brick mansion.

Over the years, several families, usually employed on the farm, lived in the stone house.

Restoration of the old structure was started in October 1974 by Mr. and Mrs. Michael F. Taylor (Ann Hoxton) who undertook the tremendous job of making it into a comfortable home while carefully preserving its ancient construction. They accomplished a remarkably faithful and handsome restoration and moved into the house in July of this year with only minor details to be finished.

The first floor room of the original house is now a living room with bedroom and bath above. The stream in the cellar has been piped under the floor. The stone addition at the west with its big fireplace is now an attractive kitchen with modern equipment. The loft above was transformed into a bedroom. Partitions were removed in the first floor of the brick wing to make one large room used as a studio. The corner stairway leads to a bedroom and bath and a number of storage cupboards above. A door was made into the former loft so there is communication between the stone and brick sections on the second floor.

The Taylor's skillful restoration is the result of much research, ingenuity and hard work and enhances the charm of the old house. As much as possible of the old woodwork was retained. Floors have been carefully repaired and refinished. Rafters were exposed in two rooms. Modern heating, insulation and plumbing have been installed. Paint in colors used at the time of the original construction has been used throughout.

Springwood

(formerly "Rocky Fountain" and "The Lower Farm")

Springwood, the home of Capt. and Mrs. Charles N.G. Hendrix, is located at the end of Shepherd Grade, three and a half miles northwest of Shepherdstown. The main portion of the fifteen-room stone manor house was built in 1759 (according to State tax records) by Col. Van Swearingen on land originally granted by patent to Richard Poulson, Joseph Mounts, and Joseph Jones on October 3, 1734. Van Swearingen was born in Maryland on May 22, 1719. It is uncertain, however, when he and his brother Thomas came to this area. Mrs. Dandridge (*Historic Shepherdstown*, p. 22) says they



arrived in 1734, in which year he would have been only fifteen. It seems unlikely that he would have been purchasing an 834 acre estate at that precocious age (though it is a fact that George Washington surveyed and purchased his Bullskin Plantation at eighteen). Mrs. Dandridge also reports that she had seen a document in the possession of Mrs. Andrews deeding Fruit Hill to "Van Swearingen, Farmer" from "Richard Morgan, Gentleman" (a curious distinction) dated 10 August 1744 (when Van was twenty-five). It seems likely, therefore, that he also acquired the 834 acres now known as Springwood, but called Rocky Fountain by him, sometime in the 1740's. Mr. Kenamond, in an article (with photograph) in volume 10 of this magazine, wrote that he acquired the land from Lord Fairfax. Perhaps, like George Washington at Bullskin, he took the precaution of getting a grant from Lord Fairfax to safeguard his purchase. At all events, in the 18th century much of the land from Rocky Fountain down the Potomac to Shepherdstown was owned by the Swearingens.

Van Swearingen took an active part in local affairs, in keeping with the importance of his estate. He had been elected to Old Frederick vestry by 1764 and was thereafter responsible for the construction of

the stone church in Mecklenburg in the three years it took to build it (1767-69). He was one of the organizers of Berkeley County in 1772; he was, in fact, King's Deputy of Berkeley County and for that reason seems sometimes to have been called "King's Van." He was first married (1743) to his cousin Sarah Swearingen. Their children were Luranah, who married Lt. William Bennett (Mr. Kenamond, it should be noted, said she was Van's sister); Drusilla, who married Thomas Rutherford; Josiah, of whom more is to follow; and Hezekiah (1747?-1817), who served in the Revolution, "probably in the western country" (Dandridge, p. 351), and who married Rebecca Turner. There may also have been a son named Thomas, as Ellen B. Walters (vol. 16 of this magazine) writes, but her Thomas is probably Maj. Thomas Swearingen, Jr., eldest son of Van's brother Thomas. (It *is* difficult to distinguish among the various Swearingens). Col. Van's second wife, who survived him, was Priscilla Metcalf.

During the Revolution, Van Swearingen served as Colonel of the Berkeley Militia until 1777, when, after the resignation of Samuel Washington, he was appointed County Lieutenant (Dandridge, pp. 177-78). As such he was responsible for providing men, equipage, and provender as requested by Virginia's governors. Letters to him (reproduced in Dandridge) from Gov. Patrick Henry and Gov. Thomas Jefferson suggest that the position was "no sinecure." Col. Van Swearingen died on April 22, 1788.

Historically, the most important of his sons was Josiah (1744-1795). In 1775, he was a private in Capt. Hugh Stephenson's company and took part in the Bee Line March and in the Seige of Boston. He was later promoted Captain and commanded a company at Fort Pitt. He maried Phoebe Strode (1757-86), sister of Mrs. Abraham Shepherd and Mrs. Henry Bedinger. Their son Col. James Strode Swearingen (1782-1864) commanded the men who established Fort Dearborn (1803), which became the nucleus of Chicago. Their daughter Eleanor married Thomas Worthington, soon to become the "father of Ohio statehood." Both of these children (and possibly another son) were born at Rocky Fountain.

In 1798 Capt. Abraham Shepherd bought Rocky Fountain from the heirs of Col. Van—that is, his widow Priscilla (remarried to Marcus Alder?), Hezekiah Swearingen, Lt. William and Luranah Bennett, Thomas and Drusilla Rutherford, and the administrators of the estate of Capt. Josiah Swearingen (Joseph Swearingen and Henry Bedinger). But Captain Shepherd seems to have had trouble

getting a clear title, since it is recorded that in the next year Priscilla sold 150 acres, including the manor house (probably her dower rights) to Van Swearingen's heirs (Berkeley Co. Records, Deed Books 16, p. 323; and 17, pp. 13,47), and Mr. Kenamond wrote (Vol. 10) that the property came into Captain Shepherd's hands in 1803, after the deaths of Lt. Wm. and Lurannah Bennett.

Wm. Bennett is buried in the Swearingen plot on the hill overlooking the mansion house, as are Josiah and Phoebe Swearingen. Other, illegible, markers are also there. The three inscriptions could still be deciphered in 1944 when Mr. Kenamond's article on the Lower Farm was published, but since then further deterioration has occurred.

Capt. Abraham Shepherd (1754-1822) was the youngest son of Thomas Shepherd and married Eleanor Strode (1780), aunt of the orphaned children of Phoebe and Josiah Swearingen. (It was in her house in Shepherdstown that her niece Eleanor Swearingen married Thomas Worthington in 1796). Abraham Shepherd was a lieutenant in Stevenson's company and made the Beeline March to Boston. He was later made Captain by act of Congress and raised his company of men in Shepherdstown. In 1776 he was with Gen. Daniel Morgan at the surrender of Burgoyne and later that year was taken prisoner at Fort Washington. He was paroled in 1778 and returned permanently to Shepherdstown in 1779, after which he rapidly became a wealthy landowner. When Old Norborne Parish was divided in 1815, he was elcted senior warden of the vestry which, under the leadership of the Rev. Benjamin Allen, rebuilt the church in Shepherdstown (1815-16) and erected Zion Church (1817) in Charles Town—"St. George's Chapel" being by 1811 in a ruinous condition. His wife Eleanor (1760-1853) was a great benefactor of both old and new Trinity Churches in Shepherdstown and of Trinity Church in Martinsburg, devoting a large portion of the pension which she received as widow of a Revolutionary officer to this patronage. Bishop Meade speaks warmly of her religious zeal. She is known to have used one of the four small octagonal rooms at Rocky Fountain exclusively for prayer and meditation. The sermon preached at her funeral by Dr. C.W. Andrews was published.

In 1819 Capt. Shepherd built the two stone outbuildings at Rocky Fountain (the dates are marked on the buildings). His son Henry Shepherd I, who inherited the estate in 1822, added the two-story wing to the house (with the two small chimneys) and was responsible for building the road from the house to the point where it meets

present Route 5, the old road from Shepherdstown to Bath. He called the place "The Lower Farm" to distinguish it from "The Upper Farm" (later called Wild Goose by his brother Rezin D. Shepherd). The Lower Farm has remained the popular name for the place. Henry Shepherd left the estate to his son Henry Shepherd II in 1870, who in turn left it (1891) to his sons William and Augustine. These brothers created the still discernible race course in the meadow in front of the house. Since the days of Abraham Shepherd, the place had been noted for its pure-bred stock. (Eleanor Shepherd's religious sensibilities had been shocked by the prices charged for livestock by her sons, she told Bishop Meade).

In 1907 the place was purchased by Col. I.V. Johnson, who had been State Auditor. He sold it to W.H. Martin in 1910, during whose tenure it was called "Maple Shade." In 1941 Dr. N.B. Hendrix, father of the present owner, acquired the property and two adjacent farms.

The present owners have done much to restore the fifteen-room mansion (not counting the bathrooms which they have added), and, as a result, it is in a remarkable state of preservation, with original floors, wainscoting, hardware, many window panes (on one Phoebe Strode scratched her signature on her wedding day) and a fine marble mantle. Walls are said to be three feet thick in places. Recently Capt. and Mrs. Hendrix have restored the old kitchen with the cook's quarters overhead. However, in spite of the swimming pool and all modern conveniences, even today, under the old trees in the Swearingen burial ground, or from the long verandah across the front with its prospect of Shepherd Grade and the ghost of the race course, or in the lovely old rooms of the house, the visitor is conscious of an almost overwhelming sense of history and of the lingering elegance of older days.

The Old Stone House At Morgan's Spring

The "Old Stone House" at Morgan's Spring is one of the oldest houses in West Virginia and one of the most historic. It is located a mile south of Shepherdstown at Morgan's Spring, a source of the Town Run,and is not visible today from any public road. The land on which it is built was acquired by Richard Morgan on October 3, 1734,



by regal grant signed by Lt. Gov. William Gooch, and was adjacent to land acquired by Thomas Shepherd in the same year. Richard Morgan, who was born in Wales and grew up in New Jersey, should not be confused with Morgan Morgan of Bunker Hill (Mill Creek), as have several historians of the Valley; the two pioneers were apparently not related.

According to tradition, Richard Morgan first resided in a log house which stood, until 1948, on what is now lower High Street in Shepherdstown, a building thought to have been the town's oldest structure when it was destroyed (there is a photo in Musser's history of Shepherdstown). Sometime in the 1740's Richard Morgan built the stone house at the spring, perhaps to replace an earlier log house, and a stone spring house, which also survies and which is as old as the dwelling, if not older. That the house was constructed during the period when attack from Indians was a danger seems evident from the peculiar location of the single dormer window, off center and placed at eye level above the floor, apparently as a protection for the occupants (for the same reason that loopholes in stockades were so placed). Then too the old door frame and the door on the ground level nearest the spring bore marks which, according to a tradition in the Morgan family, were made by Indian arrows. That the Indians

used the spring is proved by the large number of their artifacts which have been found in its vicinity. Since history tells us that the Indians withdrew from the region before the French and Indian War and since houses constructed after that time were not designed for defense, it seems certain that the old Stone House was built by Richard Morgan before 1750 and not, as Danske Dandridge supposed, by his daughter-in-law Elizabeth Bedinger, widow of Abel, his youngest son and the heir to this portion of his estate, who died as a British prisoner in the Revolution, leaving his widow to care for their five children.

The old house has seen much history. During the French and Indian War, Richard Morgan raised a company in the vicinity to protect local inhabitants; part of the muster roll dated 1755-57 for this company is printed in *Historic Shepherdstown* and includes Richard's son William. It was at this house and its spring that Capt. Hugh Stevenson mustered his company on July 17, 1775, to begin the famous "Bee Line March" to assist Washington at the Seige of Boston. We are told that it was agreed survivors would hold a reunion at the spring in fifty years and that on June 10, 1825 (according to an account written by Daniel Morgan in the Harpers Ferry *Free Press* on June 12, 1825, reprinted in *Historic Shepherdstown*), the reunion actually took place, although of the handful of the company then living we read that only Henry and George Michael Bedinger were able to attend. In 1777, Richard's son, Capt. William Morgan, raised here a second company of men to fight for independence. It was at this spot that the barbecue described by Col. A.R. Boteler took place on September 2, 1858, as the illustrations (reprinted in vol. 39 of this magazine) show, and it was here too that our society commemorated this barbecue on July 16, 1975, the eve of the two-hundredth anniversary of the Bee Line March.

In 1831 Jacob Morgan, son of Abel and Elizabeth Bedinger, built the Falling Springs mansion to be the family home, perhaps one-hundred yards from the Old Stone House. Falling Springs was thereafter the home of Jacob's son Col. William A. Morgan, who won glory in the Civil War as one of Lee's lieutenants. The Old Stone House, however, continued to be used as a family residence: Mrs. Augusta Morgan Phillips, a member of our society, and others of her family were born there.

In 1904 the property passed out of the Morgan family, and in time the Old Stone House became a tenant house. It was in a dilapidated

condition when the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Beasley, acquired the property in 1964. Early in this century, the building had been greatly enlarged by a two-story wooden addition (see the photo in vol. 9 of this magazine), but, after a fire in 1966, this annex, which was damaged, was largely removed, and at the same time the interior of the house was modernized. Thanks, therefore, to the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Beasley, the Old Stone House has been preserved, handsomely renovated and landscaped. Currently the house serves as a vacation retreat and guest house. Of particular interest is the original and immense kitchen fireplace, which takes up most of one side of the ground floor. And the ancient spring continues uninterrupted its flow, still supplying pure limestone water for the Old Stone House, for Falling Springs, for the Beasleys' home, and for several tenant houses on the property, as well as accounting for much of the water in the Town Run, whose many mills, however, which it once powered, have flowed into history.

Springdale Farm

Springdale Farm is one-half mile south of Shepherdstown on the Flowing Spring Road with the entrance to the lane between old stone walls.

The pre-Revolutionary fieldstone house is first seen in profile against the fields which were part of Richard Morgan's large land grants secured in 1734. This was the home of William Morgan, oldest son and executor of Richard Morgan. A stone marked 1760 was in place high in the east chimney within the memory of older residents. The farm remained in the Morgan family until 1813 when it was sold to George and Conrad Lichliter. In 1846, John H. McEndree became the owner and the Howell Brown Map of Jefferson County in 1852 shows him as the owner and Springdale as the name.

In 1859, Dr. Isaac Tanner, a physician, bought the farm and made it his home. At his death it passed to his daughter, Mrs. George (Imogene Tanner) Banks, and then to her son, Dr. H.M. Banks, whose heirs sold it to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad C. Hammann in 1963.

The house is remarkable for its fine preservation, and the Hammanns have carefully restored it while making it into a beautiful



and comfortable home. It faces north where there is a small porch with pillars. At the south there is a two-storey porch or gallery with entrances to the basement and the main floor above. A basement room now used as a dining room has a very large fireplace which had been covered. When the wall was opened a small brick fireplace was discovered inside while behind the brick was the huge stone fireplace with metal fittings to hold a crane and other cooking equipment still in place. An adjoining basement room was made into the kitchen.

There is a large hall and three rooms on each of the main and bedroom floors and a full attic.

The house has five fireplaces. Much of the original woodwork and flooring is intact.

Old buildings still standing are a spring house with fireplace where Dr. Tanner is believed to have had his medical office on the second floor, a smoke house and granary. The ruins of a small dwelling and harness shop may be seen, and west of the house is the foundation of a large bank barn which burned many years ago.

It is evident that few changes were made in the Springdale house over the years and that it had good care, possibly because of Dr. Tanner's efforts. He is remembered as a man of many interests and prominence in the community. His farm was well known for the fine

stock he raised there and exhibited at area fairs. During the war years he served as surgeon for the Stonewall Brigade of the Confederate Army.

In 1968 the Hammanns built a two-story wing at the west which opens into the stone section of the house on the ground floor.

General Darke Home Site

This site is on a secondary road, one third mile from its junction on the left with County Route 17, four miles south of Shepherdstown.

General William Darke's family moved from Pennsylvania to the Shepherdstown area not long after his birth in 1736. His eventful life was highlighted by military services, first as a corporal in the Rutherford Rangers, fighting Indians, in 1758-9. He was captain of a company raised among his neighbors to join the Revolutionary Army. Exhibiting outstanding bravery at the Battle of Germantown in 1777, he was captured and held aboard a prison ship until his exchange in November 1780. Organizing a regiment from this area, he took part in the siege of Yorktown. He was retired from the



Continental Army with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. Finally, in 1791 he distinguished himself in the disaster suffered by General St. Clair's expedition against the Indians in Ohio. For saving the left wing from annihilation, with the loss of his son, he was awarded the rank of brigadier-general.

In civic service he was elected with Adam Stephen to represent Berkeley County in Virginia's 1778 Convention where they both voted for ratification of the Constitution. He was a member of the General Assembly when he left to join St. Clair. He died in 1801 at his estate on Elk Branch near Duffields. He was buried in the Engle or Ronemous Graveyard nearby.

The title search, detailed below, indicates that the house pictured here stands on part of General Darke's sizable estate on Elk Branch near Duffields. It is owned by Mr. Millard V. Jenkins who has renovated it for his family's use. There were four separate doors opening onto the long porch indicating that that this was a servants' quarters similar to the stone house at Worthington's Manor House. The central two doors were converted into windows in the renovation. General Darke's home no longer stands, its exact location being uncertain.

Property transfer records: 556 acres of his property went to his daughter by his will (W.B. 1, p. 1) and a later deed (D.B. 6, p. 309); to her son, Nathaniel by her will dated 1/21/1840; to Joseph T. Hess, 84 acres (D.B. 28, p. 299, 1846); to Levi Hess (D.B. "D", p. 489, 1876); to Calvin Tabler, 95 acres, (D.B. "F", p. 346, 1876); to Gertrude Tabler/(W.B. "E", p. 165); to John A. Link, Jr., 1924 (D.B. 124, p. 118); to M.M. Jenkins, 1951 (D.B. 185, p. 562); to Harry Reed Jenkins and Millard Lee Jenkins, grandsons, with M.V. Jenkins having the right to farm land during his lifetime. (D.B. 209, p. 325, 1955)

Peter Burr House

As the home of one of the County's early settlers this house merits perpetual preservation. The description below was written in 1944 (Vol. X) when it had been occupied by a farm helper continuously. The owners have maintained a waterproof roof but the structure needs immediate attention, beyond the means of the average family. It is hoped that this presentation will somehow bring appropriate help.

The house stands on the farm now being operated by Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Holden, located on Rt. 9 just west of the Bardane

Community Center. The farm is owned by the Estate of Anna P. McGarry, and by Mrs. Sarah McGarry Cassell, Robert P. McGarry, Jr. and Mrs. Nancy McGarry Holden, all being direct descendants of Peter Burr, whose daughter married John McGarry in 1801. In 1891 the father of Anna McGarry built the brick house nearby where the Holdens reside.

Peter Burr was born in Connecticut. The Reverend Aaron Burr, first president of Princeton, was his uncle while Vice-President Aaron Burr was his first cousin. Coming to this area in 1748, he received, in 1751, a grant from Lord Fairfax of 480 acres, he and his heirs paying yearly rent of one shilling for every fifty acres.

The house faces south with porches on the north and south sides. It has a long sloping roof which extends over the porches. The original house has two stories with two rooms on each floor. Two more rooms were probably added by Burr, as the same construction was used. The outside is of hand riven clapboards. It has heavy log uprights and beams, the exposed parts neatly finished. It was lined with brick and mortar and then plastered. The chair board has a hand-trimmed beading around the edge, put together with wooden pins. The floors are of smooth wide boards, and these were nailed with wrought iron nails, as are the clapboard weatherboards.





The original doors were made of wide boards with long wrought iron hinges. The doors were fastened with a wooden bar. One door has an opening above the bar showing where the latch string hung. The windows were narrow, with small panes. The center chimney is about five by ten feet at the base. There were three fireplace openings for heating the lower rooms. The chimney forms mantels or shelves in some rooms. The part that extends above the house is not unusually large.

A subsequent resident added two more rooms. These were of log and weatherboard construction. He added a large chimney on the west side. This part shows poorer workmanship and has not withstood the wear of time as well as the original part, and for this reason, no doubt, has been thought to be the older. On the south, the long porch has a pantry at one end. Three rooms open onto this porch. These rooms originally had no inside connections. In the yard is a stone springhouse with servants' quarters overhead.

Traveler's Rest

Traveler's Rest is located approximately .8 miles southwest of Kearneysville off State Route 1 on Public Road 1/1. Since 1965 it has belonged to Allen K. and Martha Anne McIntosh and is now their residence. It has long been recognized as one of the most historically significant houses in the county, in that it was the home of Gen. Horatio Gates from 1773 to 1790. Col. A.R. Boteler's "My Ride to the Barbecue," reprinted in the 1973 issue of this Magazine, provides a woodcut of the house as it appeared in 1860 (without its dormers), much as it must have looked in General Gates' time.

In addition, Traveler's Rest has been the exclusive subject of three articles in this Magazine. The first, by Mr. Kenamond, appeared in the 1956 issue and concentrates on the tenancy of the Strider family, members of which "owned and operated" it for over one hundred years, so that it qualified then as a "Century Farm." Isaac Strider purchased a 359 acre-portion, including the house, of the original 659 acre-estate in 1830. The house and ultimately 220 acres of the land remained in the possession of his descendants until sold by John and Nancy Campbell Ambrose (Mrs. Ambrose being the great-great-



granddaughter of Isaac Strider) to Mr. and Mrs. McIntosh in 1965. The intricacies of the descent of the property through the generaions of Isaac Striders's descendants are explained in the article.

The second article, written by Mr. McIntosh, appeared in the 1971 issue of the Magazine and concerns itself principally with General Gates, especially with his occupancy of Traveler's Rest. The third article, in the same issue of the Magazine, by Architect Archie W. Franzen, is about the architectural features of the manor house and includes the plans of its three floors. Mr. Franzen concludes his remarks with this statement: "When this structure is restored it will be one of the outstanding showplaces of the Eastern Panhandle and coupled with its historical significance should merit perpetual preservation."

Research completed by Mr. McIntosh for this issue of the Magazine provides previously unpublished facts about the property. He writes: "On October 3, 1734, Stephen Hollingsworth purchased 472 acres of land from Jost Hite. This land was part of 40 thousand acres which Jost Hite had purchased from Isaac and John Van Meter in 1731. Evidently, Stephen Hollingsworth did little, if anything, to settle the land because three years later, in 1737, he sold two hundred acres of this purchase to John Hiett (also spelled Hyatt or Hiet). Early in the spring of 1751, John Hiett informed the Proprietor's Office (George Fairfax) that there were about three hundred acres of waste and ungranted land joining his land on the east. He requested Fairfax for a deed for the entire 500 acres. On the basis of Hiett's request, Fairfax ordered John Baylis to survey the land. The results of his survey (1753) showed that the total amount of waste and ungranted land was 459 acres. A plat accompanying the survey shows the location of 'Hyatts House' at the head of Derbys Spring. (Could this be the eastern portion of the manor house that occupies this farm today?) This land, in addition to the 200 acres Hiett purchased from Hollingsworth, was granted to Hiett on July 6, 1761. John Hiett sold the land consisting of 659 acres to John Judy in August 1762. In October 1766, John Judy sold the entire 659 acres to Joseph Grabel, and Grabel sold the farm to Horatio Gates in March 1773.

"Shortly after acquiring his (then) Virginia estate, Gates named it 'Traveler's Rest,' this name gaining factual significance as he became deeply involved in the American independence movement. He referred to Traveler's Rest as his 'hut in the wilderness,' oftentimes returning to it to temporarily escape the demands of the Revolution.

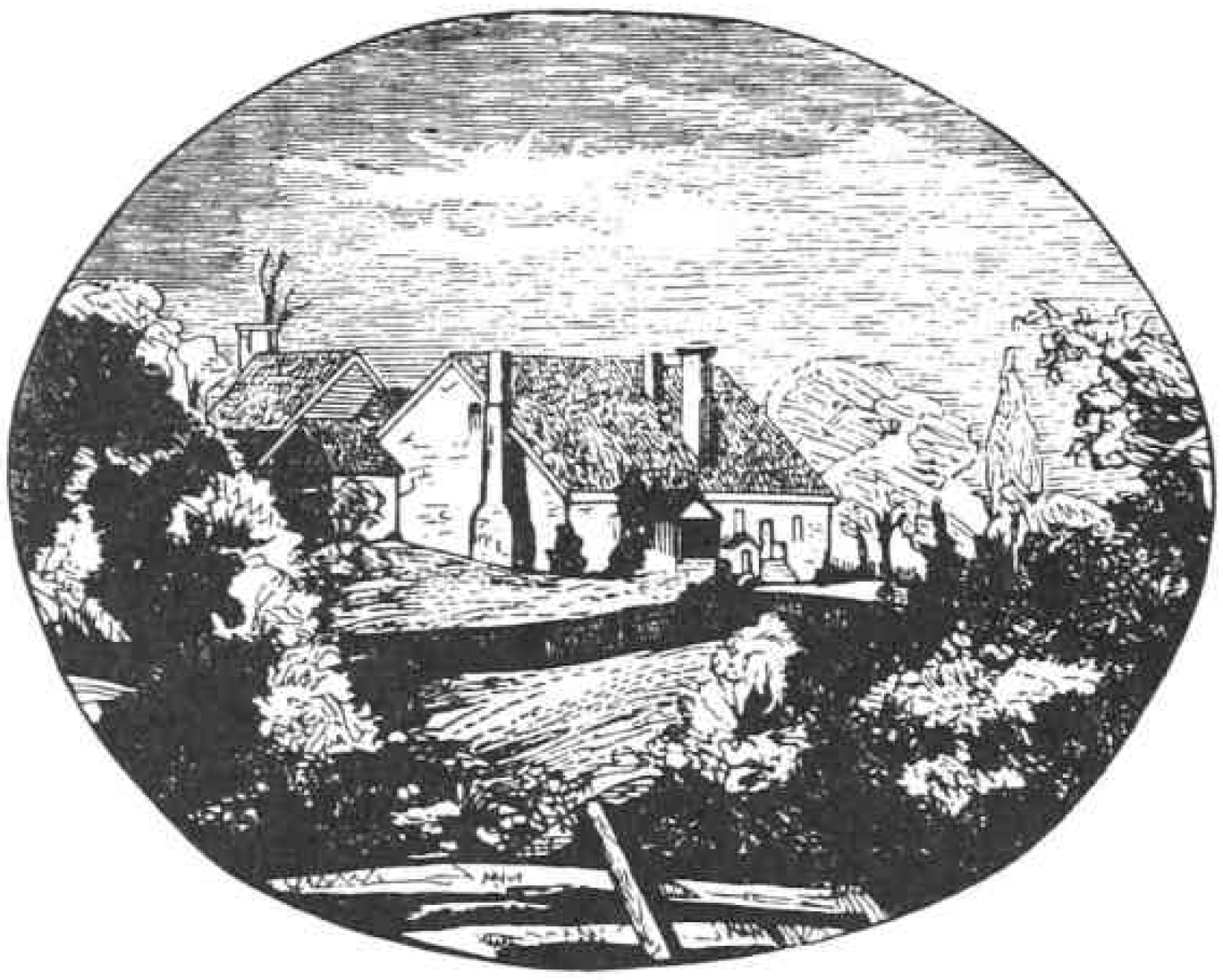
During seventeen years of ownership of this tobacco plantation, Gates spent almost half of his time at Traveler's Rest, a farm he dearly loved."

To conclude this survey, when General Gates moved to New York in 1790, he sold the estate to John Mark, who divided the property into three portions. The central portion of 339 acres, which included the house, was sold to John Boley in 1818, from whom, in 1830, it came into the possession of Isaac Strider, as previously described. As with most of the pre-Revolutionary structures in the county, the exact dates of construction are elusive. Subsequent research may reveal more definite information, but at this time it seems possible that the older, eastern portion of the house existed in some form before 1753 (when it was labeled "Hyatts House at Derbys Spring"), though it is certain that General Gates made extensive alterations, if he did not rebuild, after 1773. (An interesting photograph of the paneling which General Gates installed in the main room of the house is found in the 1973 issue of the Magazine.) Mr. Franzen has conjectured that the western addition was made in 1786 after General Gates' second marriage. At all events, as the current owner has written, "with a few exceptions, Traveler's Rest is today practically the same as when General Gates lived there."

Prato Rio (Hopewell)

The original portion of this house was built by Jacob Hite, second son of Joist Hite, on land deeded to him by his father on October 20, 1742. Here "he erected substantial buildings for his family and buildings for several other families who joined him and quarters for his many slaves." His settlement soon was called Hite's Town, now Leetown. The house stands at the southern edge of this village.

The details of his life, recounted in A.D. Kenamond's *The Hite Families of Jefferson County*, Volume XXXI, can be summarized here. He became a large landholder and was twice elected Sheriff of Frederick County, which contained present Berkeley and Jefferson Counties. When Berkeley County, containing present Jefferson, was formed in 1772 he attempted to have centrally located Hite's Town named the county seat. Adam Stephen advocating Martinsburg won

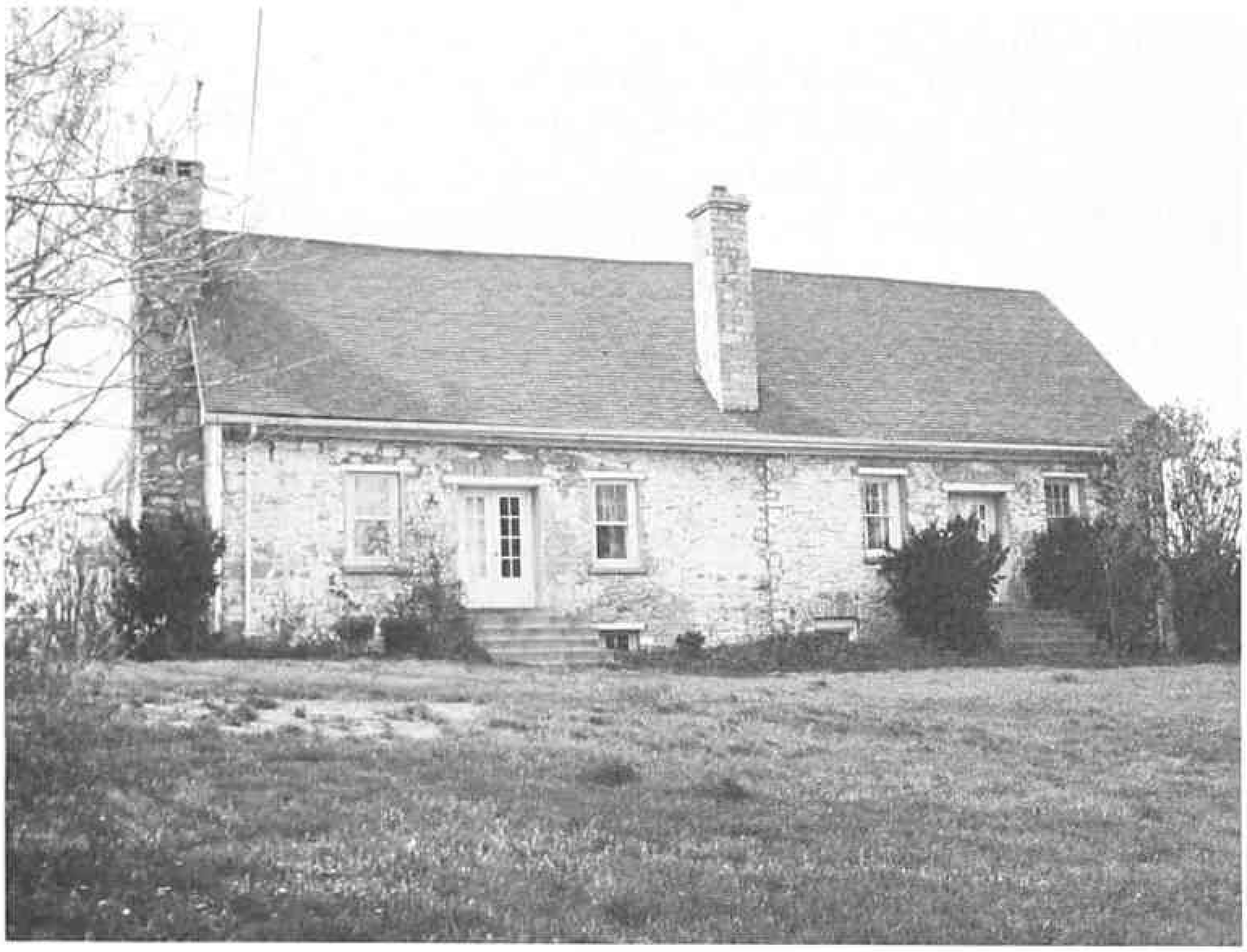


Boteler's drawing in 1858

out and is said to have used his position of Sheriff to further embarrass Hite. The latter, selling out most of his properties here, opened a trading station in South Carolina where he and his wife were massacred by Indians. Many of his descendants continued to live in Jefferson County, some to the present day.

One who benefited by Hite's sellout was the Revolutionary General, Charles Lee who, in 1775, bought "all that plantation where the said Jacob Hite now dwells." At this time the main house consisted of a log section, now enclosed in the weatherboarded rear wing, and the stone portion to the left of the vertical line shown in the photograph. A large stone chimney stood at the rear of the log structure. The smaller of the two chimneys on the stone portion served a Dutch type corner fireplace. Joist Hite (Baron Heydt) emigrated from Holland after fleeing from his birthplace in Alsace.

Charles Lee, a former colonel in the British Army, was urged to move here by his friend, Horatio Gates, as recorded in Boteler's *My Ride to the Barbecue*, Volume XXXIX. Both had served with Braddock. Commissioned Lieutenant General, he, as well as Gates, was heavily relied on by Washington who was not unaware of his own lack of formal training. After his court-martial in 1778 Lee retired here. His eccentricities are legendary as brought out by Boteler. Changing his place's name to Prato Rio might be considered one of them. He left in September, 1782 for Philadelphia to arrange



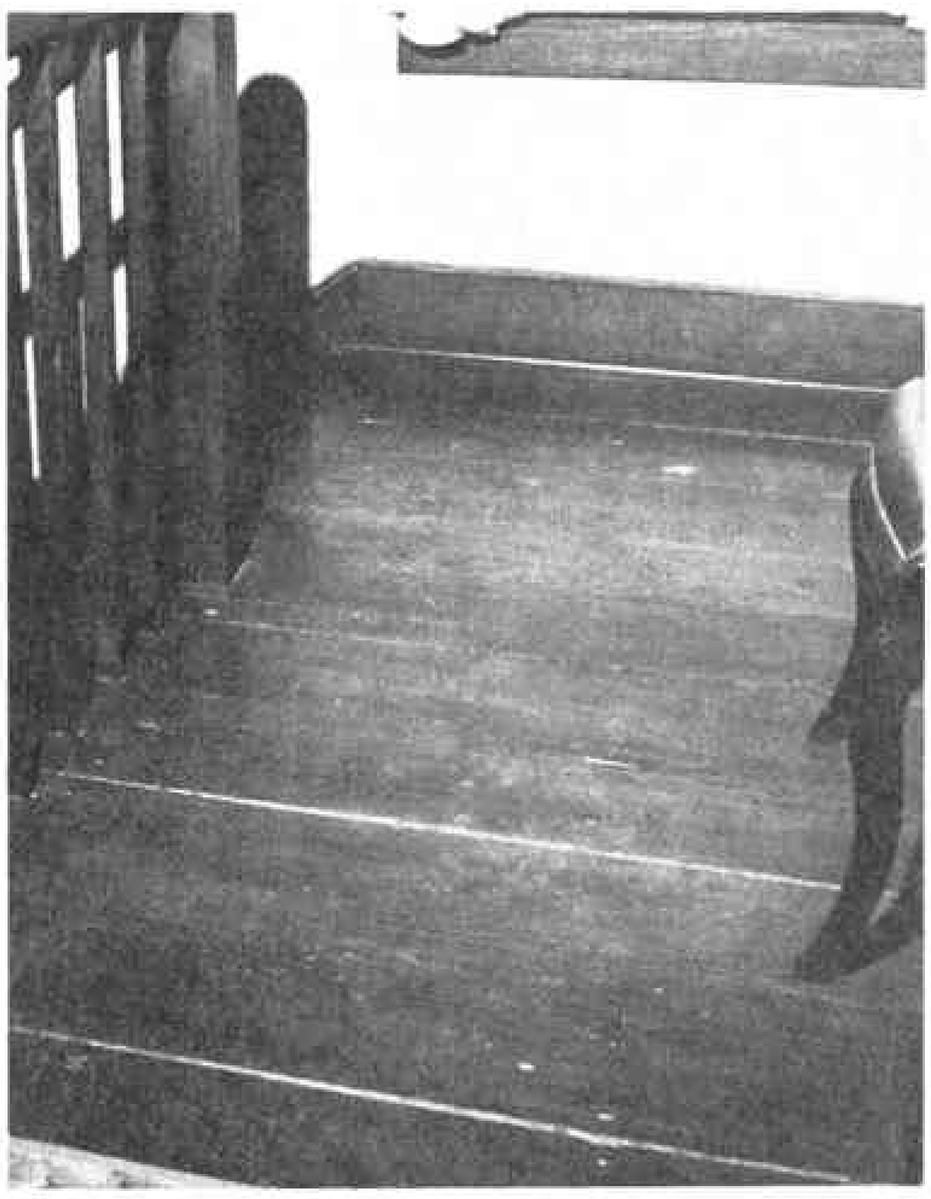
to sell the estate, stopping in Frederick to write his will. He died in October in Philadelphia. His will left 830 acres, including Prato Rio, to his former adjutant, Jacob Morris. Records dealing with the settling of his estate have not been found. In the 1820's Prato Rio appears as the property of Thomas Watson who died in 1859. One of his descendants, Mrs. Upton Martin of Richmond, sold it to Mr. Ily Bratina in 1951.

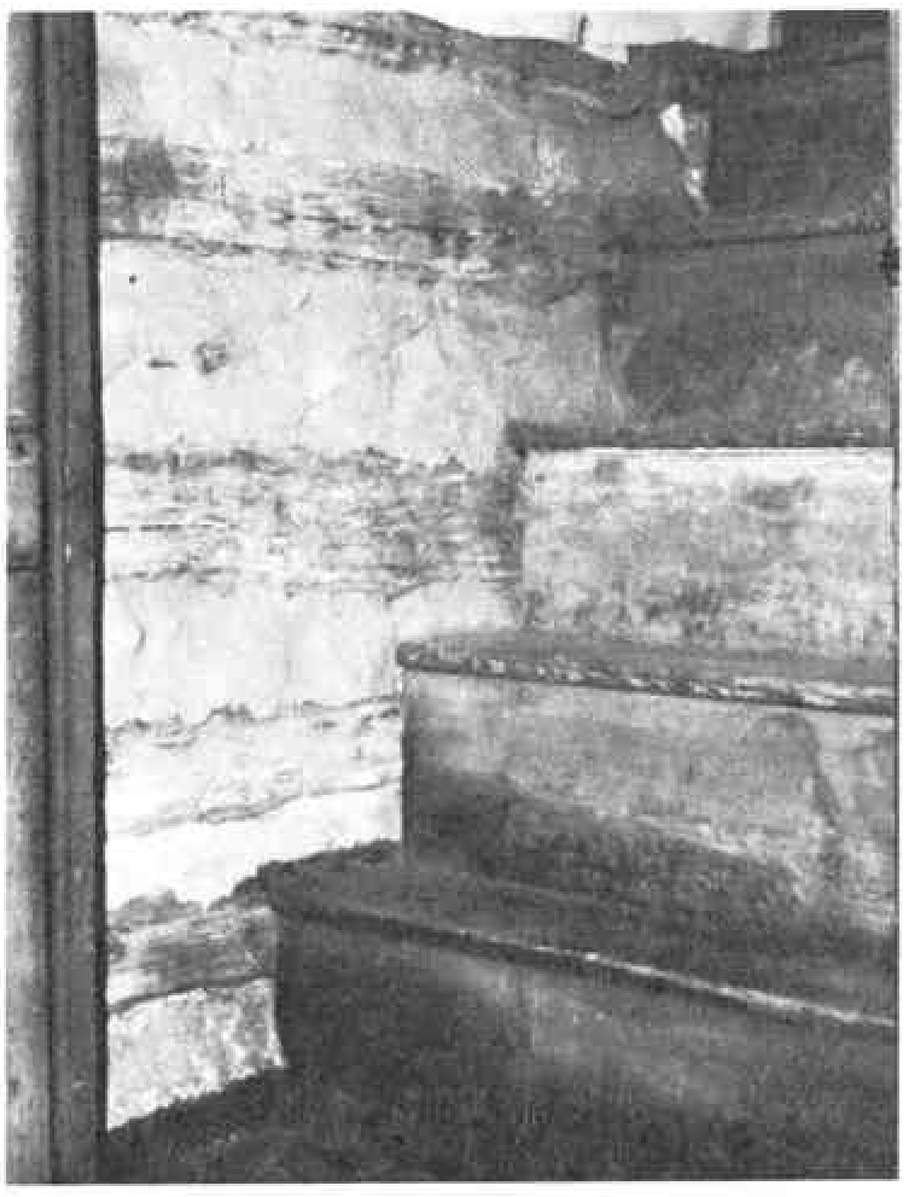
Both the interior and exterior have been altered through the centuries. The elongation of the stone portion, which doubled its length, was made before 1858 as shown by Boteler's sketch. This contained a full cellar where, it is said, stock was hidden from Union Troops. Mr. Bratina has excavated a full cellar under the old part. He hopes to uncover the log portion, also shown in the 1858 sketch.

Head Spring

Located one mile south of Summit Point, the modernised exterior of this home of Mrs. William (Frances Luke) Wysong encloses most of the log home of John Riely who leased two hundred







acres from George Washington in 1774. In the deed of lease on record in Martinsburg John Riely and his sons James and Alexander are given two hundred acres at the Head Spring of Bullskin during the lifetime of the one living longest. They were to pay six pounds on December 25 each year and among other things to build within seven years a dwelling house at least sixteen feet square of good framed work or logs well hewn, the same to have a chimney of stone. The Rielys did better. While they built of logs, the base dimensions of the old house were three times as great as required. It had four large rooms and an attic.

Washington's death in 1799 ended the lease well before Alexander's death in 1834. In 1812, however, he was able to buy the property for $1260, and later made additions here and bought more detached land to the west. Ownership of Head Spring was acquired by Alexander's son, Edwin, whose daughter, Clyma, married George S. Bonham. Eventually this couple became full owners. Their son Isaac Newton Bonham modernized the house in 1930. Popularly known as "Ike", he was Superintendent of the County's schools for many years.

The old home still has the solid walnut stairway put together with wooden pegs. The walnut post is in one piece from upstairs to the cellar. The floors have the original wide hewn boards held by hand made nails. A wall section is left unplastered to show the underlying logs.

Washington's lengthly lease to another settler, Jacob Fry, in 1769 was printed in Volume XXXVI, p. 42.

White House Farm

This house is located on the left one half mile west of Summit Point.

The 395 acres which became White House Farm were granted by George II to Joist Hite on October 3, 1734. The property was deeded to Dr. John McCormick of "Orange County" on March 21, 1740. The original house was built in 1742.. Dr. McCormick was a graduate in medicine from the University of Dublin and came to this country to practice medicine with several of his brothers, who were also physicians. He brought with him a valuable medical library, sold

after his death to a Dr. Cramer of Charles Town. He and his wife Ann had eight children, among whom were William, who moved to Fayette County, Pennsylvania, and married Effie, daughter of Col. William Crawford; Francis, who married Ann, daughter of Thomas Purviance, and who lived at "Weehaw," a property on Long Marsh Run deeded to them by Dr. McCormick; Jean, who married James Byrn; and Mary, who married Magnus Tate (their daughter married Battaile Muse). Nothing is known of Dr. McCormick's other children. It is supposed that he commissioned George Washington to survey a 157 acre portion of his holdings, now known as Mt. Ellen, preparatory to deeding it to one of his children. The survey was finished on March 13, 1752, and the deed, in George Washington's hand, is in the Williamsburg Library.

The property eventually came into the possession of a man named Whitehouse, and in the latter quarter of the 18th century was a tavern. Its location on a headspring of the south fork of Bullskin Run and the trail from Frederick to Winchester made by Braddock's army in 1755 made it a popular stopover and watering place for horses and livestock. Drovers slept and ate in the ordinary, no traces of which remain today, which was located between the house and the spring; gentry were accomodated in the main house.



Engineers have concluded that when the house was used as a tavern, two structures existed: the western portion, which was the original house, with a log addition which subsequently burned; and the eastern portion, where the tavern keeper probably resided. Later, when the place ceased to be a tavern, it is supposed that the two structures were joined by the addition of a front hall and stairway to the second floor. Evidence furnished by the placement of foundations and the present inside location of what were once exterior windows tends to confirm the engineers' theories. Interior walls are two feet thick. All but one of the exterior walls exist; that one was probably removed, possibly at the time the log addition burned, to allow for the addition of the dining room. The front dormers were added after 1901, as a picture in the Museum of the State Capitol in Charleston proves; the rear dormers were added in the 1930's. The name of the property became White House Farm through custom and usage.

Mrs. J.M. Miller wrote in 1934 that the old McCormick graveyard is "probably one of the oldest in the county." She described it as being "near the barn. A large burying ground, but no marked stones."

The history of the quaint stone barn, built over a cave, is obscure. Some historians believe it to be as old as the house. However, a Summit Point native told the owners that his father told stories of having seen rifles and ammunition hidden in the cave during the Civil War. The great stone wall on the hill above the barn and the Bullskin Spring was the site of a skirmish in the Civil War in late September of 1863, in which Captain Somers was killed.

The property was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Blake in 1950. They added a kitchen and two baths, modern plumbing and heating. Otherwise remodeling was limited to interior and exterior painting and restoration of old floors. The primitive woodwork still exists—even through various coats of paint, several door frames and panels show the original unfinished and rustic nature of the wood. The present owners of White House Farm are Mr. and Mrs. John Van Tol. (Mrs. Van Tol is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Blake.) They have modernized the kitchen and bathrooms, but have been careful to preserve the original state of the house so that it remains a comfortable but unpretentious country home.

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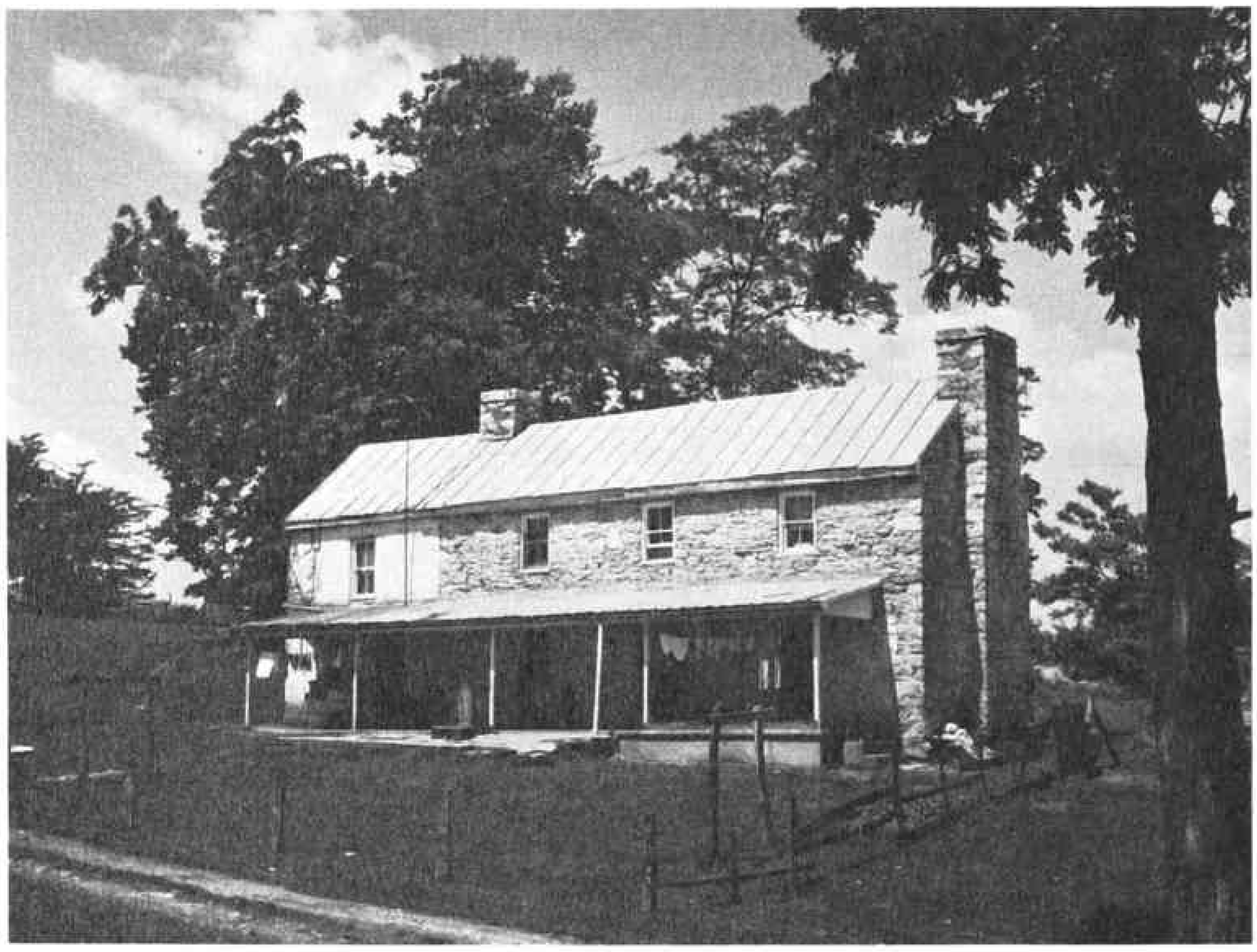
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Stone House At Rock Hall

In 1750 eighteen year old George Washington used his first earnings as a surveyor to buy 550 acres on the South Branch of the Bullskin Run. He had seen this land while on a surveying expedition sent out by Lord Fairfax in 1748. During the next two years Washington increased his holdings to some 2200 acres.

Charlotte Judd Fairbairn in her booklet *George Washington's Lost Plantation* and her supplement, which included a plat, published in Volume XXIII, pointed out that the original 550 acre purchase constituted his Bullskin farm, operated through an overseer for the rest of his life. The remainder was divided and leased to farmers such as John Riely at Head Spring. The Bullskin Farm later became known as Rock Hall.



The stone house pictured here stands in this area. It was used as a tenant house when Rock Hall's brick mansion house was built on a nearby hill. Kenamond's article on The Hite Families of Jefferson County suggests that the beginnings of the mansion house may have been George Washington's quarters. (Thomas Hite Willis bought Rock Hall in 1830). Although Washington's diary mentions a number of visits to "Bullskin," there are no descriptions of housing provided for his overseer, himself, or his farmhands. In May 1760 his concern over an outbreak of smallpox among his "People" brought him here. He mentions his "Quarters" and his "Room" and directs that further victims of the disease be removed to the latter and a nurse be employed to care for them. On his way to join Braddock, a letter to Sally Fairfax is headed, "Bullskin, April 30, 1755."

Unfortunately the mansion house burned in 1906 and the roof and interior of the stone house burned in the 1950s. Thus any clues which may have suggested the time of construction were lost. It seems highly probably that this house was built before Washington's death in 1799. There is no way the Historic Landmarks Commission can determine whether it was built before or after the Revolution. The brick addition was built in 1913.

The property now is owned by the heirs of John L. Burns, Sr.: Caleb Burns, Eleanor Burns Puster, and William Huyett Burns. The house is occupied by the tenant farmer. It is located three quarters of a mile east of Summit Point. Permission to enter must be obtained from Mr. Caleb Burns.

George Washington and The Shenandoah Valley

Julia Davis Adams

All quotations in this article are from the writings of George Washington.

When George Washington first saw the Shenandoah Valley he was only a month past his sixteenth birthday, a tall youth beginning to shave, his regular schooling behind him, and the necessity of earning his living ahead.

Not for him the prestigious school of Appleby in Westmoreland, where his father and his two older half brothers, Lawrence and Augustine, had been sent to be educated "at Home" (as Virginians still called England); nor the Virginian alternative of William and Mary. His seemingly invulnerable father had died suddenly when George was only eleven, leaving broad acres on the Potomac to Lawrence, an estate including an iron mill to Augustine, and to his second wife and her five children, of whom George was the eldest, Ferry Farm on the Rappahannock which she managed poorly, and a few other tracts. It was not enough.

George would have to do something for himself as soon as he could. Lawrence suggested sending him to sea, but his mother refused consent. His father had left a set of surveying instruments. George had himself taught to use them. He had always been good at figures, he loved the work, and by the time he was fifteen he was running simple surveys for his neighbors. One batch brought him two pounds three shillings in *cash*, a better medium of pay than tobacco.

Lawrence often invited George to Mt. Vernon, the name he had given his place on the Potomac in honor of the Admiral Vernon under whom he had fought at Cartagena. (It had been a disastrous expedition, but all the family were proud of Lawrence's part in it). Lawrence had married well, Anne Fairfax, whose father, a neighbor, was a cousin of the Lord Fairfax who had inherited the Northern Neck, a vast tract granted by Charles II and grandly assumed to contain all the land between the sources of the Rappahannock and the Potomac.

In the spring of 1748, Lord Fairfax, a strange eccentric and embittered character, came from England to look into his New World claims. George William Fairfax, Anne Washington's brother,

was designated to do some surveying for His Lordship on unsettled lands across the Blue Ridge. When he asked George Washington to go along, that young man in a hurry accepted eagerly.

To the delight of posterity he kept a diary, written in a fair hand but with a spelling, punctuation, and capitalization that owed little to convention, recording his first sight of the Shenandoah Valley, a region which was to become of importance to him and to his collaterals.

As he rode with "Mr. Fairfax," ten years his senior, from Ashby's Gap to Frederick Town (now Winchester), he viewed the land as he always did, with a planter's eye.

They made their way "through most beautiful groves of Sugar Trees and spent ye best Part of ye Day admiring ye Trees and richness of ye Land . . . . . ye Land exceeding Rich & Fertile all ye way produces Abundance of Grain Hemp Tobacco &ca."

Joined by experienced surveyors of the vicinity, and basing themselves on Winchester, they spent two days in the rain surveying near North Mountain and on the night of March 15, lay at a mountain inn.

After dinner: "I not being so good a Woodsman as ye rest of my Company striped myself very orderly and went in to ye Bed as they called it when to my Surprize I found it to be nothing but a Little Straw—Matted together without Sheets or anything but one thread Bear blanket with double its Weight of Vermin such as Lice Fleas & c. I was glad to get up (as soon as y Light was carried from us). I put on my Cloths and Lay as my Companions."

Not until the next night in Frederick Town could they clean themselves "to get rid of y Game we had catched y Night before." Refreshed by a good dinner with "Wine and Rum Punch in Plenty and a good Feather Bed with clean Sheets which was a very agreeable Regale," George promised himself never again to sleep in the wilderness except out of doors or in a tent.

They went as far as Warm Springs (now Berkeley Springs) and on into the South Branch Valley, where they encountered the first large war party of Indians George had ever seen, coming from war with only one scalp.

"We had some Liquor with us of which we gave them Part it elevating there Spirits put them in y Humour of dauncing of whom we had a War Daunce."

George found them intensely amusing with their posturing and

leaping, their drum made of a skin stretched over a pot, their gourd decorated with a horse's tail and filled with shot to make a rattle. He was more annoyed than amused by a crowd of German settlers who escorted the party for several days. "I really think they seemed to be as Ignorant a set of people as the Indians they would never speak English but when spoken to they speak all Dutch."

Somewhat put out by this obstinate adherence to an unknown tongue, and by the wind and rain that hampered the work, George was glad to recross the Blue Ridge and to get "safe to my Brother's" on April 13th. He had played a man's part in an adult expedition, and he had seen some countryside that he never would forget.

In the following summer George was granted his licence as a County Surveyor, going through a ceremony that required him to swear allegiance to King George II, to repudiate all descendents of James II, and to declare his *non* belief in transubstantiation. Now he really had a way to earn some money. He worked hard at it, and soon was lending his brothers petty cash, duly noted in his careful account books. When he went back to Winchester that autumn, he was *in charge* of a surveying party.

Lawrence had taken up some of the land George described with such enthusiasm, and had joined an "Ohio Company" that hoped to get into the fur trade, and to establish a post and warehouse near Winchester. For that company (which came to nothing eventually because of disaffected Indians) and for Lord Fairfax, George crossed the mountains again. It was a rough trip through a rough countryside. He wrote his brother Jack (John Augustine), who was his closest confidant, how they had to sleep in their clothes around the fire in backwoods cabins:

"man wife and children like a parcel of dogs or cats, and happy's he that gets the berth nearest the fire . . . . . There's nothing would make it pass off tolerably but a good reward. A doubloon is my constant gain every day that the weather will permit my going out, and sometimes six pistoles." (About six pounds Virginian).

The back country was opening up, and more settlers meant more surveying. George saved his money and within a year, still only eighteen, was able to make a succinct but triumphant entry in his diary. There had been a surveying of more tracts for Lawrence, and some for Augustine. Now it was George's turn.

"Nov. 24, 1750 Surveyed for myself the land at the head of the Marsh which I bought of Captain Rutherford and afterward granted by Lord Fairfax."

It was 453 acres on Bullskin Creek, later granted as 550 by Lord Fairfax. Washington was to refer to it always as Bullskin, and eventually had slave quarters there, managed it through an overseer, and raised stock on it.

There is a story that George won this land in a game with Captain Rutherford, but this appears as apocryphal as the tale of the cherry tree. He meticulously entered his gaming losses in his account books, but they rarely exceeded a few shillings—not the sort of play in which fortunes are made or lost. After his return east that winter he felt himself able to make a down payment of £45 for 450 more acres on Bullskin Creek, promising to pay an additional £77 in the spring.

In this slow and cautious style he might have become a considerable land owner in the Shenandoah, and a leading citizen there by the time he attained his majority, but that "Destiny" in which he believed had other plans.

The health of his brother and mentor, Lawrence, gave increasing concern. The two made a trip to Warm Springs for Lawrence's health. It did no good, although they picked up some more land. A trip to Barbados was equally unsuccessful. George caught smallpox, almost died, acquired an immunity, but lost a whole surveying season. Lawrence came home only to die, in the summer of 1752.

He had already lost his first three children in infancy, probably from the tuberculosis which was fatal to him as well. A baby daughter survived him by less than two years; within six months of his death, his widow, who had a life interest in Mt. Vernon, married one of the Lees, and lived on a Lee plantation. Augustine, who was next in line, preferred to keep his iron mill (which otherwise would have gone to George) and George as he never expected became the heir. He was able to rent it from his former sister-in-law, and to settle himself there, also to take a hand in winding up Lawrence's affairs, which he described as "in the utmost confusion."

All this would have been enough to keep an energetic young man busy, but again his "Destiny" took a hand. He applied for the position Lawrence had held as Adjutant of the Virginia militia. After some governmental delays four adjutants were appointed, and George was assigned the Northern Neck, with the rank of Major. This sounded splendid for a young man not yet twenty one, except for the fact that the militia were almost non-existent.

The Colony, however, needed soldiers. The French were moving down the Ohio from Canada, with the intention of claiming that vast

wilderness for Louis XV, when every colonial knew that it belonged to George II. Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia determined to send the French a message ordering them to withdraw. Major Washington volunteered to carry it over the icy mountains. So began the seven year struggle known as the French and Indian War, in which he gained his first military experience, and forged his character on the anvil of suffering and frustration.

The French declined to withdraw from their fort. Instead, somewhat in their cups, they told Major Washington that it was "their absolute design to take the Ohio, and by G_____ they would do it." He hastened back with this news, and that summer led out a small and ill-equipped force which the French soundly defeated. In 1755 Washington went out again as aide to the ill-starred Braddock. He met the General at Frederick and guided him to Winchester, giving him a chance "of seeing the absurdity of the route & of damning it very heartily." (Half a dozen roads in Jefferson County claim to have been this one.) The young man was aglow at the chance of serving with a British general, and "of advancing my fortunes in the military way." Instead, he witnessed a humiliating defeat, the Regulars cut to pieces in the forest, the General killed, his body buried in the wagon road so that the Indians should not dig it up.

On the way over the mountains Washington had been galled by the supercilious attitude of the Regular officers and their unwillingness to take any advice. In the forest he had seen the British soldiers run and the Provincials stand fast. On his return he found it difficult to get any pay or recognition for his efforts. It was about this time that Colonel Washington ceased to speak of England as "Home."

To his brother he said that he felt he had been "on the losing order" in all his efforts to serve Virginia in a military way, but he wrote to his protesting mother that he would again undertake the defense of the frontier "if pressed upon by the general voice of the country." He would, however, try to see that he got something for it.

"The voice of the country" spoke through the Governor and the House of Burgesses, appointing the twenty-three year old Colonel Washington Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of the Colony of Virginia, charged with defending the frontier and strengthening its forts, particularly at Winchester.

His old troubles closed in on him at once. The Commissary, Mr. Dick, was so dilatory about supplies that Washington suspected his loyalty, he had nothing like enough men, and "you might as well try

to bring the dead to life as to raise the militia of this county." He toured the frontier from Fort Cumberland in Maryland to Fort Dinwiddie in Augusta, and was confirmed in his opinion that the defenses were totally inadequate.

Worse yet, on returning to Winchester he found the settlers in a panic because of a new outbreak of particularly bloody Indian raids. They were refugeeing into Winchester with whatever they could carry, abandoning their stock and their holdings. The French paid a good bounty for English scalps.

"The supplicating tears of the women and moving petitions of the men, melt me with such deadly sorrow that . . . . . I could offer myself a willing sacrifice to the butchering enemy, provided that would contribute to the people's ease."

Colonel Washington was too practical to believe that it would, but when he tried to get some of the settlers to join in searching the woods for Indians they threatened to blow his brains out for asking them to risk their lives. One alarm about gun-fire within four miles of Winchester, sent him out with the 42 men he could raise, to find three drunken members of the Virginia Light Horse carousing in a tavern and firing their pistols in the air.

Both Washington's men and his junior officers were insubordinate and his vague instructions gave him no way to enforce discipline beyond scolding the officers and ordering a few lashes for the men, both punishments too light to be salutary. As a footnote to history, in these days when young soldiers go to jail for refusing to cut their hair, the following appears in the order book: Notwithstanding "it has been ordered that no man should *cut off* his hair, the Colonel has observed that some of them have acted contrary to orders. He desires the officers will take note of these persons and confine them." As a last straw a Captain Dagworthy, commanding 30 Marylanders at Fort Cumberland, claimed to have a King's commission (although expired) which by its very existence put Washington as a Provincial under his orders.

The young Commander-in-Chief was constrained to go to Williamsburg with his troubles. He got more supplies, and firmer regulations, but was told that only Governor Shirley in Boston could rule concerning a King's commission. Since the snows of winter guarded the frontier better than the soldiers, to Boston Colonel Washington went, at his own expense by horse and ship, with a suitable staff of five,—a trip which used almost all the pay he had drawn so far.

Governor Shirley confirmed Washington in command over Dagworthy but placed him under Gov. Sharpe of Maryland who was made commander of *all* the forces raised in the South (Pa., Md., Va., and S.C.). Washington felt he must resign as soon as he reached Williamsburg.

When he arrived there on March 30th, however, a new alarm on the frontier cancelled all thought of resignation. The French and their Indians were again murdering the settlers in Frederick and Hampshire Counties. Hurrying to arrive there, he found the people in what he described as "a general consternation," pouring into Winchester and looking to him not only for protection, but for food, and he had none to give them.

His 40 men in Winchester were virtually cut off from Ft. Cumberland for messengers could reach it only by travelling at night to elude Indians. As usual the militia, "whooping hallooing *gentlemen* soldiers," as George contemptuously called them, could not be raised. Washington was almost frantic at his helplessness. The safe Burgesses in Williamsburg then voted to establish what he called "a string of little Paultry forts very difficult to defend," along the frontier. After many protests, he at last was allowed to go forward with his practical measure, the building of a *strong* fort at Winchester.

It was absolutely essential, George kept writing, to use *Indians* against Indians. Only they knew the woods as well as "the murdering enemy," but they were capricious allies. No longer amused by their "War daunces," he found them exasperating although he knew them necessary.

All at once the Eastern Counties woke up to the emergency, and militia began to arrive: 173 from Fairfax (although 23 deserted in the first three days), 121 from Prince William, 20 from King George (30 had deserted on the road), 200 from Culpeper (with only 80 firelocks among them.) More poured in, ill equipped, insubordinate, and thinking "they had performed a sufficient Tower of duty by marching to Winchester."

Within two days Washington arranged to deploy half of the militia, mixed with his regulars of Virginia, in garrisoning the smaller forts. The others could go home before the back country came to hate all soldiers because of these rowdies. It seemed an orderly solution to the problem and the surplus marched off happily. Then came another hysterical report of an Indian raid. Overnight the remainder of the

militia vanished, leaving so few as to be unusable.

Fortunately the report of the Indian raid proved false. By the end of May Washington could begin his fort. It would be called Fort Loudoun, after Lord Loudoun, who had sailed from England to be Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's forces in North America.

When Washington went to Fredericksburg to collect tools, he learned that his Regiment was to be brought up to full strength by the draft. Draft requirements were not excessive. "Then men must be over 5'4", unless well made, must not have old sores on their legs, nor be subject to fits." Their wage was eightpence daily.

The fort rose slowly in the summer of 1756, with discipline always a problem. Swearing and drunkenness earned 25 to 50 lashes, and deserters were to be executed—if they could be caught. Some Quakers refused to work on the fort. Washington put them in jail and kept them there until he could no longer stand their meek, hot, stubborn faces, so released them.

Riding south through Augusta, where he found conditions as bad as he had anticipated, Washington was nearly killed in an ambush in the woods. When the Cherokee allies he hoped for came in, they were only 7 braves and 3 squaws.

Governor Dinwiddie, in failing health, grew tired of the importunities of the young Colonel. He wrote him peevishly to let one of his junior officers finish the fort at Winchester and to take 100 men to Fort Cumberland, there to observe the movements of the enemy across the Alleghenies.

This manifest impossibility sobered Washington completely. Gone was all thought of resignation. He quietly explained point by point why the orders were impractical, at the same time declaring his willingness to try to carry them out. He had only 81 effective men in Winchester and of them 18 deserted on December 3.

After a heated exchange of letters, Washington finally went to Fort Cumberland with a few men to await the arrival of Lord Loudoun. There he prepared a report, urging an offensive in the summer of '57 as the only effective defense of the frontier.

By the end of May, since they too expected an offensive, some Indian allies came in, not only Cherokees, but Nottaways, Catawbas, and Tuscaroras—"the most insolent, most avaricious and most dissatisfied wretches I have ever had to deal with." He had not enough presents to keep them satisfied. He turned them over to a newly appointed Commissioner of Indian affairs, who would or could do nothing with them. They drifted off.

The long hot summer rolled over the fields and the forests, and Lord Loudoun remained like a soldier on the sign at an inn, always mounted up, but never riding on. Governor Dinwiddie went home without letting Washington say goodby to him. Discipline continued a problem, and the Colonel hanged two deserters on a gallows forty feet high, "for example's sake." In spite of this, desertions rose to one in four.

By the time winter sealed off the mountains, the fort was finished, but Washington had such a severe and lasting attack of "the bloody flux" that his doctor sent him down to Mt. Vernon. "I have now too much reason to apprehend an approaching decay."

His brother Jack was managing the plantation for him, and had married Hannah Bushrod. His brother Charles, still under age, wished to marry Mildred Thornton, and her mother required George to sign a paper waiving his claim to Charles's property should Charles die before he was twenty-one. George did so, rather indignantly. "If she thinks I would take such an ungenerous advantage . . . she knows little of the principles which govern my conduct."

By spring, however, a doctor in Williamsburg found a cure for George. On his way home he became engaged to the Widow Custis, who was amiable, young, and rich. In early youth he had not been eminently successful with girls, but now a woman of sense would not say no to the first soldier of Virginia. Most encouraging of all, Lord Loudoun had been replaced by General Forbes, who firmly intended to mount the longed-for offensive.

Washington hurried back to Winchester and found recruiting easier in this new atmosphere of hope. Then delays set in as usual, General Forbes had difficulty in raising supplies for his projected army of several thousand, and was too experienced to move without them. Washington thought the old Braddock road should be improved and used, but Forbes was persuaded to build an entirely new one across the Pennsylvânia mountains.

Washington attributed this decision, and the delay it caused to "P-l-v-n artifice" and protested so vigorously that Forbes found his conduct "very little soldierly." The summer passed in building the new road "leveling every Mold Hill . . . . . backwardness appears in all except the approach of winter; that jogs on apace."

It was nearly the end of November before they reached Fort Duquesne (now Pittsburg) and the drafted men had only a week of their time left to serve. By the terms of their engagement they might

disband on December 1. To their joy they had no fighting to do. The French had set fire to the fort, and "run away down the Ohio by the light of it."

Washington could return to Winchester in triumph and did so at once. He tarried there only long enough to say farewell to his junior officers who made him an affecting and laudatory speech, wondering how they could do without him; then hurried "down below," as the backwoods called the Eastern Counties. He was through forever, he thought, with the military life.

While on duty in the mountains he had been elected to represent Frederick County in the House of Burgesses. Although he refused to leave his post to show his face "even for *one day*" as his supporters urged, he led the poll. James Wood and Charles Smith had managed the campaign for him, and he paid them for the drinks 792 voters had consumed.

Rum	28 gallons	Wine	34 gallons
Rum punch	50 gallons	Beer	46 gallons
Cider Royal	2 gallons		

He served only two terms in the House of Burgesses, where he put through measures for the public good such as forbidding hogs to run at large through the streets of Winchester. He himself never settled on his Shenandoah lands, but when smallpox broke out among his slaves there, he went in person to see that they were taken care of and took one or two to his own rooms. After a social glass in a Williamsburg tavern, a Mr. Wormley bought 13000 acres in what is now Jefferson County. Since Washington encouraged him to do so, when he heard that Wormley regretted it, he waited upon him and offered to buy the land back for the 500 guineas paid. At the same time he urged him to keep it, as it would make a fortune for his heirs. Such was his faith in the transmontane Valley. Wormley held the land, but his heirs did not.

Washington lived to see amenities come to the Shenandoah, the once wild region where his hard schooling had taken place; where he had learned to endure, to practice patience, and to think independently of England. He lived to see his brother Samuel build a fine stone house near Bullskin and his youngest brother Charles lay out the streets of Charles Town where he had settled. A number of his nephews, great-nephews and their descendants chose eventually to reside in that countryside.

Samuel had title to some of George's land across the Blue Ridge, but died before he could pay for it,as did his son Thornton. In his will President Washington provided that his nephews should be cleared of this and other debts. To Bushrod Washington, son of his deceased brother Jack, he left Mt. Vernon (subject to the life interest of Martha), and his books. Ownership of his lots in Winchester went to his nephews and nieces. His swords were left to his nephews with the proviso that they must never be drawn except in defence of the country.

Thus many of George Washington's possessions, those mute indications of a man's interests, remained in the Valley. He left slaves there as well, but provided that all of them as well as those in Eastern Virginia, be freed at the death of his wife. It could not be done sooner, he wrote, because they had so intermarried with hers that freedom would cause painful separations. The old were to be cared for, the young taught to read and write.

He had never philosophied about the institution of slavery as did Thomas Jefferson, although he expressed a distaste for it. A practical man, he had lived with it, taking care to be an enlightened owner. What he felt about it he showed in his last testament.

In the Shenandoah Valley he had bought his first property—on the Bullskin. There, he had learned the harsh realities of soldiering, the difference between "glory" and survival. There he had first shouldered heavy responsibility and carried it in spite of harsh and unjust criticism. More than perhaps he realized, these lessons had formed his character, a character he was to dedicate to his country as a whole. Destiny carried him far beyond the embracing mountains of the Shenandoah Valley, but his interest in it ended only with his death.

Of Interest To Members

Several changes in the officers and Board of Directors of the Society were made at the election held at the meeting on May 24, 1975.

New members of the Board are Mrs. J. Blackwell Davis, Dr. William J. Barnhart and Edwin Fitzpatrick.

Mrs. Davis is a native of the county, a resident of Charles Town and a long time member of the Society. Dr. Barnhart, a professor of English, has been a member of the Shepherd College faculty since 1971. His home, built in 1973, is at Scrabble near Shepherdstown. Mr. Fitzpatrick has been a resident of Charles Town since 1938 and has had a long experience in graphic arts work.

Mrs. Robert T. Browse and John Y. McDonald are now emeritus officers, both having contributed many years of valuable service to the work of the Society.

The Publications Committee of the Society welcomes contributions of material suitable for the MAGAZINE. Planning for the MAGAZINE is done early in the year so that articles should be submitted not later than June 15. Material not accepted will be returned promptly.

Volunteer assistance in typing will also be welcomed. Proof reading for the MAGAZINE is done in October and November and the assistance of persons experienced in this work would be very helpful to the Committee.

SUMMER PICNIC

A well attended picnic supper was held on the Morgan's Spring property of Mr. and Mrs. John Beasley on July 16th. This was the two hundredth anniversary of the departure from there of the buckskin-clad Bee Line Marchers to join the Continental Army at Cambridge, Mass.

The site also was that of the barbecue held in 1858 and described by Alexander Boteler in his booklet *My Ride to the Barbecue*, reprinted in the 1974 Magazine. To recall this event Senator Robert Steptoe appeared in top hat and frock coat and made a well contrived oration, reminiscent of those made from the porch of the stone house in 1858. This was greeted with great applause.