TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Editor’s Page .................................................................................................................................2
   By Lee Brown

The Town of West Point, Virginia ......................................................................................................3
   Compiled by L. Roane Hunt and Lee Brown

The Life and Times of George and Rebecca Emerson in Gloucester County  .............. 17
   By Robert Carol Emerson

Gloucester Agricultural Association, Organized November 18, 1911  ......................... 29
   Compiled by L. Roane Hunt

Be Careful What You Google For .................................................................................................... 46
   By Pat Royal Perkinson

1924 Manuscript Finally Published ................................................................................................. 47
   By Barbara Farner

Surname Files at Gloucester Library Virginia Room .........................................................Inside back cover

Visit the website for Gloucester Genealogical Society of Virginia at
http://www.rootsweb.com/~vaggsv/
The Editor's Page—

Family trees spread roots and branches all over the place. This issue of the Family Tree Searcher visits King William County and the town of West Point, places that figure prominently in my own genealogy and no doubt the genealogies of many Gloucester families.

This is a good time to take a look at our neighbors up the river. A new King William County museum is scheduled to open in April in the old clerk's office at the old King William County Courthouse complex. The museum is a legacy of Thomas T. H. Hill who served more than 47 years in that office, retiring as clerk of the Circuit Court in 1977. The museum will feature artifacts and documents from all periods of the county’s history and will include a permanent collection, rotating exhibits, and a research room. Contributions are welcome. I'm sure the King William Historical Society could provide more information.

Coincidentally, a definitive history of the area, Malcolm H. Harris's 1977 two-volume Old New Kent County: Some Account of The Planters, Plantations, and Places in New Kent County has recently been reprinted in one volume. That history covers a lot of ground. New Kent County was created from York County in 1654, then King & Queen County was created from New Kent County, and finally King William County was created from King & Queen County in 1702. All of the original county land is covered in this book.

My copy of Old New Kent County has been marked up quite a bit to highlight references to my ancestors who lived there and the homes where they lived. Someday I'll write about them, but for now I ask readers to start working on their own histories in nearby regions.

Back in Gloucester, we have an article about the Gloucester Agricultural Association and the Gloucester Fair identifying its promoters and prize-winners. This is a great list of Gloucester names from the early years of the 20th century. The county fair was a major event, and a farm demonstration is mentioned in another of our articles that presents a history of the Emerson family in Gloucester.

Nowadays we have Black Powder and Paint weekends and the Gloucester History Day event that started this year. And we have the new tradition of the celebration of the Battle of the Hook and the surrender in Gloucester of the British forces that followed the famous Yorktown surrender. Maybe some years in the future these will be topics for a Family Tree Searcher issue.

Two more notes of interest: the marriage records of Mathews County have been published and JPEG computer images of the Gloucester land tax records are available in the Gloucester Public Library for the period of 1782—1831.

Lee Brown, Editor
The Town of West Point, Virginia

Compiled by L. Roane Hunt and Lee Brown

Julian Edward “Ed” Thornton grew up in West Point, VA, but his family made regular visits to Gloucester County where his father was born. Ed has spent his adult years in Richmond, VA, and holds the unofficial accumulative mileage record in GGSV meeting attendance for the past ten years. In addition, he usually comes with a carload of scrapbooks of Gloucester history and genealogy.

Recently, he suggested that an article about his hometown be included in our journal. We appreciate the many members that we have throughout the nation that are like Ed Thornton in their faithful support to our common interest.

Ed married Virginia Saunders in Charlottesville, VA, and the photograph of the reception shows Ed and Virginia on the left. Others in the picture to their right include a bridesmaid, Mr. and Mrs. Saunders, another bridesmaid, and Ed’s parents, Milton and Julia Smith Thornton. Ed and Virginia made their home in Richmond where Ed worked in the sales department for a large tobacco company.

Ed’s proud ancestry includes William and Meaux Thornton, Robert “King” Carter, Joel Hayes, and his mother’s brother, Dr. James W. Smith, who served the southern

Ancestors of Julian Edward Thornton

John Alexander Buchanan Thornton
b. 1803, m. 1839, d. 1877

William Buchanan Thornton
b. Jul 22, 1856, m. Jul 20, 1882, d. Apr 22, 1938
Sarah Elizabeth Hayes
b. 1822, d. 1893

Milton Caspian Thornton
b. 1887, m. 1918

William Anthony Smith
b. 1825, m. 1846
Columbia America Smith
Sarah Jane Freeman
b. 1825, d. 1903

Julian Edward Thornton
b. 1927, m. 1952, Virginia Marionette Saunders

Richard Mitchell Smith
b. 1836, m. 1853, d. 1861
Emmett Kauffman Smith
b. Mar 2, 1857, m. Jun 6, 1892, d. Apr 27, 1927
Fannie Kauffman Gresham
b. 1837

Julia Gresham Smith
b. Dec 29, 1890, Nov 5, 1972

James C. Trice
b. 1823
Florence Eugenia Trice
b. Oct 27, 1861
Louisa A.? 
b. 1834
portion of Gloucester for many years. In recent years, Ed has worked to preserve his family cemetery, the Hills Cemetery in Gloucester.

The Town of West Point

From website: http://www.westpoint.va.us/history.html

The Town of West Point has a long and unique history related to its location in Colonial Virginia and its American Indian heritage. Once the site of an Indian village named Cinquoteck, the West Point area, in 1664, became part of a large land grant made to Captain John West. In 1691, an act by the General Assembly arranged the purchase from West Point Plantation of 50 acres of land for the development of Delaware Town. A rail line was completed in 1859 to Whitehouse across the Pamunkey from West Point. In 1860, an iron drawbridge was built across the river. All of this was destroyed during the Civil War. Only four houses from that time survive today.

West Point became an incorporated town in 1870 and soon became a thriving commercial port and resort destination. The City of Richmond used West Point as its eastern shipping terminus. Traffic included schooners, then later steamships and barges. West Point was also the first terminus for the Richmond York River Railroad, another factor in the town’s growth.

West Point became a destination for socializing and recreation. The Terminal Hotel stood at the site of the existing Beach Park and was a popular attraction for both tourists and visitors. After the decline of tourism, a shipyard built in 1917 and a pulp mill built in 1918 revitalized the town.

The town has a grid pattern of streets and blocks comprised of half-acre lots. Main Street is the primary north-south thoroughfare on which most of the district’s late 19th century and early 20th century commercial, religious, and residential buildings are located. Beginning at the tip of the peninsula with First Street, the town’s east-west streets continue north in numerical order to Fourteenth Street.
Historical Chronology

From website: http://www.co.kingwilliam.va.us/history_tourism.htm#AtaGlance

In the early 1600s, the area of present-day West Point was under the domain of the Tsenacommaco or the Powhatan Confederacy. The confederacy, which encompassed 6,000 square miles of eastern Virginia, bound together approximately thirty Algonquian Tribes of 13,000 people in 200 villages. It included the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Tribes. The Upper Mattaponi Tribe is a non-reservated descendent of the Mattaponi and Pamunkey. The paramount chief of the Powhatan Confederacy, Wahunsonacock, or Powhatan as the English called him, died in April 1618. He had ceded power to Opitchapan, or Itopan, about a year earlier in 1617. Opechancanough, Powhatan's younger brother, succeeded Opitchapan in 1619. (The marriage of Powhatan's daughter, Pocahontas, to John Rolfe in 1614 ensured peace with the English colonists.)

In 1608, Captain John Smith, who was a member and later president of the Jamestown settlement's governing council, explored the site of the present-day Town of West Point. This area was the location of the Indian town of Cinquoteck, or Paumunkee Town as Smith referred to it.

In 1634, Charles River County was created. It was one of the eight original shires similar to those in England. The new county, which was named after the reigning English King Charles I, encompassed the lands lying to the north and west of the York River. The new county presumably included Pamunkey Neck which is the land laying between the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers. The names of the county and river were changed to York in 1643 to honor James, the second son of Charles I, who that year was made Duke of York. (In 1664 the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam, which was captured by the English during the Dutch War of 1664-1667, was renamed New York after James, the Duke of York. He became James II, King of England, Scotland, and Ireland in 1685 and abdicated the throne to William III and Mary II during the Glorious Revolution of 1688-1689.)
The Town of West Point, Virginia

In 1646, under Governor Sir William Berkeley, the English imposed a peace treaty on the new chief of the Powhatan, Necotowance. The treaty restricted habitation and hunting by the Indians to the north side of the York River, presumably including Pamunkey Neck, ceded to the English all peninsular lands between the James and York Rivers as far inland as the falls at present-day Richmond, and made the tribes dominions of the crown. The treaty followed the defeat of the Powhatan Indians during their last great uprising that began on April 18, 1644, and the slaying of their captured leader, Opechancanough, in October 1644.

In 1653, Colonel William Claiborne was granted a patent of 5,000 acres, including Romancoke. On March 6, Governor John West patented 3,000 acres of land at the confluence of the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers. West named his tract West Point in honor of his family.

In 1654, New Kent County was created from York County. The new county, which was probably named after the English shire of Kent, encompassed lands lying to the heads of the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers including Pamunkey Neck.

In 1658, The Virginia General Assembly enacted the legislation creating the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Indian Reservations.

On May 29, 1677, a peace treaty between the remnants of six Indian tribes and English King Charles II, acting through Governor Herbert Jeffreys and the Council of State, required the tribes to avow allegiance to the queen of the Pamunkey and the English crown. The
treaty effectively reaffirmed the existence of the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Indian lands, later called reservations, and stipulated payment each March of an annual quitrent to the governor. The Mattaponi and Pamunkey Indian Reservations are the only reservations in Virginia and are two of the oldest reservations in the United States.

In 1691, King & Queen County was created from New Kent County. The new county, which was named after the ruling English monarchs, King William III and Queen Mary II, encompassed lands lying north of the Pamunkey and York Rivers including Pamunkey Neck. The legislative enabling act that created the new county contained the first official reference to English town lands at West Point in Pamunkey Neck.

In 1692, The House of Burgesses, the lower house of the General Assembly, rejected a petition from inhabitants of King & Queen County requesting legalization of titles and possession of lands that they acquired from the Indians in the Pamunkey Neck section of the county.

In 1693, King William III and Queen Mary II granted the College of William & Mary its royal charter which included an endowment of 10,000 acres in the upper part of Pamunkey Neck. The land was sold to lessees by 1830.

On May 4, 1695, William Leigh and Joshua Story, burgesses for King & Queen County, introduced the first legislative petition to divide King & Queen County and to create a new county. The bill was passed by the House of Burgesses but was defeated by the Council, which was the upper chamber of the legislature.

In August 1701, the General Assembly passed the act that established a regional port town called Delaware (or Del la War), the predecessor of the Town of West Point. The new town was situated on land conveyed by John West III and three siblings to King & Queen County for establishment of a regional port. On September 4, the Council-appointed commission submitted its report to the General Assembly. The legislature adopted the report’s recommendations, approving patents for 50 settlers and denying patents for 16 other settlers. On September 5, the bill to establish a distinct county from King & Queen County was introduced in the legislature by Robert Beverley, a burgess from Jamestown who held the clerkship for King & Queen County. On October 2, the General Assembly passed and Governor Frances Nicholson assented to the enabling act creating a distinct county from the Pamunkey Neck section of King & Queen County. The new county was named for the reigning English monarch, King William III. Queen Mary II had died in 1694.

In March 1702, Governor Nicholson commissioned thirteen justices -of-the-peace who collectively served as the local governing body, the county court, for the new County of King William. On April 11, the legislative act, which established King William County, became effective on the thirteenth anniversary of William and Mary’s coronation. King William County became the 24th county in existence at that time in Virginia. King William County’s royal namesake died on March 19th, only twenty -three days prior to the establishment of the county. On June 20, King William County conducted its first election. John and Nathaniel West, brothers, were elected to represent the county in the lower house in the state legislature.

In 1704, the General Assembly enacted a general law establishing 15 towns which reestablished Delaware Town.
In June 1707, the first lots in Delaware Town were sold.

In 1721, Spotsylvania County was formed from King William, King & Queen, and Essex Counties. The new county was named after Alexander Spotswood, the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia from 1710-1722 under the nominal governorship of George Hamilton, First Earl of Orkney. In 1716, Spotswood led an expedition of the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe from Chelsea plantation in King William County to the Shenandoah Valley in order to advance its settlement.

In 1728, Caroline County was formed from King William, King & Queen, and Essex Counties. The new county was named after Caroline of Anspach, the queen consort of the reigning English King George II.

On July 11, 1870, the state legislative act, which established the present-day incorporated Town of West Point, became effective. On September 11, the Town of West Point conducted its first council election.

In 1926, Port Richmond incorporated as a town pursuant to an act of the General Assembly.

In 1928, Port Richmond unincorporated as a town following the repeal of its municipal charter by the General Assembly.

On January 1, 1964, the Town of West Point annexed the adjacent unincorporated Port Richmond area of the county. The annexation followed voter approval in an advisory referendum held on May 7, 1963.

West Family

Excerpts from Old New Kent County by Malcolm H. Harris

The West family deserves first place in any account of the history of Old New Kent County or the State of Virginia, for during the first years, following the settlement at Jamestown, the West family contributed liberally in money and influence to the establishment of the colony and its support and the welfare of the first colonists.

Thomas West, the third Lord de la Warr, was the first resident Governor of the Colony from 1609-1618. (Lord de la Warr, or in America, “Delaware,” was a title relating to the English estate of Warr.) He arrived in Jamestown in June 1610 after two months voyage just in time to prevent the surviving colonists from setting sail for England.

Born in 1577, he was educated at Oxford, knighted on July 12, 1599, and was a member of the Privy Council of Queen Elizabeth and King James. He was untiring in his efforts to preserve the colony and make the plantations in Virginia profitable. Thomas West married Cecelie, daughter of Sir Thomas Shirley of Wiston, Knight.

In 1618, he made another voyage to Virginia; but a violent storm off the coast of Delaware capsized his vessel, and he was drowned on June 7, 1618. This accident gave the Bay its name, Delaware.

Capt. Francis West, Thomas’s brother, came to Virginia in 1608. He was commandant of Jamestown from 1612-1617 and was the second West to act as Governor of Virginia from 1627-1629. He lived at Westover, married his second wife, Dame Temperance, widow of Sir George Yeardley, Governor of Virginia, and later married his third wife, Jane Davye. He died testate in 1634, and his will named one child.
John West, the fourth brother to come to Virginia, was born on December 14, 1590. He was educated at Cambridge and received his Bachelor's degree in 1613. He came to Virginia in 1618 on the Bony Bess. He was active in the military and commanded a company of soldiers against the Indians. He was elected to the House of Burgesses from the “other side of the Water 1629-30,” was a member of the Council in 1631, a Justice in York County in 1634, and was acting Governor while John Harvey was in England from May 1635 until January 1636/37 when Harvey arrived in Virginia. Thus it was, that John West was the third son of Sir Thomas West, the Second Lord de la Warr, to become Governor of Virginia.

Capt. John West married Anne, and they had a son, John West, who was the first white child born on the York River, and upon his birth, Capt. John West was granted 2,000 acres of land. Later, Capt. West was given 10,000 pounds of tobacco annually in appreciation of services rendered by the Wests to the colony. He established his home at “Belfield” on the York River which was later the seat of the Digges family.

John West later was granted the large tract in the forks between the Mattaponi and Pamunkey at the head of York River. This tract became his West Point Plantation where he moved. He established his home at the head of the York River where he died in 1659. For many generations, the West family continued to reside on their West Point Plantation.

The Towns of West Point

Excerpts from Old New Kent County by Malcolm H. Harris

On May 13, 1607, three small ships, The Susan Constant, The Godspeed, and The Discovery, came to anchor in the James River close enough to the shore of Jamestown Island to tie the boats to the trees along the banks of the river. The passengers of these three vessels came ashore and established the first permanent English colony in America.

Among this small band of men was Capt. John Smith who became an important leader and was foremost in keeping the settlers alive and preserving the first settlement.

It was during the winter of 1608, while on a tour of exploration up the Chickahominy River, that Capt. Smith was taken captive by the Indians. This was in the vicinity of Orapax, in the present New Kent County. The Indians were pleased with the capture of Capt. Smith and exhibited him on a tour of their villages and towns along the tidal rivers, and in time brought him to Cinquoteck which was the name of the Indian town that occupied the site of West Point.

Cinquoteck was the principal town of Indian Chief Opechannough who was a brother of Emperor Powhatan who was the head of the Indian Confederacy of many small tribes.

Smith was released by his captors and returned to Jamestown. On his return, the remaining colonists were on the verge of starvation. At once, he set forth in search of food which led his men to the town, Cinquoteck. Here he had a dramatic encounter with Chief Opechannough, and with threats, he and his men secured sufficient food to keep the colonists alive. It may well be that this food preserved the colony.

Smith gives a description of his meeting with the Indian chief and of their deceptions and promises. On the following day, their promises to deliver food were not kept. Instead, the colonists were surrounded by seven hundred Indians, and Smith discovered that they plotted to murder him. He seized the chief by his forelock and pressed his pistol to the chief's chest and led him before the people. The Indians laid down their bows and arrows.
and brought baskets of corn for which the English gave them presents and “all were well contented.”

While Smith and his companions were at Cinquoteck, a messenger brought word of Capt. Scrivener and a party who had been left at Jamestown during Smith’s absence. They had taken a boat and gone to Hog Island in the James River seeking supplies. The boat had capsized and all were lost in the adventure.

Later, the marriage of Pocahontas and John Rolfe brought a peaceful time to the Indians and the colonists. In 1618, Powhatan died at the chief town, Orapax, in New Kent County on the Chickahominy River. Opechannough succeeded his brother, Powhatan, as Chief of the Pamunkeys and as Emperor of the Confederacy.

In April 1620, The London Merchant, which brought to Virginia a number of maids who were claimed as wives, also brought to Virginia Capt. George Thorpe of his Majesty’s Privy Chamber, a member of the Virginia Company’s Council and its deputy for the College Lands. This gentleman was a devout churchman and soon was a close friend of Opechannough and his people. It was this same Capt. Thorpe who built the chief an English house (the first one) at Cinquoteck after the English fashion “in which the chief took much delight, especially in the lock to the door, which he locked and unlocked a hundred times each day.”

It was likely in this same house that the plans were made for the terrible Massacre of 1622 on Good Friday which took the lives of more than two hundred and forty-seven persons, including Capt. George Thorpe. If it had not been for the timely warning of the Indian boy, Chanco, the whole English settlement would have been destroyed. All those living in remote areas were lost but the survivors came through with a renewed determination to carry on.

For many years the Indians kept the peace with an occasional foray on the outlying settlements until Good Friday in the year 1644. While the English were hearing prayers for King Charles, the wily Chief Opechannough, nearing a hundred years of age, and almost blind, led his warriors once more to a massacre, this time determined to kill every settler. Five hundred died on that day. Prayers for the King were forgotten while colonists turned to the defense of their homes and the subjugation of the Indians.

After these troubles subsided and Necatawance succeeded Opechannough as head of the Powhatan Confederacy, the Indians and English signed a treaty of peace in 1646. By this treaty the Indians were restricted to the lands above the York and Pamunkey Rivers and the tribute of twenty beaver skins were each year to be brought to the Governor. This gesture of compliance has been carried on by the Pamunkey and Mattaponi Indians down through the years.

2—The Town Lands of King and Queen County. The county of King and Queen was erected in 1691 by an Act of the General Assembly. This act divided New Kent by the York and Pamunkey Rivers, and all the territory above the rivers fell into the new county.

The same year another act was passed by the General Assembly providing for the purchase or condemnation of fifty acres of land at West Point for town lands, to be laid out for the County of King and Queen. There are no details of record as to the actual conveyance, but the land was derived from the West Plantation. It is known that a wharf was built on the Mattaponi side and it was designated to be used by the upper parts of York River.
The Town of West Point, Virginia

During the next ten years there are no records of any development of the town lands at West Point, and it is known that vessels plying the rivers loaded and unloaded their cargoes here, but the town left no traces.

3—Delaware Town. The third town to occupy this site was called Delaware Town. It was established by an Act of the General Assembly passed in 1705. The act established a town on the York River at West Point to be called Delaware and set aside Tuesdays and Thursdays for market days and the second Tuesday in September and four days following for the annual fair.

The town lands of King and Queen had been prorated as to the cost and King William County reimbursed King and Queen for its share. The details of laying out the town of Delaware fell to the county surveyor, Harry Beverley, who divided the fifty acres into one-half lots which faced the two rivers. It is not known, but the town probably coincided with the previous town.

The County Court of King William appointed members of the court to act as trustees of the lots in the town and these three men were well known in the county: Thomas Carr, John Waller, and Philip Whitehead.

There are among the old records at King William about thirty deeds from the Trustees of Delaware Town to purchasers of the lots. These deeds bear the date June 20, 1707, and set forth that the grantee pay to the Trustees 480 pounds of sweet scented tobacco, and an annual rental on the 10th day of October of each year one ounce of flax seed and two ounces of hemp seed and build one good house twenty feet square in one year from the date of the deed or forfeit the right of sale without the consent of the Trustees.

There are very few records relating to the town but there was enough activity around the place to bring travelers to the stores and the ship landing. Ships came into York River and often came to anchor in the Mattaponi near the public quay. Sales were publicized at West Point of property and lands as well as goods.

The details given in the deeds of conveyance to the grantees from the Trustees of Delaware Town have provided essential facts from which the plan of the town can be reconstructed with reasonable accuracy.

The surveyor, Harry Beverley, divided the fifty acres of town land into a hundred half-acre lots. The lots were 132 feet in depth and 165 feet in breadth. The lots were in two tiers, running up the ridge, with the lots numbered, the odd numbers on the Pamunkey side and the even on the Mattaponi. A transfer deed from John Waller to John Walker, conveying his lot facing the public quay on the Mattaponi, which was next to the lot of Capt. John Braxton on the Mattaponi side, and Capt. Richard Wyatt's lot up the county, coincides with the facts.

The ferries which crossed the Mattaponi to Dudley's above the Mattaponi River landed at the quay or near to it. This was the ferry landing down through the years as long as the ferries were employed. “The ferry commonly known as Graves’ Ferry over York River near West Point, formerly kept by Robert Willis, is now kept by me the Subscriber,” John Waller.

The French map (next page) which was made of Delaware Town in 1781 by the French Engineers under Rochambeau when his heavy artillery was quartered in the town shows the homes of Braxton, Moore, Bingham, and Ruscow. It shows the two parallel streets which converged into a single road leading to King William Courthouse. It also posits the Braxton plantation which he had purchased of Col. John West opposite the landing where the wide slab of marl afforded a natural pier in the Pamunkey. The French Army was stationed here
before and after the capitulation at York in October 1781.

4—The Town of West Point. In 1855, William P. Taylor sold to the West Point Land and Developing Company 500 acres which extended from the York River upward. This was the first step taken in the establishment of a railway terminus and port in anticipation of the extension of the York River Railway to West Point from Whitehouse.

The first meeting of the Directors of the West Point and Land Company was held in the Old Hotel on the 27th day of March 1856. At this meeting, B. B. Douglas was chosen President and John Pollard, Secretary and Treasurer.

The plan of the Town of West Point was made by J. M. Daniel and bears the date 1860. The cross streets are numbered from the York River upward, and the parallel streets were
originally lettered, but in recent times, names have been assigned. It was a short time later when the Civil War brought to West Point a number of Volunteer Companies who were in a Regiment under the command of Col. B. H. Tomlin. During the summer of 1861, General R. E. Lee came to West Point to inspect the troops. They were fortifying the river front and using, in part, some of the same breastworks which had been thrown up by the French during the Revolution.

After the Confederate Army moved out of the peninsula, the Federal transports came up the York River. There was a battle, sometimes called West Point, but more properly Eltham Landing, for the actual battle was fought from the Brickhouse landing, and the Confederate troops were moving toward New Kent Courthouse from Barhamsville along the Germantown Road. The shelling of the forest along the bluff was the main part of the fight. There were seven Confederates killed, who were buried by the road near where Mt. Nebo Church now stands.

General William B. Franklin landed a part of his corps and occupied the town. He threw up earth works across the King William road from the Pamunkey side to the creek which falls into the Mattaponi River. Even after a hundred years the gun emplacements and some of the trenches are still visible.

The late Mr. W. C. Davis was a small boy during the war and told of the Yankees coming to his home which stood on the lot on which the Citizens and Farmers Bank is now located, and his father being away in the army, his mother took her flock of chickens and hid them in a closet by the chimney. The house was searched from top to bottom and, as the soldiers started out the door, the old rooster gave a lusty crow and betrayed the whole flock.

The railroad bed from Whitehouse to West Point was graded before 1851, but the railway was not completed until after the war. The trains came into town and ran down across town to a terminus on Lee Street near Second Street. This was the route until the wharves were built on the Pamunkey to load and unload the ships which came for cotton. A picture made of the waterfront about 1890 has no less than a dozen steamers and sailing vessels in the York and Pamunkey.

The Town of West Point was given a charter by an Act of the General Assembly during the session in 1870. The first Mayor of the Town was John Whiting, and the first Council was composed of the following elected men: E. W. Massie, W. R. Hart, Bolivar Starke, C. T. Whiting, and A. T. Covan. At the first council meeting, Hansford Anderson was appointed town sergeant.

After 1880, the town grew and in 1888 the population reached 3,500 people. A fire destroyed the business district which ranged along the railroad. After this, the merchants moved their business establishments to the present business district on Main Street.

In 1895, the Southern Railway moved its terminus to Pinners Point and took from the town a large part of its inhabitants and a larger part of its income. It was the second...
The Town of West Point, Virginia

severe reverse the town had suffered in a decade. The deserted cotton presses and vacant houses were sold for little. The only source of income was the amusement park and the Terminal Hotel facing the York River which brought excursions in the summertime. In 1903, a second disastrous fire broke out which destroyed fifty-two buildings, homes, churches, stores, and the Grove Hotel which was the last tie between the town of Delaware and West Point. The amusement area escaped.

Modernization Plans for West Point

In the reconstruction that followed the Civil War, various industrial plans were proposed for Middle and Lower Peninsulas of Tidewater, Virginia. One of these proposed that West Point would be central. This plan was based upon the previous role of West Point with its close ties to Richmond as its seaport, a critical transportation link to the world. An important rail link had already been established from Richmond to Port Richmond in the vicinity of West Point. Port Richmond was part of a major steamship line that served all of the Chesapeake Bay reaching up to Baltimore, Maryland, and serving every river that emptied into the bay. The initial plans were to extend the rail service to the major steamship wharves, but the invention of the internal combustion engine that could power vehicles to carry both passengers and cargo eliminated much of the proposed railways.

The adjacent map of the Middle and Lower Peninsulas proposes a road system around West Point. It shows a major road (route 360) connecting Richmond to Tappahannock of Essex County. The mid-point of this road would pass through King William Courthouse. A second major road (route 30) was proposed to connect King William Courthouse to West Point. This road would continue on to Gloucester Point. Another important road would pass through West Point and connect Charles City Courthouse with Urbanna in Middlesex County. Clearly, West Point is central in this plan.
It is interesting to note that this does not show the newly established city of Newport News in the southern portion of Warwick County on the Lower Peninsula. Based upon development studies, Collis Huntington, the New York Railroad tycoon, decided to buy up the lower portion of Warwick County and develop the city of Newport News to establish his Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry-dock Company on the James River. The same study established the southern shores of the James River for the shipping port for the coal industry of western Virginia. This move to develop the James River replaced the industrial plans for West Point and the York River. Therefore, the expansion of West Point did not occur, and the population of surrounding counties diminished as a great migration of families moved closer to the shores of the James River. The side effect of this caused the pollution of the James River prior to that of the York River.

**West Point Families of Interest to Gloucester County**

In the 1900 census of West Point, two families with strong ties to Gloucester County are listed side-by-side. The household of Matthew Puller and his wife, Pattie Leigh, was located next to that of Herbert Lewis and his wife, Mattie Parks, and the families, especially the four Puller children and six Lewis children, were close friends.

Matthew Puller was a grandson of Samuel D. Puller and Henry Simcoe of Gloucester County. Pattie Leigh Puller was a descendent of the John Page and Lewis Burwell families of Gloucester and other prominent families of the Virginia Colony. She was also a descendent of the William Claiborne family of the early Virginia Colony. Her son, General Lewis Burwell “Chesty” Puller, was a namesake of his prominent ancestor, and he became the most decorated marine in the history of the U.S. Marine Corp. Lewis was the oldest of Matthew and Pattie’s four children, the others being Sam, Pattie, and Emily. After retirement from the Marines he settled in Saluda, his wife’s home town. His son Lewis, Jr., who spent part of his childhood in Saluda, was also a decorated Marine and seriously wounded in Vietnam.

Herbert Iverson Lewis was a great-grandson of his namesake, Iverson Lewis, who was an early convert to the Baptist faith and was instrumental in the establishment of the first three Baptist Churches in Gloucester County. Iverson Lewis was a grandson of Abraham Iverson [Iveson], who served as a vestryman of the Ware Parish of Gloucester. Herbert was also the sixth great-grandson of Gov. John West, fourth great-grandson of Robert “King” Carter, and third great-grandson of Gov. Gen. Alexander Spotswood and Col. Augustine Moore of “Chelsea” on the Mattaponi. Other family names include Claiborne, Clopton, Fox, Hill, Skyren, Stith, and Todd. A prominent attorney in West Point, Herbert named one of his sons after Chief Justice John Marshall.

John Marshall Lewis married Marie Louise Hargrove in 1907, and in the 1910 census, he was listed as a bank cashier in Gloucester County. Eventually, J. Marshall Lewis became president of the bank, and he established himself as an important
leader in the development of Gloucester County through the middle of the Twentieth Century. He was a guiding force in establishing the Gloucester Fair, and he served as executor and trustee for numerous corporate ventures. Marshall's children, Herbert and Betty, followed in his footsteps in the Bank of Gloucester.

Two of Marshall's sisters joined him in Gloucester. Marion Lewis married Richard Bernard Feild, another West Point resident, and they moved to Gloucester in 1928. Two of their children remained in Gloucester: son, Herbert Iverson Lewis Feild, became an attorney and judge, and daughter, Martha, married Fred Lee Brown of Schley (they are the parents of our new editor, Fred Lee Brown, Jr.). Victoria Lewis married the Rev. Henry G. Lane of "Woodstock" in Mathews, and they moved to Gloucester when he retired. Both Bernard Feild and Henry Lane were descendants of colonial-era settlers of Gloucester County.

In summary, the fortunes of Gloucester County have been linked to the surrounding counties, towns, and cities. The industrial bypass of West Point and the counties north of the York River caused the migration of many to developing locations near the James River. Therefore, Gloucester development has trailed their southern neighbors. Also, in this article, we have featured three sons of West Point with Gloucester credentials: Chesty Puller, Marshall Lewis, and our Ed Thornton. §
The Life and Times of George and Rebecca Emerson in Gloucester County

By Robert Carol Emerson

The following article is taken from a book written by Robert Carol Emerson about his family. Presented herein is the section that describes the various farms in Gloucester where his family lived and worked. A copy of the book is in the Gloucester Public Library.

On February 16, 1916, George William Emerson and Rebecca Taylor Oliver were married at Beech Grove Baptist Church in Gloucester County, Virginia. As of 1999, this union has produced 239 descendants. (The 239 number includes adoptions but does not include in-laws.) The lives of George and Rebecca Emerson and the times in which they lived are a part of the heritage of all of these 239 descendants. This booklet is an attempt to aid each of us in understanding the Emerson and Oliver portion of our heritage. Before entering the story of George and Rebecca’s lives, we will first look at their ancestry.

Crow Point

George and Rebecca’s first home was Crow Point, a farm of about 100 acres located on Wilson Creek in the Roanes section of Gloucester. The house on Crow Point was small but quite adequate for a young married couple. Rebecca spoke very warmly of the time she lived at Crow Point. When the newlyweds entered their first home, Rebecca said the house was fully furnished. Most notable was a new dining room table that George had ordered from Norfolk and delivered by steamer to Roane’s Wharf. This table became the centerpiece for the family meals for many years. As the family grew, the table grew also by adding leaves and folding extensions at each end.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family of George &amp; Rebecca Emerson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+m. <strong>Rebecca Taylor Oliver</strong>, b. May 29, 1892, d. Aug 1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Lewis Emerson, b. Feb 14, 1917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+m. Woodrow Wilson Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Brandon Emerson, b. Oct 12, 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+m. Helen Elizabeth Peters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+m. Celesta Lee “Susie” Kemp, b. Jan 8, 1826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roland Lynwood Emerson, b. Jan 9, 1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1st m. Dorothy Hale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+2nd m. Christine Haywood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Nelson Emerson, b. Jan 9, 1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+m. Ruby Lee West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chester Ashley Emerson, b. Mr 2, 1923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+m. Maxine Garner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Franklin Emerson, b. Oct 27, 1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+m. Betty Gene Blanton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbert Taylor Emerson, b. Dec 12, 1928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+m. Nora Blanche Jenkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick Wray Emerson, b. Mar 2, 1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1st m. Ann Carol Hudgins, b. 1931, d. 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+2nd m. Jaqueline Haywood Clarkson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherwood Carleton Emerson, b. Jan 29, 1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+m. Carroll Edwards Freeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Carol Emerson, b. Apr 29, 1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+m. Nancy Lee Palmer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The home at Crow Point had the modern convenience of the water pump being located inside the house. The pump was mounted in the kitchen beside a sink that had drainpipes to remove used water. Rebecca said that her friends were envious of her new home saying, “Beck don’t even have to go outside to pump her water.”

The lawn at Crow Point bordered on Wilson Creek with a pier leading into the creek where George kept a rowboat. Rebecca recalled that one day when she asked George what he wanted for dinner, he replied that he wanted oysters. So he went out into the creek and tonged enough oysters for the meal. Rebecca said that she could watch George tong and shuck the oysters through the kitchen window while she prepared the rest of the meal.

George and Rebecca’s first child and only daughter was born while they were living at Crow Point. The child was named Elizabeth Lewis after Rebecca's mother and was called “Lulie,” her grandmother's nickname. Rebecca recorded this birth in her Bible as follows: Elizabeth Lewis Emerson born February 14, 1917 at “Crow Point” Va. Rebecca recorded the birth of all of her children in this manner, giving the date and place of birth. This record makes it possible to identify the family’s places of residence. Rebecca also kept tax receipts which give the family’s addresses for most of the years of their marriage.

Severn Hall

South White Marsh was sold in 1917, and George's father, George Edwin Emerson, moved to Severn Hall. This move led to a business relationship between George Edwin, “Big George,” and George William, “Little George,” that lasted many years. Severn Hall had two residences, both located near the Severn River. Big George's family moved into one of the houses, and Little George's family moved into the other. The farming operation was divided in half with the father taking one portion and the son taking the other. Beef cattle
were the major money crop; that is, crops, such as corn and hay, were used to feed the cattle, and the selling of the cattle was the source of money.

When the beef was butchere, the father took one half; the son took the other. Both father and son had a “beef route” in which they sold meat door to door. Big George’s route was in the northern section of the county because he knew the people there since he had lived in that section during his younger years. Little George took a route in the lower part of the county because he was more familiar with that section.

Although beef was the primary product dispensed in this business, it was sometimes supplemented with pork, eggs, dairy products, and fish. Fishing was done mostly for the family’s consumption.

George and Rebecca lived at Severn Hall for six years from 1918 to 1924. 1918 was a year of mixed blessings for the United States. World War I ended, ushering in a decade of prosperity; however, 1918 also brought a worldwide influenza epidemic which killed ten million people. Gloucester County and the Emerson family did not escape the effects of the epidemic. Rebecca contracted the influenza while pregnant with her second child. She returned to her family home on Cedar Bush Creek where several of her family were suffering from the same sickness. The family doctor made his residence in the Oliver home at that time. He would make house calls to other patients during the day but would return to the Oliver home at night.

Influenza in 1918 was a serious illness which often ended in death. Rebecca’s case was especially serious because it was complicated by her pregnancy. She delivered her first born son, George Brandon, a fourteen pound boy who was born with influenza. Both
mother and child survived the illness. It was later learned that Rebecca and Brandon were
the only mother and child in Gloucester who contracted influenza and both survived.

During the Emerson's stay at Severn Hall, four sons were born into the family: George
Brandon, "Buck," was born on October 12, 1918; Jackson Oliver, "Jack," was born on July
15, 1920; Roland Lynwood was born on January 9, 1922; and Thomas Nelson, "Nel," was
born on July 15, 1923.

One of the disadvantages of living at Severn Hall was its isolation. In previous
generations when commerce was centered around river traffic, Severn Hall being in close
proximity to Roane's Wharf was not considered an "out of the way" place. However, as
overland travel became the center of commerce, Severn Hall's access to a public road was a
private lane about one and one-half miles long leading to Feather Bed Lane. (This "public
road" got its name because the sandy soil was said to be as soft as a featherbed.) Part of
the Severn Hall lane was a corduroy road, that is a road made of logs laid side by side
crosswise on the road. Such a road could be very durable as long as the dirt held the logs
in place. But in the winter months when the mucky dirt allowed the logs to slip about, the
road became nearly impassable. This type of road was especially dangerous for horses
because their hooves could slip between the logs and cause a broken leg. The family
needed a home place that was not so inaccessible.

Timberneck

Zack Emerson, George's cousin, had moved to New York City, but he was never
content living the city life. Therefore, he contracted to buy a farm in Gloucester from John
Catlett. Although the deed was never transferred to Zack, he took possession of the
property with the understanding the legal transfer of the deed would take place when the
final payment was made. Zack's wife, Katherine, associated life in the country with the
drudgery of farm life that she had experienced in her native Ireland; therefore, she refused
to move to Gloucester. Use of this land was made available to George and Rebecca
Emerson.

The farm, variously called "Zack's Place," "Catlett's," or "Timberneck" was located on
the opposite side of Cedar Bush Creek from Coke. One could row across Cedar Bush Creek
and be very close to Rebecca's homeplace or within walking distance of Beech Grove
Church. Zack's Place seemed to be a solution to the problem of inaccessibility at Severn
Hall. Hence, the family moved to Zack's Place in 1924. The address of this residence was
"Bridges."

While living at Zack's Place, two more sons were added to the Emerson family.
Chester Ashley was born on March 2, 1925, and Charles Franklin was born on October 27,
1926. More leaves had to be added to the dining table to accommodate the growing family,
but the family never got too big to gather around the table at mealtime, and no one ate
until George had said the blessing. The kitchen was the "center of warmth" both physically
and socially.

Farm life has never been easy, and it was especially strenuous for a large family in the
1920s and 30s. Once Rebecca was asked, "How did you make out during the Depression?"
"What Depression?" she asked. "The Great Depression of the 1930s." "It was all hard
times. I didn't notice any difference," she replied. Food was always adequate. Beef was
available from George's beef route. This was supplemented with pork and poultry grown
for family use. A vegetable garden yielded its produce in season, and any excess was
preserved for the winter months. One year Rebecca canned over 1000 quarts of it. "Waste
not, want not," and "If you never waste, you'll never want," were proverbs not only spoken
but were practiced in daily life. Even such staples as flour and cornmeal were products of the farm. George would take wheat and corn to a mill and have it ground to produce the ingredients for bread. [Mills were located by various ponds which supplied the power to turn the water wheels. A miller would grind wheat or corn and keep a small portion of the flour or meal as fee for his services.] Any item not grown on the family farm was considered a luxury.

Family finances were not controlled by an even “money flow.” Harvest seasons, weather, and misfortunes determined the amount of resources. One year George planted a large field of English peas. At harvest time, he had arranged for workers to come and pick the peas. However, the night before the intended harvest, there was a hailstorm that destroyed the entire crop. The money crop for that early spring vanished with the capriciousness of nature. On another occasion, the county agent advised George to have his herd of hogs vaccinated against cholera. However, the serum used was defective, and rather than preventing cholera, it infected the herd with the dreaded disease. All of the hogs had to be destroyed. Such misfortunes made hard times harder.

Zach Emerson never actually owned the farm at Timberneck. He had agreed to buy the property and had made partial payment with the understanding that he could occupy the farm before the deal was finalized. Under this agreement, Zack sold timber off the land and allowed George to live there. However, when Zack failed to fulfill the terms of the original agreement, the Catletts repossessed the property, and George and Rebecca had to find another residence.

“Down Home”

When Jack Oliver died, his wife, Lulie, and the younger children lived for a while with her son, Sam Oliver, at Clay Bank. As time passed, her younger children married and moved away, and Lulie returned to the home place on Cedar Bush Creek, but it was not feasible for her to live there alone. In 1928, the Emerson family moved to Rebecca’s original home which she referred to as “down home.”

While living “down home,” three more sons were added to the family. Herbert Taylor was born on December 12, 1928; Frederick Wray was born on March 2, 1931, and Sherwood Carleton was born on January 29, 1933. The dining table was expanded with drop leaves on each end to accommodate the growing family.

George continued his beef route business, although his father’s increasing age and a car accident diminished the older Emerson’s efforts in the business. Whenever George butchered a beef, he would reserve goodly portions for the family’s use. Before the days of refrigeration, beef was preserved by placing it in a salty brine, a process know as “corning.” The brine was made by adding salt to water until the density was enough to float an egg. To be truly corned beef, the meat stayed in the brine for a long period of time. However, this process was used in the Emerson family to preserve meat for only several days or several weeks at the most. Thus the meat had more of the quality of fresh beef than corned beef.

George began diversifying his farming activities by purchasing a tractor and combine. [A combine is a power operated harvesting machine that cuts, threshes, and cleans grain.] The ownership of this new equipment was in partnership with George’s brother, Johnny. The tractor, an early Farm-All model with metal cleated wheels, was bought from Henning & Nuckols. (As of September 10, 1935, George owed $350 on the tractor.) After George and Johnny had harvested their own crops, George harvested other farmers’ crops, sometimes for a monetary fee, other times for a portion of the harvest. This endeavor
proved to be profitable, but customers’ failure to pay the harvesting bill often caused financial problems.

The schoolhouse in Jack Oliver's yard had long since been replaced by the public school system, and the Emerson children attended Shelley Elementary. Later on they attended Botetourt High School. Transportation was made possible by Gloucester County initiating a school bus system. One of the buses was owned by Rebecca's sister, Mary Dowling, and was driven by a distant cousin, John Rilee.

One of the disadvantages of living “down home” was the lack of farming acreage. Jack Oliver had large landholdings during his lifetime, but at his death, the land was divided among his heirs [Rebecca inherited 6.75 acres in the vicinity of Beech Grove Church and a smaller portion near Cedar Bush Creek]. When the Emisons lived at the home place, there were only 16 acres left.

George continued to crop rented land and still worked portions of Severn Hall, but the distance between Coke and Severn Hall made commuting by “horseback” impractical. George bought the first family car, a Model T Ford, from his neighbor, Eddie Oliver, for $25.

**Earnest Rilee’s Place**

A 112 acre farm, located in Gum Fork known as Earnest Rilee's place, became available, and the Emerson family moved there in 1934. However, only about 20 acres proved to be suitable for farming, and George continued renting farmland, sometimes on a “sharecrop” basis. The youngest of George and Rebecca's eleven children, Robert Carol, was born on April 29, 1935.

The advent of refrigeration and supermarkets diminished the practicality of door-to-door sale of beef. Gradually George became more of a traditional farmer, selling the livestock on hoof rather than butchered.

Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal recognized that small family farmers were devastated by the Depression and sought to address this problem by establishing the Resettlement Administration in 1935. The RA’s original purpose was to move farmers living on “submarginal land” to more fertile acreage. However, it was soon discovered that the land was not as much of a problem as the lack of modern equipment. Therefore, the Rehabilitation Division was created within the RA which made available low interest loans to farmers for buying “seed, fertilizer, livestock, and farming equipment.” On August 6, 1937, George and Rebecca received a loan of $897.62 from the Federal Resettlement Administration in order to modernize the farm operations.

George used money from this loan to buy “2 mules, 2 sets of harnesses, and 125 pullets.” The two mules, Kattie and Toby (sometimes called Kate and Tobe), were bought through the Rehabilitation Division and probably came from a western state because they were branded, a procedure not normally used in Virginia. Kattie and Toby were much bigger than average Virginia mules; hence, they were referred to as the “big government mules.” In addition to the horse and buggy George used on his beef route, George had accumulated other farm equipment, such as 1 wagon, 1 mower, 1 riding plow; 1 harrow, and 1 tractor.

One day Rebecca hitched the horse to the buggy using the new harness. George brought her some wire in case the harness broke on her trip to the store. George had become so accustomed to “making do” with deficient equipment that he did not realize that the new harness was trustworthy for the short trip.
The purpose of the Resettlement Administration's financing new equipment was to allow the farmers to realize the maximum benefits from their land. In the case of George Emerson's loan, it had somewhat of the opposite effect: the 112 acres of Ernest Rilee's Place did not allow George to realize the maximum benefits from his new equipment. In the final analysis, the Resettlement Administration did relocate the Emerson family, from Clay Bank to Airville Farm.

Airville

About the same time that the resettlement loan was finalized, Dr. Spencer, the man from whom George had rented Five Gables Farm prior to his marriage, approached George with a proposition to move his residence to Airville Farm, a large farm by Gloucester County standards, one half mile wide and one mile long. The farm had not been cultivated for quite a few years, and Dr. Spencer offered the farm to George rent free in order to restore the land to agricultural cultivation.

The “big house” at Airville was a huge plantation type building with thirty-seven rooms. The house, like the farm, had fallen into disrepair with cracked plaster and flaking paint; however, portions of the building was quite livable. Although the house was three stories, the family only lived in the basement and on the first floor. The farm had two other dwellings that in previous generations had been “servants’ quarters.”

The seven-year stay at Airville was a period of transition. In many respects it was a “high water mark;” in other respects it was a time of tremendous change. The stay at Airville brought modern conveniences to the Emerson family, such as electricity, indoor plumbing, and radio. It became a family tradition to linger at the dinner table after supper and listen to *Amos and Andy* on the radio.

Prior to coming to Airville, the family always attended church at Beech Grove Baptist in Coke. Even when living at Severn Hall, Beech Grove was the place of worship, and Sunday was a time for Rebecca to visit with her family at the “home place.” However, after moving to Airville, Rebecca, George, and the older children moved their membership to Newington Baptist at Gloucester Courthouse. Eventually, the rest of the children were baptized at Newington. The moving of membership to Newington was not a pronounced change because Rev. Harry Corr was the pastor of both churches.

Soon after moving to Airville, Kattie, one of the “big government mules,” died, and George bought another big mule named Jake. George speculated that Jake must have been drugged at the time of his purchase because the first day at Airville he was very docile, but on the second day he became unimaginably stubborn. One day Jake stepped on George’s foot, and true to his stubborn nature he refused to move his hoof until extreme physical persuasion was applied to his head. For the first time in his life, George was taken to a doctor. Fortunately, his foot was not seriously damaged.

During the first half of the Twentieth Century, the most outstanding social event in Gloucester County was the county fair which was held at Botetourt High School. Farmers from all over the county would bring their best products, such as livestock, grain, and poultry to be judged by the fair’s officials. Wives brought the products of their kitchens such as pies, cakes, pickles, and preserves. One highlight of the day was the releasing of a greased pig which would become the possession of whoever caught and held it. It was quite a sight to watch all the young men trying to hold the slippery creature.

One year in the late 1930s, Nelson and Chester rode the big government mules to the county fair. They entered the mule race. Nelson, riding Toby, won first place handily, but
Chester’s mount, Jake, being as stubborn as usual, refused to participate. However, fate had a blue ribbon in store for Chester as well. He entered the Stubbornest Mule Contest which Jake won hands down and officially became the stubbornest mule in Gloucester County.

Dr. Spencer’s choosing George to restore the farm proved to be an excellent choice, for within several years, the farm became a showplace of agricultural operations. Tractors were beginning to replace horses and mules. Haybalers were replacing outdated methods of harvesting the crop. The county agent often brought groups of farmers to Airville to demonstrate how new farm equipment could be used or to validate that hybrid seed corn produced superior crops.

The mechanization of farming not only reduced the drudgery of farm work, it made farmers’ work more productive. With new equipment, one farmer could produce as much food stuff as three or four farmers formerly produced. This ratio of produce to worker would continue to increase. Roosevelt’s New Deal was bringing the nation out of the Depression and also was laying the foundation for the migration from farms to cities that would occur during the next decade.

Airville was divided into two distinct sections. The upper section was the location of the Big House, the servants’ quarters, the garden, and several agricultural fields; the lower section was called the Black Ground because of the darkness of the soil. The Black Ground had very rich soil and grew outstanding crops, but it had to be cultivated in a very precise manner. The land was such that in the rainy season it became too mucky to cultivate, and in the dry season it became so hard and brittle that it was impossible to plow. However, once one understood the land and worked within its limitations, the Black Ground became “a land flowing with milk and honey.”

The upper section was separated from the Black Ground by a bluff-like hill. Standing in the lawn of the Big House, one had the feeling of overlooking a valley. At meal time, Rebecca would stand on the edge of the bluff and ring a cowbell that was used as a dinner bell. The ringing would resound over the Black Ground and workers from all parts of the farm would come to the Big House for dinner or supper. Although there were no more children added to the family, the dinner table continued to grow because there were always hired workers and cousins who ate with the family. It would not be unusual for twenty people to eat the noon meal and the same twenty return for supper. Everyone had to be present and George said the blessing before anyone began to eat. George always sat at one end of the table and Rebecca at the other with the children, hired hands, and cousins seated between. Leaves were added to the table to accommodate the size of the crowd. Always in the middle of the table was a huge platter of hot biscuits. George jokingly said that the platter of biscuits was so tall that he couldn’t see Rebecca at the other end of the table until the meal was half over.

One year at hog butchering time, George put thirteen hogs in the smokehouse for the family’s consumption during the coming year. By the next hog butchering time, the family had eaten the thirteen hogs. One day Rebecca sent the younger children to the garden to pick English peas where they picked a bushel, went to the shade of the pecan tree, shelled them, and Rebecca cooked the peas for lunch. When the crowd came to eat at noon, the entire bushel of peas was consumed. Rebecca sent the younger children back to the garden, and the process was repeated for the evening meal. No resource was ignored or allowed to go to waste. During blackberry season, tubs of wild blackberries would be picked and canned or made into preserves. If frost came while tomatoes were still on the vines, the dinner menu would include fried green tomatoes or green tomato pickle and

---

George and Rebecca Emerson
As the country was coming out of the Depression and farming was becoming more profitable, the days of absentee landowners were coming to an end. With this change came the end of cheap farm land. Dr. Spencer had allowed George to live at Airville rent free in order to restore the farm to a salable condition. This strategy worked immensely well, and in 1939, Dr. Spencer informed George that he had a prospective buyer for Airville only after he gave George first choice to buy Airville for $12,000. [Years later, Airville was sold for over a million dollars.]

The forthcoming sale of Airville confronted George with a difficult decision. On the one hand, $12,000 was an astronomical amount of money for a farmer in 1939. On the other hand, if he did not buy Airville, what would he do with all of his livestock and farm equipment? Mr. Roberts, who owned the adjoining farm and who had become a very close friend with the Emersons, offered his farm to George under an arrangement similar to the one that George had with Dr. Spencer. However, Mr. Roberts was elderly, and George feared that in several years he would face the same situation.

When George declined the offer to buy Airville, Dr. Spencer sold the farm to Chandler Bates of New York. Mr. Bates offered to buy all of George’s livestock and farm equipment and offered him the position of foreman of the farm’s operation. For a farmer with a large family who had just come through the Depression, a steady income each month looked very enticing. Under the new arrangement, Mr. Bates started a poultry business of which he was in charge, and his son, Bill, was to be in charge of developing a dairy business which he stocked with shorthorn cattle. George was in charge of cultivating the land and overseeing the pork and beef cattle operation. One enterprise that proved to be very profitable was the selling of baby pigs at weaning stage. Many people raised one or two hogs for their family’s use but were not involved enough to raise brood sows. Many of these customers came to Airville to buy several piglets. One year George sold over 1,000 pigs and butchering hogs.

George accepted Mr. Bates’ offer, and the Emerson family moved from the big house to the servants’ quarters. The family was so large that they occupied two houses located about 200 feet apart. One house served as the kitchen and dining area with bedrooms upstairs; the other contained the living room and more bedrooms. Later on, Mr. Bates added a large room addition to one of the houses so the family could reside in one building. For several years, the new ownership of Airville did not change the Emerson lifestyle very much. The older boys worked for Mr. Bates, and George was at liberty to hire additional farm hands as needed. So the family dinner table was still a large gathering.

On December 7, 1941, Japan launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor ushering in World War II. Neither the world nor the Emerson family has been the same since. The older boys were called to leave the farm and join the war effort. Brandon, who had been working on the farm of Rev. Harry Corr, was called into the Army. Nelson and Chester enlisted in the Navy. Before entering the military service, Jack and Charles were employed at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry-dock Company, and Lynwood worked at the Naval Weapons Station at Yorktown. Eventually all six of the older boys would serve in either the Army or the Navy. Throughout the country, young men were leaving the farms either to become a part of the fighting force or to become a part of the military industrial complex. The Emerson family was no exception to this socio-economic trend.

For several years, the relationship between George and Mr. Bates worked very well. However, as time passed, Mr. Bates’ son, Bill, began asserting authority over George’s...
operation of the farm, and the relationship soured. In 1943, George resigned as foreman of Airville Farm.

The seven years that the Emersons lived at Airville was truly a time of transition. George and Rebecca came to Airville with ten sons. They left with only three still living at home. George came to Airville as a self-employed farmer; he left as an employee. George came to Airville with sizable amount of livestock and farm equipment; he left with only two cows [“Jersey Bounce” and “Pet”] that he had kept to supply the family with dairy products. Livestock that George sold to Mr. Bates for $20 a head in 1939 within two years was selling for $200 a head. The Emersons came to Airville while the “Great Depression of the 1930s” still had a firm grip on the economy. They left Airville amid the economic boom of World War II.

**Keleda**

George took a job as the “caretaker” of Keleda Farm in Ware Neck. Keleda was owned by Al Evans, a wealthy man who owned a small airport and a winch factory in Gloucester. Mr. Evans and his wife lived in the old plantation type home overlooking the Chesapeake Bay. Mr. Evans did not consider the farm to be a profitable enterprise; it was merely a place of residence for him. George's job was to keep the farm in a presentable appearance. He was to keep a vegetable garden, raise hogs and a few livestock, all of which were to be used on the farm. Nothing was raised to be sold to outsiders; hence, he was a caretaker of the farm.

One of the disadvantages of living at Keleda was that the home provided for the Emersons was very small. Since the house was too small for much of the furniture, Rebecca’s sister, Carrie Thruston, offered to store some of the Emerson's furniture at her home at White Marsh. Among the things stored at “Aunt Carrie’s” was the brass Indian that George bought at Mr. Roberts’ sale and the family table that had been with the family since George and Rebecca were first married. Rebecca chose to use the dining room suite that George had bought from Mr. Roberts because the table was more compact.

While at Keleda, the Emersons attended Beulah Baptist Church, but their membership remained at Newington because Keleda was never considered a permanent residence. Beulah was not a big change because Rev. Corr was the pastor of that church also.

While at Keleda, Jack, George and Rebecca’s second son, joined the Navy, and his wife, Susie, and their two daughters, Celesta and Jackie, came to live with George and Rebecca during the war. Thus began a very close bond between the two families.

George’s salary was paid through Al Evans’ winch business. This arrangement became significant because at that time farm employment was excluded from the Social Security system. When George became 65, his employment at Keleda made him eligible for Social Security benefits.

George’s work at Keleda was not strenuous; the daily operation of the farm was largely left to his discretion. However, a conflict arose over a verbal agreement that Mr. Evans would build a more suitable house for the “caretaker’s” family. When Mr. Evans reneged on this agreement, George sought other employment.

**Stormont**

In 1944, the Emersons moved to Stormont in Middlesex County where George was employed on a dairy farm owned by Mr. Moore. The dairy operations required attention seven days a week, and George was also expected to do other farm work such as harvesting hay and corn between the milking times. The work was long and very confining.
During the family's stay in Middlesex, the three children attended school at Saluda. The family attended church at Saluda Baptist, although their membership remained at Newington because the situation at Moore's dairy farm was not considered a permanent situation.

The horrors of World War II had become very real to the Emerson family. Eventually, six sons would become involved in this conflict. (Only four sons were actually involved in “a shooting war.” Lynwood and Charles entered the Army toward the end of the war and did not see armed conflict.) Brandon was in the Army and was slightly wounded in the invasion of Sicily and later was infected with malaria which caused his return to the U.S. Jack was in the Navy and was assigned to merchant marine ships that made routine trips between New York and Archangel, Russia. One winter his ship became stranded at Archangel because the harbor froze over. None of the family knew about this situation, and Jack did not realize that his letters were not being delivered. Month after month went by without any word from Jack, then one day he appeared at the home in Stormont, not knowing that the family had not heard from him during his last tour of duty.

During the last days of World War II, the Japanese Air Force developed a tactic of “suicide missions,” in which a pilot of a plane heavily loaded with explosives would crash into American ships. Nelson and Chester were stationed on ships in the vicinity where the suicide missions were most intense. Each night the family would gather around the radio listening to the war news hoping that there would be no mention of the names of the ships on which Nelson and Chester was stationed. Happily, their ships escaped any serious mishaps during the war. Eventually, all six of the Emerson sons returned home safe and sound.

One day when the children came home from school, Rebecca said, “The most wonderful news has just come over the radio. The United States has developed a new weapon that will end the war. God has given us a miracle.” She was talking about the atomic bomb being dropped on Nagasaki. From the point of view of a mother whose sons were in danger, the end of the war by any means was a miracle from God.

As the size of the family decreased, Rebecca began working as a seamstress, at first doing small sewing jobs for neighbors. Lulie and her husband, Hoby, had become the owners and operators of a successful dry cleaning business, and they needed a seamstress to do repair work for their customers. Rebecca began working at the Boulevard Cleaners in Newport News, living with Lulie during the week and returning to Middlesex on the weekends. Jack's wife, Susie, and their children were living with George and Rebecca while Jack was in the Navy. When Rebecca worked in Newport News weekdays, Susie became the “woman of the house.” The distance between Newport News and Middlesex was becoming a problem. Since George was not very happy with the situation at Moore's dairy anyway, he sought employment in his home county of Gloucester which would make Rebecca's weekly commute to Newport News much easier.

Elmington

In January of 1945, the Emersons moved to Elmington Farm owned by Mr. Rhodes of the Miller and Rhodes department stores. The home provided by Mr. Rhodes was a new building that was quite adequate, and George’s working conditions were much more reasonable than he had experienced at Moore's dairy in Middlesex. The year's stay at Elmington saw the Emerson sons return from the war. Following their tour of duty in the armed forces, the Emerson boys found employment on the Peninsula. Brandon had moved to Oklahoma, and Lynwood lived at Gloucester Point while working at the Naval Weapons
George and Rebecca Emerson

Station at Yorktown.

York County

After World War II, there was a national trend for previous farm workers to move to more urbanized areas. George and Rebecca Emerson seemed to be caught up in this trend. There was a strong urge to move closer to Rebecca’s employment, and moving to the Peninsula would better maintain the family ties since so many of the children had moved there. In the 1940s, York County was still a rural area but reasonably close to the urban activities of Newport News. York County seemed like an ideal place for the family to relocate.

Rebecca’s niece, Sarah Holland (daughter of Carrie Thruston), lived in Warwick County (now a part of Newport News) very close to the York-Warwick line. Sarah informed George and Rebecca of a twenty acre farm owned by Mr. Graefe that was for sale. The Graefe farm was located on Route 17 about one quarter mile from what would eventually be the Newport News city limits. In January, 1947, George and Rebecca bought the farm and moved to York County. Soon after moving to the Graefe farm, George and Rebecca sold half of the property to their son, Jack, who built his home on the farm, thus continuing the close relationship between the George and Jack Emerson families.

Most of the farming done in that area was the raising of vegetables to be sold in grocery stores or restaurants in Newport News. This was the type of farming George was involved with for several years although most of his customers were people from the city coming to the farm to buy vegetables or eggs, etc. Rebecca continued her work as a seamstress in various capacities. George’s “truck farming” did not materialize as a viable employment. He gradually shifted to raising veal, buying calves when they were two or three days old and raising them to veal stage. The selling of veal led George to the livestock auctions in Suffolk and Smithfield where he became very astute in estimating the value of livestock and became active in the buying and selling of livestock at the auctions. He also bought livestock from surrounding farms and sold them at the auctions in Suffolk and Smithfield.

Postscript by L. Roane Hunt

George and Rebecca Emerson spent their final years in their York County home. As a young adult in Bethel Baptist Church in York County, I remember Miss Rebecca as an inspiration to the youth in words and deeds. She taught the senior women’s class for many years. When she retired form teaching the class, she asked my mother, Hulda Roane Hunt, to take her teaching position. My mother considered that a great honor.

Robert Carol Emerson put aside his bricklayer trade for the pastoral ministry. One of the churches that he served was the Spring Hill Baptist Church in Mathews County. He kept his bricklaying skills alive before and after his official retirement from the ministry. At least three of his brothers were also bricklayers. He and his wife, Nancy, are residents of York County. In addition to his family history research, he is active in researching the colonial history of York County, and publishes his findings in regular articles in the York Crier Newspaper. §
Gloucester Agricultural Association
Organized November 18, 1911

The following article was transcribed from the record book of L. C. Catlett which contains the earliest minutes of the Gloucester Agricultural Association and the records of the first Gloucester County Farm Agent. Some visitation records of the agent to individual farms are not included in this article. The annotations in this article by L. Roane Hunt are presented to identify the parents of the children listed in these records. Additional parent identifications can be presented in later issues of the FTS Journal. The book is housed in the archives of the Gloucester Museum of History and was donated by Warren Deal.

November 18, 1911

The Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work was begun in March 1911 with J. W. C. Catlett as agent or collaborator. Thirty boys and twenty men were secured as demonstrators, and despite the bad season, good work was done by the collaborator and the demonstrators. J. W. C. Catlett resigned as of July 31st. August 8, L. C. Catlett was appointed collaborator. The work on the corn crop was about over, but money had to be raised to give the boy demonstrators prizes, and preparation had to be made for a county exhibit at the State Fair. Thirty-five counties had exhibits, and Gloucester won the sixth prize—$50.00. This success crystallized the sentiment already existing in favor of a county fair for 1912. A little over $70.00 was raised to buy ribbons and give the boys prizes on their corn. The prizes were awarded November 18, 1911. Messer. W. J. Burlee, R. M. Janney, N. S. Hopkins, W. A. Pratt, and J. W. C. Catlett acting as judges. Revs. W. B. Lee and W. H. Groves and Mr. Geo. E. Cary had previously judged the boys' compositions.

As soon as the judges had placed the ribbons on the boys' corn which was displayed in one of the recitation rooms of the Botetourt High School, a meeting was held in another recitation room and the following (W. J. Burlee, chair. and L. C. Catlett, sect.) was unanimously drafted:

Whereas we are desirous of advancing the agricultural interests of our county in every way, Resolved, 1st That we hereby form an association to be known as The Gloucester Agricultural Association. 2nd The object of the association shall be to encourage cooperation on the part of our farmers to the end that we may improve our methods of farming, improve our homes, our gardens, our livestock and the conditions of county life generally. 3rd That a county fair will be one of the most helpful agents in bringing about these much desired improvements and that we take steps at once to have a county fair in 1912 and that we ask the school authorities to cooperate with this association and combine a school fair with the county fair. 4th To carry out the objects of the association that a Board of Managers consisting of about thirty men be elected by this association, 1/3 of whom shall be elected for one year, 1/3 for two years and so on, so that the Board shall be perpetuated by the election of ten members every year. The members of the Board elected this year shall decide as to their terms of office by lot. 5th That the Board shall elect its own officers to consist of a president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. 6th That the association ask the ladies to cooperate in making the fair a success and that the boys and
Vol. 10, No. 3  December 2006

Gloucester Agricultural Association

girls be encouraged to make a fine display of their works.  7th That the association shall meet at Gloucester C. H. on the first Monday in every month and at such other times as the Board of Managers shall determine. The following being present joined the association: W. J. Burlee, N. S. Hopkins, H. L. Corr, Fred B. Jones, B. F. Weaver, R. M. Janney, W. S. Field, W. S Mott, B. F. Lindsay, J. W. Thornton, J. E. Minor, J. T. Minor, C. C. Farinholt, L. H. Miller, R. C. Vaughan, C. S. Smith, Walker Jones, Chas. Catlett, J. N. Stubbs, J. W. C. Catlett, Jos. Craig, S. M. Stubbs, L. C. Catlett.

Having first elected those who were absent members of the association the following Board of Managers was elected: J. W. Stubbs, Glenns; H. H. Roane, Cash; C. C. Farinholt, Freeport; J. T. Pierce, New Upton; H. B. Roane, Adner; Z. T. Gray, Signpine; S. M. Stubbs, Sassafras; W. W. Allmond, Allmonsville; Samuel Leavett, Belroi; S. H. Teagle, Belroi; B. F. Weaver, Clay Bank; J. T. Minor, Coke; J. W. C. Catlett, Bridges; J. E. Hogg, Wicomico; E. H Rowe, Achilles; J. M. Shackelford, Severn; Barnes Lawson, Glass; W. J. Burlee, Roanes; James Craig, Roanes; H. E. Taliaferro, Zanoni; T. L. Benson, Ware Neck; N. S. Hopkins, Dixondale; R. M. Janney Glou. CH; Fred B. Jones, Glou. CH; J. M. Lewis, Glou. CH; L. C. Catlett, Glou. CH; W. S. Mott, Dixondale; W. De W. Dimoch, Dixondale; George W. Sterling, Naxera; & Willie Walker, Wan.

By resolution the Board was empowered to fill all vacancies in its membership for one year.

Adjourned.

Prizes were then presented to the boys by Major J. N. Stubbs.

The Board of Managers then met and elected B. F. Weaver, president, W. J. Burlee, vice-president, L. C. Catlett, Secretary, J. M. Lewis, treasurer.

December 4, 1911


December 9, 1911

At a meeting of the Board of Managers of the Gloucester Agricultural Association

R. M. Janney  F. B. Jones  N. S. Hopkins  W. S. Field  J. L. Farinholt  J. M. Lewis
Gloucester Agricultural Association


The following offered by Mr. Jones was adopted: Resolved that the membership fee in the association be fixed at $1.00 per annum.

The following committees were appointed:
Location: J. M. Lewis, S. M. Stubbs, R. M. Janney.
Premium list: L. C. Catlett, Fred Jones, James Craig,
Livestock: N. S. Hopkins, J. W. C. Catlett, W. J. Burlee
Farm Products: R. M. Janney, J. H. Teagle, H. H. Roane
Poultry: Fred B. Jones, Z. T. Gray, J. E. Hogg

It was resolved to meet on Saturday after the 1st Monday in every month at 11 am.

Saturday, January 6, 1912


The Committee on Location reported that the Botetourt High School was an ideal place for the fair and that it seemed that there would be no difficulty in arranging with the school authorities for the house and grounds.

The Farm Products Committee made a full report as to the products that should be awarded previous. This report was adopted and the Premium Committee was ordered to have it printed in condensed form.

The treasurer reported that he had had membership tickets printed and that over fifty tickets had been sold.

It was decided if possible to have members of the association make talks on line to subjects every 1st Monday. For February 5th, L. C. Catlett was chosen to speak on Gardening, Fred B. Jones on Poultry, and R. M. Janney on Dairying.

The secretary reported that Mr. Koiner could not hold an institute here on February 5th. It was decided to ask for a two days institute beginning on Monday, April 1st. Subjects were suggested for the institute, and it was resolved to get ladies to attend the second day. B. F. Weaver was elected president and L. C. Catlett secretary of the Farm Institute.
February 10, 1912

It was resolved to hold the next meeting on Thursday, March 7, 1912.

On motion of L. C. Catlett it was decided to hold the fair on Monday and Tuesday, September 30 and October 1, 1912.

There was much informal discussion as to the premium List etc. There was general agreement as to the advisability of getting out the Premium List as soon as possible

The secretary reported encouraging success in seeing advertisements for the Premium List. He was authorized to sell pages at $10.00, ½ pages at $5.50, and ¼ pages at $3.00.

March 7, 1912

There was a good deal of discussion of the Premium List and the amount to be given in prizes.

Mr. Mott reported for the household committee that ladies should be appointed on that committee. Mr. Dimock moved that chair appoint three ladies as a committee with power to appoint as many sub-committees as they deemed necessary to handle the ladies exhibit. It was resolved that $50.00 be appropriated for prizes for women's work.

Mr. J. L. Farinholt was elected to the Board in place of Mr. S. M. Stubbs who has left the county.

Two o'clock was fixed as the hour for next meeting.

Mrs. Fred B. Jones, Mrs. L. C. Catlett, and Miss Sally Jones were appointed the committee on Women's Work.

April 24, 1912
At a meeting of the Board of managers of The Gloucester Agricultural Association present: B. F. Weaver, Fred B. Jones, R. M. Janney, J. M. Lewis, & L. C. Catlett.

A conference was held with Mr. R. A. Folkes and H. L. Corr as to the arrangements for the school fair and the use of the Botetourt High School building. Mr. Folkes pledged himself to use his best efforts to raise the $200.00 necessary to give premiums to the boys and girls. Mr. Folkes moved that Mr. J. M. Lewis and Mr. H. L. Corr be appointed to draw up an agreement between the school authorities and the Association as to the use of the building and grounds for the fair. Carried.

Mr. Lewis offered the following which was carried: Resolved that admission ticket be sent free of charge to all school children up to and including the 7th grade.

June 7, 1912
At a meeting of the Board of managers of The Gloucester Agricultural Association present: B. F. Weaver, J. M. Lewis, Fred B. Jones, R. M. Janney, & L. C. Catlett
Mr. Lewis moved that the chairman appoint the following committee to consist of one member of the Executive Committee and one other member of the Association, the member of the committee to choose his associate on advertising, on concessions, on inside arrangements, and on entertainment.


It was decided that the whole Executive Committee should be a committee on program.

July 27, 1912

At a meeting of the Board of managers of The Gloucester Agricultural Association present: B. F. Weaver, Pres., J. M. Lewis, Fred B. Jones, R. M. Janney, L. C. Catlett, & W. S. Mott

Mr. Catlett of the committee on inside arrangement of building made a partial report. Messer. Jones and Mott, the committee on concessions, reported that the Kings Daughters would furnish lunch, ice cream, cake, and lemonade. The value of the concessions was discussed.

On motion of Mr. Catlett, Mr. J. M. Lewis was appointed to order the necessary _____ for the fair.

The tournament of August 1 was discussed, the proceeds of which were promised to the association.

The secretary was ordered to ask Mr. Dimock to see about music for the fair.

The secretary was also instructed to see if he could get Mr. Westmoreland Davis to speak at the second day of the fair.

Messer. L. C. Catlett and Jas. Craig were appointed a committee to get up the program for the fair.

Adjourned to meet on Saturday, August 10 at 3 o'clock.

August 10, 1912

At a meeting of the Board of managers of The Gloucester Agricultural Association present: J. M. Lewis, R. M. Janney, & L. C. Catlett

Mr. Catlett reported a program as arranged for by Mr. Craig and himself. This program was amended and Mr. Lewis agreed to take it to Richmond to be printed.

Additions to the Pr. List ________ proposed by the committee. These additions were accepted and others were added to be printed with the program. The following judges were chosen:

Live Stock: W. J. Burlee, J. W. C. Catlett, Todd Robins
Saddle and Driving Horses: W. B. Duncan, W. S. Mott, John B. Lawson.
Dept A, Part of E. & Sec. 6 of F.: W. J. Burlee, E. H. Rowe, Deft Man.
Dept D., Section 7, 8, 9, 9 ½, 10 of Dept E. Dept F Sec 2 & 4: Miss Dimock, Mrs W. S. Mott, Mrs. R. M. Janney.
Dept F, Literary Work, Class 1-10: Rev. W. B. Lee, Rev. W. H. Groves, Mr. Geo. Cary
August 22, 1912


It was resolved to make association membership tickets admission tickets to the grounds.

It was decided to get school girls to sell membership tickets on September court day and whenever they can and later on to sell admission tickets. Private individuals agree to give a $5.00 gold piece as a prize to the girl to __?__ most money.

Messer. Geo. B. Field, G. S. Minor, W. H. Ware, and Thomas Shackelford were chosen as special police for the fair.

The matter of getting ladies to __?____ place exhibit in the ladies department was discussed.

The question of a fence on road in front of school house was discussed, as also a rest room for ladies.

Fair Results

The fair was held and the program as prepared well carried out. Gov. Wm. H. Mann spoke on Monday and Mr. Westmoreland Davis on Tuesday. The attendance was good both days and the exhibits were a surprise to all who came.

Premiums were awarded as follows:

White Corn, Single Ear: 1st Pr — J. E. Cox — $4.00, 2nd Pr — $2.50, 3rd Pr — C. C. Farinholt — $1.00.

White Corn, Ten Ears: 1st Pr — C. C. Farinholt — $5.00, 2nd Pr — N. S. Hopkins — $3.00, 3rd Pr — J. E. Cox — $2.00.

White Corn, Six Stalks, Ears Attached: 1st Pr — E. B. Hawkins — $5.00, 2nd Pr — W. De W. Dimock — $3.00, 3rd Pr — J. E. Cox — $2.00.

Yellow Corn, Single Ear: 1st Pr — Warner Hall — $2.00, 2nd Pr — Thomas J. Chapman — $1.00, 3rd Pr — R. M. Janney — $0.50.

Yellow Corn, Ten Ears: 1st Pr — C. H. Muse — $3.00, 2nd Pr — Isaac Slingluff — $2.00, 3rd Pr — Mr. Patton — $1.00.

Yellow Corn, Six Stalks Ears Attached: 1st Pr — Isaac Slingluff — $4.00, 2nd Pr — L. C. Catlett — $2.00.
Display of Apples: 1st Pr—W. S. Mott—$1.00, 2nd Pr—Wm B. Lee—$0.50.

Display of Pears: C. C. Moore—$0.75.

Department E., Collections of Vegetables, Single Garden: 1st Pr—R. M. Janney—$5.00, 2nd Pr—H. E. Hutcheson—$3.00, 3rd Pr—M. V. Kerns—$2.00.

Department E., Collections of Vegetables, Single Garden, Single Farm: 1st Pr—James Craig (Estate of Jos. Bryan)—$15.00, 2nd Pr—Mrs. L. C. Catlett—$10.00, 3rd Pr—H. H. Roane—$5.00.

Collection of Nuts: 1st Pr—Fred B. Jones—$3.00, 2nd Pr—David Lindsay—$2.00, 3rd Pr—____ Leigh—$1.00.

Collections of Hay: Cecil Page—$5.00.


Water Products: 1st Pr—W. De W. Dimock—$10.00, 2nd Pr—Charles Catlett—$6.00.

Collections of Laces, Knitting, etc.: 1st Pr—Miss Mattie Stubbs [d/o Jefferson W. Stubbs & Ann Walker Carter Baytop]—$5.00, 2nd Pr—Mrs. Patton [Probably-Edna Otelia Bland, d/o Schuyler Bland & Olivia James Anderson]—$3.00, 3rd Pr—Miss Sally T. Jones [d/o Walker Jones & Elizabeth Lewis Selden]—$2.00.

Needle Work Collection: 1st Pr—Mrs. Martin [Unidentified]—$5.00, 2nd Pr—Miss Lee Field [Mary Lee Field, s/o George Booth Field & Laura Campbell Wiatt]—$3.00, 3rd Pr—Mrs. Isaac Slingluff [Augusta Jackson]—$2.00.

Collections of Can Goods etc.: 1st Pr—Mrs. J. B. Jones [Unidentified]—$5.00, 2nd Pr—Mrs. L. D. Williams [Unidentified]—$3.00, 3rd Pr—Mrs. I. B. Weaver [Maude]—$2.00.

Collections of Bread, Cake, etc.: 1st Pr—Miss Charlotte Field [Charlotte Laura Field, s/o George Booth Field & Laura Campbell Wiatt]—$5.00.

Boys Composition, “Why I am glad I live in Virginia”: 1st Pr—E. G. Field [Edward Graham Field, s/o George Booth Field & Laura Campbell Wiatt]—$5.00, 2nd Pr—Ad. Lewis [Addison L. Lewis, s/o Addison T. Lewis, Jr., & Cora D. Walker]—$3.00, 3rd Pr—Giles Cooke [Giles Buckner Cooke, s/o Thomas Paul Cooke & Susan Ellen Waldron]—$2.00.

Girls Composition, “How to make home comfortable and attractive”: 1st Pr—Louise Fletcher [d/o Cyrus Henry Fletcher & Mary Sue Hill]—$5.00, 2nd Pr—Kate Clements [d/o John Iccobob Clements & Hester R. Walden]—$3.00, 3rd Pr—Edna Minor [d/o John Edward Minor & Martha Allen Hawkins]—$2.00.

Copy of “The Raven”: 1st Pr—Pearl Hogg [Unidentified]—$2.00, 2nd Pr—Estelle Smith [Unidentified]—$1.00, 3rd Pr—Lucy Minor [d/o Joshua T. Minor & Lucy Elizabeth Ransone]—$0.50.

Copy of “Evangeline”: 1st Pr—Della Hogg [Unidentified]—$2.00, 2nd Pr—Willie Sawyer [s/o Rev. Walter W. Sawyer & Annie V. Thomas]—$1.00, 3rd Pr—Nellie Hogg [d/o John Edwin Hogge & Florida F. Minor]—$0.50.
Copy of “We are Seven.” 1st Pr—Ola White [Gladys Ola White, d/o William Henry White & Mary Alice Hogg]—$2.00, 2nd Pr—Alice Lewis [Alice Elizabeth Lewis, d/o William Andrew Lewis & Laura Virginia Wroten]—$1.00, 3rd Pr—Eloise Minor [d/o Quintus Minor & Lulie Sarah Bryan]—$0.50.

Original Poem: 1st Pr—Ethel Tinsley [d/o Richard Calvin Tinsley & Jeanette Chase White]—$3.00, 2nd Pr—Pearl Hogg [Unidentified]—$2.00, 3rd Pr—Cora Williams [d/o William Preston Williams & Roberta Alice Hogg]—$1.00.

Spelling Prize: Sam Jenkins [s/o Thomas Jefferson Jenkins & Martha Ellen Hogg]—$2.00.

Boys Corn, Single Ear: 1st Pr—W. O. Roane [Woodford Octavious Roane, s/o Henry Hansford Roane, Jr., & Carrie Esther Gray]—$3.00, 2nd Pr—Thomas Teagle [s/o Silas H. Teagle & Icenola Proctor]—$2.00, 3rd Pr—David Lindsay [David Hawkins Lindsay, s/o Benjamin Lindsay & Emma Jane Williams]—$1.00.

Boys Corn, Five Ears: 1st Pr—W. O. Roane [Identified previously]—$5.00, 2nd Pr—L. C. Catlett, Jr. [s/o Landon Carter Catlett, Sr., & Letitia Rebecca Nelson]—$3.00, 3rd Pr—Thomas Teagle [Identified previously]—$2.00.


Gloucester Fair display case in the Gloucester Museum of History containing some individual awards from 1912 to 1918.
Gloucester Agricultural Association

Boat: 1st Pr—Robert A. Rowe [Unidentified]—$5.00, 2nd Pr—Sears Drisgell [Irving Sears Drisgell, s/o William H. & Sadie Louise Drisgell]—$3.00.

Miniature Bedstead: 1st Pr—Fred Field [Frederick Walker Field, s/o George Booth Field & Laura Campbell Wiatt]—$2.50, 2nd Pr—Fred Nuttall [s/o Henry Lewis Nuttall & Sarah Catherine Smith]—$1.50.

Section 5 Class B: 1st Pr—none, 2nd Pr—Fred Nuttall [Identified previously] & Elsom Wright [Unidentified] (2 seconds) —$3.00.

Department F, Sect. 1, Class 9: 1st Pr—Haute Wiatt [Dr. Haute De Brune Wiatt, s/o Alexander Taliaferro Wiatt & Maude Roberta Sinclair]—$2.50.

Sect. 1, Class 10: 1st Pr—?—$3.00, 2nd Pr—Eunice Croswell, Gloucester Point [Unidentified]—$3.00.

Sect. 3, Class 1: 1st Pr—Edna Minor [Identified previously]—$2.00.

Sect. 3, Class 2: 1st Pr—Kate Muse [Kate Fleet Muse, d/o Charles Harvey Muse & Catherine Elizabeth Fleet]—$2.00, 2nd Pr—Maud White [Probably d/o William Henry White & Mary Alice Hogg]—$1.00, 3rd Pr—Hazel Pointer [Adopted by Samuel Duval Pointer & Anna Elizabeth Minor]—$0.50

Sect. 3, Class 3: 1st Pr—Margarite Wiatt [Margaritte Mackey Wiatt, s/o Alexander Taliaferro Wiatt & Maude Roberta Sinclair]—$3.00, 2nd Pr—Cora Williams [Identified previously]—$2.00, 3rd Pr—Lucy Jones Field [d/o George Booth Field & Laura Campbell Wiatt]—$1.00.


Sect. 3, Class 5: 1st Pr—Grace Reese [Orphan living w/ Rev. William H. & Mary W. Groves]—$1.00, 2nd Pr—Mabel Oliver [d/o Benjamin Franklin Oliver & Elenora Davis Riley]—$0.50.

Sect. 3, Class 7: 1st Pr—Eliaza Clements [d/o Dr. David Oscor & Caroline Clements]—$1.00, 2nd Pr—Emily Janney [d/o Richard Mott Janney & Henriette Snowden Davis Riley]—$0.50.

Sect. 3, Class 9: 1st Pr—Margery Phillips [d/o Alampra Phillips & Jane Gordon Cameron]—$1.00, 2nd Pr—Molly Jones [Mollie Pollard Jones, d/o Charles Jones & Lucy Catlett Jones]—$0.50.

Sect. 3, Class 10: 1st Pr—Betty Kemp [Unidentified]—$1.00, 2nd Pr—Eunice Croswell [Unidentified]—$0.50.

Sect. 4, Class 1: 1st Pr—Ethel Tinsley [Identified previously]—$3.00, 2nd Pr—Odell Moran [Unidentified]—$2.00.

Sect. 4, Class 2: 1st Pr—Eliaza Clements, Ordinary [Identified previously]—$3.00, 2nd Pr—Evelyn Woodland [Shirley Evelyn Woodland, d/o Thomas Jefferson Woodland & Magnolia Coles Roane]—$2.00.

Sect. 4, Class 3: 1st Pr—Eunice Croswell [Unidentified]—$3.00, 2nd Pr—Kate Muse [Identified previously]—$2.00, 3rd Pr—Hattie Ruth Oliver [d/o John Thomas Oliver & Lorania Smith]—$1.00.

Sect. 4, Class 5: 1st Pr—Vera Crew, Wicomico—$1.50, 2nd Pr—Eloise Minor, Bridges [Identified previously]—$1.00, 3rd Pr—Sarah Hogg, Wicomico [d/o Peter Hogg & Josephine Williams]—$0.50.

Sect. 4, Class 6: 1st Pr—Jennie Hogg, Roanes [Unidentified]—$1.50, 2nd Pr—Grace
Thruston [Unidentified]—$1.00, 3rd Pr—Katie Kemp [d/o James Robert Kemp & Mary Catherine Hall]—$0.50.

Appendixes

Alfalfa Demonstrators

R. Caldwell; H. H. Roane, Cash; Wilson Roane, Cash; Catlett Bros., Bridges; W. S. Field, Wan; Fred B. Jones, Glou. CH; Charles Jones, Glou. CH; Louis Burr, Glou. CH; I. B. Weaver, Glou. CH; L. C. Catlett, Glou. CH; R. M. Janney, Glou. CH; M. V. Kerns, Glou. CH; Wyndham Kemp, Money; B. C. German, Cash; W. T. Kemp, Money.

Corn Demonstrators

Booker Bros., Woods X Roads; J. A. Bristow, Glenns; C. R. Burton, Glenns; Louis Burr, Glou. CH; W. H. Croswell, Gloucester Point; R. Caldwell, Saluda (Drop); W. E. Corr, Glou. CH; L. C. Catlett, Glou. CH; Catlett Bros., Bridges; H. L. Corr, Roanes; A. L. Carmine, Wicomico; James Craig, Roanes; J. C. Clements, Wan; W. De W. Dimoch, Dixondale; G. C. Deihl, White Marsh; J. W. Foster, Wan; W. S. Field, Wan; E. C. Fields, Wicomico; J. L. Farinholt, Freeport; W. M. Fletcher, Woods X Roads; J. O. Fleming, White Marsh; J. H. Gray, Belroi; Jesse Gray, Pinetta; W. B. Graves, Ordinary; T. R. German, Wan; Mr. Hurd, White Marsh; W. W. Hudson, Freeport; R. F. Haywood, Ben; B. R. Harwood, Ware Neck; J. E. Hogg, Wicomico; H. E. Hutcheson, Glou. CH; L. C. Harper, Clay Bank; Dr. W. R. Jaeger, Ware Neck; Charles Jones, Glou. CH; Walker Jones, Glou. CH; Fred B. Jones, Glou. CH; Wyndham Kemp, Money; W. T. Kemp, Money; M. V. Kerns, Glou. CH; J. C. Lewis, Gloucester Point; W. B. Lee, Glou. CH; Sam Leavitt, Belroi; W. H. Moore, Ware Neck; Mott & Garrett, Dixondale; J. T. Pierce, New Upton; W. C. Perrin, Zanoni; W. R. Purcell, Glou. CH; E. W. Pointer, Ark; W. A. Regensburg, Adner; W. C. Rilee, Pinetta; E. P. Rhodes, Naxera; C. R. Richardson, Soles; W. A. Robins, Money; Z. J. Robins, Glou. CH; H. H. Roane, Cash; P. H. Spandaw, New Upton; J. R. Shackelford, Gloucester Point; J. W. Stubbs, Glens; I. Slingluff, Glou. CH; L. E. Sutton, Dutton; C. M. Strigle, Glou. CH; M. B. Seward, Almondsville; Ed. Smith, Ware Neck, W. J. Selleck, Roanes; W. H. Trevilian, Ark, B. J. Vaughan, Ware Neck; B. Wolfe, Ware Neck; P. W. West, Glenns; W. H. Walker, Wan; P. H. Williams, Wicomico; J. E. White, Wicomico; I. B. Weaver, Glou. CH; R. A. Walker, Glou. CH; M. A. Williams, Bridges, C. O. C. Williams, Wicomico; W. C. Walker, Pampa; W. O. Walker, Glou. CH.

Corn Cooperators


Garden Demonstrators

Eugene Strigle, Wan; F. L. Culling, Glou. CH.

Orchard Demonstrators

L. C. Catlett, Glou. CH; W. E. Corr, Glou. CH; Jesse Gray, Pinetta.
Gloucester Agricultural Association

Orchard Cooperators

Henry German, Wan; Walter German, Wan; W. H. Walker, Wan; R. R. Thruston, Clopton; Charles, Jones, Glou. CH; Walker Jones, Glou. CH; Jos. Davenport, Glou. CH; B. Lindsay, Jr., Belroi; I. B. Weaver, Glou. CH; Louis Burr, Glou. CH; H. L. Corr, Roanes; W. De W. Dimock, Dixondale; Rev. W. H. Groves, Glou. CH.

1915

Schools Visited
Feb 8 Acted as judge—Declamation—Botetourt High School
10 Hayes Store High School
Mar 4 St. Andrews & Dragon School
5 Cash High School & New Upton School
8 Robins Neck School
10 Botetourt High School with M. Moore
11 Belroi & Clay Bank Schools with M. Moore
12 Ware Neck Graded School
17 Shelly School
22 Woods X Roads School
25 Cappahosic School
31 Achilles High School, Severn Graded School, & Sadler’s Neck Graded School
Apr 1 Speech at Gloucester Agricultural Industrial School, special invitation, Lunch
2 Glebe School
May 21 Hayes Store High School & Botetourt

Boys Corn Club

Roland Hobson Brown, age 15, Crab -- [s/o James Shipton Brown & Catherine E. Walker]
Paul Coates, age 14, Glass, (drop) --
H. B. Chapman, age 14, Woods X Roads --
Bunny Deal, age 13, Naxera -- [s/o James Johnson Deal & Missouri L. Bonnywell]
Herbert Dudley, age 12, Bridges -- [s/o William Dudley & Victoria Ransone]
Roane M. Edwards, age 12, Woods X Roads -- [s/o Clifford Ernest Edwards & Annie Lee Roane]
Luther Gunn, age 13, Clay Bank (drop) -- [s/o James Andrew Gunn & Alice Virginia Dunston]
Malvin Victor Haynes, age 13, Ordinary -- [s/o Archibald Decatur Haynes & Ada Florence West]
George Horsley, age 14, Clay Bank -- [s/o William Henry Horsley & Mary Emma Soles]
Walker Baytop Jones, age 14, Glou. CH -- [s/o James Baytop Jones & Maude Philpott]
Gloucester Agricultural Association

Alton Kemp, age 13, Gum Fork --
Reuben Lindsay, age 10, Belroi -- [s/o Benjamin Lindsay & Emma Jane Williams]
David H. Lindsay, age 14, Belroi -- [s/o Benjamin Lindsay & Emma Jane Williams]
Louis Lindsay, age 14, Belroi -- [s/o Benjamin Lindsay & Emma Jane Williams]
John Washington Folkes Oliver, age 14, Coke -- [s/o Thomas Andrew Jackson Oliver & Elizabeth Lewis Riley]
Fred Nuttall, age 14, Ware Neck -- [s/o Henry Lewis Nuttall & Sarah Catherine Smith]
J. R. [James Richard] Prince, age 13, Dutton, (drop) -- [s/o Bruce & Lavinia Prince]
Woodford O. Roane, age 16, Cash -- [s/o Henry Hansford Roane, Jr., & Carrie Esther Gray]
Virginius Roane, age 12, Cash -- [s/o Henry Hansford Roane, Jr., & Carrie Esther Gray]
J. E. [John Edward] Sutton, age 14, New Upton -- [s/o Lemuel Edward Sutton & Mary Etta Bristow]
Willie Stubblefield, age 13, Gum Fork -- [s/o John William Stubblefield & Lucy Catherine Padgett]
Samuel Hildruf Tinsley, age 17, Wan -- [s/o Richard Calvin Tinsley & Jeanette Chase White]
Boyd Walker, age 14, Clay Bank -- [s/o Benjamin F. Walker & Lena N. Howlett]
Julian Williams, age 12, Wicomico — [s/o Philip Henry Williams & Sarah C. Heywood]

Useful Marriage Records

Generally, marriage records are the most reliable source to connect generations. From the mid-1800s, the parents were recorded for both bride and groom, and thereby making that connection to the previous generation. In 2001, the Gloucester Genealogical Society republished the Gloucester County marriage records that were previously published by Frances Haywood.

Some Gloucester citizens’ marriages are recorded in surrounding counties. These can be found in books published in their respective counties. In 1997, the Middlesex County marriage records were published by Catherine Moore Traylor. More recently, Carolyn Winn Markie has published those of Mathews County. This latter edition includes an extensive index with separate sections for the full names of brides, grooms, and parents. It can be purchased at the Mathews Information Center.

Now we need the same valuable records published for King and Queen County and York County. York records would be particularly important because in the late 1800s onward they contain numerous marriages of people born in the counties north of the York River. Let’s hope this is done sooner rather than later.
OLIVE BRANCH CHURCH

OLIVE BRANCH CEMETERY

12403 HARCUM ROAD
GLOUCESTER, VA 23061

Compiled by Christine Sears Colley
May 2006

The following cemetery records provide an update to the Harry Jordan's, More Cemeteries of Gloucester County, Virginia, that was published with data compiled prior to 1997.

Patricia Buffington ARNETT
July 12, 1934 - May 28, 1999

BILLHIMER
David W. Tammy R.
Feb. 9, 1955 Aug. 20, 1962
July 4, 2000
Married Sept. 12, 1998

BLAND
Louise Ruth Lucy Catherine Lena Caroline
- 1891 - 1886
John Edward Thomas Didlake
- 1899

CHAPMAN
Garland Earl Margaret Speight
Aug. 15, 1906 July 21, 1910
Feb. 6, 1973 May 21, 2001

CHAPMAN
Alton D. Evelyn L.
1918-1986 1919 - 2000

Jean Bennett CINQUE
August 31, 1934 - December 4, 2001
Olive Branch Cemetery

CLEMENTS
John Carroll Jan. 23, 1912 Annie Carmine March 7, 1915
Feb. 29, 1972 Nov. 8, 1996

DUNSTON
"Bobby" "Loving Mother" "Infant Son"
William Robert Mary Virginia Wilbur Franklin
Feb. 26, 1930 Sept. 15, 1894 No Dates
Sept. 17, 1997 Nov. 28, 1988

Patrick DUTTON
Co A 34 VA INF CSA

DUTTON
Sarah Mae C. L. Clarence Hoskins
Aug 10, 1886 1873 - 1946 Nov. 23, 1930
Dec 16, 1965 Sept. 15, 1996

DUTTON
Eva Horsley H. Broaddus
March 5, 1887 Jan 28, 1883
No date on tombstone Oct 28, 1908
August 26, 1968

The footstone "H.W.D."

DUTTON
Hairston William Nancy Acra
Died March 16, 1922 Died July 14, 1936

DUTTON
Father Mother
Abner F. Elizabeth L. Naomi Elizabeth
1837 - 1922 Wife of May 4, 1875
9th Va Cal Co F Abner F. Dutton June 17, 1935
CSA 1841 - 1912 At rest

DUTTON
Edward Gwynn Annie H. Rilee
Virginia CPL Mar 27, 1922
1493 SVC Com D Unit
WWII
Nov 26, 1920
May 1, 1958

Dorothy Miller EARLY
July 14, 1925 - March 27, 2002

EWELL
Marvin W., Sr Elizabeth Clements
F2 US Navy 1913 - 1996
World War II
Nov 25, 1915 - Feb 12, 1989

Vol. 10, No. 3 42 December 2006
**Olive Branch Cemetery**

Thomas M. P. FARY  
CO A 5 VA CAV CSA  
1842 - 1905  

Lillian R. FARY  
1892 - 1981

Francis R. FARY  
June 11, 1927 - March 5, 2003

FARY  
E. Randolph  
July 1, 1917  
January 15, 2004  

Eloise Wilson  
March 23, 1922  
October 4, 2005

FLIPPIN  
Married Feb. 25, 1967  

Billy, Sr.  
Nov. 19, 1945  

N. Jean  
Aug. 31, 1951

Indiana W. GAWTHROP  
Ella BELLISON  
Sarah COX  
(All on one tombstone with no dates listed)

KEANE  
Harry L.  
1925 - 2000  

Margaret J.  
1920 - 1980

MAJETTE  
Charles V.  
1920 - 1999  

Margaret P.  
1915 - 1989

Mildred R. MARTIN  
Jan. 9, 1916 - July 11, 1980

Edna Pearl MILBY  
July 16, 1932 - Jan. 4, 1934

Wilson Larkin MILLER  
Dec. 15, 1912 - July 17, 1999

MITCHELL  
Julius E.  
Born March 4, 1855  
Died April 15, 1912  

Lee R. Dutton  
Dec. 25, 1873  
Oct. 27, 1947

Richard Clifton MOORE  
Virginia  
CPL Utilities Det QMC  
B. Sept. 23, 1888 - D. Aug. 16, 1957

Edward PALMER  
Sept. 3, 1903 - Jan. 15, 2002
Virginia PIERCE McKeen
May 24, 1926 - February 9, 1998
Beloved wife and companion of
Major General Chester M. McKeen, Jr.

PIERCE
Sallie Collins
Aug 5, 1860
Apr 17, 1900

Maria Collins
July 18, 1876
Dec 10, 1906

(Several unmarked infants from these women are buried in this Pierce plot. This is a memorial marker placed because the homemade markers deteriorated. As sisters, both women were married to John Thomas Pierce, also buried in this cemetery.)

Baby PRINCE
1932

In Remembrance of
Mary E. PRINCE
Born Nov. 29, 1862 - Died June 26, 1919
By her daughter Mary COLEMAN
Footstone only “M.E.P.”

REVERE
Elsie D.
Nov. 14, 1912
July 24, 1997

Frank D.
Sept 28, 1910
May 18, 1976

REVERE
Malvern F.
Oct 3, 1934
May 9, 1990

Frances B.
April 19, 1937

Wed. Feb. 14, 1959

RILEE
Blank stone

Mary Susie
May 22, 1940
Jan. 4, 1997

ROBBINS
Elizabeth Bridges
Sept. 23, 1939

William Silas, Jr.
May 31, 1937
Oct. 15, 2003
Olive Branch Cemetery

SEARS

Benjamin F. (No marker)
Born Feb 2, 1856
Died Oct 29, 1919
Waiting in holy stillness
Only asleep

wife: Mary Acra
April 18, 1865
Feb. 15, 1937

(Family records indicate there is a grave next to Roy Sears. This is: Mira Ann Edwards Sears South, Mother of Benjamin F. Sears)

Willie Ray SEARS
March 25, 1897 - July 25, 1970

Two unmarked graves - cement on top. They are:

SEARS
Edward Cary
Sept. 22, 1851
Oct. 29, 1914

Josephine E. Kemp
July 20, 1854
Feb. 25, 1939

SHELTON
Wed. Jan. 1, 1965

Douglas Kent
Nov. 26, 1935

Mary Etta Jones
Aug. 11, 1938
Aug. 7, 2004

Lois M. SPENCER
1925 - 2002

James C. STOKES
Co. A, 34 VA INF. CSA

TEAGLE
William E.
Sept. 20, 1919
Sept. 21, 1981

Ivy D.
Dec. 19, 1920
Aug. 12, 1971

WALKER
Maggie V.
1877 - 1943

William H.
1868 - 1955
In Memory of our Children
Clara G.
Eva M.
Oscar M.

William H. WALKER, Jr.
March 18, 1919 - December 13, 2002

WILSON
Mamie Roane
Jan. 5, 1889
Oct. 31, 1964

Ethelbert
Aug. 9, 1877
Aug. 3, 1960
In Memory of
Nellie Joyce WILSON
Nov. 28 – 29, 1929

Evelyn Callis WILSON
Aug. 23, 1913 – Oct. 11, 2002

Fraulien WINDGATE
June 15, 1876 – January 28, 1950

Sources:
Tombstones, Olive Branch Memorial Cemetery, Gloucester, Virginia.
Personal knowledge.
Family records.
The USGenWeb Archives, Karin G. Frazier. §

Be Careful What You Google For
By Pat Royal Perkinson

Yahoo for kinfolks? I’d never tried looking for ancestors through such a search engine, and in fact that was not the kind of information I hoped to find the evening that I stumbled on such a rich genealogical lode.

Aware that I was amassing information for a county history our 2007 Middlesex Celebration Committee plans to publish, a writer-genealogist friend suggested trying Google and some other search engines, Yahoo.

“Try putting ‘Middlesex VA’ in the search blank,” she advised. “You’ll be surprised what comes up.”

Well, that evening I tried it. And the next evening. She was right about one thing: Hundreds of topics presented themselves, most of which weren’t relevant for my purposes, a few of which I noted for future consideration.

Then up popped a genealogy of Colonel John George and his wife, Jane Coles, names with which I had some familiarity for they were part of my inheritance through my mother’s Blakey line. Their son, Robert, married Elizabeth Yarrington, and in 1692-93 Robert and Elizabeth’s daughter, Sarah George, married Churchill Blakey. (Sharing the site with my numerically gifted cousin, Paul Blakey, I soon learned that Colonel John George was Paul’s and my 8th great-grandfather.)

Emboldened by that discovery, I temporarily veered away from my Middlesex, VA, search, and inserted “Blakey” in the search box. Up came numerous sites on jazzman, Art Blakey, doubtless the most famous Blakey name of all. There too were English writer, Robert Blakey, “author perhaps of the first history of political thought to be written in England,” and G. Robert Blakey, former Federal prosecutor known as the author of the RICO legislation which brought the Mafia to heel. Strangely, the middle name of Federal Aviation Administration administrator, Marion Clifton Blakey, echoes the name of the Blakey home in which I was born.

An admirable bunch, I crowed, then stiffened as my eyes took in another “Blakey” site: “Ancestry of Tom Cruise.” How can this be? A connection between my Blakeys and the notorious sofa-jumping movie star Tom Cruise?

(Continued on page 48)
1924 Manuscript Finally Published

By Barbara Farner

For years, the pictures of the couple sat on the marble-topped table in the hall at Church Hill Farm, not far from their house, Springfield, near present day Ark in Gloucester. He sits straight as the soldier he was, a slight smile on his face, and holds what appears to be an open Bible on his lap. She is dressed in a somber color, her cap, tied with a soft bow at the side of her chin, is of an embroidered light delicate fabric. Her grandson, Fred, remembered her with her “white cap on as she sat in her old armchair like a queen on her throne.” On her lap, a marker holding her place, is a red-covered book. The old tarnished frames, when removed, reveal that these are photos of wooden framed portraits. It is a mystery where the original portraits are and when the photos were taken. No one remembers when the pictures were placed on that table by the great-granddaughter of the sitters, Mary Lee Fitzhugh Jones Farner.

The photographs of the portraits of Rev. James Baytop [1792-1860] and his wife, Lucy Taliaferro Catlett [1792-1860] have recently been published in Fred Baytop Jones’s Sketches of Home Life in Virginia Before and After the 1861. Rev. Baytop was a veteran of the War of 1812 and treasurer of the Gloucester School Board. He was influential in building Bellamy’s Methodist Episcopal Church and then served as pastor for several years. A few letters, dated August 1838, from Mrs. Baytop to her “Dear Husband,” written while traveling to Warm Sulphur Springs, remain in the family. They reveal an articulate woman with a sense of humor who suffered from ill health and sought relief at various spas. According to her son, Thomas, she met new people, “hopped like a bird in the ballroom,” and regained some strength. Although she drank the water, she refused to go into it.

The Baytops were the parents of ten children, three sons and seven daughters. Both Fred B. Jones and his wife, Mary Lee Fitzhugh, were their grandchildren. Fred’s mother, Martha Agnes Baytop, married Dr. Walker Frederick Jones of Gloucester while Mary Lee’s mother, Hettie Ellen Baytop, married Rufus King Fitzhugh and eventually settled in Woodruff County, Arkansas. Other daughters married into the Sinclair, Stubbs, Banks, and
Montague families of Gloucester. Sons, Thomas and James Christopher (Kit), were childless, and William, who died in 1862, had a daughter.

Another person mentioned in the Sketches of Home Life in Virginia Before and After 1861 is Thomas Calhoun Walker. One story of a temperance meeting recounted by Jones differs only slightly from the way it was told by Walker in his 1958 book, Under the Honey Pod Tree. Sketches was originally written in 1924. Walker was born at the beginning of the Civil War, while his mother, Grace, was a slave of the Baytop family. These memoirs, when read together, give an interesting view of the later part of the 19th century in Gloucester.

Fred Jones' stories of growing up in Gloucester are suffused with the many people who filled his life - family, friends, ex-soldiers, Yankee soldiers, enslaved people, and freedmen and women. In this book, we find out that Elijah Moore was sent by his mistress to evaluate life in Liberia. He returned to report his findings to the rest of his slaves. Throughout Jones's descriptions is evidence of his respect for these people of his youth. His deep faith, abhorrence of war, and desire for world peace is clear.

Fred B. Jones's original manuscript has been kept intact, with annotations and pictures of people and houses from Gloucester's history added. Sketches of Home Life in Virginia Before and After 1861, published by the Gloucester County Friends of the Museum, is available for $10 at the Gloucester Museum.

(Continued from page 46)

Surely he isn’t related to my stalwart Methodist forbears! For a second I conjured up a vision of Cruise bouncing away on the Clifton's Victorian horsehair sofa as a reunion of Blakeys gasped at the sight. The only story about a Blakey that I thought might come close to this performance was one my Granny Lena Ward Blakey told about her father-in-law, James August Blakey.

“He was a real sport! Rode down Lovers Lane with his feet up on the batter board. Once a neighbor told me what a nice gentleman he was and how she’d heard him singing “Nearer My God to Thee” at the top of his voice as he rode past her farm.” When told of the compliment, my great-grandfather, James, blurted out the truth: he was cursing his dog Nero for yappng at his buggy wheels.

But here indeed was The Tom Cruise – or someone on his behalf – a professional genealogist - claiming Tom’s kinship to my Middlesex County Blakeys. Well, actually it wasn’t Tom Cruise but his real self, Tom Cruise Mapother IV b. Syracuse, NY, 3 July 1962. THE Tom Cruise who only a couple of years ago filmed scenes on location in Gloucester for one more blockbuster movie, probably never suspecting how close he came to his Middlesex roots.

I must say it's been a touch dismaying to run across some of the stuff being written about my Cousin Tom lately. On an Internet site recently, I found unkindly comments such as “Tom Cruise is nuts!” and “You don’t know psychiatry - I do!”

I knew things had gone from bad to worse when I read this in a recent Newsweek: “You may think that Tom Cruise doesn’t have a single fan left, but you would be wrong. We found one. Her name is Rosie O'Donnell.” Could Rosie and I both be kin to Tom, and thus also……? Oh, patron saint of all genealogists and would-be genealogists like me, say it isn't so!

Nevertheless, as unsettling as all this has been, it has been gratifying to see that Vanity Fair ranks my 6th cousin (three times removed) as 34th in its New Establishment listing of the 100 entertainment, information, and technology moguls. Now, will someone tell me how I could go about giving him an opportunity to contribute to our current cause, publication of our Middlesex County history? 

Vol. 10, No. 3 48 December 2006