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Magazine of the

Jefferson County Historical Society

Bi-Centennial Issue
Part II

Volume XLII
December 1976

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Magazine of the

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."

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Organized May 21, 1927

Post Office Box 485

Charles Town, West Virginia 25414

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Membership–Open to all who have an interest in the history of Jefferson County. Annual dues of $4.00 should be paid to the Treasurer after the beginning of the fiscal year on January 1.

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 $5.00 per Magazine; quantity discounts are allowed. Mr. Wilson also has available copies of *Prominent Men of Shepherdstown* for $7.50 each, mailed, and *The Washington Homes of Jefferson County* for $2.00 each, mailed.

Pre-Revolutionary Structures and Sites in Jefferson County

Part II

Introduction

The 1975 Magazine presented seventeen structures judged by the Historic Landmarks Commission to have been built before the Revolutionary War, and therefore of special interest in this Bicentennial year. This issue presents three more houses. In addition, two examples of early utilization of features provided by nature, and certainly used by the Indians, are presented. The first of these is the cave located on Old Cave Road, near Evitts Run below Charles Town. The second is this county's portion of the wagon road from the Port of Alexandria, routed through a gap in the Blue Ridge, through a ford in the Shenandoah River, and on westward to pass through the town of Bath (now Berkeley Springs). Here natural "medicinal springs" attracted visitors before the Revolution. Presumably the route through Jefferson County acquired the glamorous name "Alexandria and Warm Spring Road" later, when Bath had become a full-blown resort. In describing this road we relate the events of the Society's summer outing which featured a traverse by automobile of the road.

Two other natural passages into the county, the Harpers Ferry Water Gap and Pack Horse Ford, are well known.

No doubt, other pre-Revolutionary landmarks will be recognized in the future. It is worth noting that most of the structures so far identified were built of limestone. Head Spring was built of log, and the Peter Burr House, of clapboard. The brick upper portion of Bellevue was added after the Revolution.

The task of dating houses located on property acquired before the Revolution is challenging. Where there is no early mention of these structures the temptation to resort to surmise is strong. The same type of stonemasonry continued well after brick became available. Style changes in interior trim were gradual, and too often these were replaced.

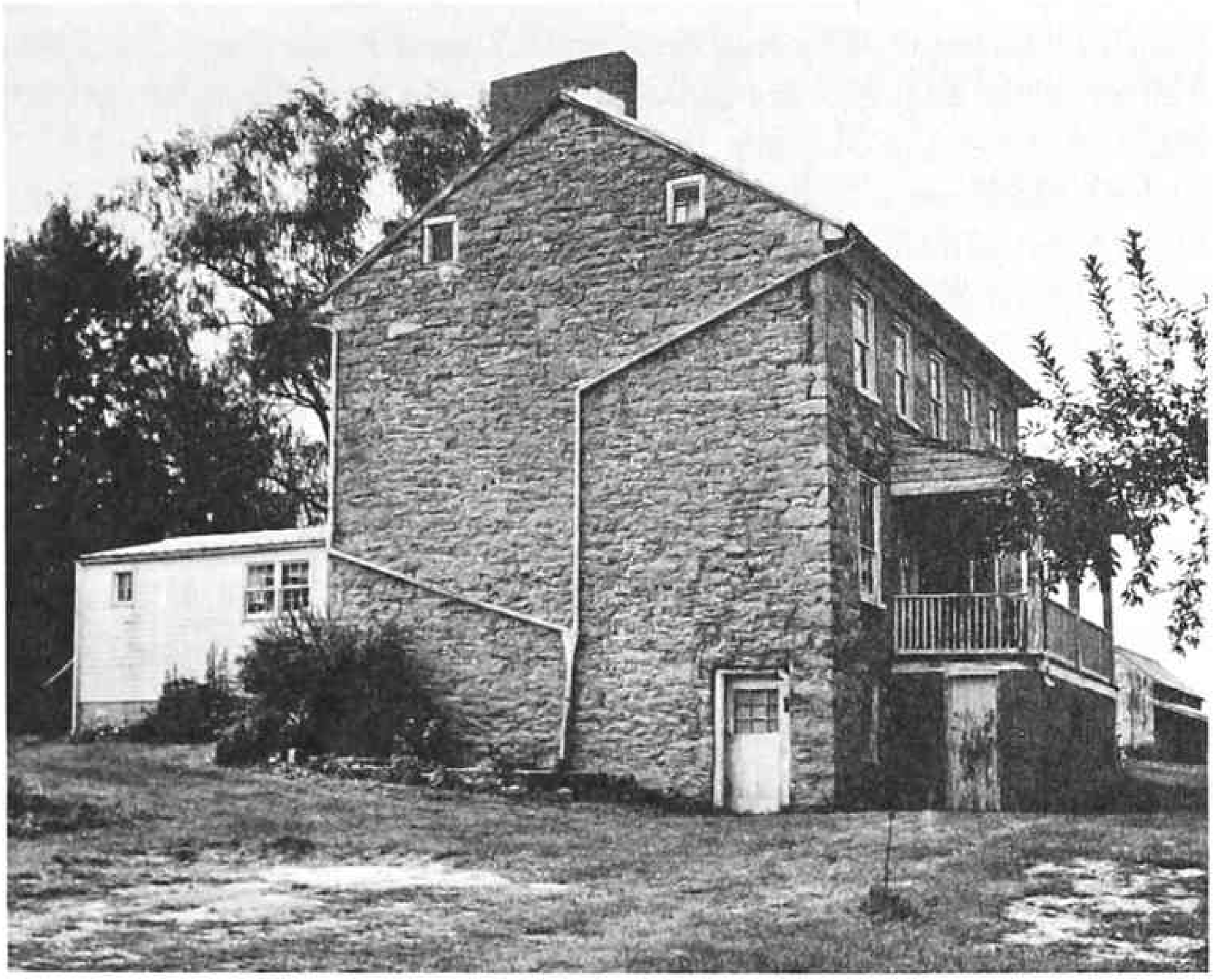
Locust Ridge—Stone Haven

Another ancient stone house recognized by the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission as of pre-Revolutionary construction is Locust Ridge. It is on the old road leading from Morgan's Grove Park to the newer section of the Ridge Road about two miles from the town limits of Shepherdstown.

The architectural characteristics and construction of Locust Ridge clearly indicate that it is at least two hundred years old. Seen from the east the exterior somewhat resembles Springdale, which was built by William Morgan in 1760, and is not far away across the fields. Like Springdale the house faces north.

The front and original section is fieldstone with sandstone trim over the two front windows and front door. The present rear wing at the south replaced a section that burned some years ago.

The front door at Locust Ridge opens into a center hall with stairway and landing leading to the bedroom floor. Carved detail on the stairway is worthy of note. There are two long and narrow rooms on



Locust Ridge

the main floor and on the second floor four rooms and a center hall. In the full attic the original floors remain. There is a full basement with a large fireplace containing the type of crane used for cooking long ago.

A distinguishing feature at Locust Ridge is the door with a rising hinge which opens from the main hall into what was apparently the original dining room. Hinges like this are rarely seen in this area. The door at the south end of the dining room opens into the wing which is the present kitchen. Each of the first floor rooms has a mantel, although the fireplaces have been closed for some years. In the dining room, cupboards are built into the wall on each side of the fireplace, and there is wainscoting on all four walls. Some of the original hardware and some original doors are still in the house.

A very old log barn stands west of the house, and there is an old shed with strap hinges on the door.

The record of transactions concerning this house is a very long one and involves one of the first settlers in this area as well as descendants of other early settlers.

The present owner is Major William Bruce Holbruner, Jr., USA, (Ret.), who bought the house and 22.97 acres from Robert Luther and Virginia S. Jones on January 17, 1976. Mr. and Mrs. Jones retained the remaining acreage. They had bought the Locust Ridge Farm containing 130.69 acres and improvements from William A. Morgan, March 22, 1958.

Major Holbruner is now restoring the house and plans to change the name to Stone Haven.

Previous transactions found in the Jefferson County records are as follows:

M.M. Jenkins, et ux, to: DEED, D.B. 164, page 485, April 8, 1946, William A. Morgan, 272 acres, 3 poles, and improvements.

To Virginia Joint Stock Land Bank, under authority of a Deed of Trust given by Bettie C. Butler. To: DEED, M.M. Jenkins, D.B. 137, page 220, April 25, 1932, 272 acres, 3 poles.

Nellie B. Mitchell, et vir., et al. To: DEED, D.B. 125, page 130, November 4, 1934. Bettie C. Butler, their interest in farm of 248 acres.

WILL. C.T.V.S. Butler, Will Book "C", page 92, dated August 13, 1883, probated July 14, 1903. Devises entire estate to wife, Bettie C. Butler.

DEED OF PARTITION. Between Julia L. Alexander and C.T.V.S. Butler, Deed Book 90, page 124, April 27, 1901. All the interest of Julia L. Alexander to C.T.V.S. Butler in "Home Farm", 256 acres.

Nancy M. Moore, et vir. To: DEED, D.B. 90, page 49, March 29, 1901. Julia L. Alexander and C.T.V.S. Butler, her 1/3 interest in lands of which Charles T. Butler deceased, died possessed of.

WILL. Charles T. Butler, Will Book "B", page 386, dated October 1, 1898, probated February 9, 1899. Devises his lands to C.T.V.S. Butler, Julia L. Alexander and Nancy M. Moore.

William Butler, et ux. To: DEED, D.B. 84, page 251, February 1, 1898. C.T. Butler, his 1/5 interest in 246 acres, 32 perches.

WILL. Virginia Butler, W.B.A., page 367, dated May 19, 1881, probated January 20, 1888. Devises estate to husband C.T. Butler for life, then to children, William, Julia, Charles and Nancy. The 1852 Howell Brown map shows the farm as owned by C.T. Butler and the name as Rose Hill at this date.

William Short, Exor. of Daniel Buckles. To: DEED, D.B. 28, page 428, January 1, 1847. William Butler, 246 acres, 32 perches, adjoining Lafferty, William Butler and Osbourn. (This William, father of C.T. Butler, and grandfather of William of Deed Book 84, page 251.)

WILL. Daniel Buckles, W.B. 10, page 460, dated April 15, 1845, probated June 16, 1845. Directs land to be sold.

WILL, William Buckles, dated June 9, 1824, probated August 28, 1826. Devises to son, Daniel, a tract of land adjoining land conveyed son, Daniel, in Deed of Gift and not included in said gift.

William Buckles. To: DEED, D.B. 10, page 213, January 1, 1818. Daniel Buckles, 205 acres adjoining Lafferty, Osbourn, William Butler, Heirs of William Morgan, Vandervier and Van Rutherford.

Sarah Morgan. To: DEED, D.B. 20, page 412, April 27, 1835. Daniel Buckles, 50 acres, 3 rods, 10 poles. Part of John Van Metre's patent adjoining Daniel Buckles and William Butler.

Jeptha Morgan, et ux. To: DEED, D.B. 20, page 351, April 27, 1835, Sarah Morgan, 45 acres and improvements.

WILL. William Morgan, W.B. 2, page 340, dated October 26, 1814, probated June 24, 1816. Devises to daughter Sarah, land in Berkeley County, and a tract of about 40 acres in Jefferson County, if she recovers from illness–if not, it goes to others, and also leaves large acreage to son, Jeptha. Near the end of the will, William Morgan describes the Jefferson County tract left to Sarah as that "Purchased from Moses McIntyre."

Moses McIntyre. To: DEED, Deed Book 1, page 284, September 22, 1802. William Morgan, 41½ acres, 3 sq. poles. Land that Nicholas McIntyre conveyed unto Moses McIntyre, August 25, 1800, "to

another corner of Buckles, and all houses buildings and orchards."

From the Berkeley County Records, Martinsburg:

David Shepherd and Rachel his wife. To: DEED, D.B. 10, page 58, 17th day of March 1773. To Nicholas McIntyre. 300 acres more or less, part of a greater tract of land conveyed to John VanMetre by a patent from our soverign lord the King, bearing date of October 3, 1734 and devised to David Shepherd by the last will and testament of John Van Metre, dated August 13, 1745. In this deed are included "all houses, orchards, ways, waters, water courses," indicating that the stone house had been built at the time of this sale. David Shepherd was the grandson of John Van Metre, and the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Van Metre Shepherd.

Nicholas McIntyre held a grant from Thomas Lord Fairfax, Baron of Cameron, of 278 acres "at the corner of Thomas Shepherd", dated 12, November 1757, as shown in Book One, Land Grants, Frederick County, Virginia.

Linnie Schley

Aspen Pool

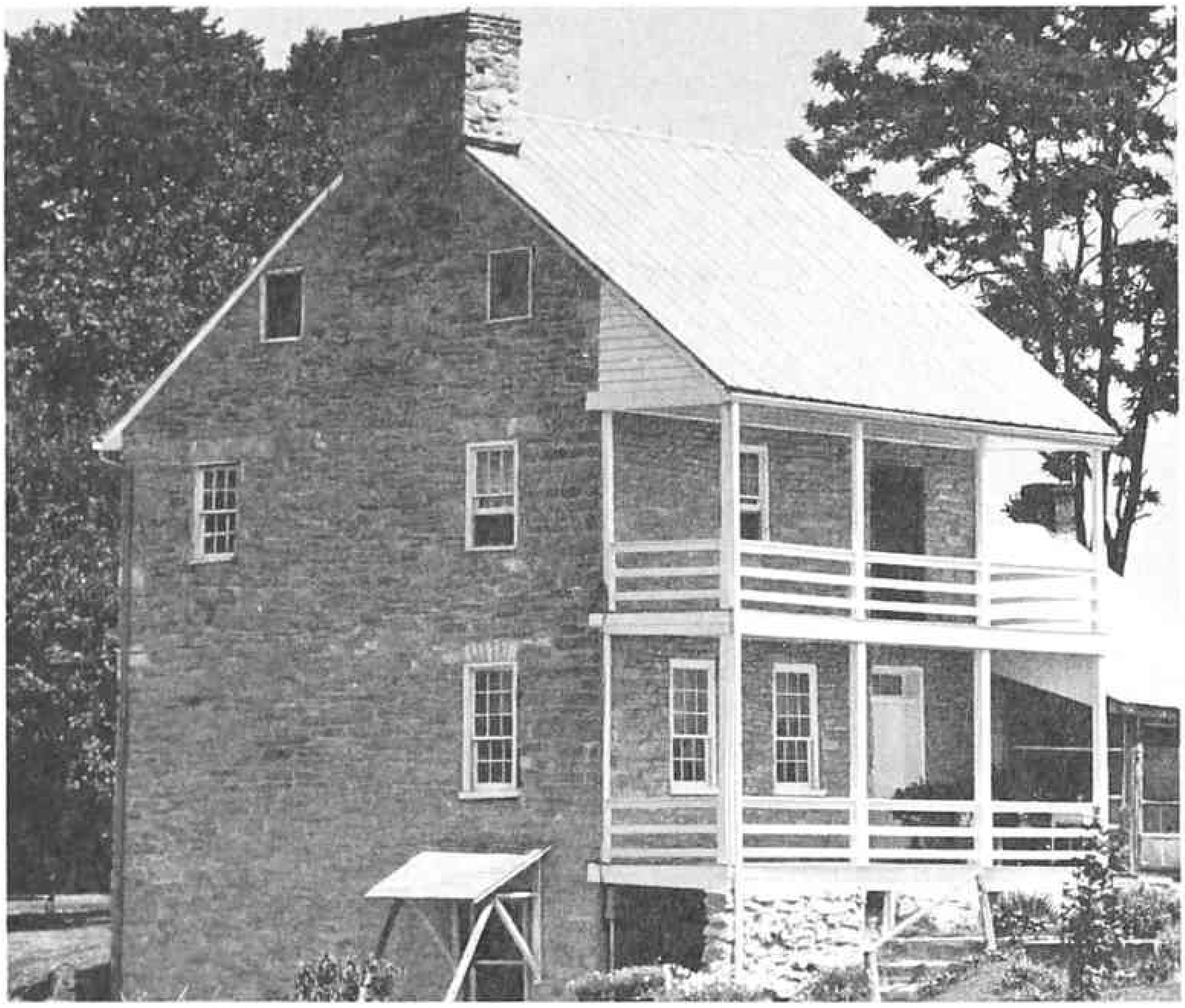
Aspen Pool Farm is about three miles southeast of Shepherdstown and just off Route 31, which leads from the Flowing Springs Road to Moler's Cross Roads. This section is noted for its beautiful views of the mountains to the east, rolling countryside, and abundant springs as well as highly productive soil.

The old stone house, which sits where every window commands a view of lovely rural landscape, is an example of pre-Revolutionary construction.

The main section of the house is fieldstone and has four finished stories including the full basement and full finished attic. It faces west with the front door and five windows on the front. Sandstone trim is seen over the front door and each of the windows. The roof is peaked.

The south side of the house has three windows. On the east, there is a gallery or two-story porch extending the width of the house. The one-story wing at the north is of later construction but has a very large fireplace in its one big room, indicating that the wing is quite old too.

The front door opens into a hall that runs the depth of the house



Aspen Pool

and opens onto the gallery. A handsome stairway goes up to the second floor, and the basement is also reached by a stairway from this hall. On the main floor up the stairway and in the second floor hall is the original chair rail.

To the right of the hall is a very large room with fireplace and the original mantel. There are two windows in each end of this room, which was apparently the main living room. On the floor above there is one large room with fireplace, and on the top floor another large finished room, which has a dormer window on the east side.

The basement, which is one large room with floor and another very large fireplace, has a door opening to the south side of the lawn.

Throughout the house there are random-width floors. The interior doors are the original "Cross and Bible type" with box locks. There is a strap hinge on the basement door and an unusual piece of hardware, a latch shaped like an arrow, and obviously handmade.

Considering its age and the fact that it is a great many years since an owner lived in it, the house is in an excellent state of preservation.

Commander and Mrs. Charles Francis Printz of Charles Town are the owners of the house and 180-acre farm, and they plan to make it their permanent home after restoration. The house has already been carefully stabilized, and there are plans for the restoration to begin in 1977. One can but envy Commander and Mrs. Printz when the old fireplaces are opened, the floors refinished and every nook and cranny explored for the treasures of another age.

Northwest of the dwelling and not far away is an old wooden structure, which may have been used for storage and for servants' quarters. The large wooden barn with stone foundation is southwest of the house and has been painted a warm "barn" red. The size of the barn indicates that there was need for a large amount of storage there at one time.

There are handsome old trees on the lawn in front of the house. To the south of the lawn is the outline of the pool from which the place probably took its name. The pool has been dry for some years and the area is now used for a vegetable garden.

E. Holmes Reinhart sold Aspen Pool to Mr. and Mrs. Printz on September 27, 1971. It had been owned by Mr. Reinhart's father, Edward L. Reinhart, who inherited it from his father, Edward Hess Reinhart. Other owners were Roland C. Ringold, Daniel W. Neikirk, Daniel D. Keedy and Eugenia D. Neikirk.

When S. Howell Brown made his 1852 Map of Jefferson County, the owner was Adam Showman and the name was Aspen Pool. John Showman, father of Adam, bought the farm, consisting of 156 acres, from Abraham Morgan in 1806. Charles F. Printz, Jr., who did the research on this place, notes that "Also the Showmans were Maryland people and all the deeds indicate this." Since the Showman name seems to have disappeared from Jefferson County, it is interesting to note a reference to a "Mrs. Showman," who participated in a Lutheran Church event in Shepherdstown in 1872, on page 80 of *On This Rock* by Miss Gladys Hartzell. In the old Presbyterian part of the present Elmwood Cemetery is the grave of "Malindah Showman, died November 17, 1834, aged 6 years."

The earliest document which refers to the tract which became Aspen Pool Farm is the last will and testament of Thomas Shepherd, dated March 3, 1766. In his will Thomas Shepherd devised several tracts of land, each of which amounted to 104 acres, to three of his sons, William Shepherd, Thomas Shepherd and John Shepherd. These tracts which are in the vicinity of Aspen Pool Farm were part of a large tract

acquired by deed from Thomas Lord Fairfax by Thomas Shepherd in a transaction dated June 12, 1751. In particular is the devise to William Shepherd of 104 acres as it is believed that this 104-acre parcel formed the nucleus for Aspen Pool Farm. In the Berkeley County land records is a deed dated April 28, 1788, and recorded in Deed Book 8, page 296, from William Shepherd to William Morgan. Shepherd transferred a 104-acre tract to William Morgan for £350. The deed recites that the original tract was grated to Thomas Shepherd "by deed from the Right Honorable Thomas Lord Fairfax" . . . and by the said Thomas Shepherd willed to William Shepherd by last will and testament.

Passing by the old stone house on an August afternoon in 1976, one notes an air of quiet dignity that is impressive. The house sits where the noise of traffic does not penetrate, and the mountains in the distance lend serenity as well as beauty to the view.

Linnie Schley

Fairfax Grant Farm

A comprehensive documentation of the history of this former Haines family home has been submitted by a descendant of this family, Mrs. William C.J. DeWitt of Lakewood, Ohio. Her material, now in the Society's archives, has been edited for presentation here by Miss Emily Stanley. The description of the house was prepared by Architect Archie W. Franzen of the National Park Service.

The house is located between two sharp bends of Route 13/2, which exits from the Charles Town-Summit Point Road (13) at its bend, three miles west of Charles Town. Proceed three quarters of a mile beyond this junction.

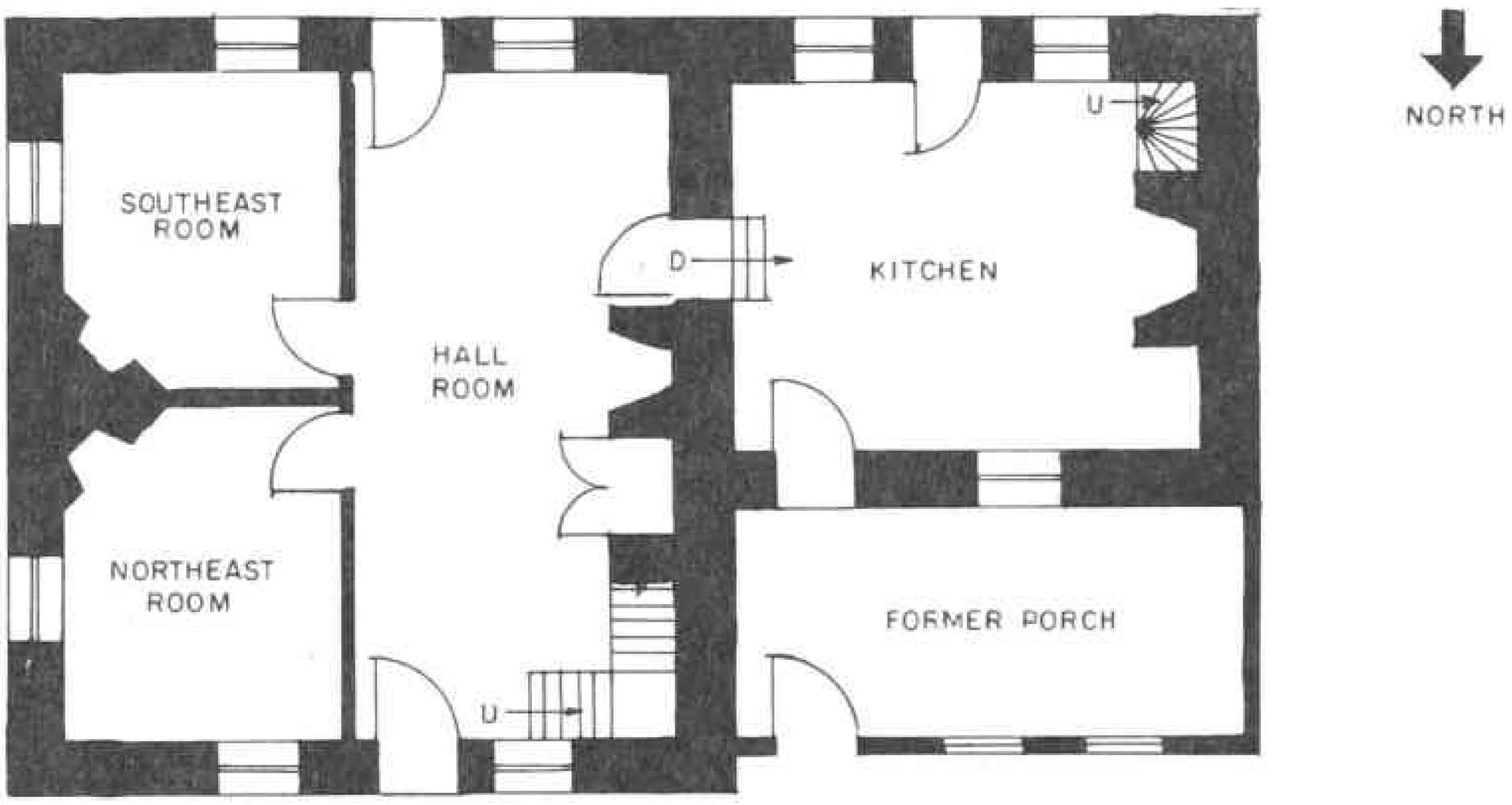
Evidently this house ranks with the Piedmont kitchen as one of the oldest stone structures in the county, and perhaps west of the Blue Ridge. Both were built by Quakers.

I

The Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission has designated as an Historic Landmark the stone house on the farm known, today, as the Fairfax Grant Farm, owned and occupied by Mrs. Martha Burns Mason, widow of Mr. James R. Mason, which house is one of the oldest houses of the County, and was built by the Haines family, who were one of the families of the colony of Quakers who were a part of what was known as the Hopewell Meeting, and who occupied, in Jefferson County, in large part, what is now known as the Wheatland Road Section.



Fairfax Grant Farm



First Floor Plan
Fairfax Grant Stock Farm

Richard Haines and his wife, Margaret, sailed from England on the ship "Amity" April 23rd, 1682, for West New Jersey. Richard died at sea. Their son, Richard, was born in England in 1665, and married in New Jersey, 1691, Mary Carlisle. The will of Richard Haines Jr., probated in 1746, names his son, Abram.

Abram Haines Sr., son of Richard Haines Jr., born 1696, married in 1719, Grace Hollinshead, and his will was probated in New Jersey, in 1758. The records of Hopewell Meeting, Virginia, show that Abram Sr., was a member there from 1734 to 1757. He was a wealthy man, owning considerable land in both New Jersey and Virginia. It was this Abram Haines Sr., who built the stone house now standing, and it was built in 1735, before the arrival of Lord Fairfax because Haines like others who had bought from others, was then forced to buy again from Lord Fairfax, and in his will, devising this lad to his son, Abram, Jr., he says "which is now my proper right." A member of the Haines family who was born in this house in 1835, and who died at the age of 97 years, said the house was over one hundred years old when he was born.

Abram Haines Jr., married Sarah Ellis in 1744. His will, probated in 1760 devises "my lands and plantation on Bull Skin in Frederick County, Colony of Virginia" unto his son, Nathan, when "he arrives at the age of 21 years."

The further line of this property is to be found in Jefferson County records, as follows:

WILLS of Nathan Haines Sr., Will Book 4, page 217; Nathan Haines Jr., Will Book 16, page 387; Alvina S. Haines, Will Book B, page 292; and Mary W. Haines Will Book "A", page 277;

Deeds recorded in Deed Book 105, page 287; D.B. 108, page 70; D.B. 108, page 71; D.B. 110, page 425; D.B. 114, page 496; D.B. 120, page 70; D.B. 134, page 351; D.B. 134, page 352, and the deed from Lee Bushong, et al., Trustees, to James R. Mason, Dec. 12, 1936, recorded in Deed Book 145, page 33.

II

This interesting early eighteenth century field stone house is well adapted to its siting. Amidst the surrounding rolling hills it was placed so the front facade faces south.

It was built in two sections, the early main portion being two stories in height. The one story kitchen, as far as the building fabric can be interpreted, appears to have been built against the main portion and on the west side.

A fairly recent room of frame construction has been added in the northwest corner and probably took the place of an earlier workaday porch serving the kitchen.

A modern composition roof now covers the structure and is the culmination of a series of roofing materials that may well have started with wood shingles drawn and dressed on the place.

Second floor fenestration of the earliest part consists of six over six lights with six over nine lights for the first floor windows. The kitchen has six over six lights.

There is no readily seen evidence that dormers may have existed on the kitchen roof slopes. They would have made the garret space more habitable for servants.

The house has three field stone chimneys that serve the numerous fireplaces within the house. They are centered on the gable peaks.

On the east end are found a set of steps leading to a full basement under the older portion. Cooking may have been done in this basement before the kitchen portion was added as an operating fireplace occurs at the west end. Its condition indicates it was little used and suggests the kitchen addition may have been constructed soon after the main portion was built.

Upon entering the structure from either the north or south entrances one finds oneself in a large room occupying the west half of the first floor. A set of winding steps at the north end led to the floor above. A more convenient and modern staircase has replaced the older stairs. Folding doors were utilised to close off the stair end, this reducing the flow of cold drafts in the winter months. The south end of the room was heated by a large fireplace in the west wall.

Two rooms are located on the east at this level and are reached by individual doors in the east wall of the main room, have back to back corner fireplaces, and are reminiscent of those found in Traveler's Rest near Kearneysville and those originally built into the Harper House in Harpers Ferry. These were very effective in that they projected the fireplace warmth to all corners of the room.

A door in the west wall of the entrance room gives access to the kitchen addition. The kitchen level is a few steps lower than the first level of the main structure. A set of winding steps in the southwest corner led to the garret above and have recently been paneled over to update the kitchen.

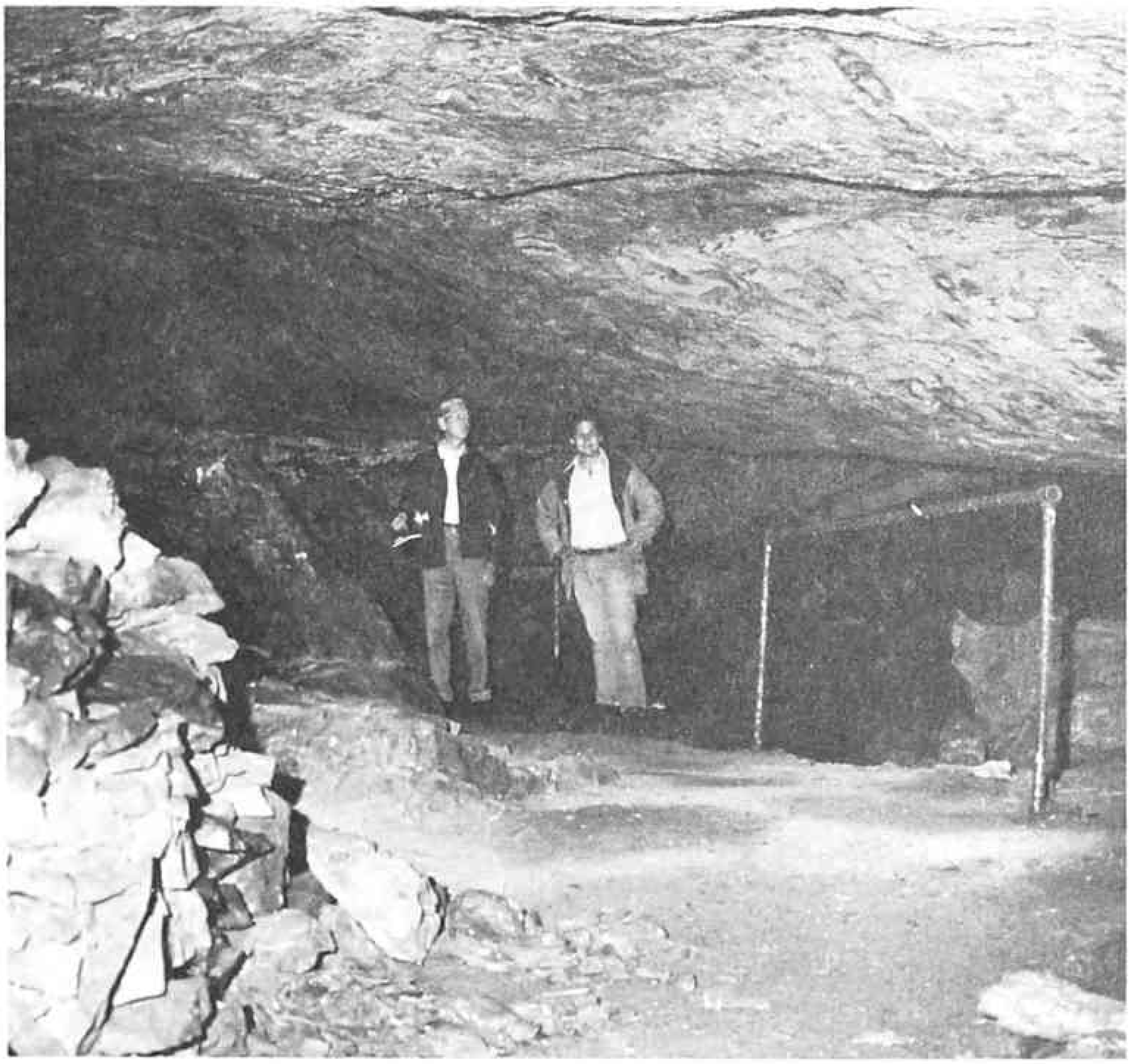
A somewhat similar disposition of rooms is found at the second floor level with a portion of the hall room set aside for a modern bathroom.

A tradition of respect has been maintained for this fine home by the owners. The original building fabric has been retained, making it possible to enjoy its eighteenth century grandeur.

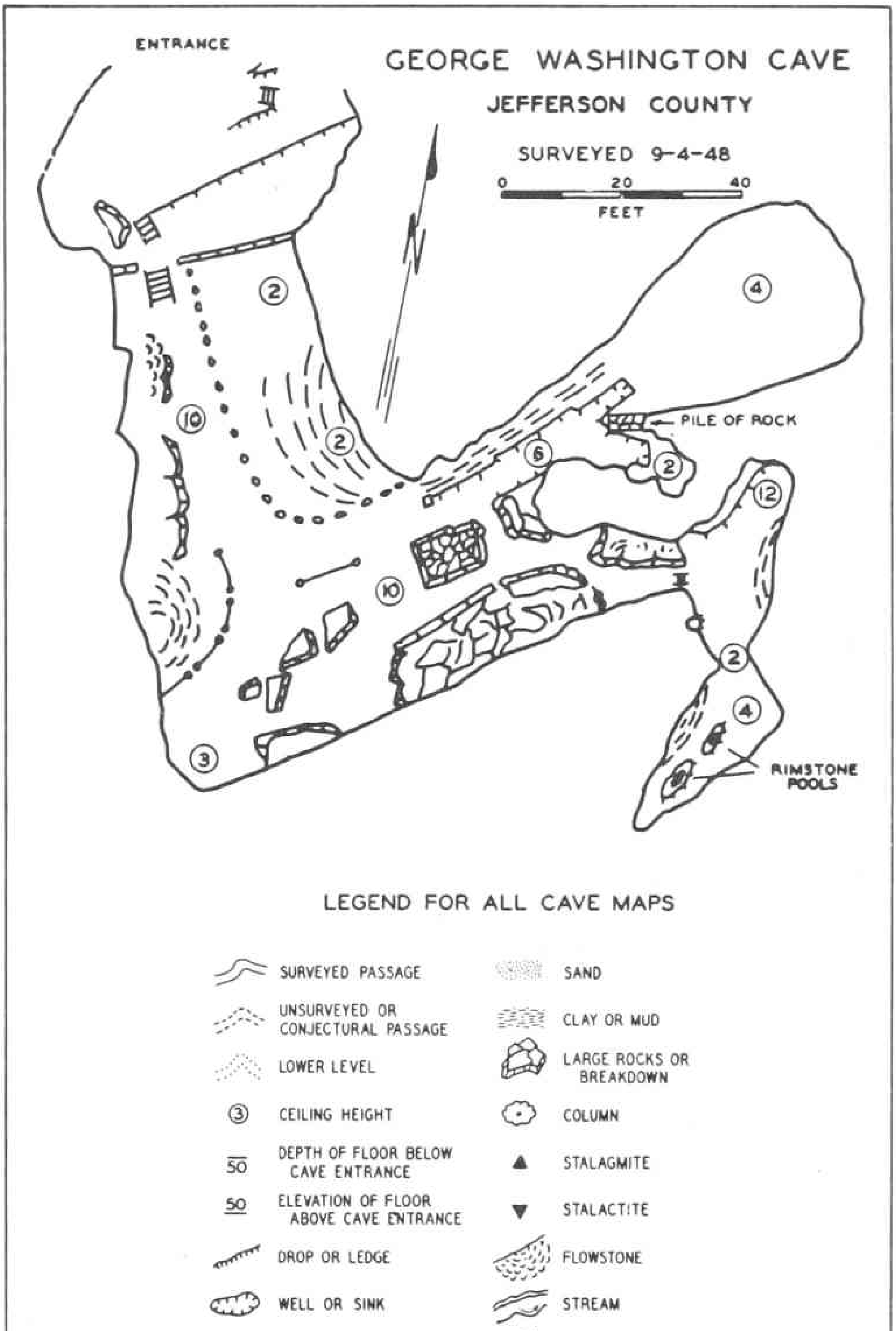
Nearby the house are to be found an old spring house and an old smoke house. Other structures provide the required amenities for a successful farming operation.

The George Washington Masonic Cave

In Jefferson County is a limestone cavern, an ancient landmark, where, according to both local and Masonic tradition, George



Photograph taken in the largest high ceilinged area, at the bend. As the footage scale indicates, there was room here for a sizeable gathering. (See Survey)



This survey is reproduced by permission of the West Virginia Geologic and Economic Survey. From *Caverns of West Virginia* by William E. Davies.

Washington attended and presided over Lodge meetings "about the year 1754." If that date is correct (and no evidence has been found to refute it) these meetings would have been the first of a Masonic Lodge west of the Blue Ridge Mountains.[1] The cavern, known today as the George Washington Masonic Cave, is located on property owned by Charles H. Strider, Jr. To reach it, one starts at the Court House in Charles Town, drives 1.8 miles southeast on Highway 340 to Old Cave Road, and thence 1.1 miles to the Cave, which then lies a hundred feet to the left of the road.

Triangular in shape, this limestone cavern has a single entrance eighteen feet wide, which gradually ascends from the floor to the central height of 6′3″ and leads into a broad chamber forty feet long, thirty feet wide, and ten feet high. The main chamber divides into two smaller ones with ceiling heights of four to eight feet. The beauty of its large sparkling stone mounds and innumerable tiny formations of stalagmites and stalactites makes it clear why the cave was well known to the inhabitants of the area in Colonial days.

Washington's fascination with this part of the Shenandoah Valley began when, as a young surveyor for Lord Fairfax, he came west of the Blue Ridge in 1748. At the age of eighteen, on 16 December 1750, he made his first purchase of 550 acres of land from Captain Robert Rutherford; he had the deed approved by Lord Fairfax on October 24 of the next year. On his survey of 24 November 1750, Washington noted: "Surveyed for myself the land at the head of the Marsh, which I bought of Captain Rutherford and afterwards granted by Lord Fairfax." On 3 December 1750 he acquired by indenture the right to purchase 456 acres from James McCrachen, and, on 16 March 1752 he acquired 252 acres on a branch of the Bullskin from George Johnston.[3] Despite the strenuous demands of his military career, he gave detailed attention to obtaining livestock for his plantation on the Bullskin, as noted in his friendly letter to Mrs. George William Fairfax, dated Bullskin, 30 April 1755.[4]

Washington's Masonic life began at the Lodge at Fredericksburg, where records still in possession of the Lodge note, "George Washington was initiated an Entered Apprentice 4 November 1752, raised to Fellowcraft 3 March 1753, and raised to Degree of Master Mason 4 August 1753. His belief in the principles of Freemasonry continued throughout his lifetime and many of his associates were of the Craft."[5]

The Cave would seem to have been a desirable place to hold a

meeting of the ancient Craft. Dwellings at that early date on the frontier were small and entirely lacking in privacy; certainly the Cave was both private and spacious, and the temperature constant and pleasant at all seasons. The brethren must have decided upon the Cave as a permanent place of meeting, for we find in an unrecorded deed in Berkeley Court House dated 12 January 1773 that Samuel Davis and his wife Mary, in consideration of the sum of nine dollars current Virginia money, with the privilege of a road to the Cave and another from the Cave to the nearest spring on Davis's land, conveyed the one acre and twenty roods on which the Cave is located to Samuel Washington, John Augustine Washington, Phil Smith, William Crawford, Valentine Crawford, Hugh Stephenson, Richard Stephenson, James Stephenson, and Mark Stephenson.[6] It is believed that these men were Freemasons and that the Cave was deeded to them as a permanent meeting place for the Craft. However, it should be noted that the deed was never recorded in Berkeley Court House, apparently being held by the Court for proof, and that there is no record that Samuel Washington and the others ever sold the Cave. Samuel Davis, who conveyed the deed, was one of the charter members, as Junior Warden, of Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 12, chartered in 1768 under warrant from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He was still a member at the time this unrecorded deed was made in 1773.

Ninety years later, on Thursday, 16 May 1844, the Masons of Triluminar Lodge No. 117 of Middleway resolved to celebrate the installation of the first Lodge west of the Blue Ridge, and accordingly sent out invitations to members of the fraternity in Jefferson, Berkeley and Clarke Counties in Virginia, Frederick and Washington counties in Maryland, and even as far west as Cumberland and as far south as Staunton. There was a great outpouring of the membership. The minutes of the meeting, which are still in the possession of Triluminar Lodge (and also of Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 91 in Shepherdstown, to which as a courtesy a copy was sent by John F. Smith, Secretary Pro. Tem.) list the names of 125 members who were present and add the statement, "and many other brethern." In the Secretary's neat and artistic hand, the minutes read:

> The Fraternity assembled in the large room over the Court House Hall [Charles Town] at 10 o'clock, A.M. The procession moved thence under escort of the Charlestown Artillery, commanded by Capt. Rowan, and the Jefferson Guards by Capt. J.G. Packett, directed by Bros. Capt. G.W. Sappington and W.G. Ferguson, on

horseback as marshals, the whole being under direction of Bro. John S. Harrison of Martinsburg as chief marshal and Bros. N. Seever and Morgan Johnson as assistant marshals, to the Presbyterian Church where the ceremonies were opened by prayer of the pastor, Rev. Mr. Dutton. An eloquent and appropriate address suitable to the occasion was then delivered (occupying an hour and twenty minutes) by Bro. Charles J. Faulkner of Martinsburg; giving an interesting account of the tradition of the Craft in connection with the Cave within three miles of Town in which it is said our distinguishecd brother George Washiongton held the first Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons ever assembled west of the Blue Ridge which tradition fixes about the year 1754.

At the termination of the oration by Bro. Faulkner, the Craft proceeded in a body to the Hotel of Capt. Jos. F. Abell, where the brethren partook of a sumptuous dinner served up in the usual style of that excellent caterer. Soon after dinner the Craft again assembled at the Court House, formed procession and proceeded on horseback to the Cave. About 150 of the Craft, two companies of volunteers, a band of music and a large number of citizens entered this subterraneous cavern of interest to every good and zealous Mason as being the place in which their valuable tenets were first imparted in Western Virginia and one-half hour and more were spent in exploring the different apartments of this wonderful natural curiosity. The procession returned to Town at five o'clock all much pleased with their first Masonic visit to this consecrated spot.

On that memorable day in 1844, it is also recorded in the minutes of Triluminar Lodge that, "Bro. L.L. Stevenson, P.G.M., presided over the several Lodges collectively, as W.M." Those who occupied the officers' stations for Triluminar, the hostess Lodge, were Lewis Fry, W.M.; Vance Bell, S.W.; J.R.A. Redman, J.W.; S.L. Minghini, Treas.; J.W. Grantham, Sec'y; Joe E. Bell, S.D.; J.H. Campbell, J.D.; and John Fearle, Tyler.[8]

Reference is also made to the Cave in the diary of Mrs. Sara Nourse, whose husband James (1731-1784) bought Piedmont in 1770. The Nourses with their large family lived there until 1783, when they sold it to Dr. John Briscoe and removed to the Hammond-Harwood House in Annapolis. Mrs. Nourse kept a diary during some of this period in which she notes activities on the plantation and the busy social life at Piedmont. Entries for the summer months of 1781-83 speak of a temporary house built as a refuge for her at the Cave, from which she would retreat into the refreshing atmosphere of the Cave itself during the heat of the day.[9]

In 1928-32, Messrs. Courtney Edward Riely and Lewis Jordan opened the Cave as a commercial venture, installed safety railings, and placed lights in the main vaulted chamber which focused on the stalagmite natural altar, in the center of which was placed the open Sacred Volume as displayed at Masonic Lodge meetings. Visitors came then by the hundreds to see this landmark of timeless beauty remembered for its association with George Washington and the first assembly of Freemasons west of the Blue Ridge.

NOTES

1. Mackey, *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, III, 1404.
2. *Magazine of JCHS*, XXIII (1957), 23.
3. Winchester Deed Book No. 2, pp. 207, 476.
4. *Writings of George Washington*, I, 117.
5. Mackey, II, 1093-6.
6. Berkeley County Court Order Book 1, p. 339. Unrecorded Deeds No. 1, p. 27, Berkeley County.
7. *Magazine of JCHS*, III (1937), 18.
8. "The Mountaineer Mason" (May, 1927), Masonic Library, 1733 16th Street, Washington, D.C.
9. *Magazine of JCHS*, XXIV (1958), 20.

Frank Woodruff Buckles

Editor's note: The history of the successive ownership of the land on which the Cave is located, from Daniel Burnet in 1734 to the present owner, has been researched by Miss Emily Stanley for Jefferson County and by Mr. Don Wood for Berkeley County and earlier. Except for the unrecorded deed of 1773 quoted in Mr. Buckles' essay, the records (deeds and wills) give no information on the use of the Cave and for that reason they are not reproduced here. This research, however, has been preserved in the archives of the Society and may be examined upon request.

The Alexandria and Warm Spring Road

A BICENTENNIAL YEAR TOUR BY THE
JEFFERSON AND BERKELEY COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETIES ON
JULY 24, 1976

This event consisted of a traverse by automobile of the route from the old Keyes Ferry site on the Shenandoah through Martinsburg to Berkeley Springs, a picnic lunch at the Spruce Pine Park, and a walking tour of Berkeley Springs led by Morgan County historian, Fred Newbraugh. About twenty automobiles with some fifty persons left the ferry site at 10 a.m. to follow the old route as near as present roads permit. The weather was perfect, after several days of rain had mercifully settled the dust along unpaved stretches.

The Howell Brown maps clearly mark the route. On the 1852 map the road deviates toward Charles Town along present "Keyes Ferry Road," possibly to bring it past a toll house. On the 1883 map it proceeds direct, as it appears to do on the less precise 1809 map by Varle. Because the ferry was operated privately, rather than by the county, the Brown map routes lead through the upriver ford. On the Varle map the road forks on each side of the river to lead to both crossings. Brown clearly locates the ferry, however.

Using Cattail Run's entry into the Shenandoah as a marker, the ferry landing was three tenths of a mile downstream, while the ford led between two islands slightly upstream. Here the wagon road to the port of Alexandria crossed the river before ascending the Blue Ridge to pass through Vestal's (later named Keyes) Gap. Ruts worn by braked wagons are still clearly seen in a shelf of rock beyond the river. A division of Braddock's troops crossed here in 1755.

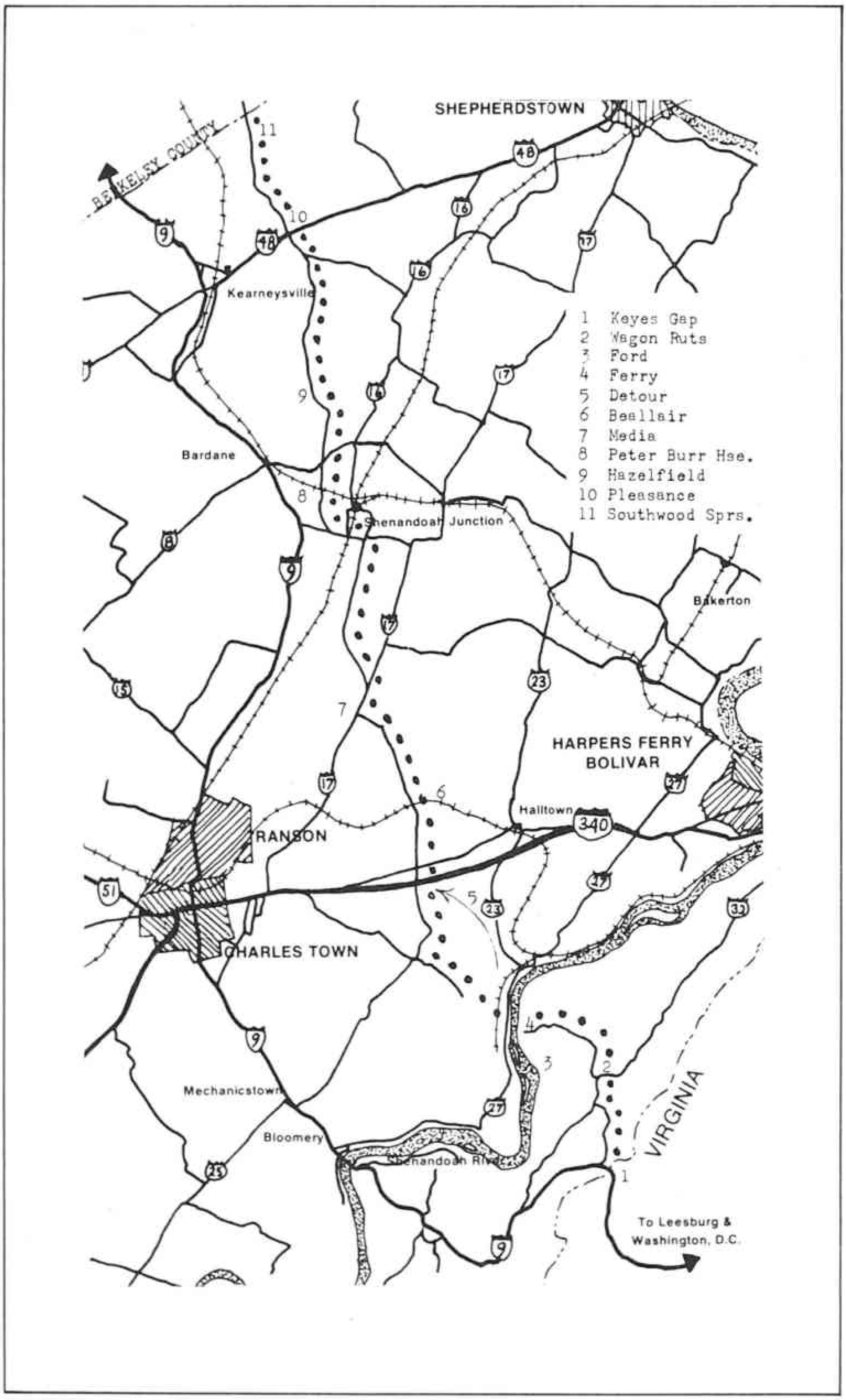
The ford was described as "rough" and "slack water". The need for a ferry evidently attracted the attention of a former Boston merchant, Gersham Keyes, who, according to Humphrey Keyes Ambler's account in the first issue of this magazine, established the ferry in 1746. *Hening's Statutes at Large* (VI, 18) proves that in October, 1748, the House of Burgesses authorized a ferry on the "Potomack"

(Shenandoah) from "Gersham Key's land, to the land of the Honorable William Fairfax, Esq.," and stipulated that the basic fare was to be 3¾ pence for a horse or a man. That Keyes had an interest in four hundred acres "at or about" his ferry before 1762 is further attested to by a letter from George Washington which refers to his survey. In 1762, Keyes obtained a Fairfax Grant for such a tract. Evidently Keyes operated the first regular ferry in Jefferson County. It ceased operation in the 1930's and was carried away in the 1936 flood.

As some readers are aware, a ferry such as this was secured against the river's current by its attachment fore and aft to a pulley device which rolled on a cable stretched from bank to bank, well above the water. The current was utilized to help push the boat by adjusting, at each crossing, the windlasses, which controlled the rope attachments to the pulley, so as to cause the ferry's upriver side to slant downstream at the boat's rear end. The added momentum needed was supplied through the ferryman's long pole. Walking to the forward end of the boat, dragging this implement over side, he placed one end against the river bottom and the other against his shoulder. Leaning hard he walked



The Keyes Ferry with lifeboat attached (Courtesy of Raymond Parks). Preparatory to grounding squarely on the landing, the man on the right is unwinding rope from the forward windlass. The man to his left, holding the pole, will then push the boat the remaining distance. On the return trip the other rope will be shortened to again capture the push of the current.


SHEPHERDSTOWN
BERKELEY COUNTY
Kearneysville
Bardane
Shenandoah Junction
Bakerton
HARPERS FERRY
BOLIVAR
Halltown
RANSON
CHARLES TOWN
Mechanicstown
Bloomery
Shenandoah River
VIRGINIA
To Leesburg &
Washington, D.C.
1 Keyes Gap
2 Wagon Ruts
3 Ford
4 Ferry
5 Detour
6 Beallair
7 Media
8 Peter Burr Hse.
9 Hazelfield
10 Pleasance
11 Southwood Sprs.

to the boat's rear end. This sequence was repeated until the forward end grated onto the ferry landing. A second and third pole were provided for any passengers who wished to speed the passage. As these worked in tandem, news and gossip were exchanged by all aboard. Such a ferry would carry two two-horse wagons or two automobiles of the day. Obviously vehicles were driven on at one end and off at the other. Short hinged ramps were attached to each end.

The high river banks at Keyes Ferry permitted the cable's weight to be supported at each end by a bracket set into a sturdy post. Over this the cable was drawn by an ingeniously simple "stretcher." This consisted of a log placed on the ground and well braced on the river side against the cable's pull. To this the cable was attached. Levers inserted into a series of holes encircling the log enabled workmen to stretch the cable to the desired degree. Heavy floods rose above these banks, sometimes carrying away the ferry and cable supports. Occasional replacements were necessary.

First-hand information regarding the ferry was given by Mr. Robert O. Cronise who worked here as a boy. On the mountain side he pointed out the wagon ruts and a surviving cable support.

Six historic homes are located along the Alexandria and Warm Spring Road in Jefferson County. Because of summer foliage or distant locations, only two could be seen from the road. The locations are indicated on the accompanying map. The first was *Beallair* which was built by Thomas Beall about 1800. It later became the home of Col. Lewis Washington, who was abducted from here by John Brown's followers and held hostage until released by the U.S. Marines. It now is owned by the C.L. Robinson Corporation of Winchester. Next is *Media*. The original log and stone portion probably was built before the Revolution. It was bought in 1786 by Charles Yates and now is owned by his McDonald descendant, Julia Davis Adams, and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Charles O'Brien. Mrs. O'Brien formerly was Louise McDonald. The *Peter Burr House* is visible from the road. It was built by Aaron Burr's first cousin in 1742 and is still owned by his McGarry descendants. Mrs. Paul Holden, whose husband now operates the farm, formerly was Nancy McGarry. *Hazelfield* was built in 1815 by Ann Steven Dandridge Hunter. It is being carefully restored by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. William Howard Adams. *Pleasance* was built by Casper Walper in 1805. Probably it was an inn at one time, being located at a former major crossroad which still bears this builder's

name. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Frank VanHilst. *Southwood Springs* was built about 1800 by William Morgan and now is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Hammond.

Besides the picnic stop, four diversions were made from the route. Because the segment near the river is closed, a detour was made along a parallel route. At *Southwood Springs* Mr. and Mrs. Hammond invited the tour to drive through their yard which is at some distance from the road. In renovating this house, the Hammonds solved the problem of severe erosion of exterior plaster by removing it entirely exposing the limestone walls. (Interestingly two other of these early nineteenth century houses, *Beallair* and *Hazelfield*, are of plaster-on-stone construction.) The third diversion occurred just across the Berkeley County line. There a full stop was made at *Allendale*, the handsome home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry F. Weaver. Built of limestone about 1795 by Jacob VanDoren and at one time used as a school, it has been restored to its original eminence by our hospitable hosts. At Sleepy Creek several miles of the early unpaved road were traversed.

At Berkeley Springs, Mr. Newbraugh's remarks included the fact that the springs at "Bath" were mentioned as early as the 1730's, some believing they were the much sought after fountain of youth.

SOURCES

Ambler, H.K. "Keyes' Ferry," *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society*, Vol. I (1935). Ambler does not state his sources. Being a descendant of Gersham Keyes, it is probable he used family records.

Keyes, Asa. *Genealogy: Solomon Keyes of Newbury and Chelmsford, Mass., and His Descendants, 1653-1880.*

J.A.W.

Old Norborne Parish
Part I

by
William J. Barnhart

The Background

When old Norborne Parish was organized in February, 1771, with the swearing in of its first vestry in Winchester, for it was still part of Frederick County, there were only two Anglican churches in the parish, the thirty-or-so-year-old chapel, called Morgan's, at Bunker Hill and a

new stone chapel, completed less than two years before, at Mecklenburg. The parish was huge, including all of present-day Jefferson and Berkeley counties and most of Morgan County. (To distinguish it from present-day Norborne Parish – Martinsburg – it will be called Old Norborne in this essay.) The new vestry, of course, soon ordered to be constructed on Evitt's Run a splendid building, intended to be the mother church of Norborne Parish. An account of the parish, however, must start not with this now ruined building known as St. George's Chapel and with the glamor which history and legend have thrown around it, but with old Frederick Parish, Norborne's predecessor, and the activities of its two vestries and four rectors, especially as those concerned what is now Jefferson County.

Frederick County and Parish, their boundaries co-extensive, had been created from Orange County in 1738 by an act of the Colonial Assembly, but it was five years later, in 1743, that Frederick County was in fact established; Frederick Parish actually came into existence between May 12 and June 8, 1744, the first vestry having been elected by the voters of the new county sometime between those dates. At that time, however, a log chapel located near Mill Creek at what is now Bunker Hill was already in existence and was, as far as is known, the first Anglican church west of the Blue Ridge. This building (and its two successors) has for years been known as "Morgan's Chapel," for Morgan Morgan I and, especially, for his son, Morgan Morgan II. Morgan Morgan I (1688-1766) is frequently referred to as "Morgan ap Morgan," although the *ap* is an anachronism, according to French Morgan, whose privately printed history of Morgan Morgan and his descendants is an authoritative correction of Cartmell and other historians of the area. French Morgan proves that Morgan Morgan I, who was born in Wales, came to Virginia from Delaware and settled at his Mill Creek farm sometime between the spring of 1731 and that of 1732. Records prove that he was still living in Delaware on March 24, 1731. The first record concerning him in Virginia is dated April 23, 1734, when he was listed as a justice of the peace of old Orange County, indicating that he was established on his farm at Mill Creek and known in the area by that date.

Morgan Morgan had petitioned the Orange County Court, according to records dated 1735-36, to erect a Presbyterian meeting house for a "Mr. Wm Wms, Minister of the Gospel of the Presbyterian Church," though apparently nothing came of this effort. Unfortunately, no researcher has yet discovered the precise date for the log chapel which

Morgan Morgan and others later built at Bunker Hill, though Everard Kiddard Meade found a reference to it in the records of Frederick County which "establish the fact that it was in operation earlier than 1743." Bishop William Meade, with the authority of Rev. Benjamin Allen to draw on, gave 1740 as the date, and both French Morgan and E.K. Meade accept that as being probable. It is as close as we can come at this time. In 1740 the chapel would have been an administrative part of St. Mark's Parish, but E.K. Meade, who has studied the minutes of the vestry of that parish, finds no "reference whatsoever to Morgan's Chapel in those years" (1740-44), furnishing "conclusive proof that it did not in fact ever come under the administration of St. Mark's, and this should be emphasized." We do not even know if it was originally used exclusively as an Anglican church.

Two facts, moreover, suggest that the importance of the role Morgan Morgan I played in building the chapel may have been somewhat exaggerated: according to Bishop Meade and others, Morgan acted in conjunction with both Dr. John Briscoe and Jacob Hite in building the chapel; and, equally interesting, the building was not, as is usually stated, built on Morgan's thousand-acre farm—that farm was situated about one mile due east of the church, according to French Morgan, who provides a map showing the location of each.

That the Morgan name became so exclusively associated with the chapel was mainly owing to the fame of Morgan Morgan II (1737-97), who at seventeen began a long and locally celebrated career as a lay reader at this chapel and elsewhere in the parish. The Rev. Benjamin Allen wrote that the chapel was actually named for this good man. French Morgan has reprinted part of one of Morgan Morgan II's surviving sermons, markedly Calvinistic in tone, and tells us that he was never ordained because he was, in the terminology of the period, lacking in "human knowledge," that is, formal education. Bishop Meade reprints a eulogistic biography of him by Mr. Allen (who, however, first came to the parish some eighteen years after Morgan's death).

The log chapel fell into ruin sometime after the death of Morgan Morgan II in 1797. Bishop Meade wrote that in 1815 Benjamin Allen (not yet ordained) had to hold his catechetical class in "a public tavern at Bunker's Hill, the old church being unfit for use." A new stone church, under construction in 1816, was consecrated by Bishop Moore on May 18, 1818. There is, according to French Morgan, no record of what happened to this church. The present brick structure was

dedicated in August, 1852. The stone wall in front was probably constructed of the material from the second chapel. In the graveyard are the tomb and marker of Morgan Morgan I and those of all six of the Morgan Morgans in unbroken line. Incidentally, French Morgan has thoroughly investigated recurring stories of the existence of lost records of this church (supposed to be in the possession of various members of the Morgan family) and has found them to be completely baseless.

But to turn this history back to the organization of Frederick Parish in 1744, it would seem that the new vestry began by inheriting the log chapel at Bunker Hill. When the vestry took legal responsibility for this building, we do not know, but because of the fact that two of its builders, Morgan Morgan I and Jacob Hite, were members of that first vestry, we can assume that it did so immediately.

Among the initial duties of the newly elected vestry that summer of 1744 would have been to select and hire a minister, to provide a home (the glebe) for his residence, and to establish a parish church in Winchester and various chapels of ease, with lay readers, at convenient places in the extremely large parish. Surviving records prove that they performed those duties. Unfortunately, the first vestry book of Frederick Parish, covering the years 1744-64, disappeared in the 18th century. While it has long been known that besides the church in Winchester and Morgan's Chapel there was a chapel at present-day Shepherdstown, one near the Old Chapel outside Millwood, and one near Front Royal, until recently it was impossible to date these buildings or to prove or disprove the existence of other chapels. Until recent years, in fact, we could not be precise about many of the activities of the first vestry (1744-52) and even of those of the second, until 1764, when the second minute book begins. Fortunately, recent discoveries in private papers and in records of Frederick Court and the Colonial legislature have thrown a good deal of light on what was a completely dark period. Most of what is now known is due to the efforts of two recently deceased members of the Clarke County Historical Association–Richard E. Griffith, Sr., and Everard Kiddard Meade–whose work was published in the *Proceedings* of the Association. Mr. Griffith discovered, in cataloguing the old records in Frederick Court House in 1938, the names of seven members of the first vestry in papers relating to an 18th century court case involving the vestry; that is, the wardens, James Wood (who was also County Clerk) and Thomas Rutherford (first Sheriff also), and Morgan Morgan I, Jacob Hite, Samuel Earle, John Hardin, and Andrew Campbell. He

unaccountably overlooked the names of the other five members of that vestry, though they are to be found in the same papers: Marquis Calmes, Meredith Helm, Thomas Ashby, George Johnston, and Thomas Chester. These five members are identified here for the first time, and they give us at long last the complete list of members of that first vestry. The vestry, once elected, was self-perpetuating. (Vacancies on this vestry would naturally have occurred by death, removal, or resignation; the vestry would have selected replacements.) Mr. Meade has compiled a list of the church wardens (selected annually) of the first vestry from the Order Books of the Frederick County Court and from contracts entered into by the vestry: 1744, James Wood, Sr., and Thomas Rutherford; 1745-46-47, Marquis Calmes I and Andrew Campbell; 1748, John Hardin and Thomas Chester; 1749, Marquis Calmes I and Andrew Campbell; 1750, Marquis Calmes I and Jacob Hite; 1751, Marquis Calmes I and Jacob Hite (and Samuel Earle).

Turning now to the construction of the church and chapels, the significance of a memorandum dated 1745 in the handwriting of Col. James Wood, Sr., (first published in 1926 by his descendant Katherine Glass Greene in *Winchester, Virginia and Its Beginnings: 1743-1814)* went unsuspected until January 3, 1950, when Mr. Meade discussed it in one of his serial articles in the Winchester *Evening Star*. Mr. Meade realized that James Wood's memo proved that already in 1745 the vestry had under construction a church in Winchester and three chapels: the one at present-day Shepherdstown; the one called Cunningham's near the present Old Chapel; and the third, called McKay's, in Warren County near present-day Front Royal. The memo records payments in pounds and shillings to four vestry members for work on these buildings:

By my order to Mr. Sam'l Earle towards his chapel 7:10
By do [ditto] to Mr. Calmes towards his chapel 7:10
By do to Mr. Campbell towards his chapel 7:10
By do Mr. Helme for the church 7:10

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

In addition to the information contained in this memo, we learn from a notarized copy of the minutes of the vestry for October 9, 1747 (those of November 4 are also there), which Mr. Griffith found in the court case just mentioned, that further payments were authorized on that date for the church and the three chapels, as follows: £12 each for "Pailing in the Chapples & other conveniences . . . to the Persons appointed to Agree with workmen for the same"; £14 for the same for the Church; £2:10s. each "for under pinning the Chapples"; £20 each "to be appropriated towards Finishing the Chapples"; and £25 "towards finishing the Church." Altogether this amounted to £103 10s., divided equally among the three chapels, and £39 for the church. (It will be noted that the 1747 minutes do not associate the names of vestry members with the buildings as does the 1745 memo. It will be noted further that all four buildings were of wood.)

Since place names are not given for these three chapels and the church, the question of their location may be raised, especially perhaps with the identification of Andrew Campbell's chapel with the log chapel at Pack Horse Ford. Both E.K. Meade and Mr. Griffith (the two men knew more about the records of Old Frederick County and Parish than anyone else) stated that we could be "all but certain" that Campbell's building and the log chapel later called Mecklenburg were the same. Along with Jacob Hite, Campbell, whose home was east of a ford in the Opequon about three miles from Middleway, seems to have been the member of the vestry who lived closest to the small settlement at Pack Horse Ford, incorporated in 1762 as Mecklenburg. It is logical, therefore, that he should have been chosen to supervise the construction of the chapel. We know from the map of the town as it was on its incorporation that this chapel was there on Lot 40 on the corner of High and Church, which took its name from that building. (Thomas Shepherd, who gave the land, calls it the "English Church.") In fact, the town seems to have been laid out around it (High Street was meant to be the main street of town, as its name indicates)–perhaps for the reason that by Colonial law only the Established Church could be located at the center of a town.

In addition, we know from vestry minutes beginning in 1764 that a log chapel was in Mecklenburg. Perhaps even stronger evidence is our knowledge that the only chapels (at this time or later) ever to be under the administration of the vestry in the northern part of the parish were the ones at Bunker Hill and Shepherdstown. The second vestry book indicates that two additional chapels had been constructed by 1764

(the South River Chapel and the North River Chapel) in what became Beckford Parish (Shenandoah County, Virginia). Later, a third one was built at Ephraim Leith's Spring, also in that part of the parish. It should be emphasized that these seven chapels and the church in Winchester are the only Anglican churches mentioned in any known records of Frederick Parish or County. All were still there at the time the parish was divided in 1770.

Bishop Meade, it is true, wrote that among the early chapels of Frederick was "perhaps one called Wood's Chapel, between Winchester and Charlestown." But it should be emphasized that Bishop Meade wrote *perhaps* and that he published his history in 1857, a century after the first vestry. E.K. Meade, furthermore, who examined the evidence thoroughly, concluded that there never was such a chapel and wrote that there is "no known reference to a Wood's Chapel in parish or county records of Frederick." (It is possible, of course, that the Bishop was examining some faded handwritten document and that he misread "Wood's" for *wood*–in which case either Morgan's Chapel or the one near Millwood could have been meant.)

Nor is it surprising that a hill near Pack Horse Ford and its small community was chosen by the first vestry as the site of one of the first three chapels of ease. It was a logical place, at the small settlement and Thomas Shepherd's mill near the all-important ford and at the northern end of the "Wagon Road," as it is called in the Joshua Fry-Peter Jefferson Map (1751 Edition; the Edition of 1775 calls it the "Philadelphia Wagon Road"), the road which led down the valley to the new county seat at Winchester. Important men were settled in the vicinity too–Thomas Shepherd, Richard Morgan, both Van and Thomas Swearingen, and Jacob Hite.

The other two chapels were similarly placed: the one called Cunningham, the ancestor of the Old Chapel near Millwood, was near the crossing of the Shenandoah and the trail which led through the Williams Gap in the Blue Ridge to eastern Virginia; the other, McKay's (or McCoy's) was near what is now Front Royal (in Warren County) and its important passage through the mountains. The three chapels were thus placed near the three principal gateways to the parish on roads leading to the church and the new county seat. Chapels of ease were supposed to be constructed so that no one would have to ride more than ten miles to attend service. This ideal was never achieved in old Frederick Parish, of course, but the obligation felt to this principle would contribute to the division of the parish in 1752, when Hampshire

Parish was carved from Frederick, and again in 1770, when it was divided into three parts.

It is time now to turn our attention back to the papers in the court case which Mr. Griffith discovered in 1938 and to the notarized copies of the minutes of the two meetings of the first vestry from the lost vestry book. In addition to telling us of money appropriated for the four buildings, the minutes show that on October 9, 1747, "The Vestry proceeded to Lay the Levy," either in money or tobacco, for the following purposes: £50 for buildings on the glebe "to be Lodged in the Hands of Marquis Calmes," 18,500 pounds of tobacco to pay the Rev. John Gordon, and various sums ranging from £2. 10s £6 to pay five readers: William Greene, Leonard Helm, Leonard Hornsby, Peter McKeen, and Edward Mercer. These five readers were obviously for the three new chapels, for Morgan's Chapel, and for the church. The rector probably preached in rotation at the five places–at least, this was later the rule. The appropriation for salary indicates that the Rev. Mr. Gordon had served as rector throughout 1746. At present, it cannot be shown that he was in residence before 1746, though E.K. Meade believes he was rector from 1744. Further, the payments for the glebe indicate that the farm had been purchased and that buildings on the glebe were being provided for the minister, though other records in the court case show that he was paid £20 "in Lieu of a Glebe" on June 1, 1748, evidence that the buildings were unfinished at that time. Perhaps it should be noted that the ministers of Frederick Parish were expected to live on the glebe (or on the income that it provided)–no rectory was provided in Winchester or elsewhere. Other sums appropriated on the same day show other activities of the vestry and serve to remind us of some of its governmental functions in the parish: money for the support of base-born children, for burying them, for the support of a "Lunetick Child," for medicine administered to the poor, and for support of two apparently indigent couples. The money for these purposes was disbursed to various responsible persons–Andrew Campbell being one.

The notarized copy of the minutes of November 4, 1747, show that there were 1608 Tithables in the parish and tell us that Andrew Campbell was

> appointed Collector of the Parish Levies & having entered in to Bond to the Churchwardens of this Parish for that Purpose. It is ordered that the sd. Andrew Campbell collect of every Tithable Person in this Parish Seventy Pounds of Tobacco. The same being proportion

for this Present Year. And if upon refusal of Payment he levy the same by Distress. And it is further Ordered that he pay to the Several & Respective Parish Creditors their several respective sums Allowed them.

Besides giving this information about the first years of the parish, the papers of this court case seem to provide the reason for the dissolution of the first vestry, a matter which we must now consider.

In 1751, Isaac Parkins made a charge before the Frederick Court that the first vestry had misappropriated funds and asked that it be dissolved. This charge was then transmitted to the House of Burgesses, which, in turn, on March 9, 1752, ordered George Fairfax and Gabriel Jones, Burgesses from Frederick, to prepare and bring in a bill for dissolving the vestry of Frederick Parish. This bill was passed by the General Assembly and became effective April 20, 1752. Its preamble, which E.K. Meade thinks Gabriel Jones wrote, states:

> WHEREAS the Vestry of Frederick in the County of Frederick have assessed and levied on the inhabitants of that parish, upwards of 1570 pounds, and collected and received the same, on pretense of building and adorning churches, in the said parish and have misapplied or converted the same to their own use, and refuse to render any account of the said 1570 pounds to the parishioners, or finish the Church or Chappels, by them begun, which are become decayed and ruinous, for want of covering, and weatherboarding, and the said vestry still continues assessing and levying taxes, on the said parishioners, for the pretended finishing of the said Church and Chappels, to the great impoverishment of the people, for remedy thereof, and for preventing like impositions for the future . . . .

In E.K. Meade's judgment, "no other such detailed bill of particulars and no other such scathing indictment were ever drawn against any vestry by any General Assembly in all the long history of the Colony of Virginia."

For all later historians, beginning with Bishop Meade, this shameful indictment placed a black mark by the otherwise illustrations names of those who served on that vestry, until Mr. Griffith made the discovery of the old court case. He wrote the Rev. G. MacLaren Brydon, Historiographer of the Diocese of Virginia, on February 8, 1939, that he was "Anxious to remove from the first Vestry, at least in a measure, the stigma of defalcation under which they have rested for many years, and place it where it belongs, to wit: on Andrew Campbell who 'runaway to Carolina.' " To this end he published a partial account of

the case in the Clarke County Historical Association's *Proceedings* for 1943. He had found the records in a bundle of papers (now labelled "Causes Ended File 1779, Bundle August, Section D, Stack 1, Historical Papers") relating to a suit in Chancery of "Hite et als vs Morgan's Executors." The account which follows is based upon Mr. Griffith's essay and also upon information, previously unpublished, found in a copy of the letter which Mr. Griffith wrote Dr. Brydon.

The record shows that in August, 1750, the Rev. John Gordon sued the vestry on a "Plea of Debt for £64," the balance of the salary still due him for 1747. Efforts were begun to dissolve the vestry in 1751, perhaps partially because of this suit. It was dissolved in 1752. What happened to Mr. Gordon's suit is unknown, except that the money was not paid and the case was closed in 1758, the year after Mr. Gordon's death.

Next, Elizabeth, Mr. Gordon's widow, and William Neill, her husband, sued the surviving members of the vestry for £69 (apparently for the £64 due on the 1747 salary and £5 costs). They were awarded the money by the General Court in Richmond on October 21, 1762. (All court records in Richmond were destroyed in 1865. This information survives in certified extracts made in the 1760's for this suit.) In 1763, Jacob Hite and other surviving members of the first vestry went to court in turn to recover the money from Richard Morgan's estate. The papers in the case state that Andrew Campbell, who had collected the levy of the parish (as the certified copy of the minutes for November 4, 1747 shows) for 1747–the money that was to pay the rector's salary, among other matters–had "runaway to Carolina leaving behind him large debts unsatisifed, and no effects wherewith to satisfy and pay the above debt of Sixty nine pounds." Capt. Richard Morgan of Mecklenburg (no relation of Morgan Morgan) had signed Campbell's bond when he took office. Richard Morgan was dead in 1763, and his executors, Thomas Swearingen, Jr., and William Morgan, refused to pay the money because the bond which Richard Morgan had signed with Campbell had been lost. Accordingly, Jacob Hite and the others brought suit against Richard Morgan's executors to recover the £69, "out of the personal estate" of Morgan, charging "he left much more than sufficient for that purpose."

On the basis of the evidence of this case, Mr. Griffith, who was himself a lawyer, concluded that "the first vestry, far from being defaulters or embezzlers, were at the most guilty of carelessness and negligence in not having attempted to recover the parish funds, with

which Campbell had absconded, from Capt. Richard Morgan, who was Campbell's bondsman." But it would not have been easy to do this had they tried (and they may have made private attempts), as the depositions in the suit indicate: for Thomas Speake (of the second vestry) swore that "Richard Morgan Deceas'd . . . told him that altho' he was security for Campbell, yet as the Bond was lost he could not be liable to the sd. Vestry as the security of Campbell . . ."; John Hardin (of the first vestry) swore that "he heard the said Capt. Richard Morgan say in his Lifetime that the said Bond was Lost & that he did not Value what any one could do to him on that acc't . . ."; and "William Morgan answering for himself severally saith that he does not believe that his later Father Richard Morgan ever entered himself Security for the sd. Andrew Campbell for the Collection aforesaid; as he certainly would have mentioned it in his Life time as this Respondent knows he paid large Sums of Money as Security for the sd. Andrew Campbell in the Office of Sheriff in the County of Frederick . . . ." The Richmond Court, however, was eventually satisfied that the bond had existed



Present appearance of the former home of Andrew Campbell, located on Route 1/8, three miles southwest of Middleway. The earliest portion, built of log, is situated immediately to the right of the two-storied portion.

(various citizens gave depositions to that effect), and in 1779 ordered Richard Morgan's executors to pay the money—the Morgan heirs thereby joining the list of victims of Campbell's knavery. And so, after nearly two centuries, something of the story of what actually happened to the first vestry is again known and on record.

No doubt the history of Andrew Campbell was for many years the subject of speculation and gossip locally and in the valley of northern Virginia, until the Revolution provided a more pressing subject for conversation. E.K. Meade has summarized Campbell's rise and fall:

> The career of Andrew Campbell in Frederick County was as remarkable as it was hectic. He was one of the justices of the first Frederick Court, as was Marquis Calmes, Sr. He was one of the County's first Burgesses, and its third Sheriff, being succeeded in that office by Jacob Hite, also a vestryman. He was a church warden in 1745, 1746, 1747, and 1749. He had the honor of entertaining young George Washington overnight at his home in March, 1748. He held the dubious distinction of laying more "informations" and bringing more charges against his neighbors than any other man in the country—and some of them retaliated in kind. In 1748 he collected the parish levy and appropriated the money to his own use. That was a fatal blunder, for eventually it brought him into conflict with that fascinating figure in Valley history, Gabriel Jones. A fierce and relentless prosecutor, Jones soon made things so hot for him that Campbell, who could justly claim the title of "leading citizen" during most of the years he made his home in Frederick, had to "run away to Carolina," discredited and disgraced [in 1750].

Parenthetically, it should be added that George Washington may well have been a paying guest, since in January, 1744, Campbell had been granted a license to keep an ordinary in his home near Middleway. Further, in 1743, when the county was organized, both Andrew Campbell and Thomas Swearingen, Sr., were listed as "old justices of the peace," proving that both had been justices in Orange County too.

The new vestry of Frederick was elected before August 1, 1752. The wardens were Thomas Swearingen, Sr., (who three years later would be authorized to operate a ferry on the Potomac at Pack Horse Ford. George Washington, in fact, referred to the place as "Swearingens Ferry." Thomas Swearingen, it will be remembered, defeated George Washington in the election for the House of Burgesses in 1758.) and Charles Buck. The other members were Capt. John Ashby, James Cromley, Lord Fairfax, Gabriel Jones, John Hite, Robert Lemon, Thomas Bryan Martin, John Lindsey, Lewis Neill, and Isaac Parkins.

There were many changes in this vestry, which lasted until the parish was divided in 1770. In 1759, when the Rev. Mr. Meldrum sued the vestry, Thomas Swearingen, Sr., John Hite, John Lindsey, and Robert Lemon were the only members elected in 1752 who were still serving. The other vestrymen at that time were John Greenfield, Thomas Speake, John Bowman, William Cocks, William Crumley, Cornelius Riddell, Isaac Hite, and John Funk. Thomas Swearingen, Sr., died in 1760. He was replaced by Thomas Swearingen, Jr., on October 7, 1760; and Van Swearingen ("King's Van") replaced John Greenfield (who died) on November 18, 1768. The wardens to 1764 were as follows: 1752, Charles Buck and Thomas Swearingen, Sr.; 1753, John Hite and Robert Lemon; 1754, John Ashby and John Lindsey; 1755 and 1756, James Cromley and William Roberts; 1757 and 1758, John Ashby and John Funk; 1759 and 1760, William Cocks and Thomas Speake; 1761, 1762, and 1763, John Bowman and Isaac Hite; 1764, Thomas Rutherford and John Greenfield. Thomas Swearingen, Jr., was warden in 1768, 1769, and 1770.

A word here should be said about the vestries of Colonial Virginia. They had from the beginning the authority to choose the ministers of their parishes–though not to set the salaries–and they successfully defeated all assaults on this authority by the King, the Royal Governors, and the Commissioners of the Colony. It is true that ministers had to be licensed for Virginia by the Bishop of London, but neither the Bishop nor anyone else could impose a minister upon a vestry. The process of licensing a minister for the colony seems to have been purely routine once it was established. A candidate received the backing of a vestry, went to London, was ordained and licensed for Virginia (provided the Bishop of London found him acceptable), and returned to be engaged by the vestry. The entire subject (the power of vestries and commissioners, and the process in London) has been covered in great detail in the two massive volumes of Dr. G. MacLaren Brydon's *Virginia's Mother Church and the Political Conditions Under Which It Grew* (1952).

Locally, for instance, the vestry of Frederick Parish grew to be unhappy with the Rev. William Meldrum (licensed for Virginia on June 13, 1756), who had succeeded Mr. Gordon in 1757 or 1758. On April 1, 1766, while Mr. Meldrum was still rector, the minutes of the vestry show:

> Mr. Benjamin Sebastian being Desirous of Entering into Holy Orders, and having made his application to the Church Wardens

and Vestrymen of this Parish for a Recommendation. It is Ordered that he be Humbly recommended to the Rt. Revd. the Lord Bishop of London as a Person of a Sober, Sedate, and Upright Life and Conversation; and that it be Certified that he would be highly Acceptable to this Parish as their Rector in Case he should Obtain Holy Orders.

A year later (he was licensed for Virginia on September 21, 1766), after he had successfully returned from London, the minutes of March 3, 1767, record: "Upon the motion of the Revd. Benjamin Sebastian to be Received as Rector of this Parish. Resolved that the said Mr. Sebastian be Inducted into the said Parish, and that his Salary Commence from this day." From the vestry book we see that Mr. Meldrum was paid for 1766 but not for 1767. In plain language, the vestry had discharged him, having arranged to secure a replacement for him before they did so.

Mr. Meldrum, who had aroused the ire of the vestry by suing it (and winning too), continued to live in the parish after he was dismissed. When Mr. Sebastian resigned less than a year later on January 8, 1768, to move to St. Stephen's in Northumberland County, where he had already been inducted on December 21, Mr. Meldrum was rehired by the vestry on a temporary basis until, in turn, Mr. Sebastian's replacement could get to London to be ordained and licensed and then return to Winchester. This is proved by the following excerpts from the vestry minutes for February 27, 1768:

> Mr. Walter McGowan having informed the Vestry that he proposed to apply for ordination in the Clergy, and in case of success, would willingly accept this Parish if he should be agreeable to the Vestry and Parishioners. It is resolved that this Parish shall be kept vacant until the last day of November next, and that the Vestry will further consider Mr. McGowan's proposals upon his return in case he should obtain Holy Orders.

We find in E.L. Goodwin's *The Colonial Church in Virginia* that he was successful: "Walter MacGowan, Licensed for Va. June 23, 1768. K.B. [King's Bounty–£20 to cover fare back to Virginia] June 30, 1768." But for reasons unknown, the Rev. Mr. McGowan apparently never returned to Winchester.

However, on March 2, 1768, the Rev. Charles Mynn Thruston (he was already ordained, having been licensed for Virginia on August 13, 1765. He came to Frederick Parish from Petsworth Parish in Gloucester County, where he was first engaged) also appeared before the vestry and "motioned the Vestry that he be inducted into this Parish as

Rector." Since the vestry, as we saw, had only three days before agreed to hold the office open until the end of November for Mr. McGowan's sake, it "Resolved that until the arrival of Mr. McGowan, on the last day of November next no person shall be inducted into this Parish without Mr. Thruston's having previous notice to attend in order to make his application to the Vestry." On Mr. McGowan's not showing up, the vestry duly met on November 18 and received Mr. Thruston as minister of the parish. The minutes also state: " . . . that his salary commence from the time of his removing into the Parish and it is ordered that he regularly attend to perform Divine Service at the Church in Winchester, at Cunningham, Morgans, McKays, & Mecklenburg Chapels by rotation, and at the other Chapels in this Parish twice in every year, in the months of May and November." (The "other Chapels" were the three previously mentioned chapels in what became Beckford Parish, a more sparsely settled area where regular services were not held.)

All of this shows (and many similar instances in other parishes are likewise recorded by Dr. Brydon) the autonomy of the Virginia vestries, their control of the ministers, and the comparative lack of importance of the Bishop of London in Colonial Virginia. The Bishop could refuse to ordain or license a candidate submitted to him by a Virginia vestry, but that was practically the extent of his authority. This situation accounts also for the absence of the kind of records in the Bishopric of London, which some, unfamiliar with the authority of the Virginia vestries, have vainly sought there (or supposed could be found there)–especially those interested in records concerning "St. George's Chapel." Such records were simply never filed in London.

Much could be said about the last three ministers of Old Frederick Parish, all of whom, it should be stressed, would have preached as Mr. Thruston was bound to do at Morgan's Chapel and Mecklenburg Chapel "in rotation"–once every five Sundays. No doubt they were familiar visitors and overnight guests at the homes of prominent local citizens, especially those living near the two chapels. Mr. E.K. Meade has supplied a biography of Mr. Meldrum, relating the account of his legal battle with the vestry (to which the reader is referred). The *Dictionary of American Biography* chronicles the shameful end of Mr. Sebastian, perhaps prefigured by his apparently shabby treatment of the Frederick vestry. After the war, in which, however, he served three years, he left the ministry and moved to Kentucky, where he became involved with General Wilkinson and Aaron Burr, and like them was accused of being

in the pay of Spain. He ended his career in obloquy. The *DAB* concludes that "... his moral principles were not sufficient to withstand his monetary needs ... he followed a course of intrigue that promised to protect his personal interests at the expense of state and union."

Mr. Meade has also supplied an account of Mr. Thruston and of his important role in pre-Revolutionary political activities. He was minister of the parish from the very end of 1768 until it was divided in 1770. Presumably he continued to preach in what is now Jefferson County until the new Norborne vestry took office early in 1771. Certainly the old parish collected tithes locally until January 1, 1771, when the new parishes divided from it came legally into being. In fact, Mr. Thruston was in trouble with the old vestry soon after he became minister for not holding the stipulated number of services in the parish. On November 28, 1770, the vestry, after investigating the matter, "held that the charge had been proved and as punishment omitted any salary provision for him in the parish levy they laid that day," although, to be on the safe side (remembering Mr. Meldrum's successful suit against them, no doubt), they ordered that the money be set aside in case "he should recover his full Salary by due Course of Law." However, on December 27, 1770, he convinced them that he had good reasons for this neglect, and the vestry restored the money to him. E.K. Meade thinks there is "reason to believe that the neglect of duty complained of was due to Mr. Thruston's activities in behalf of the Revolutionary movement, a movement which had the sympathy of a large majority, if not all of the vestrymen."

On October 10, 1760, George Washington and Thomas Bryan Fairfax, Burgesses from Frederick, introduced a petition into the House which stated that since "the Parish is so large that one Minister cannot perform the Duty of his Office," it should be divided. The petition was referred to committee and died. It was the first attempt to divide the parish. E.K. Meade points out that it is interesting to see that Washington and Fairfax "did not have sufficient influence to secure more favorable consideration."

In another ten years the parish would be divided, but in that intervening decade important changes occurred in Mecklenburg, as the minutes of Frederick vestry and other records show. In 1760, the vestry met at McKay's Chapel and then at Cunningham Chapel to take "inventory of the condition of the building and the repairs necessary." Although we have no record of their also meeting in the

soon-to-be-incorporated Mecklenburg, we can assume that the chapel there received the same scrutiny. No description of the log chapels at Mecklenburg or at Bunker Hill exists. However, they were surely similar to the "Chapel on the So. River," ordered by the vestry in 1767, which was to have "walls of square logs Dove Tailed, twenty-two by thirty feet, and to be covered with lapped shingles."

By 1767, the vestry had decided to replace the log chapel in Mecklenburg, which was obviously in a ruinous condition; the levy made in November of that year included £50 "To a sum for finishing Mecklenburg Chapel." Subsequent entries make it clear that this was the first payment for a new chapel. In 1768 the vestry levied £47 6s. to "Van Swearingen the balance his account for work done on the Mecklenburg Chapel." In 1769, £49 was levied "to Van Swearingen to finish Mecklenburg Chapel." The total cost of the second Mecklenburg Chapel was, then £245 6s. The new chapel was built of stone "on, or within a few paces of, the site of the first," and the date "1769" was "cut in stone over the entrance." It must have resembled rather closely the Old Chapel at Millwood, built in 1791. Van Swearingen, who supervised its construction, lived four miles from Mecklenburg at his estate on the Potomac (now called Springwood, popularly known as the Lower Farm). He was the uncle of Thomas Swearingen, Jr., who lived in the old "Hip-Roof House" at Bellevue, just outside of town. Thomas was one of the wardens of Frederick Parish during these years–1768, 1769, 1770. The importance of this family to the Church in old Frederick Parish cannot be overemphasized.

The construction of Mecklenburg Chapel, of the log chapel in Beckford, and of a new church in Winchester (1766) was the major undertaking of the final years of old Frederick vestry. On March 3, 1767, at the request of Mr. Sebastian, the old glebe was sold and a new one "more convenient to the several points to be ministered to" was purchased– £600 being appropriated for the purpose. The sale of the old glebe was ordered, and the vestry specified that "the sale is to be advertised in the Virginia and the Pennsylvania Gazetteer. Twelve months credit is to be allowed the purchaser." At the same vestry Isaac Hite was ordered to furnish "the Parish with large Bibles, Prayer Books and surplices for the different chapels and a sufficient sum to be levied for the same in the Parish Levy." And we find that James Graham was reader at Mecklenburg Chapel from at least 1764 to 1772. We can assume that the Rev. Mr. Thruston preached the dedicatory sermon at

Mecklenburg on its completion in 1769 or 1770, but we have no record of this celebration.

On May 31, 1770 (close to the probable dedication at Mecklenburg), the House of Burgesses listened to a petition addressed to it by "Sundry Persons, Members of the Church of England" in Frederick Parish, setting forth the great inconvenience caused parishioners by "The great size" of the parish, "there being not less than seven Churches and Chapels therein," and prayed its division. (The seven buildings were the church in Winchester, the four original chapels of Morgan, Mecklenburg, McKay, and Cunningham, and the three later chapels at South River, North River, and Ephraim Leith's Spring). This petition resulted in the General Assembly's passing on June 28, 1770, a law entitled "An Act for the Division of Frederick Parish into the Parishes of Frederick, Beckford, and Norborne." Under the provisions of this act, the existing vestry of Frederick Parish was dissolved, and the election of vestries for the three parishes was ordered held at least one month before March 1, 1771. The parish was ordered to sell the glebe and refund to Norborne and Beckford a fair proportion of the sale price, to be determined upon the basis of that part of the cost of the glebe which had been levied upon and collected from the inhabitants of each. It was also stipulated that the new vestries of Frederick and Norborne refund to Beckford, on the same basis, a part of the first cost of Winchester Church and Mecklenburg Chapel.

That was not the end of the matter, however, as far as the new vestry of Frederick was concerned, since on February 22, 1772, it petitioned the House of Burgesses that the portion of the act dividing old Frederick Parish which called for this compensatory payment be set aside; that is the portion which recited

> that there would be a new Church in each of the Parishes of Frederick and Norborne, the Charges of which had lately been defrayed by the Inhabitants of Frederick, before the Division, it was enacted that the Vestries of the Parishes of Frederick and Norborne, when elected, should account for the said Churches, according to their several Costs, and refund to the Vestry of the Parish of Beckford a proportion thereof, according to the Number of Tithables in their Parishes, respectively, at the Time the same should take place.

Frederick vestry now claimed that the new church there is not worth the first Cost, having been built so long ago as the Year 1764, the workmanship having been executed insufficiently, so that it is likely soon to become ruinous; and further representing

> that there are two Chapels, of Considerable Value, in the Parish of Beckford, one of which was built in the Year 1768 . . . .

The petition concluded that the Frederick vestry "ought not to be charged with more than the proportion of the Sum the Church exceeds the two Chapels in Value, and that the Petitioners may have such Relief in the Premises as to the House shall seem reasonable." The petition was referred to the consideration of the Committee of Religion, agreed to on April 6 by the Council, who so informed the Burgesses, and assented to by the Governor in Council on April 11, 1772. The resulting Act ordered a commission to report on the matter to the House by October 1, 1772. No record of such a report exists. Later, Beckford made a second effort. Nothing came of this either. No further information can be found on the dispute. E.K. Meade says that Beckford never received a penny of compensation from Frederick vestry.

Did the new vestry of Norborne make a payment to Beckford? There is, again, no information available on this subject. The Norborne vestry did not join with Frederick in the petition. Perhaps it waited to see what, if anything, Frederick would be obliged to pay. Perhaps, Norborne vestry made a payment to Beckford, but that seems unlikely, considering the commitment to build the new church on Evitt's Run. The chances are that the matter dragged on with both Frederick and Norborne until in 1776 it became a dead issue.

Incidentally, the petition of Frederick vestry rather considerably misrepresented the situation. The stone church in Winchester which replaced the log church of 1745, was contracted for in 1762 and finished in 1766, not 1764, at a cost of £599. As to its condition, it apparently lasted until 1827, when it was replaced. (Notice that it took four years to build and cost a little over twice as much as the new Mecklenburg Chapel.) The new log chapel at Ephraim Leith's Spring, on the other hand, cost only £50 10s. The Beckford vestry seems to have been in the right, therefore, in demanding compensation.

The northern boundary of old Norborne Parish was the Potomac River. The original southern boundary was "a line beginning at Williams Gap, where the road intersects the line of Loudoun and Frederick Counties, proceeding then in a direct course so as to pass seven miles to the Northeastward of the town of Winchester, till it intersects the line of Hampshire County," at the Potomac. When Berkeley County was created on May 15, 1772, the boundary of the county was established "one mile and a half Northward of the corner in Williams Gap, that at present divides the Parishes of Frederick and

Norborne," and this boundary was also made the boundary of Norborne Parish at that time. Both parish and county were named for the recently deceased and truly popular Royal Governor of Virginia, Norborne Berkeley, Lord Botetourt.

Thus Old Norborne Parish came legally into existence on January 1, 1771. Practically, it came into existence on February 5, 1771, when the newly elected vestry was sworn into office in Winchester. Samuel Washington of Harewood and William Henshaw ("Hancher" it was spelled, indicating the pronunciation) of Mill Creek were the wardens. The other members were Adam Stephen, Thomas Rutherford, John Neville, Robert Worthington, George Cunningham, Magnus Tate, William Baldwin, Morgan Morgan II, Hugh Stephenson, and James Keith. Within the year, on November 7, Thomas Swearingen, Jr., took the place of one of these men.

Unfortunately for those concerned with local history, the vestry books of old Norborne Parish have disappeared without a trace, leaving no record or even memory of their contents. The same is also true of the records of all the early vestries later to sit in Charles Town, Shepherdstown, and in present-day Berkeley County. Information about old Norborne Parish, therefore, must come from the acts of the legislatures meeting in Richmond, from local court records, from private papers, and from the records of the Diocese of Virginia, once it was established. The situation is exactly analogous to that of old Frederick Parish from 1744 to 1764.

(Note: This is the first part of a two-part article. The remainder will appear in the next issue and will continue the story down to the division of Old Norborne Parish in 1815.)

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Bicentennial Events In Jefferson County

It is important to preserve a record of the principal Bicentennial events planned by the citizens in different parts of Jefferson County. Some of these events involved an entire community, others were sponsored by organizations and church, one commemorated the re-dedication of the ruins of an historic building.

Three persons, one in each of the principal towns, prepared the following material.

I: Charles Town

1975

October 23. Jefferson County became an official Bicentennial County with appropriate flag raising ceremonies in the yard of the County Court House. Master of ceremonies was Bradley Nash, chairman of the Jefferson County Bicentennial Committee. He was assisted by Mrs. Leeds Riely, co-chairman. The Jefferson High School Band under the direction of David Wilson provided patriotic music.

November 29. Retail merchants sponsored a Christmas parade using the theme, "An Old Fashioned Christmas." There were more than 75 entries, all using the Bicentennial theme. Marshals were Dr. and Mrs. Dale Keyser. Attired in costume, they rode in their pony cart drawn by two ponies. Chairman of the event was Mrs. James E. Watson.

December 3. The Garden Clubs of the town–Shenandoah, Dolley Madison, Wayside and Jefferson–sponsored a Christmas tour of homes. Homes open were those of Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Huyett, Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Senseney and Dr. and Mrs. W.E. Trussell.

1976

January 4. The churches in the area started off the New Year with the theme, "200 Years of American Heritage."

February 21. Bee Line Chapter, NSDAR, held a Bicentennial luncheon with Dr. Howard Backus speaking on "Inspired Patriotism."

February 22. The birthday anniversary of George Washington was emphasized in most of the churches. At Asbury Methodist Church there was a "Festival of American Hymns" beginning with: I, The Heritage

from England; II, American Anthems and Hymns, 18th and 19th centuries; III, Spirituals and Gospel Songs; IV, New Songs and Hymns for celebration and commitment; finishing the service with V, The Bicentennial Prayer Anthem.

May 23. This day was observed at Asbury United Methodist Church as Methodist Heritage Sunday. With the congregation attired in Colonial dress as well as the ministers and choirs, the celebration recalled John Wesley and Bishop Asbury. During the afternoon an old time camp meeting was held at the Calvin Nicodemus farm with a basket picnic and ox roast.

June 19. A large crowd gathered in Charles Town for the Tri-Gala parade in celebration of the Bicentennial, the birth of West Virginia, and the Volunteer Fire Companies. Chairmen for the event were Ernest Houser, Jr., Paul Biller and Bradley Nash. Bands and fire companies from all neighboring towns took part.

June 19. Special recognition was given to the West Virginia Covered Wagon which was officially a part of the National Bicentennial Wagon Train. The master of ceremonies was Bradley Nash and the speaker was U.S. Senator Jennings Randolph. Mrs. Charles E. Ware gave vocal selections.

July 3. Rededication and celebration service at the Ruins of St. George's Chapel. The ruins are now the property of Bee Line Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, having been deeded to the Chapter by the Davenport heirs. After receiving the final deed in 1973, the Daughters started work on preservation. Help has come from many directions but mainly from the Shenandoah-Potomac Garden Council. The Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Service lent assistance as did Shenandoah Quarries, Inc. The grounds have been cleared, the remaining walls stabilized, a driveway laid, dogwood trees planted and other landscaping carried on.

An impressive service coordinated by Bee Line Chapter was held at the site. Jefferson High School Band played patriotic selections as the guests assembled. The Right Rev. Robert P. Atkinson of the Diocese of West Virginia gave an outstanding address, "A Look to the Future." The Hand Bell Choir of the Charles Town Presbyterian Church delighted the listeners. The marker which had been placed was unveiled by Henry Bedinger and Braxton Leeds Davenport, young sons of Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Davenport of Altona Farm. The marker reads, "Ruins of St. George's Chapel, built c.1771 by Norborne Parish on land donated by Col. Robert Worthington; later owned by Bee Line Chapter,



Rededication and celebration service at the Ruins of St. George's Chapel. Addressing the participants is the Right Rev. Robert P. Atkinson, Bishop of the Diocese of West Virginia.

NSDAR, through the generosity of the Davenport heirs. Bicentennial project of the Shenandoah-Potomac Garden Council." After the program a beautiful old-fashioned tea was served at Piedmont, home of Miss Louise Briscoe. Ladies in period dress carried lovely baskets of sandwiches and cakes as they circulated among the guests.

The D.A.R. Chapter is grateful to all those who have assisted in preservation of the Chapel ruins.

July 4. Zion Episcopal Church held a two-hour special service with Bishop Atkinson conducting confirmation, baptism and communion. Patriotic church music was used and after the service a picnic lunch was held in the Church yard.

At Asbury United Methodist Church the service commemorated Independence Day with members taking the parts of patriots and signers of the Declaration of Independence. Alonzo Peters, taking the part of Thomas Jefferson, read the Declaration. The congregation was in colonial attire.

August 7. Homecoming, celebrating the 189 year history of the local Presbyterian Church and the Bicentennial, had five events. On Sunday there was a special service of workship, and lunch in McCurdy Memorial

Fellowship Hall. At 2:30 there was an informal gathering of guests and members and a tour of the 122-year-old manse. During the afternoon, Dr. James R. Sydnor, son of a former minister, and his daughter, Mrs. Susan Wagner, presented music on the piano, the organ and cello, and there was group singing. More than 120 out-of-town guests were present.

August 27. Charles Town held a Bicentennial Ball with the dancers in period costume. The ballroom was decorated in the style of 1776. Mrs. Leeds Riely was chairman.

September 5. Church members and people of the town observed the day by wearing the clothing worn when on their jobs. The dignity of work as a Christian principle was observed.

December 7. As this record is compiled in August, there are plans for a two day Christmas Tour of old homes.

Florence (Mrs. C.W.) Moore

II: Harpers Ferry–Bolivar

The Bicentennial project of these two adjacent towns, Harpers Ferry and Bolivar, is the establishment of a public library under a grant to the West Virginia Library Commission from the Federal Government. The Bolivar-Harpers Ferry Public Library Board of Trustees consists of two persons named by the Bolivar Town Council, two named by the Harpers Ferry Town Council, and one from Harpers Ferry District named by the County Commission.

On June 6, a Band Concert and Picnic for the people of the community was held at the Harpers Ferry Town Park around the old Bandstand. There was an address of welcome and a brief history of the Harpers Ferry area by Mayor Bradley Nash; a history of the establishment of Virginia No. 1, I.O.O.F., the local Odd Fellows Lodge, organized in the late 1700's by Alfred Collins; a history of the Masonic Lodge, organized in the early 1800's by Dale Harrison, master of Logan Lodge 25; and a brief history by Lewis Nichols of the Lion's Club, organized in 1946. The Harpers Ferry Junior High Band gave a concert of patriotic selections from the Bandstand. The program concluded with a community basket picnic lunch.

On July 4, the Camp Hill United Methodist Church carillon bell was tolled for two minutes at 2:00 p.m. At 3:00 p.m. at the Harpers Ferry Town Park there was an address of welcome from the Mayor. Histories of four churches of the community were given by representatives of

each church. The Jefferson High School Band gave a concert of patriotic selections followed by a basket picnic lunch.

The final Bicentennial community program was given on September 19, at the Town Park. Histories of the Harpers Ferry Woman's Club, organized in 1915, and the Post Office were given. Youth groups, the 4-H Clubs, Girl Scouts and Brownies presented patriotic skits and essays. The Bolivar United Methodist Church Youth Choir furnished music. A basket picnic lunch concluded the program.

The Harpers Ferry Bandstand was first built on Byrnes Island by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad about 1800. The Railroad established an amusement park on this island in the Potomac River, and excursion trains brought passengers from Baltimore and Washington. There was a small bridge connecting the island with the railroad track, and the popular name of the place was "Island Park." When this amusement area was no longer used, the Railroad gave the Bandstand to the Town of Harpers Ferry. In about 1910 it was moved and set up near the steps which came down from the original Railroad station. In 1922, the Bandstand was again moved and erected on its present site in the Town Park.

Edith (Mrs. Newton) Alexander

III: Shepherdstown

The Shepherdstown Commission for the celebration of the Bicentennial of the American Revolution is made up of three officers and twelve members: William Vaughn, chairman; John Grissinger, vice chairman; Patricia Kilpatric, secretary-treasurer; Valerie Atherton, Charles Bosley, Helen Goldsborough, Gladys Hartzell, Joan Knode, Keith Knost, Ben Schley, John Stealey, Diana Suttenfield Lehman, William Van Ryzin, Newton Washington, and Boyd Widmyer, members.

When the strains of Auld Lang Syne have faded, Shepherdstown will collaspe in exhileration after an eighteen-month celebration of the Bicentennial of the American Revolution. Before, however, will be a great Yuletide celebration when the young people will decorate the outdoor tree, carollers will sing as they wander through the streets in an informal torchlight parade, and parties will leave no generation gaps. There will be refreshments and entertainment created to complement each group.

The Bicentennial observance in Shepherdstown began on July 4,

1975, when the community gathered at Morgan's Grove Park to open officially the period of celebration. The flag of the United States and the one designed and made for the town were raised by the Scouts. The keynote speaker welcomed the USA on its 199th birthday as a pledge into the 200 Club, promising much hazing before induction a year later. "Shepherdstown became a member thirteen years ago," said the speaker, who with tongue in cheek continued, "The neophyte is big, beautiful, powerful, and it holds credit cards of worth." After this introduction the address was dedicated to the company of riflemen under Captain Hugh Stephenson who left from Falling (Morgan) Spring on July 16, 1775, to join George Washington in the defense of Boston.

Other features of the day were the presentation of costume awards by Pack Horse Ford Chapter, D.A.R., games and contests for all ages, and a barbecue lunch.

The second Commission-sponsored affair in Shepherdston was the Harvest Street Fair on October 4, when two blocks of King Street became an open-air market. Stalls were brimming with baked goods, vegetables, plants, flowers, and other seasonal products. There was hot buttered popcorn from an old vending machine. Hardly a visitor milled about without a caramelled apple, a balloon, or a stick of cotton candy. Arts and crafts in action included broom making, whittling, pottery throwing, weaving, and apple-butter boiling.

The greatest single attraction was the museum, sponsored by the Woman's Club. The first floor of War Memorial Building was filled with things of other days. In the church section were several original church registers in German, old Holy Communion vessels, pictures, Bibles, and hymnals.

Upstairs in the building the local junior high school pupils sold Shepherdstown soup and sandwiches.

At intervals throughout the day the Shepherdstown Junior High School band provided red, white, and blue music.

The 19th century peal of bells chimed from the steeple to gather together the people for an ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service of worship. The preacher for vespers was the Reverend Dr. Eric Gritsch, professor of history at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettsburg, who entitled his comparison of the Trinity of God to the three divisions of the national government "The Gospel and Civic Religion."

The combined choirs of Shepherdstown led the hymns of praise and thanksgiving; the anthem was "The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune." A

brass ensemble from Jefferson High School played the processional and recessional.

The women of the town's churches served mulled cider with sugar and ginger cookies from ironstone and copper in the church school assembly room after vespers.

Christmas revelling had the same format as that planned for this year. In 1976 the Fourth of July celebration, though on the third, excelled that of 1975. Several of the extras were balloon rides, a fried-chicken lunch, and fireworks. The opening was held in front of McMurran Hall before the picnickers left for Morgan's Grove Park. The theme of the short program was the projected riverside park where Town Run flows into the Potomac. The progress report showed that the restoration of the old Mecklenburg Tobacco warehouse (1789) was progressing. A master plan for the completed project was shown, including a beach, a wharf, and a picnic area. The Harvest Street Fair used that of 1975 as its prototype. The ecumenical Thanksgiving service has not been planned at this September deadline.

Shepherd College included the town in all its activities. There were several presentations of period music. An arts and crafts fair drew hundreds. Specifically Bicentennial oriented were two historical presentations. The lecture on October 15, 1975, was delivered by Dr. Paul David Nelson of the Department of History of Berea College on "Lee, Gates, Stephen, and Morgan, Revolutionary War Generals of the Lower Shenandoah Valley." On October 5, 1976, "Daniel Morgan" was the subject of Dr. Don Higginbotham's lecture. He is a Professor of History at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

A lecture series, "Potential in Peril, Historic and Cultural Preservation in the Lower Shenandoah Valley," was presented by the College in January, February, and March. Five outstanding speakers made presentations. All were present for the last session, a symposium, held on the afternoon of March 20. The expertise assembled on the panel at the symposium was impressive. There was a large attendance and a lively exchange of comment, questions and answers at this final meeting.

The Shepherdstown Bicentennial souvenir was a reproduction of the old red-clay apple-butter crock, made during the late 18th and first half of the 19th centuries by the Weis family. The five hundred pieces were thrown by Sycamore Pottery of Leetown. Packaged in an attractive box and decorated with a local scene, the numbered edition went fast. Number 1 was saved for the Town; Number 2 went to the State.

A continuing project throughout the period was a monthly historical presentation in a display window in Rumsey Hall. Individuals and organizations with originals and reproductions depicted such themes as Shepherdstown's birthday, Revolutionary War documents, local pictures, the C&O Canal, a tribute to James Rumsey, Civil War treasures, and agriculture in this community.

Since Shepherdstown was the setting for the publication of the first book, as well as that of the first newspaper in what is now West Virginia, it was almost essential that it publish in the Bicentennial period, and publish it did. Four volumes were dedicated to the nostalgic past. The most recent of the publications was *See Shepherdstown*, a 135-page edition of two hundred pictures, and script. The Shepherdstown Bicentennial Committee sponsored the work. The Committee on Beautification and Preservation of Shepherdstown, with the cooperation of Shepherd College, put out a brochure entitled *Historic Shepherdstown, West Virginia, a Walking Tour*. A sketch of the Public Library and a welcome from Charles Bosley, mayor, make up the cover page. Privately published was *Housewifery, 1837, Sheetz Gun Shop and Tavern*, a transcription of a collection of household hints from the 19th century. The fourth was *Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Old Picture Album* which visually covers the old waterway.

Although the school children's parade was a Jefferson County activity, it was staged in Shepherdstown, a Bicentennial Town and the oldest settlement in West Virginia. Two thousand pupils, via school buses, converged on Shepherdstown on a Saturday in May to present, as one paper put it, the greatest parade ever sponsored by the county. The precision, the continuity of the episodes, the authenticity of the costumes, and the behavior of the participants were outstanding. One viewer likened "American Unfolds" to the medieval pageant-parade as the scenes from the sixteen schools ran the gamut from "Colonial America" to "One Giant Step."

Since the afore-described segments of Shepherdstown's observance of the Bicentennial of the American Revolution have been in charge of officially appointed committees with much overlapping of assignments, names have been, for the most part, omitted for fear of oversight, or error. However, individuals and organizations have added to the anniversary program. Vacation Church schools sought out the graves of Revolutionary soldiers to decorate. The D.A.R. placed a sheaf of wheat and a Betsey Ross flag on the monument to the riflemen who left on July 16, 1775, to join George Washington in the defense of Boston.

Two local women made a pilgrimage to the grave site of James Rumsey at St. Margaret's, Westminister, England, where they scattered petals of dried red, white, and blue flowers from the gardens of Shepherdstown. He died in London, where he had gone for support of his project after his successful demonstration of propelling a boat against the current by steam on the Potomac at Shepherdstown. The Link family marked the graves of their Revolutionary War ancestor, John Adam Link, 2nd., and his wife, Jane Ogle Link, in the old Lutheran graveyard on East German Street with bronze plaques. The Jaycees sold copies of great American documents and meat plates with a local scene in the center. Jefferson Security Bank had local sketches on its calendar. Captain Kenneth Swanson, chaplain of the Atlantic Fleet, U.S.N., preached the sermon at St. Peter's Lutheran Church on July 4. It was the same one broadcast to all vessels and bases attached to the fleet. The United Daughters of the Confederacy reincarnated an old fashioned Decoration Day at Elmwood Cemetery on the first Saturday in June with the planting of the flags and the strewing of the flowers on the Confederate Soldiers' graves. There were introductions, an address, and even martial music from a band. Luncheon at Ferry Hill, the home of Henry Kyd Douglas during the Civil War, was held after the exercises. Hardly an affair in Shepherdstown from July 4, 1975, to December 31, 1976, has lacked a red, white, and blue touch.

This article is being left with an open end, for much has been left out, and there is still more to come.

Gladys Hartzell

One more event, though it was private and by invitation, is worthy of note here since it was unique, commemorative and particularly delightful. Nancy and Ira Glackens (Mrs. and Mrs. Ira) issued invitations to "Thomas Shepherd's Grist Mill, Mill and High Streets, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, on Saturday, August 21, 1976, from 2 to 5 o'clock To Celebrate The Restoration of the Largest Waterwheel in North America, Inactive for Nearly Forty Years. Refreshment . . . . Entertainment."

The Glackens invited all the workmen who had participated in the restoration of the waterwheel with their families, and neighbors and friends. Children and adults were charmed by a magician, a handwriting expert, and country music. Refreshment was delicious and ample. A large crowd gathered under sunny skies in the courtyard of the mill and

inside the mill itself while the Town Run ran gaily through the grounds and the waterwheel turned as it did two hundred years ago.

L.S.

Recent Additions to the Society's Archives

Photocopy of pertinent portions of Alfred Byron Sears, *Thomas Worthington, Father of Ohio Statehood* (Ohio State University Press, 1958), from Dr. Andrew W. Cowan of Frederick, Maryland. The extract contains important information about Worthington's boyhood in this area and also about his family.

Photocopy of the family record in the Bible of William Lucas from Fredrica Trapnell of Wilmington. Births were recorded from 1735 to 1873.

Photocopy of pertinent portions of Asa Keyes', *Solomon Keyes of Newbury and Chelmsford, Mass., and His Descendants* (1880), from Mrs. Frances Keyes Boyd of Detroit. Mrs. Boyd also sent an account of the tragic attempt of a group from Illinois to migrate to California in 1846. Because of the escape of their draft animals, they failed to crest the Sierras before winter, and few survived. The death of a Mrs. S. Keyes is recorded.

Photocopies of a newspaper account of the ravages in the county of the 1870 flood in which the Keyes' homestead was carried away and also of the Fairfax Grant (1762) to Gersham Keyes, from Mr. Don Wood of Martinsburg.

New Books

In addition to the three new publications mentioned in Miss Hartzell's summary of Bicentennial activities in Shepherdstown, notice should be taken of a new book by Dorothy Davis, *John George Jackson (1777-1823)* (McLain Printing Company, 1976). This is the story of the gifted son of a frontier family of western Virginia who married Mary Payne, sister of Dolley Madison. Because he represented his district in both Richmond and Washington, the account of his life presents an absorbing view of the hectic period of the Jefferson and Madison administrations and of the settling of the Ohio River area. Thomas Jonathan (Stonewall) Jackson was a later product of this family.